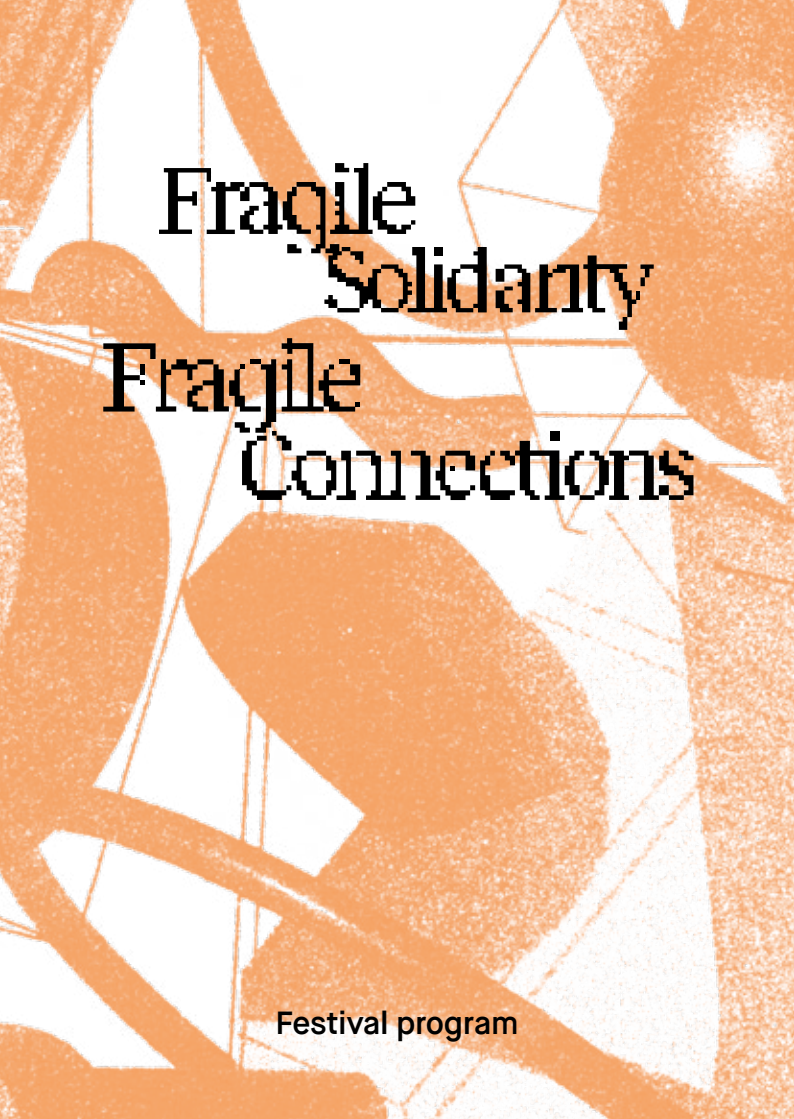

Fragile
Solidarity
Fragile
Connections
Festival program

Fragile Solidarity Fragile Connections

A Digital Solitude Festival
May 10–14, 2022

From May 10–14, 2022, Akademie Schloss Solitude will organize the festival **»Fragile Solidarity/Fragile Connections.«**

Working with artists and experts from the Digital Solitude community, and collaborating with our local partners in Stuttgart, the festival's thematic orientation is dedicated to various forms of solidarity, connectivity, cohesion, and togetherness within off- and online spaces. »Fragile Solidarity/Fragile Connections« explores the mutual relations of solidarity, networks, and technologies as a means beyond the so-called digital divide and the technology's exploitative histories.

The festival builds on historical instances, embodied and situated perspectives, and questions of translocal solidarity and interdependencies with technological awareness and its possibilities. It promotes solidarity as an impulse – rooted in like-mindedness, reciprocity, responsibility, and an active engagement in reaching common objectives between multiple communities that recognize unstable patterns, technologies, and connections. Indicating to connectivity, networks, and solidarity as especially fragile agreements, feelings, or movements that are often conveyed through empty declarations – are likely to reproduce similar patterns of erasure and complicity they are attempting to resist.

The festival asks: What does a delicate, devoted, and fragile network look like from a critically engaged point of view? What are models for solidarity and lateral exchange online and beyond? What moves people to off- and online networks, and under which urgencies? How can we revisit the term solidarity from critical perspective with feminist, queer, and decolonial influences?

The festival consists of various online and offline workshops, an exhibition, and an accompanying forum with screenings,

artist talks, lectures, and performances. Parts of the program will be streamed live from Stuttgart's Kunstverein Wagenhalle, the main venue of the festival that is designed by the artist duo die Blaue Distanz.

