

## donaufestival

**April 28 – 30 and May 5 – 7, 2023 | Krems an der Donau**

Sound, art, performance, discourse. The music and performance festival featuring about 20 events per day is staged in several locations throughout Krems: the Klangraum Krems Minoritenkirche, Kino im Kesselhaus, Forum Frohner, Kunsthalle Krems, and numerous halls on the Messegelände festival grounds.

According to the proposition by theorist Frédéric Neyrat (video lecture with Q&A on May 6), we are no longer living in the Anthropocene but in the *Alienocene*. Neyrat's same-named journal celebrates our unfamiliarity with our surroundings. It is dedicated to relations between the human and inhuman and sympathises with aliens from outer space and outernationalists on our planet. We are living in a world where the organic and synthetic are merging, where military-trained eagles hunt drones and steaks come from the lab.

Must we transform radically in order to have a future? For sure, we need to speak about the climate crisis under capitalist conditions, but also about those ominous parallels between colonial and ecological divisions of the world into a high and low. The thereby supposedly legitimised exploitative relationships correspond to the distinction between nature worthy of protection (national parks or domestic pets) and nature without rights (fracking soils or cattle for slaughter). Perhaps what we need is not just a "decolonial ecology" but a hitherto unimagined vision of a world populated by intelligences that dwell not only in human brains and digital machines but also in "thinking forests" or an "Internet of animals."

**Beyond human:** Some artistic intelligences make suggestions to this effect: guitarist Daniel Bachman's album *Almanac Behind*, presented as a film in the festival, fuses folk improvisations with field recordings of winter storms and bushfires, interrupted by reports from a local weather radio station. Kim Noble slips into a father role for a maggot in his comedic outsider performance. Eglé Budvytyté's video installation *Songs from The Compost* frames mutated body images in forest and dune landscapes. The collective DISNOVATION.ORG devises a hybrid "Bestiary of the Anthropocene" and develops tools for a society that has bid farewell to the fetish of growth. Artist **Oliver Ressler** translates the sound of melting Arctic glaciers into an AV installation. The pontiffs of Toxic Temple celebrate plastic-digesting bacteria and worship nuclear waste. Infiltrating the festival throughout its duration, their rites also reveal that speculations on transhumanism should not shroud the subject of real human discrimination in the here and now.

The music-driven performance *Aphasia* by **Jelena Jureša** asks: Why does a popular Serbian DJ step on the head of a Muslim woman during war? In his droning prog rock performance *Batty Bwoy*, what is **Harald Beharie** trying to tell us with his excessive physical exertion? And do humans, as exemplified in *workpiece* by **Anna-Marija Adomaityte**, have to work in warehouses optimised on the model of robots?

If your answer's no, then it's time to mobilise your body. The name of the techno-spiritual duo **Animistic Beliefs** makes a musical statement: music as magic, freed from the compulsion to be reasonable, rendered by sentient machines. New albums will be presented by the singer and rapper **Debby Friday**, the savvy provocateur **Zebra Katz**, and **James Holden**, who frames his latest work as rave music for a parallel universe. **Petronn Sphene**, the likely most electrifying live hip-hop show on the planet, ensures mutant disco berserkness; as of late, noise specialist **Puce Mary** complements her œuvre with demonic ballads; **Hüma Utku** fuses oriental influences with contemporary electronics.

Vocal extravaganzas emerge in the fractured "survival elegies" of **Lingua Ignota**, the sophisticated arrangements of workers' songs by **Silvia Tarozi and Deborah Walker**, or in the music of **Phew**, **Marina Herlop**, or **Félicia Atkinson** and the acclaimed Grammy Award winner **Arooj Aftab** (together with **Vijay Iyer & Shahzad Ismaily**). Intense encounters between sound and visuals await us in the live versions of the post-industrial noise by **Klara Lewis & Nik Colk Void + Pedro Maia**, in the commissioned work by **Slikback x Weirdcore** co-produced by donaufestival, in the advanced psychedelics of **Heith live AV ft. DECLINO**, in the sensory excess-riddled digital aesthetics of **Amnesia Scanner & Freeka Tet**, and in the stage productions by electronic composer **Maya Shenfeld** and video artist **Pedro Maia**.

In 2023, a number of bands are also on board in Krems: proven noise rock calibres like **Godflesh** or **Big I Brave** as well as new discoveries like the percussion-driven, furious live band **Nihiloxica** from the circles of the Nyege Nyege collective. They are joined by Afrofuturistic voodoo wizardry of **Nwando Ebizie** and naturally fierce club sounds from the likes of **DJ Lag**, **Omar Souleyman**, or **RP BOO**. And last but not least, there will also be several acts with Austrian contributions: **Radian** presents the world premiere of their new album to be released in autumn; **Lukas König** unveils an international, rap-powered project; **Rojin Sharafi & Épong** will deliver an audiovisual performance co-produced by the donaufestival (world premiere); and **Geier aus Stahl** perform rattling, gloomy machine clatter.

