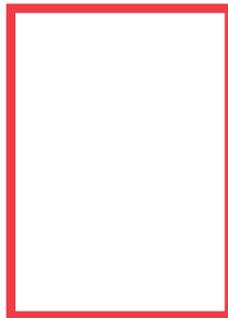


The New Infinity
New Art for Planetariums
11 to 13 September 2020

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Berliner Festspiele

Introduction

Almost every large city has a planetarium but hardly any of them use it as a space to experience contemporary art. The Berliner Festspiele's programme "The New Infinity" explores planetariums as the galleries of the future and has commissioned a series of works by contemporary artists since 2017 that have been presented in planetariums and fulldome festivals around the world. After previous years' programmes attracted almost 40,000 visitors to our mobile dome on the Mariannenplatz, this year's edition will be held for the first time in the Zeiss-Großplanetarium, one of the largest theatres of the stars anywhere in the world. In collaboration with the Stiftung Planetarium Berlin this year the programme series will show new adaptations of classic avant-garde films of "visual music" for the first time.

To open the new edition on 11 September, we will present the world premiere of Caterina Barbieri and Ruben Spini's audio-visual show "Aurora Wounds". On 12 and 13 September a wide-ranging programme will take place, which is focused on the rediscovery of the meditative, aurora borealis-like colour symphonies of the light artist Thomas Wilfred. Wilfred was an outstanding exponent of visual music, who used his lumia instruments to create a new art form where technology met modern art. This earned him a place in New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1952 alongside Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko. Additionally part of the curated programme is Jan Kounen's work "Ayahuasca – A Kosmik Journey". Here the famous French film director uses virtual reality to explore a potential representation of the psychedelic experience of ayahuasca.

Furthermore, a retrospective of contemporary full-dome films will be shown, that were created as part of "The New Infinity" in the years 2018 and 2019, including works by David O'Reilly, Agnieszka Polska, Robert Lippok and Lucas Gutierrez as well as Fatima Al Qadiri and Transforma.

With the focus on "visual music", "The New Infinity" refers to a fascinating genre of art history based on the use and translation of musical structures into the composition of moving images. The term "visual music" additionally refers to methods or devices that are capable of translating notes or music into a related visual presentation, which,

as with Thomas Wilfred, produce soundless symphonies of rhythmic and almost magical image sequences. The interplay between sound and the visual leads to a new experience of reception – the synaesthetic qualities of “visual music” seem to find their ideal “screen” in the immersive hi-tech visual and experiential space of the planetarium.

Initiated by Thomas Oberender
Programme Management Sebastian Häger
Production Management Benjamin Koziol

Funded by



Minister of State
for Culture and the Media

The programme Immersion was made possible by an initiative of the German Federal Parliament and thanks to the support of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

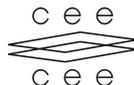
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Berlin**

Director
Tim Florian Horn

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Artists' Biographies

Fatima Al Qadiri

Fatima Al Qadiri has released music as a solo artist on Hyperdub, UNO NYC and Fade to Mind, and as a member of Future Brown on Warp. She is also a member of the collective GCC, whose work has been shown at MoMA PS1, Berlin Biennale and Sharjah Art Foundation.

Caterina Barbieri

Caterina Barbieri is an Italian composer and performer of electronic music based in Berlin. Her music is a sonic utopia about emerging machine intelligence and human desire of pattern detection. Using synthesis, psychoacoustics and repetition as key concepts, the Italian composer stylizes the dancing of wave cycles in severe geometries of time and space on the boundary between minimalism, drone and techno. In 2019, her LP "Ecstatic Computation" as well as her audio-visual show "Time-blind" with Italian multimedia artist Ruben Spini have been released. Her work has been presented in festivals such as Berlin Atonal and Berliner Festspiele's "The Long Now", Unsound in Krakow, Barbican Centre, Philharmonie de Paris, Biennale di Venezia (IT) among others.

