

Pop-Kultur/2023

Press release from 23rd May 2023

New acts added to the lineup and Commissioned Works revealed

- From traditional music to club culture, big Ukrainian representation at this year's edition of the festival
- Premieres of Commissioned Works by Mariana Sadovska, Gloria de Oliveira, Portrait XO, FAAM, L Twills and more



From upper left clockwise to lower left:

Kwam.E, FEM*ERGY COLLECTIVE (© Steffi Rettinger), umru, Fheels (© Sophie Schwarzenberger)

The line-up is expanding! With just over three months before the festival kicks off, Pop-Kultur 2023 is announcing more live acts, Commissioned Works and the first talks. Among the newly confirmed musicians are the **FEM*ERGY COLLECTIVE** – consisting of Ay Wing, mari.ama, Johanna Amelie, Mya Audrey and Leonie Geisler – who will open up their utopian microcosm of respect and diversity to Pop-Kultur audiences. Further additions include Hamburg rapper **Kwam.E**, who flips between new- and old-school, the blues-rock four-piece **Fheels**, who also hail from the Hanseatic city, and Estonian-American producer **umru**, known for his work on hyperpop label PC Music.

»What does it mean to create culture when faced with missile attacks and the everyday horrors of war?« asked festival dramaturge **Christian Morin**, who curates Pop-Kultur along with **Yeşim Duman** and **Pamela Owusu-Brenyah**. With this in mind, he has invited a number of musicians and cultural workers from Ukraine to Pop-Kultur to present themselves and their creative work as well as to enable international dialogue in a sit-down talk.

The festival, taking place from 30th August to 1st September 2023 at Kulturbrauerei, will offer a special focus on the organisers of the **Black Factory** festival and the »clean-up raves« by the group **Repair Together**, where groups of young people assemble to clear rubble and repair damaged houses while playing electronic music. Even in times of war, the underground scene in Kyiv is trying to create some sense of normality and community through these events. Two exciting Ukrainian acts from this scene will also be present: the electronic duo **Hungry Boys** and the confrontational electro-pop-punk musician **TUCHA**.



TUCHA

In addition, Ukrainian artist **Mariana Sadovska** contributes a Commissioned Work with her band project **Vesna**, combining traditional chants and archaic instruments with contemporary, often electronic sounds to address questions of origin, freedom and identity.

Other Commissioned Works also reflect this search for new forms within tried and tested musical traditions: In her Commissioned Work »Fucklore Bellringers« Cyprus-born, Berlin-based artist **Krista Papista** launches a queer-feminist counterattack on nationalist narratives that complements her current LP »Fucklore« by poetically and aesthetically mixing up music from the Balkans and the Middle East with a good portion of punk. **Gloria de Oliveira**, on the other hand, is interested in myths and storytelling, diving into the siren world of antiquity with »Serêa«. On her dreamy, exploratory journey, she delves into different musical styles and genres, including bossa nova, fado, art songs from the 19th century and folk songs from the British Isles.

From performances to installations and musicals, Pop-Kultur team member **Pamela Schlewinski** is responsible for the implementation of the Commissioned Works. She has noticed a strong narrative tendency in this year's pieces: *»The Commissioned Works are exemplary with their new forms of telling stories. Many artists are consciously developing alternatives to the usual narrative forms, such as Krista Papista and Voodoo Beach & Die Wilde Jagd. Others are simply recounting*

experiences that, while highly personal, still have a strong potential for wider identification, such as Anika and Garagen Uwe.«

FAAM (Fashion Art And Movement) is also coming to the festival with a new contribution. For this Commissioned Work, the French choreographer and designer behind the label, Stéphane »Peeps« Moun, is transforming the stage, having put together a special ensemble that will set off on a musical adventure with dance and visual art.



Portrait XO © Sarah Morell

Portrait XO is a multimodal, multimedia artist interested in the relationship between humans and machines, with a focus on artificial intelligence. In her Commissioned Work, she puts her two working tools – traditional instruments and deep learning – into the spotlight, stimulating an immersive conversation about the future of music production.

Furthermore, another very special premiere is on the programme at Pop-Kultur: **L Twills** will preview her next album »After her Destruction«, which will not be out until October. The show unfolds as a science-fiction journey through one's own mind, featuring unreleased videos.

Prof. Dieter Gorny, chairman of the supervisory board of Initiative Musik, which sponsors certain parts of the festival including the Commissioned Works, is convinced of their enduring impact: *»The Commissioned Works give musicians the opportunity to think about their art in completely new ways, and to present it in new ways as well. This means Pop-Kultur audiences are in a unique position to experience performances beyond the usual concert format and perhaps even become part of them. We are more than happy to promote these creative experiments and experiences.«*

Speaking of new, creative practices: The second **»Pop-Kultur lokal«** event will take place on 23rd June at Gelegenheiten, Weserstraße 50, with **»Drag Syndrome Deutschland«**, a workshop including a presentation and afterparty. This event was co-created by Daniel Vais, the choreographer and artistic director of **Drag Syndrome** from England, aimed at people with Down syndrome who aspire to be drag artists.

And applications for »Pop-Kultur Nachwuchs« are open until 31st May: Newcomer talents are encouraged to apply via <https://nachwuchs.pop-kultur.berlin> for one of the 250 spots available. The programme is aimed at bookers, artist managers, journalists, other professionals and artists finding their footing in the music industry.

Pop-Kultur day tickets are now available for 28 euros per ticket (plus advance booking fee).

Concerts and DJ sets by:

21 downbeat / Aili / Aksak Maboul / Albi X / Ansu / ARXX / ARY / Banoffee / BRKN / C'est Karma / Casey MQ / Codeine / Crack Cloud / cumgirl8 / Das Kinn / Dina Summer / Drag Syndrome / Empress Of / ERRORR / EVÎN / Fave / FEM*ERGY COLLECTIVE / Fheels / Fishbach / Free Love / Get Jealous / Indigo Sparke / J. Vague / Junior Boys / Karl Vento / Kwam.E / Lola Marsh / MADANII / Meagre Martin / mui zyu / Mulay / NAS TEA / Nashi44 / pape / Prince Emrah / Rasha Nahas / Robert Kretzschmar / Rosa Anschütz / Sam Quealy / Selin Davasse / Sofie Royer / Sophia Blenda / Sorry / Stella Sommer / Tami T / The Düsseldorf Dusterboys / Tigre Bleu / TUCHA / umru / Wa2ermann / Walter Astral / Wellen.Brecher / Zainab Lax / Zustra

Commissioned Works by:

Anika »Lost Voices« / A Song For You / FAAM / Fuffifufzich »Kontrollverlust Romantico« / Garagen Uwe / Gloria de Oliveira »Serĉa« / Krista Papista »FUCKLORE Bellringers« / L Twills »After her Destruction« / Mariana Sadovska – Vesna / Nichtseattle »Haus aus Papier« / Portrait XO / Voodoo Beach & Die Wilde Jagd »Kaskaden«

Talks and readings:

»Die Frau mit dem Arm« (Ger) (reading performance by Andreas Dorau & Gereon Klug) / »A Record Label (What is it good for?) II«: Anton Teichmann, Marc Hollander, Olga Karatzioti-B., Mod.: Christina Mohr / »Note To Self« – Artist Talk with Banoffee & Rasha Nahas moderated by Lior Neumeister / »Fabulous Drag Night Talk« – Chit Chat with Drag Syndrome and Saioa Alvarez Ruiz / »Culture In A Warzone«: Dmytro Kyrpa, Maria Tuchka, Sergey Yatsenko, Mod.: Simon Bonney

Further programme additions will follow.

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