

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

For Immediate Release

MARTIN BECK: ... FOR HOURS, DAYS, OR WEEKS AT A TIME March 30 to October 5, 2025

Martin Beck's largest museum exhibition in the United States is informed by his research into the *environments* records from the 1970s, exploring their pioneering role as atmospheric tools for self-optimization within a capitalist society.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to announce ... *for hours days, or weeks at a time*, an exhibition exploring the methods and means through which environments are captured, compressed, and represented. This exhibition will be on view from March 30 to October 5, 2025, and will be accompanied by a publication.

Using drawing, sound, video, and installation, the exhibition presents a suite of works informed by Beck's research into *environments*, a series of eleven vinyl records from the 1970s produced by the Syntonic Research Inc. label that registered the acoustics of nature and meditative sounds with high-fidelity recording technology. Marketed as psychoacoustic experiences with the potential to alter domestic and workspace atmospheres—for listeners to transcend the monotony of bureaucratic space and activity—the records laid the groundwork for an emerging industry catering to the care, efficiency, and control of the self. Beck's interest in these records is their pioneering role as atmospheric tools for self-optimization within an ever more competitive capitalist setting. Dissecting the series promotional material, Beck's artworks highlight and cut into the claims made for creating spaces of heightened productivity in which one supposedly feels at ease and is ever more functional.

Sculptural and installation-type interventions span the entirety of the Museum's first floor galleries. Beck's large-scale pencil drawings layer the vocabulary of self-care and self-control onto meticulously rendered immersive fern patches, a suite of wall works fragment images of sunsets and thunderstorms that adorn the covers of the *environments* records. His video, *in place (environments)*, traces the atmospheric shifts made possible by sonic overlays and point to the paradoxes that institutional and private spaces—from spas to galleries to prisons—might have in common.



Martin Beck
time, 2024
Courtesy of the artist and 47 Canal, New York

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A publication, co-published by Gregory R. Miller & Co., will accompany the exhibition, featuring an essay by the curator and images of the works on view.

Martin Beck (b. 1963, Bludenz, Austria) is an artist based in New York and Vienna. His work transposes rigorous research on architecture, design, music, and popular culture into installation, video, photography, writing, sculpture, and drawing. ... *for hours, days, or weeks at a time* is Beck's largest solo museum presentation in the United States, following the presentation of his sound-and-video work *Last Night* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in June 2024.

Martin Beck: ... for hours, days, or weeks at a time is organized by Eduardo Andres Alfonso, Associate Curator.

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