Lucas Gutierrez

Lucas Gutierrez is an Argentinian digital artist and industrial designer based in Berlin. He has been engaged in various disciplines, from lectures, workshops and audiovisual performances to video art projects focused on the new paradigms of Digital Culture. Deeply involved in the remix culture and real time AV session projects in which he blends influences of different contexts—from post-work anthropology to the abstract quotes from 3D modeling for industrial design. His narrative is often quoting current social fears and dystopias, but mostly using the language of colorful, chaotic metaphysics. His most recent talks and performances were in MUTEK, Sonar+D and ZKM Karlsruhe, exhibitions at Aperto Raum and Vorspiel/Transmediale & CTM Berlin. Currently lecturing at UdK Berlin in the fields of motion graphics & live visuals.

Jan Kounen

Dutch-born French film-maker Jan Kounen graduated from ENSAD (École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs) in Nice. Kounen travelled across Mexico for several years and undertook an in-depth exploration of shamanic cultures. This research was focused in works including his documentary "Other Worlds" (2005). His feature film "Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky" was presented at the 2009 Cannes International Film Festival. Kounen is furthermore known for "Blueberry, l'expérience secrète" (2004), his feature-length debut "Dobermann" (1997) and the short film "Vibroboy" (1994).

Joanie Lemercier

The French artist Joanie Lemercier creates projections of light in space and explores its influence on our perception such as the possibilities of manipulating perceived realities. Lemercier conceives light as a medium and space as canvas. Already at the age of five, he was introduced to creating art on a computer by attending classes on pattern design for fabrics taught by his mother. This early education grounded his interest in physical structures: geometry, patterns, and minimalist forms. Since 2006, Lemercier has worked with projected light, and he co-founded the visual label AntiVJ in 2008, with artists Yannick Jacquet, Romain Tardy and Olivier Ratsi. He worked on stage design for festivals such as Mutek in Montréal and alongside artists such as Portishead's Adrian Utley as part of the cultural Olympiads, London 2012.

Robert Lippok

Robert Lippok's work in music and sound channels the rawness of his East German industrial and dissident punk and postpunk roots in both East and reunified Berlin (as cofounder of the bands Ornament und Verbrechen and To Rococo Rot). Pouring that molten energy into his solo work, he has produced a body of music that engineers that force into an array of architectural forms. 2018's critically acclaimed full-length "Applied Autonomy" (Raster Media) follows 2011's "Redsuperstructure" (RasterNoton), and builds on collaborations with musician Klara Lewis (at a residency at EMS studio in Stockholm) and visual contributions by Lucas Gutierrez. Lippok has also been relied upon as a spontaneous and inventive live music and audiovisual performer. That includes appearances at festivals like MUTEK, Unsound, L.E.V, GAMMA

Festival St. Petersburg, at Berghain and Funkhaus Berlin, work with the 4DSOUND spatial audio system, collaborations with Doug Aitken at Serpentine Gallery London, choreographer Constanza Macras at Akademie der Künste Berlin, German architect Arno Brandhuber at NBK Berlin. He extends his solo practice into workshops and teaching that open up his multidisciplinary approach to design and sound, incorporating architecture and field audio materials, including recent projects in Guatemala and at Vancouver's Polygon Gallery, and in his performance and production class at NYU Berlin, "Experiments in the Future of Production and Performance".

David O'Reilly

David O'Reilly, born in Ireland, 1985, is an artist working in the fields of design, animation and video games. Creator of the groundbreaking animated films "Please Say Something" and "The External World", his work has won numerous awards and been the subject of several retrospectives internationally. He served as writer for the television shows "Adventure Time" and "South Park", and created the fictional video games in Spike Jonze's Academy Award winning film "Her". In 2014 he released his first independent game "Mountain" and followed up with "Everything" in 2017.