Participants

Lark Alder a.k.a. Lark VCR, Mac Andre Arboleda, Kristina Arlekinova, Medina Bazargali, Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang, Call for Action, Castle of Crossed Destinies (Aouefa Amoussouvi, Sasha Engelmann, Olivia Berkowicz), dgtl fmnsm (Ulla Heinrich and Andara Shastika), die Blaue Distanz (Anna Erdmann and Franziska Goralski), Distributed Cognition Cooperative (Sasha Shestakova and Anna Engelhardt), Simona Dumitriu and Ramona Dima (Simona & Ramona a.k.a. Claude & Dersch), Grayson Earle, Jazmina Figueroa and Theodoulos Polyviou, Format C (Dina Karadžić and Vedran Gligo), Margret Frenz, Frisch&Schick (Johannes Frick and Jasmin Schädler), Juan Pablo García Sossa (JPGS), Ana María Gómez López, Mia Imani Harrison, Alevtina Kakhidze, Kiraṇ Kumār, Nge Lay, Zahra Malkani, Aline Xavier Mineiro, Nkhensani Mkhari, Elke aus dem Moore, More of Us, Simina Neagu, Elia Nurvista, Pedro Oliveira (OLVRA), Peter Polack, Giorgi Rodionov, Jonathan Rössler and Jan Dietz, Anca Rujoiu, akiko soyja, Spielgruppe, Xzavier Stone, Eszter Szakács and Naeem Mohaiemen, Danae Tapia, ZEBULARIN, Ricardo Miranda Zúñiga

FORUM

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 7–10 pm
Württembergischer Kunstverein

Thursday, May 12, 2022, 7–8 pm
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Friday, May 13, 2022, 5–10:30 pm
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 4–10:30 pm
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Globally, networked technologies have enlivened and uplifted solidarity movements that interconnect diasporic communities to widespread exchanges on translocal and community-based issues. The forum sheds light on such impulses from geopolitical, translocal, queer, intersectional feminist and decolonial perspectives that address shared and specific techno-enviro-socio-political issues disseminated across digital spheres.

Artists and experts from the *Digital Solitude* network take on the festival's theme to consider how the fragility of solidarity, networks, and communities are anchored and explored further in their work. Addressing historical instances, embodied and situated perspectives, and translocal practices, the forum focuses on more radically aligned potentials for future independent (infra)structures, opens new spaces of solidarity in the digital spheres, and brings together creative contributions that define these potentials and/or challenge existing networks.

With Mac Andre Arboleda, Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang, dgtl fmnsm (Ulla Heinrich and Andara Shastika), Anna Engelhardt (Distributed Cognition Cooperative), Jazmina Figueroa and Theodoulos Polyviou, Format C (Dina Karadžić and Vedran Gligo), Margret Frenz, Juan Pablo García Sossa (JPGS), Ana María Gómez López, Mia Imani Harrison, Kiraṇ Kumār, Aline Xavier Mineiro, Nkhensani Mkhari, Elke aus dem Moore, Simina Neagu, Elia Nurvista, Pedro Oliveira (OLVRA), Anca Rujoiu, akiko soyja, Eszter Szakács and Naeem Mohaiemen, and Danae Tapia.

Digital Solitude is an Akademie Schloss Solitude network that operates entirely online, in which artists and experts working across disciplines have extended through their support, participations, and contributions. Since 2016, *Digital Solitude* has engaged with artistic approaches and communities that work with digital media and technology to nurture critical or creative reflections on technology's influence within our society.

The main forum will take place at Kunstverein Wagenhalle, Thursday, May 12, Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, and will also be livestreamed online.

There will be kick-off artist talks and a screening on Wednesday, May 12, from 7–10 pm at Württembergischer Kunstverein. This evening will not be livestreamed.

Further descriptions can be found in the full program overview.

WORKSHOPS

With its comprehensive off- and online workshop program, the festival offers opportunities for open participation and exchange. Artists and experts share valuable and emancipatory practices, toolkits, and processes for a connected and technologically connected society. Some workshops will be held on-site in Stuttgart as well as online. Further information and Zoom links for workshops will be provided after registration.

All workshops are free and open to the public. Registration is required for each workshop. Please register for each workshop via register@akademie-solitude.de.

Here is an overview of the workshop program. Further descriptions of each workshop can be found in the full program overview.

Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Modifying Food Texture with Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang, Akademie Schloss Solitude

Communal Cooking with Elia Nurvista, Akademie Schloss Solitude

Wednesday, May 11, 2022
Pivilion – Your Darknet Pocket Gallery with Format C (Dina Karadžić and Vedran Gligo) Württembergischer Kunstverein

Thursday, May 12, 2022
Expanding Solidarities in Interactive Digital Videogame Projects with Grayson Earle, Peter Polack, Ricardo Miranda Zúñiga, Merz Akademie and online

Castle of Crossed Destinies: Grounding Workshop with Castle of Crossed Destinies (Aouefa Amoussouvi, Sasha Engelmann, Olivia Berkowicz), online

Friday, May 13, 2022
The Notion of Schiller's »Spiel« with Spielgruppe, Kunstverein Wagenhalle

The Trolley Dilemma with Simona Dumitriu and Ramona Dima (Simona & Ramona a.k.a. Claude & Dersch), online

Saturday, May 14, 2022
Queer Artists' Perspective on the Socio-Political Mutations with Giorgi Rodionov, Kunstverein Wagenhalle

Dreaming As an Active Practice (Dreaming and Dream Tech As Sites of Liberation) with Mia Imani Harrison, Kunstverein Wagenhalle

EXHIBITION

Assemblies, Swarms, and Intricate Webs – no solidarity exists in a social void

Curated by Jazmina Figueroa and Denise Helene Sumi

Opening
Thursday, May 12, 2022, 6–11 pm

Opening hours
Friday, May 13, 2022, and Saturday, May 14, 2022, 2–11 pm

With works by Lark Alder a.k.a. Lark VCR, Call to Action, Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang, Castle of Crossed Destinies (Aouefa Amoussouvi, Sasha Engelmann, and Olivia Berkowicz), Distributed Cognition Cooperative (Sasha Shestakova and Anna Engelhardt), Grayson Earle, Format C (Dina Karadžić and Vedran Gligo), Frisch&Schick (Johannes Frick and Jasmin Schädler), Zahra Malkani, Aline Xavier Mineiro, More of Us, Simina Neagu, Anca Rujoiu (invites Medina Bazargali, Alevtina Kakhidze, and Nge Lay for *A Gesture a Day*), Juan Pablo García Sossa (JPGS), and Peter Polack

SOUND

Long-established cultural phenomena and shared histories deriving from sound, performance, and time-based works suggest alternative frameworks for fragile networks – across the technological and translocal themes presented throughout the festival. After each day of the exhibition and forum, we invite festival participants and guests to partake in and come together as assemblages with our partners throughout Stuttgart and the Digital Solitude network. The sound program includes DJs, composers, and performers, all practices rooted in the ephemeral possibilities of collective resonance.

Thursday, May 12, 2022
approppreciation by Kristina Arlekinova
9 pm–midnight, DJ set, Kunstverein Wagenhalle

Friday, May 13, 2022
DESMONTE (To Become Undone) by Pedro Oliveira (OLVRA)
9:30 pm, Live, Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

ZEBULARIN
10:30 pm, Live concert, Neue Schachtel
Admission: 5 euros

Saturday, May 14, 2022
Xzavier Stone
10:30 pm, DJ set, Kunstverein Wagenhalle

Day 1, Tuesday
May 10, 2022

Location

Akademie Schloss Solitude
Solitude 3, 70197 Stuttgart

Modifying Food Texture

Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang
10 am–1 pm, 2–5 pm, Workshop
Akademie Schloss Solitude
Communal Kitchen and Courtyard

Food texture modification has the quality of existing on both the extremely human and the heavily industrial simultaneously. Innovations in food texture are intimately bound to shifts in eating and food supply chains. In this workshop, we will explore industrial food texture modification techniques, taking a Xenofeminist standpoint toward food technologies, and through Patrick Gunkel's method of ideonomy. The full-day workshop will consist of a collaborative diagramming exercise with cooking/food texture research and a development session exploring the science of texture modification.

Agnes Cameron is a hardware and software engineer with a particular interest in simulation, distributed knowledge, and infrastructural systems. She is currently developing work around food supply chains and industrial food infrastructure.

Gary Zhexi Zhang is a visual artist and writer whose work explores the fiction, infrastructure, and conceptual systems that compose the concrete world, such as ecology, finance, and information.

Together, **Gary Zhexi Zhang** and **Agnes Cameron** make work about ecology, simulation and the social dimensions of computing systems and technologies.

