

donaufestival 2017

Du steckst mich an.

28 April – 1 May and 5 – 6 May

Krems a.d. Donau, Austria

www.donaufestival.at



Each year donaufestival creates a parallel world between system crash and reboot, constituted by oscillations between music, performance, and visual art. The artistic director Thomas Edlinger, this year's curator of performance Bettina Kogler, and the seasoned donaufestival team have programmed six festival days with about 20 events per day, which will once again transform Krems into a hotspot of adventurous aesthetics beyond all genre borders.

Du steckst mich an.

The festival title of the 2017 edition of donaufestival "Du steckst mich an" refers to this year's leitmotif, the concept of empathy. Many NGOs see empathy as a social adhesive that holds together something that Margaret Thatcher said doesn't exist: society. The ability to climb into the skin of others, how ex-US President Barack Obama defined empathy, became a moral ideal. In light of the dwindling political solidarity and the sensational narcissism reports, don't we need more understanding for the life of the other in the age of My Country First?

But who profits exactly from the empathic imperative? Who needs sympathy and who abuses compassion? Are there emancipatory potentials in viral enthusiasm? Do a lack of distance and over-identification with a You lead to one-sided judgements? Are head-mounted cameras and insatiable algorithms taking over the reconnaissance of the other and therewith the work of empathy? And finally: How does empathy become an insight at odds with itself and promise more than just concern?

The festival program doesn't answer these questions.

But many festival contributions are inspired by them. For instance, the quivering social body of the "more than naked" ensemble around **Doris Uhlich**, the viral violence installation by **Stephane Roy**, the stage fantasies of **Colin Self**, which celebrate the coming folk of alien drags, **Kris Verdonck's** machines that seem to have a soul and live a life of their own, or the infrared thermal images by **Vika Kirchenbauer**. In the music programme the electronics by **Sote** empathise with lyrical Persian folklore, while **The Grubby Mitts** proclaim hymns for open arms and hearts, and you can share the phantom pain of **Stian Westerhus's** sound.

Pioneering bands and musicians, backed by a vast catalogue of works in the bag – like **Einstürzende Neubauten**, **GAS** aka **Wolfgang Voigt**, **Scritti Politti**, **Silver Apples**, **Ulver**, **This Is Not This Heat**, **Radian** or **Josephine Foster** – stake out new grounds in the programme. Their presentations intersect with discoveries from the liminal zones between dance floor, rock stage, and concert hall – from **Moor**

Mother to ***Equiknoxx***, from ***The Body*** to ***Girl Band***, from ***Klara Lewis*** to ***Jace Clayton***'s tribute to the minimal composer ***Julius Eastman***.

The arc of the performance programme spans from the passionate plea for minorities by choreographer ***Ligia Lewis*** and the minimalist actions of the Swedish duo ***QUARTO*** to the feast by ***Karner*** and ***Samaraweerová*** and the proliferating science-fiction mémoires of ***Ariel Efraim Ashbel and Friends***.

NEW FESTIVAL CENTRE, NEW PROGRAMME POINTS, READER ON THE FESTIVAL THEME

This year donaufestival also introduces some fundamental changes: Heidi Pretterhofer and Christian Teckert have spiced up the interior design of the entrance hall into the new **Festival Centre**, which serves as bar and an event venue at the same time (e.g. for DJ line-ups at night).

The surprise format **Stockholm Syndrome** lures you to locations not announced in advance.

The **Theory & Talks Series** invites you to discussions and presentations at Kino im Kesselhaus.

New event venues like the Dominican Church in the old centre of Krems or Galerie am Eck in Stein offer fresh destinations for festival goers.

And this year the festival offers a **Reader** for the first time with in-depth essays on the festival theme along with a USB stick containing a musical cross-section through the programme.

COMPLETE PROGRAM: www.donaufestival.at

PRESS KIT FOR DOWNLOAD: <https://www.donaufestival.at/en/press/>

PRESS PHOTOS (Please copy the respective link into your browser)

Artists 2017

<https://celum.noeku.at/pindownload/login.do?pin=WDT5Z>

Thomas Edlinger and Bettina Kogler

<https://celum.noeku.at/pindownload/login.do?pin=P49R3>

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