

Press Release, 17.5.18

steirischer herbst 2018 announces Artists List and Program Preview

steirischer herbst

Various locations, Graz, Austria

20.9.–14.10.2018

Opening days: 20.–22.9.2018

steirischer herbst, the oldest interdisciplinary festival of contemporary arts in Europe, is pleased to announce the artists participating in its 51st edition, curated by Ekaterina Degot with a curatorial collective.

The title of this year's festival is *Volksfronten*, in German and in plural. It references very different historical contexts—the antifascist coalitions of the 1930s, an ultra-rightwing nationalist group in the US, the ironic name given to representative facades in the GDR—thus addressing the heated ideological battles and collapsing political dichotomies of the present. The program includes installative, performative, as well as discursive formats and is conceived as a single parcours spread out over multiple locations.

The *Volksfronten* parcours includes works by the following artists (new commissions marked by an asterisk):

Martin Behr & Martin Osterider / Rossella Biscotti & Kevin van Braak* / Christian von Borries* / Bread & Puppet Theater* / Igor & Ivan Buharov* / Lars Cuzner* / Department of Ultimology* / Ines Doujak* / Funda Gül Özcan* / Nicoline van Harskamp* / Irina Korina* / kozek hörlonski & Alexander Martinz* / Laibach* / Victoria Lomasko* / Mazzaj Rap Band / Ekaterina Muromtseva / Henrike Naumann* / Yoshinori Niwa* / Michael Portnoy* / Roe Rosen* / Christoph Szalay / Theater im Bahnhof* / Milica Tomić* / Michiel Vandevelde* / Ivan Vyrypaev / Oliver Zahn/Hauptattraktion / Michael Zinganel* / ZIP group*

Program Preview

The festival opens on Thursday 20 September, with a parade by Bread & Puppet Theater, the legendary American theater group. The evening culminates with a new stage production by Laibach, revisiting and repoliticizing *The Sound of Music*, the famed Broadway version of Austrian history.

The opening weekend continues with a staged conference on the divisive question of “Allah vs. Coca Cola” by Warsaw-based Russian playwright and theater director Ivan Vyrypaev, and a large-scale happening by Igor & Ivan Buharov, who imagine a revolution of plants in a new performative video installation on Friday 21 September. On Saturday 22 September, the opening weekend concludes with a cinematic-performative-musical evening with artist Roee Rosen and an evocative performance by choreographer Michiel Vandevelde based on one of the greatest forgotten classics of the last century, *Human Landscapes from My Country* by the Turkish dissident poet Nazim Hikmet.

Further performative works continue later throughout the program—including intriguing taxi tours by Theater im Bahnhof and a new performance by Nicoline van Harskamp addressing how personal names travel and transform across national boundaries.

Many new works explore the uncanny, even horrifying notion of belonging to a nation, looking both directly at Graz and further afield. A new film by Viennese artist duo kozek hörlonski in collaboration with Alexander Martinz sees Styria and Graz as a perfect set for horror movies. Moscow-based artist Irina Korina looks at the notion of the *Motherland* as expressed through plants and trees in a special installation open for the first ten days of the festival only.

An installation by Milica Tomić revisits a dramatically neglected site of a forced labor camp near Graz, while artist-researcher Michael Zinganel takes us to the involuntary monuments to modernization in Styria. Vienna-based artist Yoshinori Niwa collects unwanted memories of the fascist era in a public project, while Henrike Naumann projects an alternative history of 20th-century Austria.

On 28–29 September in Orpheum, the international symposium *Our Little Fascisms* hosts in-depth conversations and heated debates with Tobias Ginsburg, Ewa Majewska, G. M. Tamás, Tiago Saraiva, Oxana Timofeeva, and others.

The third weekend of the festival features a symposium on *The Violence of Images* coproduced with Camera Austria, and a newly commissioned, monumental orchestral suite by German composer and filmmaker Christian von Borries.

steirischer herbst also features musikprotokoll, a festival inside a festival, and numerous projects by partner institutions in Graz.

steirischer herbst 2018 is curated by Ekaterina Degot with a curatorial collective composed of Henriette Gallus, Christoph Platz, Övül Ö. Durmusoglu, Katalin Erdödi, Dominik Müller, David Riff, and Jill Winder, as well as Birgit Pelzmann and Johanna Rainer, and advised by Georg Schöllhammer.