Communal Cooking

Elia Nurvista
10 am–1 pm, 4–7 pm, Workshop
Akademie Schloss Solitude
Kitchen

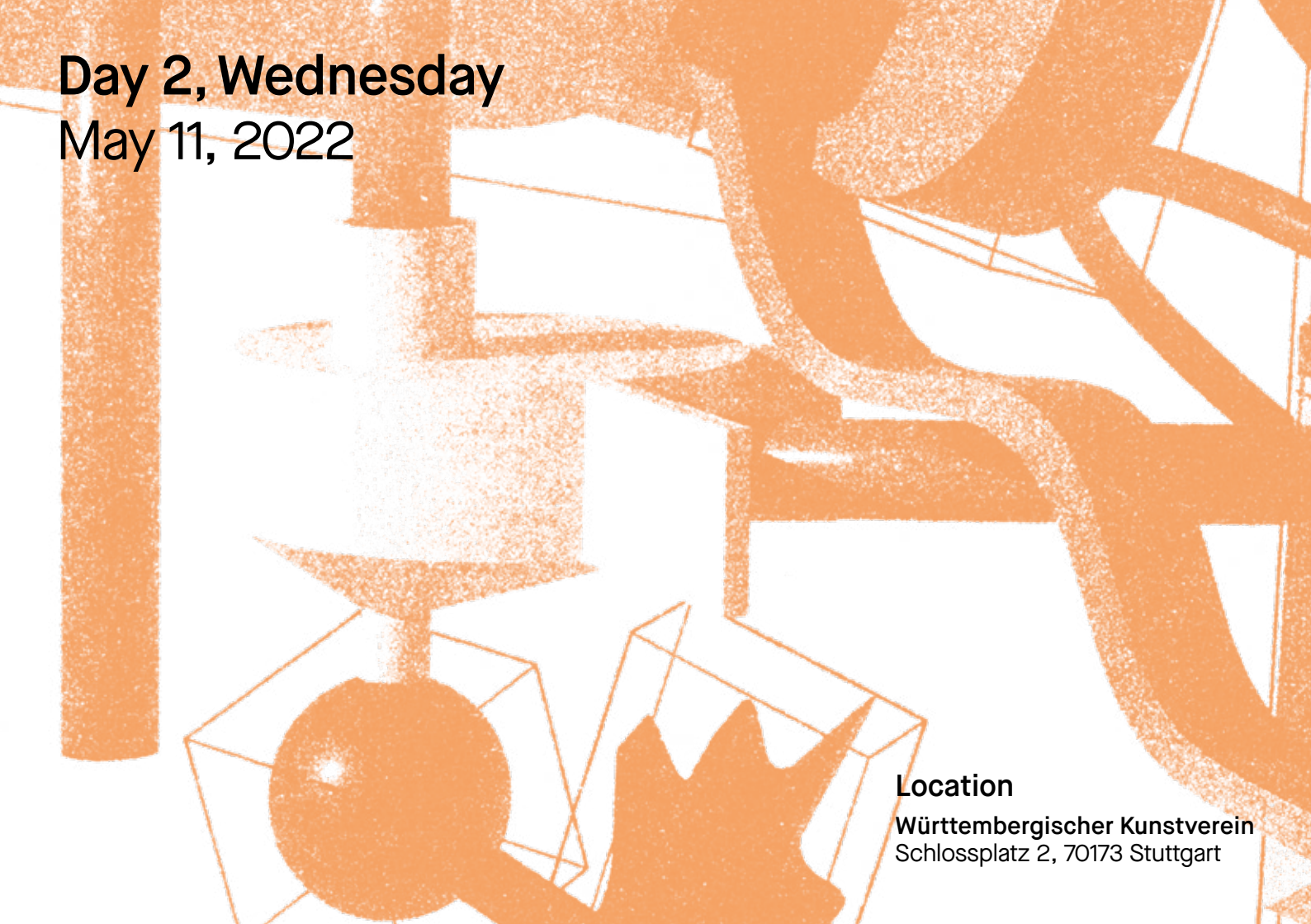
In this workshop, participants and Elia Nurvista will collaboratively cook a meal and share it among the festival attendees. The dishes will be simple, and the menu is a semblance of the tools of Indonesian public kitchens/soup kitchens and their methods of survival in urgent situations. At the same time, this type of home-cooked food offers warmth between the people and the kitchen.

Dinner

(With a work by Elia Nurvista)
7:30 pm, Akademie Schloss Solitude
Courtyard

Elia Nurvista explores a wide range of art mediums with an interdisciplinary approach and focuses on the discourse on food. Through food, she intends to scrutinize power, social, and economic inequality in this world. In 2015 she initiated Bakudapan, a food study group, with colleagues from different disciplines. With Bakudapan she has conducted research on food within the socio-political and cultural context. She is also part of Struggles for Sovereignty, the solidarity platform on Land, Water, Farming, and Food.

Day 2, Wednesday
May 11, 2022



Location

Württembergischer Kunstverein
Schlossplatz 2, 70173 Stuttgart

Pivilion – Your Darknet Pocket Gallery

Format C (Dina Karadžić and Vedran Gligo)
10 am–1pm, 2–6pm, Workshop
Württembergischer Kunstverein

This free software and new-media art workshop is based on the idea of utilizing multipurpose, low-cost, SoC computers as autonomous digital arts darknet gallery servers. Participants will structure and create their own darknet multi/hypermedia galleries and set them up on a GNU/Linux based system, while considering, applying and discussing digital art's ethical, aesthetic, and technical aspects.

Dina Karadžić is an artist active in the areas of visual, digital, and net art. Karadžić is art director of Format C, an art organization focused on experimental multimedia research and collaborative creation; she also volunteers with many community nonprofits and independent art initiatives.