Note: The last day of the festival (Sunday, May 7) features three highlight concerts in the Minorite Church (no programme on the main festival premises). During the day, there will be talks, film, and performance programmes as usual. This year, we want the end of the festival on Sunday to be a particularly relaxed one for everyone.

## PHOTOS

> **Sound:** [https://celum.noeku.at/pinaccess/showpin.do?pinCode=2023\\_DF\\_Sound](https://celum.noeku.at/pinaccess/showpin.do?pinCode=2023_DF_Sound)

> **Performance, Kunst, Film, Diskurs:**

[https://celum.noeku.at/pinaccess/showpin.do?pinCode=2023\\_DF\\_PerformanceArtFilmDiscourse](https://celum.noeku.at/pinaccess/showpin.do?pinCode=2023_DF_PerformanceArtFilmDiscourse)

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## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### April 28

#### *Sound*

Rojin Sharafi & Épong

BIG | BRAVE

Petronn Sphene

Godflesh

Nihiloxica

#### *Performance*

Toxic Temple: MESS

Jelena Jureša: Aphasia

Harald Beharie: Batty Bwoy

*Plus films, art and installations\*, talks, a DJ line-up, and much more*

### April 29

#### *Sound*

Silvia Tarozzi & Deborah Walker

Heith feat. DECLINO

1 ABOVE MINUS UNDERGROUND

Slikback x Weirdcore present VOID

Zebra Katz

DJ Lag

#### *Performance*

Toxic Temple: MESS

Jelena Jureša: Aphasia

Harald Beharie: Batty Bwoy

*Plus films, art and installations\*, talks, a DJ line-up, and much more*

### April 30

#### *Sound*

Hüma Utku

Radian

James Holden

yeule

Omar Souleyman

RP BOO [Planet Mu]

Animistic Beliefs + Jeisson Drenth: CACHE/SPIRIT

*Performance*

Toxic Temple: MESS

Jelena Jureša: Aphasia

Harald Beharie: Batty Bwoy

*Plus films, art and installations\*, talks, a DJ line-up, and much more.*

**May 5**

*Sound*

Maya Shenfeld + Pedro Maia

Puce Mary

Moin

Nwando Ebizie

Amnesia Scanner & Freeka Tet

Debby Friday

*Performance*

Toxic Temple: MESS

Kim Noble / CAMPO: Lullaby for Scavengers

Francesca Foscari & Cosimo Lopalco PUNK. KILL ME PLEASE

Anna-Marija Adomaityte & Gautier Teuscher: workpiece

*Plus films, art and installations\*, talks, a DJ line-up, and much more*

**May 6**

*Sound*

Félicia Atkinson

Geier aus Stahl Band

Klara Lewis & Nik Colk Void + Pedro Maia

Phew

Lingua Ignota

Gorgonn

*Performance*

Toxic Temple: MESS

Kim Noble / CAMPO: Lullaby for Scavengers

Francesca Foscari & Cosimo Lopalco PUNK. KILL ME PLEASE

Anna-Marija Adomaityte & Gautier Teuscher: workpiece

*Plus films, art and installations\*, talks, a DJ line-up, and much more*

## **May 7**

### *Sound*

Marina Herlop

Slauson Malone

Arooj Aftab, Vijay Iyer & Shahzad Ismaily

### *Performance*

Toxic Temple: MESS

Kim Noble / CAMPO: Lullaby for Scavengers

Francesca Foscari & Cosimo Lopalco PUNK. KILL ME PLEASE

Anna-Marija Adomaityte & Gautier Teuscher: workpiece

*Plus films, art and installations\*, talks, a DJ line-up, and much more*

### \*Permanent installations/exhibitions during the two weekends:

Oliver Ressler – Climate Feedback Loops (2023), exhibition in Kunsthalle Krems

Félix Blume – Swarm / Essaim (2021)

Ernst Lima – For the moment and for the record (2021)

Eglė Budvytytė in collaboration with Marija Olšauskaitė and Julija Lukas Steponaitytė – Songs from the Compost: Mutating Bodies, Imploding Stars (2020)

Valentina Karga – Banana Mummy (I dreamt of the lifeforms I can become after I die) (2019)

DISNOVATION.ORG – A Bestiary of the Anthropocene [An atlas of hybrid creatures] (2021)

Alfredo Barsuglia – Living Culture 2023 (exhibition by museumKrems)

More details: [www.donaufestival.at](http://www.donaufestival.at)

## **PRESS CONTACT**

Barbara Pluch (head)

+ 43/ 664 60499 322, email: [barbara.pluch@noe-festival.at](mailto:barbara.pluch@noe-festival.at)

Hannah Metzker (assistant)

+43/ 660 48 55 229, email: [hannah.metzker@noe-festival.at](mailto:hannah.metzker@noe-festival.at)