Agnieszka Polska

Agnieszka Polska is a visual artist who uses computer-generated media to reflect on an individual and their social responsibility. She's attempting to render the ethical ambiguity of our time into hallucinatory films and installations. Polska has presented her works in international venues, including the New Museum and the MoMA in New York, Centre Pompidou and Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Tate Modern in London, Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin. She also took part in the 57th Venice Biennale, 11th Gwangju Biennale, 19th Biennale of Sydney and 13th Istanbul Biennial. In 2018 she was awarded German Preis der Nationalgalerie.

Ruben Spini

Ruben Spini lives and works in Milan, Italy. His artistic practice is an open-format research around the themes of communicability and perception, developed in the traditions of religious poetry and information theory. By using unconventional video and audio sources, Spini's work shatters pre-set connections of a documentary point of view made of narratives, characters and symbols.

Transforma

Transforma are a visual artist collective who have gained a reputation for their approach to producing original audiovisual performances, installations, projections for music and theatre. Creating images and atmospheres which establish a connection between the material properties of their subject, abstract storytelling and a hands-on approach to production, they have developed their own language within the live visual experience. They have long standing collaborations with numerous artists, directors and musicians and have performed live and exhibited at many major festivals and venues around the world.

Thomas Wilfred

With his light compositions, Thomas Wilfred "is explicitly making reference to the experience of traveling through space-time, which is to his mind analogous to viewing a Lumia composition. One is meant to imagine being immersed in this field of moving light in the cosmos and the screen is like the window of a spaceship looking out onto deep space." [Keely Orgeman] With his lumia instruments that created compositions from electrical, mechanical and reflective elements, the American light artist Thomas Wilfred (1889-1968) created a new art form at the crossroads between technology and modern art. The light paintings he composed – meditative, northern lights-like colour symphonies –, and which he presented quietly without musical accompaniment, earned him a place in the Museum of Modern Art, New York as part of the exhibition "15 Americans" in 1952 together with Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko.

Productions
2018 and 2019

2018

The New Infinity

26 September to 13 October 2018

Mobile Dome, Mariannenplatz

In cooperation with the Planetarium Hamburg

As part of the Berlin Art Week

2019

The New Infinity Hamburg

13 to 18 August 2019

Planetarium Hamburg

In cooperation with the Internationales Sommerfestival

Kampnagel at the Planetarium Hamburg

The New Infinity Berlin

5 to 22 September 2019

Mobile Dome, Mariannenplatz

As part of the Berlin Art Week

The New Infinity On Tour

13 to 14 October 2018

Festival of Disruption, Los Angeles
Kuratiert von David Lynch

30 October to 4 November 2018

Nordische Filmtage Lübeck

8 to 10. November 2018

MIRA Digital Arts Festival, Barcelona

15 to 26 November 2018

IDFA: International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

29 November to 2 December 2018

HYPERSPECTIVE, Los Angeles

22 to 31 March 2019

Festival Internacional de Cine Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

29 June 2019

Wisdom Immersive Art Park, Los Angeles, California

12 to 14 July 2019

Sudekum Planetarium, Nashville, Tennessee

26 September 2019

Planetario Galileo Galilei, Buenos Aires

4 to 6 October 2019

Kilkenny Animated, Kilkenny

18 October to 26 November 2019

Space Camp, Aix-en-Provence

5 to 9 November 2019

MIRA Digital Arts Festival, Barcelona

20 November to 1 December 2019

IDFA: International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

29 November 2019 to 5 January 2020

Winter Wonders Brussels, Brussels

Further Information

Current **press materials** and **press images** are available at:
berlinerfestspiele.de/immersion-press

More information about the **programme** at:
berlinerfestspiele.de/newinfinity

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Location

Zeiss-Großplanetarium, Prenzlauer Allee 80, 10405 Berlin

Tickets

Tickets are available at Berliner Festspiele's online shop,
few remaining tickets at the evening box office.

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Immersion Team

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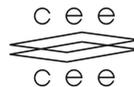


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