Vedran Gligo is a self-taught DIY hacker/artist/cultural organizer. He applies open-source principles to everyday life and practice and works to empower local communities by holding free and open digital workshops in Zagreb's Autonomous Cultural Center through the hacklab01.org project which he cofounded in 2009.

Soft Bread, Hard Times: A History of Food Texture Modification

Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang
7 pm (45 min.), Lecture
Württembergischer Kunstverein

The history of food texture modification is intimately bound to developments within imperial food systems. The texture of food we eat impacts the crops grown, the nutritional content of food, and even how we speak about food. All these attributes form the backbone of frequent moral panics about our society. In this lecture, we will explore industrial food processes from a perspective critically engaged with, rather than dismissive of technoscientific developments in food texture.

Agnes Cameron is a hardware and software engineer with a particular interest in simulation, distributed knowledge, and infrastructural systems. She is currently developing work around food supply chains and industrial food infrastructure.

Gary Zhexi Zhang is a visual artist and writer whose work explores fiction, infrastructure and conceptual systems that compose the concrete world, such as ecology, finance, and information.

Together, **Gary Zhexi Zhang** and **Agnes Cameron** make work about ecology, simulation, and the social dimensions of computing systems and technologies.

Yesterday's Rice, Tomorrow's Solidarity

Anca Rujoiu in conversation with Elia Nurvista
8 pm (45 min.), Artist talk
Württembergischer Kunstverein

After Elia Nurvista's food workshop on May 10 at Akademie Schloss Solitude, she will address politics, economics, and histories of food as they transpire from the menu created by the artist and in conversation with curator Anca Rujoiu. The entangled histories of rice, alongside tempeh and gado gado — the main components of the dish — lay the foundation and structure of this conversation. Within the framework of the recipe, we will delve into Nurvista's past projects, her engagement with different solidarity movements in Indonesia, and the virtues of cooking and sharing meals.

Elia Nurvista explores a wide range of artistic mediums with an interdisciplinary approach, focusing on the discourse on food. Through food she scrutinizes power, social, and economic inequality in this world. In 2015 she initiated Bakudapan, a food study group, with colleagues from different disciplines. With Bakudapan she has conducted research on food within the sociopolitical and cultural context. She is also part of Struggles for Sovereignty, the solidarity platform on land, water, farming, and food.

Anca Rujoiu is a curator and editor. She curated the web residencies program »Solidarity is a verb« (2021) hosted by Akademie Schloss Solitude with ARC Bucharest. In 2019 she was cocurator of the third edition of the Art Encounters Biennial in Timişoara, Romania. As curator of exhibitions and later head of publications (2013–2018), she was a member of the founding team of the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore. She is a Ph.D. candidate at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, with research focused on institution building, artists' archives, and transnational imaginaries.

A Matter of Course

Aline Xavier Mineiro
9 pm (45 min.), Screening and conversation
with protagonists from *A Matter of Course*,
mediated by Aline Xavier Mineiro
Württembergischer Kunstverein

A Matter of Course (2022) is a short experimental film and photographic series depicting mothers cutting their own umbilical cords after their babies are born. Documented during different childbirths, the images offer a resource for thinking about the construction of normality and deviance in our society. The piece reflects on how norms of parenthood are embodied at the individual and societal level, looking at family structures and ways of coming into the world today. Since modern times, Western medical professionals have asked men to cut the umbilical cord after their child is born. When women regain agency over such a symbolic act, multiple interpretations and questions are provoked, and the gesture of cutting the umbilical cord can be seen as a form of resistance and transformation.

Aline Xavier Mineiro is an artist and filmmaker working in a variety of media, including video, photography, sculpture, and installation. Starting from ideas of proximity and interference, in her practice, she activates networks of people and places, intersecting art-making with other fields of knowledge such as cultural heritage and personal and collective memory. Her interest in contemporary sociopolitical issues seeks to undo received logics and hierarchies, destabilizing hegemonic practices and paradigms to foster alternative critical and creative perspectives.

Day 3, Thursday
May 12, 2022

Locations

Merz Akademie
Hochschule für Gestaltung,
Kunst und Medien
Teckstraße 58, 70190 Stuttgart

Kunstverein Wagenhalle
Innerer Nordbahnhof 1, 70191 Stuttgart

Expanding Solidarities in Interactive Digital Videogame Projects

Grayson Earle, Peter Polack, Ricardo Miranda Zúñiga
10 am–1 pm, Workshop, Merz Akademie, and online

This workshop gives participants the opportunity to present and discuss their interactive video game projects. Participants are given five to ten minutes to demonstrate their projects, followed by a collective discussion. Discussion topics can include the fragile solidarities that games and networked environments provide, especially during the pandemic. Together we will look at biased codes, the accessibility of these environments, who they appeal to, who these exemplary interactive videogame projects and technologies ultimately serve/address, their potential for facilitating organization in analog spaces, as well as questions about specific projects.

