

Pop-Kultur

Press Release from the 24th of February, 2021

Katja Lucker: "We're excited to go even deeper along with our new programming team"

- New programming team for 2021: Yeşim Duman, Christian Morin, Pamela Owusu-Brenyah, Leyla Yenirce
- Nadine Moser will be the point of connection among collectives and participatory music concepts

One thing's for sure: the Berlin festival **Pop-Kultur** is happening – from the **25th to the 28th of August, 2021**, to be specific. Yet so much uncertainty remains: art and music are stuck in crisis, and cultural creators have lost any semblance of stability. "We're doing everything we can so that Pop-Kultur can take place live on the grounds of the **Kulturbrauerei** this year, letting as many people participate as possible. We're currently in the process of developing an innovative, safe design for an outdoor programme. Vibrant networks, collectives and new participatory concepts are important now more than ever," says **Katja Lucker**, festival director and managing director of **Musicboard Berlin**. "Aside from that, I've reconfigured and expanded Pop-Kultur's programming team."



Katja Lucker (Pic P. Desbrosses) Christian Morin (Pic P. Desbrosses) Leyla Yenirce (Pic Maximilian Mundt) Yeşim Duman (Pic Hasibe Lesman) Pamela Owusu-Brenyah (Pic Frank Joung) Nadine Moser (Pic Camille Blake)

Leyla Yenirce, Pamela Owusu-Brenyah, Christian Morin and Yeşim Duman are now designing all aspects of the public programme. **Nadine Moser** is overseeing collaborations among various collectives.

Duman, Owusu-Brenyah and Yenirce have already made important contributions to the festival in previous years, whether onstage or behind the scenes. "Pop-Kultur has been able to offer a pertinent voice in current cultural discourse, thanks in no small part to content developed by Yeşim Duman, Pamela Owusu-Brenyah and Leyla Yenirce," says **Katja Lucker**. "We're excited to go even deeper together as an evolving team."

Yeşim Duman is a curator, DJ, host and organiser of various queer event series such as 'erdogay' and 'bubble' as well as Pop-Hayat, created in conjunction with Pop-Kultur. She's active with the female:pressure network and is dedicated to broadening inclusion within club and pop culture. "I come from a practical perspective and take an interdisciplinary view of pop culture. It's great to be able to broaden the festival's design, and I'm very excited by the opportunity. I'm driven to programme content that doesn't simply acknowledge as many people as possible but makes them feel truly welcome," says Duman.

"I've been active for years both curatorially and artistically, and so I have a very direct understanding of what artists need in order to develop," adds **Leyla Yenirce**. A co-founder of the collective One Mother, Yenirce is also known as an author, filmmaker, musician and visual artist. She has studied Urban Culture, Political Philosophy and Fine Arts at HafenCity University Hamburg, Bryn Mawr College (USA), and the Hamburg University of Fine Arts.

"In the wake of the pandemic, the use of digitisation has made leaps and bounds. We've found a much more natural way to network actively across continents around the world," says **Pamela Owusu-Brenyah**, describing the impact of Covid-19 on her curatorial work. Owusu-Brenyah runs the community platform AFRO x POP, which promotes the visibility of African pop culture in Germany, building bridges between artists from Germany and countries in Africa. She is also involved with Music Women* Germany, has worked for Universal Music Group as a consultant and organises various festivals.

Commissioned Works by collaborating artists, music and networking formats, increased cooperation among collectives with the involvement of cultural conceptionist **Nadine Moser**, talks and exhibitions – all these are foundational elements of the festival, complemented by the **Pop-Kultur Nachwuchs** workshop programme, open to applicants worldwide. "Many artists are at the limit, both emotionally and financially. One main objective for 2021 is to practise solidarity and offer a multifaceted platform where people can express their artistic and societal visions," says **Christian Morin**, who's been part of the programming team since 2015. At his own request, **Martin Hossbach** has decided to step down from his position as co-curator. Musicboard Berlin GmbH and Pop-Kultur would like to thank him for six years of outstandingly successful collaboration and his commitment to continuously developing the festival.

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