A complete list of artists, as well as full information about the projects of *Volksfronten*, and the partner program of steirischer herbst will be available in mid-July at www.steirischerherbst.at. Online accreditation for press and professionals also opens mid-July.

Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Artist Biographies

Martin Behr, born 1964 in Graz, Austria, lives in Graz, Austria & Martin Osterider, born 1964 in Graz, Austria, lives in Vienna, Austria.

Rossella Biscotti, born 1978 in Molfetta, Italy, lives in Brussels, Belgium & Kevin van Braak, born 1975, lives in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Christian von Borries, born 1961 in Zürich, Switzerland, lives in Berlin, Germany.

Bread & Puppet Theater, founded early 1960s in New York, USA based in Glover, Vermont, USA.

Igor and Ivan Buharov (Kornél Szilágyi & Nándor Hevesi), born 1971 & 1974 in Budapest & Hajdúnánás, Hungary, live in Budapest, Hungary.

Lars Cuzner, born 1974 in Södertälje, Sweden lives in Oslo, Norway.

Departement of Ultimology, founded 2016 in Dublin (by Kate Strain, born 1983 in Dublin, Ireland, lives in Graz, Austria & Fiona Hallinan lives in Dublin, Ireland), working in Dublin, Ireland & Graz, Austria.

Ines Doujak, born 1959 in Klagenfurt, Austria lives in Vienna, Austria.

Funda Gül Özcan, born 1984 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, lives in Munich, Germany.

Nicoline van Harskamp, born 1975, lives in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Irina Korina, born 1977 in Moscow, Russia lives in Moscow, Russia.

kozec hörlonski, founded in 2003 (by Thomas Hörl, born 1975 in Hallein, Austria, lives in Vienna, Austria & Peter Kozek, born 1972 in Baden, Austria, lives in Vienna, Austria) & Alexander Martinz, born 1979 in Klagenfurt, Austria, lives in Vienna, Austria.

Laibach, founded 1984 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, based in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Viktoria Lomasko, born 1978 in Serpuchow, Russia, lives in Moscow, Russia.

Mazzaj Rap Band, founded 2008 in Tartus, Syria. Group leader Mohammad Abu Hajar fled Syria for Germany in 2012 and is currently living in Berlin, Germany.

Ekaterina Muromtseva, born 1990 in Moscow, Russia lives in Moscow, Russia.

Henrike Naumann, born 1984 in Zwickau, former GDR lives in Berlin, Germany.

Yoshinori Niwa, born 1982 in Aichi Prefecture, Japan lives in Vienna, Austria.

Michael Portnoy, born 1967 in Long Beach, Long Island, New York lives in New York, USA.

Roe Rosen, born 1963 in Rehovot, Israel, lives in Tel Aviv, Israel & Hani Furstenberg, born 1979, lives in New York, USA & Igor Krutogolov's Krutogolov's band, alternately referred to as the Karate Band or the Toy Orchestra, is based in Israel and released their first album, Children 4 Muzik, back in 2005.

Christoph Szalay, born 1987 in Graz, Austria, lives in Graz, Austria.

Theater im Bahnhof, founded 1989 in Graz, Austria based in Graz, Austria.

Milica Tomić, born 1960 in Belgrade, lives in Graz, Austria.

Michiel Vandeveld, born 1990, lives in Brussels, Belgium.

Ivan Vyrypaev, born 1974 in Irkutsk, Russia lives in Warsaw, Poland.

Oliver Zahn, born 1989.

Michael Zinganel, born 1960 in Bad Radkersburg, Austria lives in Vienna, Austria.

ZIP, founded 2009 in Krasnodar, Russia, based in Krasnodar, Russia.

Dragan Živadinov, born 1960 in Ilirska Bistrica, Slovenia, lives in Ljubljana, Slovenia.