Grayson Earle is an American contemporary artist and activist. He uses new media to make political statements. He is known for his guerilla video projections as a member of The Illuminator Art Collective and his co-creation of *Bail Bloc*, a computer program that bails people out of jail.

Peter Polack is a designer and Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Information Studies at the University of California (UCLA), Los Angeles, USA. His work and research address how technical systems are designed to inform our perception, and the role of art-making in illustrating what technology makes perceptible. This focus is informed by his background in game design and data visualization, and by his work with the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, a grassroots organization that analyzes the social impacts of police surveillance systems.

Ricardo Miranda Zúñiga approaches art as a social practice that seeks to establish dialogue in public spaces. The ways that inequality and power manifest themselves in our lives are consistent threads in Ricardo's work.

Castle of Crossed Destinies: Grounding Workshop

Castle of Crossed Destinies
(Aouefa Amoussouvi, Sasha Engelmann, Olivia Berkowicz)
2–4 pm, Workshop, online

This online workshop opens a dialogue based on the Castle of Crossed Destinies (COCD) playing cards »The Devil,« »Anandamide,« »7Mhz« and monologues, which are informed by feminist principles. Participants are invited to respond to the cards' monologues and questions in various media. The workshop is a space for self-reflection, collecting, and collectively discussing these responses.

The Castle of Crossed Destinies was initiated by geographer Sasha Engelmann, curator Olivia Berkowicz, and curator and biophysicist Aouefa Amoussouvi. The collective encounters merge rituals, technologies, feminist narratives in science and art, as well as personal experiences and reflections on transgenerational memories and migrations.

Opening ceremony of the festival's venue and exhibition

6 pm, Kunstverein Wagenhalle
Bar open 6 pm–midnight
Livestream 7–8 pm

Beyond Borders It's Made Up of Islands

Die Blaue Distanz

Beyond Borders It's Made Up of Islands is the spatial concept for the main venue of the festival »Fragile Solidarity/Fragile Connections« at Kunstverein Wagenhalle, designed by die Blaue Distanz. The spatial elements are significantly inspired by the basic principles of solidarity. Sometimes decentralized, sometimes unconditionally supportive, inviting the audience to recharge and explore solidary sharing practices.

Note: As part of the work of die Blaue Distanz, there will be a fruit bar. Visitors and festival participants are invited to bring fruits to share amongst each other.

die Blaue Distanz (the Blue Distance) are Anna Erdmann and Franziska Goralski. They have been working together as an artist duo since 2016. Their artistic collaboration focuses on queer ways of living and learning, the possibility of low-hierarchy spaces and the visibility of underrepresented decisions.

Assemblies, Swarms, and Intricate Webs – no solidarity exists in a social void

Curated by Jazmina Figueroa and Denise Helene Sumi

Opening hours
Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, 2022, 2–11 pm
Kunstverein Wagenhalle

With works by Lark Alder a.k.a. Lark VCR, Call to Action, Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang, Castle of Crossed Destinies (Aouefa Amoussouvi, Sasha Engelmann, and Olivia Berkowicz), Distributed Cognition Cooperative (Sasha Shestakova and Anna Engelhardt), Grayson Earle, Format C (Dina Karadžić and Vedran Gligo), Frisch&Schick (Johannes Frick and Jasmin Schädler), Zahra Malkani, Aline Xavier Mineiro, More of Us, Simina Neagu, Anca Rujoiu (invites Medina Bazargali, Alevtina Kakhidze, and Nge Lay for *A Gesture a Day*), Juan Pablo García Sossa (JPGS), and Peter Polack

Walk through the exhibition with the artists present

Friday, May 13, 2022
3:30–4:30 pm, Guided exhibition tour
Kunstverein Wagenhalle

Traces of the 1907 Socialist International Congress

Margret Frenz in conversation with Grayson Earle and Ana María Gómez López
7 pm (60 min.), Lecture and conversation,
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

What are the traces of the 1907 Socialist International Congress in Stuttgart, both in the archives of this city and elsewhere? This is a conversation on interdisciplinary perspectives related to artifacts, photographs, and ephemera from this event as seen through the eyes of historian Margret Frenz and artists Grayson Earle and Ana María Gómez López. How can these elements be read in the present, particularly through the anti-imperial, feminist, and pacifist legacies of the 1907 Socialist International Congress? Likewise, how can these configure new understandings of international worker solidarity, particularly in light of its overlooked local and global histories?

Margret Frenz is a historian, with a strong emphasis on global, transnational, and imperial history, as well as comparative social and cultural perspectives.

Grayson Earle is an American contemporary artist and activist. He uses new media to make political statements, known for his guerrilla video projections as a member of The Illuminator Art Collective and his cocreation of *Bail Bloc*, which is a computer program that bails people out of jail.

