

# Pop-Kultur/2020

26.08.20 - 28.08.20

Press release from the 23rd June 2020

- The Pop-Kultur festival lineup is complete
- New online presence - now with original artistic contributions!
- Three-day show premiering 26th August with a variety of voices, with individual pieces also viewable in the Pop-Kultur mediatheque
- New music videos, Commissioned Works, Sessions, Talks, Readings



Preach, Catnapp, Noga Erez, Mavi Phoenix (Pics by Karin Salathé, Duran Levinson, R604M, bebishoota)

Along with announcing the lineup for its sixth edition - including acts such as **Catnapp, Mavi Phoenix, Preach, Noga Erez, 21 Downbeat, The Notwist, Isolation Berlin** and **The Düsseldorf Boys** - the Berlin festival Pop-Kultur is unveiling its new website at [www.pop-kultur.berlin](http://www.pop-kultur.berlin). The participating artists are already in production across the numerous stages of the Kulturbrauerei as well as in other cities around the world with local video teams. Their works will premiere online, individually and in a three-part TV-show format, from the **26th to the 28th of August**.

## Standing behind artists

During these uncertain times, Pop-Kultur is holding on to the concept of accessibility to everyone, and this year, for the first time, it's unfolding in the online realm for worldwide reception. **Dr. Klaus Lederer**, Berlin's Mayor and Senator for Culture and Europe, is underscoring the importance of supporting artists: *"This year, Pop-Kultur is taking up the digital challenge and offering its artists a high-quality online platform. This allows them to remain present in all of their artistic diversity. I am sure that this year will bring yet another discourse-oriented, enriching edition of the Pop-Kultur festival!"*



Madanii & Llucid (Pic by Colin Audette) The Düsseldorf Dusterboys (Pic by Felix Aaron)

### Digitally connected

Many musicians have found almost complete artistic freedom in the online realm, and some of them are using new, expressive tools. The members of **Super Besse**, for example, are experimenting with the band's geographical divide and are simulating a live concert split between Minsk and Berlin. In her Commissioned Work, Argentinean Berliner **Catnapp** takes virtual to the next level, immersing herself as an avatar in a video-game world, backed with new music especially composed for the project. Other Berlin musicians are going for a fully multidimensional angle: **hackedepicciotto** have planned a fusion of painting, graphics and green-screen technology in their Commissioned Work, accompanied by a live remix of their music by the **Gebrüder Teichmann**. Elsewhere, **Mueran Hermanos** are working on a video fanzine - with a collage of light art, poetry, studio recordings, video clips and new music. In her Commissioned Work, meanwhile, **Preach** of the Hamburg collective **One Mother** is putting together a performance titled »Fathoeburger.«

### Virtually everywhere

Audiences can also catch a glimpse into the lives of numerous international artists beyond the stages of Berlin. For example, see Tel Aviv's rap scene through the eyes of Ethiopian-Israeli rapper **Eden Derso**, or check out the Ghanaian capital of Accra, where **Wanlov the Kubolor** of **FOKN Bois** is critiquing the system via music and video. **Evija Vēbere** from Riga opens viewers to a surreal atmosphere, and thanks to the multitalented Ghanaian artist **Jojo Abot**, festival guests can explore Los Angeles while engaging with topics like decolonisation and indigenous heritage. Last but not least, the South African-born **Yugen Blakrok** offers a look at her farm in Spain.

### Works of art, premiered online

Pop-Kultur 2020 goes further than just presenting concerts without an audience, instead offering around 30 audio-visual works of art that have each been conceived and realised internationally - e.g. the so-called »Sessions,« which are shot on film sets. All artists have been encouraged to use the possibilities of digital staging rather than simply mirroring their performances as planned before Covid-19. *"The fact that creative works can be pre-produced, both locally and internationally, means not only artistic freedom but also a welcome enrichment to our current everyday life full of restrictions, generating curiosity for people to dive into these works,"* adds **Prof. Dieter Gorny**, chairman of the supervisory board of Initiative Musik.

### Cinema on the small screen

Films have always been part of the festival, and this year there's an everstronger focus. From reworkings of silent films in the Commissioned Work by **Chikiss**, to a »picture-novel-film« by **Messer** mastermind **Hendrik Otremba**, to a short film production by **Noga Erez** from Israel - the cinematic genre gets explored in all directions. Also in the programme: the musical documentary »**Contradict. Ideas for a New World**,« dealing with outsiders' skewed perception of the African continent, in which **FOKN Bois** can be seen collecting donations in the streets of Accra for people suffering in the USA.

