

## Echo

As a rule, animals do not look at people, they are looked at by them. Toothed whales produce a powerful biological sonar with which they perceive their surroundings. They can recognize objects the size of a fingernail floating far away in the sea. Clothing or skin are no barrier to this vision. It penetrates bodies, permeates their soft tissue and is only reflected back at the hard bone. This gaze is a sound, a vibration that is sent through the water, an echo that the whale hears. A person swimming in the water can neither return this gaze nor avoid it. The direction of the gaze is reversed. We change from being the subject that looks at others to being the object that is looked at. An animal the size of a school bus locates and scans us with a sound. It plays on our body like an instrument, causes our body to vibrate and elicits sounds from it that we cannot hear ourselves.



























All watercolors were created between July 2023 and March 2024. They are similar in their materiality: watercolor, acrylic paint, ink and photocopies on laid paper. Dimensions: approx. 60 x 45 cm. Images: Roman März

The photographs of the pilot whales on pages 2 and 5 were kindly provided by photographer Andrew Sutton.

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