Ana María Gómez López is an interdisciplinary artist and researcher based in Amsterdam. She creates durational and body-based projects anchored in self-experimentation and archival research in the history of science.

approppreciation

DJ set by Kristina Arlekinova
9 pm–midnight, Sound
Kunstverein Wagenhalle

Kristina will play Anadolu Rock, Arabeske, Bossa Nova, Chicha, Disco, Estrada, Fusion, J-Rock, Krautrock, Pop française, Phleng Thai sakon, Tropicália, and world music.

Kristina Arlekinova is a media artist and musician. In her artistic practice she creates spaces of interdisciplinary discourse combining film, music, and visual arts. Through research of new aesthetics and overcoming narratives, she makes the devious visible. She creates community by building collective archives.

Day 4, Friday
May 13, 2022

Locations

Kunstverein Wagenhalle
and Neue Schachtel
Innerer Nordbahnhof 1, 70191 Stuttgart
Livestream from 5–10:30 pm

The Notion of Schiller‘s »Spiel«

Spielgruppe
10 am–1 pm, Workshop, Reading group
Kunstverein Wagenhalle

Reading works by writers such as Mariana Mazzucato, Paul Lafargue, Frigga Haug, and others, Spielgruppe (German for playgroup) uses the communal reading to reflect on their working conditions as artists, and their role in a capitalist society and share strategies in coping with an anarcho-capitalistic art market and cruel labor conditions in a gig economy. During public reading sessions, they want to establish play as a countermovement to current economical working conditions, drawing from the notion of Schiller‘s »Spiel« (German for play).

In February 2021, a few artists from Stuttgart formed a reading group called **»Spielgruppe«** (playgroup), meeting once a week since their formation. For the reading session during the festival, Janis Eckhardt, Ariane Koziolek, Florian Model, Dirk Reimes, Mira Simon, and Alexander Sowa of Spielgruppe will be present.

The Trolley Dilemma

Simona Dumitriu and Ramona Dima
(Simona & Ramona a.k.a. Claude & Dersch)
2 pm (60 min.), Interactive lecture performance, online

Simona Dumitriu and Ramona Dima’s project for *Digital Solitude’s* recent »Solidarity is a verb« web residency brought to light zero-hour contracts and precarious working conditions in Sweden, from a perspective of personal stories, but also very much intertwined with the idea of »fate«. Based on this project, Simona & Ramona made a performance for a live Zoom event for the festival. Created for a participatory audience, the performance will present fragments from their life story and the stories of others in the format of a »choose your own adventure« narrative. According to this format, the audience will be asked to vote on a series of options, each proposing alternatives inspired by the trolley dilemma, thus choosing the artists’ fate.

Simona & Ramona (a.k.a. Claude & Dersch) are the artistic alter egos of Simona Dumitriu and Ramona Dima, a duo in both art and life. They share a common interest in poetry and autoethnographical writing as a political tool.

Fantastic Confabulations

Jazmina Figueroa and Theodoulos Polyviou
5 pm (45 min.), Artist talk
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Institutional physicality, cultural political narratives, and contextual significance through expanded media are at the center of Polyviou and Figueroa's collaborative practice. Theodoulos, starting with the ongoing project *Transmundane Economies* (2022–) that recontextualizes Cypriot cultural heritage to virtual spaces, will present his artistic practice as a conceptual framework to confront the experiential, social, and epistemic attributes of immersive media within and beyond institutional contexts. In conversation with Polyviou, Figueroa will speak about shared reciprocity, non-linear forms of storytelling and the sound recording practices incorporated in their work together. The discussion will expand beyond the predicated political dimension of their works, opening up to the potentialities of digital experiences such as staging non-space or disorientating institutional presence.

Theodoulos Polyviou is a Berlin-based artist. He is currently an artist in residence at Kora – Contemporary Arts Center in Lecce, Italy.

Jazmina Figueroa is a writer and current fellow at Akademie Schloss Solitude. Her writing and research critically examine data extraction and experiences with technology as immensely personal, nonscalable and inherently sociopolitical.

The Grave

Danae Tapia
6 pm (30 min.), Performative lecture
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

The Grave uses extracts from the Communist Manifesto and combines them with curated images Tapia has collected from Signal chats with her friends. Tapia's intention is it to create an oracular instance using the spiritually-charged aesthetics of Marx and Engels' text and visual media in relation to digital intimacies. In the end, this is be an exercise of reterritorialization with the potential ignite a multiplicity of meanings that borrow from socialist ideals. She will map ideological trajectories and eventually find out if the communist drive is relevant in the twenty-first century characterized by capitalistic precarity and people's struggles are tackled through sanitized concepts such as »activism« or »solidarity.« This project advances her research on bots, autopoiesis, and divination that she started during the »Post-Doom« web residency of Akademie Schloss Solitude.