## Canada as guest country

Indo-Canadian rocker **King Khan** and his daughter **Saba Lou** transport us to a visually rich, animated art world created by the two artists under the name **»Rat-Tribution Now«** (Commissioned Work). Canada's presence is further bolstered by the duo **Cartel Madres** and producer **Jessy Lanza**. The special country focus has been made possible by FACTOR Canada and the Government of Canada.

## Perspectives and positions

Pop-Kultur has always been known for its diverse and expansive programme. "Even during the pandemic, we'll continue to provide new perspectives together with with guest curators such as **Pamela Owusu-Brenyah**, **Leyla Yenirce** and **Yeşim Duman**, presenting a condensed overview of different positions within pop culture," says **Katja Lucker**, director of the festival and of Musicboard Berlin, who is in charge of the programme along with **Martin Hossbach** and **Christian Morin**.

## »Pop-Kultur Nachwuchs« & »Goethe Talents«

The application period for the workshop programme »Pop-Kultur Nachwuchs« with 250 participants have closed. This year, from the 26th through the 28th of August, selected talents will connect with one another in realtime via video conferencing. This is where, for example, **Maja Bogojevic** will give a workshop on political activism and social media, **Albertine Sarges** will share her experiences working artistically within a male-dominated music business, **The Düsseldorf Dusterboys** will speak at the PKN kick-off about their surprisingly steep career path, and multimedia artist **Danielle de Picciotto** will provide insight on her work. All information on the PKN workshop programme can be found at [nachwuchs.pop-kultur.berlin/](https://nachwuchs.pop-kultur.berlin/)

## Inclusion

Pop-Kultur continues its goal of inclusivity in the online realm, striving for an accessible programme that includes closed captioning in English and German, information in simple language, audio descriptions and content with sign language. It's up to us all to facilitate new forms of connection.

## Up next: »Pop-Kultur lokal«

- **Concerts for Future goes virtual**, 3rd of July, 19:00, connecting climate protection and a pop concert in an online event
- **Meeting Point**, 12th of July, 19:00, **Cashmere Radio** produces a concert evening for radio, consisting of 2x2 local acts presenting fresh collaborations.

## Pop-Kultur Festival-Line-up 2020

**SESSIONS** 24/7 Diva Heaven / Eat Lipstick / Isolation Berlin / MADANII & LLUCID / Mavi Phoenix / The Düsseldorf Dusterboys / The Notwist **COMMISSIONED WORKS** Catnapp presents »DAMAGE Experience« / Chikiss presents »Silent Cinema in Modern Sound« / hackedepicciotto remixed / King Khan: »Rat-Tribution Now« / Preach: »Fathoeburger« **COMMISSIONED WORKS DIGITAL** Galouché Galore / Jammerpunk / Pop-Kultur Fanfaren **DIGITAL WORKS** 21 Downbeat / Cartel Madras / Eden Derso / Eviija Vēbere / Hendrik Otremba / Jessy Lanza / Jojo Abot / Mueran Humanos / Noga Erez / SADO OPERA / Super Besse / Theodora / Wanlov The Kubolor (FOKN Bois) / Yugen Blakrok **TALK** »DO IT YOURSELF: African Music Festivals«: Elena Schulz-Görner, Jumoke Adeyanju, Pamela Owusu-Brenyah, Wale Davies / »Ping Pong Hayat and the Art of Staying Alive«: Joana Tischkau, Reyhan Şahin, Ronya Othmann, Yeşim Duman / »Speaking of Sampling«: Azadê Peşmen, Enis Maci, Jesseline Preach, Leyla Yenirce **FILM** »Contradict. Ideas for a New World.« **DIGITAL RESIDENCIES** Goethe Residency: Mpho Sebina & S. Fidelity / Digital Residency Tel Aviv-Berlin: Tellavision & Echo

**NO TICKETS NECESSARY** Attending Pop-Kultur 2020 is **free** for everyone.

Pop-Kultur is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe of the State of Berlin with support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the programme »Strengthening the Innovative Potential of Culture (INP II)«, »Pop-Kultur Commissioned Works & Pop-Kultur International are supported by Initiative Musik gGmbH with project funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media.