Danae Tapia is a Chile-born working-class feminist writer, multimedia artist, and technologist. She is a lecturer of Hacking and Autonomous Practices at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. She is the founder of The Digital Witchcraft Institute.

Solidarity Must Be Defended

Simina Neagu, Eszter Szakács, and Naeem Mohaiemen
7:30 pm (45 min.), Conversation
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Artist Simina Neagu in conversation with curator Eszter Szakács and artist Naeem Mohaiemen about the reader *Solidarity Must Be Defended*. The anthology brings together projects on gestures and alignments within the visual arts around transnational solidarity during the Cold War. In an exchange with, among others, the quietist tendencies of non-alignment and the radical vector of liberation movements, the book looks at both grand initiatives and tragic misfires from an entangled, decolonizing world. This anthology begins with the importance of celebrating transnational solidarity, but also recognizes that such solidarity is extremely difficult to inhabit.

Simina Neagu is a cultural worker, curator, and writer based in London/UK, currently working as Program and Operations Coordinator at iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts). Previous projects have explored diasporic histories, networks of international solidarity, translation, labor and access in the arts, and the construction of public space.

Eszter Szakács is a curator, researcher, and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Amsterdam. Eszter is on the curatorial team of the grassroots art initiative OFF-Biennale Budapest and was part of the East Europe Biennial Alliance team that collectively curated the Kyiv Biennial in 2021.

Naeem Mohaiemen researches the forms of utopia-dystopia – beginning from peak decolonization in the Muslim world and radiating outward to unlikely transnational alliances. He is Associate Professor of Visual Arts & Area Head of Photography at Columbia University, New York.

Epistolary Ancestries

Kiraṇ Kumār
8:30 pm (45 min.), Performance lecture
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Epistolary Ancestries is an inquiry into a personal filiation of practice, through a corpus of expanded writings intersecting three textual forms: the note, the critical essay, and the letter. Drawing from an embodied practice of dance, a plurality of notes (words, dances, images, songs) drift into an essayistic constellation, in turn, framed as an open letter to an already dead person. By this gesture of direct address, the corpus co-opts an idiosyncratic ancestry of inquiry: dancers, writers, sculptors, mathematicians, and doctors. Nine epistolary essays progressively reframe dance in various contexts: artistic reconstruction, national-cultural identification, feminist modernity, fabulation and historiography, decolonial strategies, and critical scientism. With *Epistolary Ancestries*, Kiraṇ Kumār amplifies the practice of talking-to-the-dead as both a fragile connection and a practice of re-membering and therefore reshaping our worlds.

Kiraṇ Kumār is an artist, researcher, and writer. He approaches the human body-mind through a trifold practice of dance as art, science, and spi/ritual. Rooted primarily in somatic practices of Haṭha yoga, Kaḷaripayaṭṭ and traditional Indic temple dancing, his research involves critical, conceptual, and artistic inquiries into these practices.

DESMONTE (To Become Undone)

Pedro Oliveira (OLVRA)
9:30 pm (45 min.), Live sound performance
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

DESMONTE (To Become Undone) is a performance for electronics and recorded voice that seeks to uproot voice from the body, and the body from origin. A study on the limits and failures of (machine) listening, the piece appropriates and misuses spectral techniques similar to those of the so-called »dialect recognition software,« a proprietary technology in use for cases of undocumented asylum seekers in Germany. *DESMONTE* is constructed with and through the voice of death metal singer Fernanda Lira (Crypta).

Pedro Oliveira is a researcher and sound artist whose work deals with the cultural and colonial articulations of listening, violence, and the policing of bodies in urban and border spaces. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of the Arts Berlin.

ZEBULARIN + After party

10:30 pm (60 min.), Live concert
Neue Schachtel
Entry 5 euros

Zebularin makes experimental, improvised, multi-instrumental, and electroacoustic sounds. The latest productions of Zebularin are the result of weekly recording sessions between March 2020 and July of that year, when the pandemic seemed to slow down somewhat. It's a bold blueprint for how collective improvisation can work since the beginning of the Covid era. In addition to drums and guitar, a superfluity of synthesizers and effects, as well as other instruments, are used.

Zebularin consists of Daniel Vujanic and Daniel Kartmann. Synth waveforms are joined by drums, and both engage in a lively conversation between digital noise and analogue free jazz to find a common rhythm for their journey.

Day 5, Saturday
May 14, 2022

Location

Kunstverein Wagenhalle
Innerer Nordbahnhof 1, 70191 Stuttgart
Livestream from 4–10:30 pm

Queer Artists' Perspective on the Socio-Political Mutations

Giorgi Rodionov
10–12 pm, Workshop
Kunstverein Wagenhalle

The workshop provides insight into how queer artists from the South Caucasus self-organized and dealt with 30 years of constant sociopolitical mutation accompanied by poverty and conflict. The participants will discuss the difficulties in the artistic dialogue on queer issues while implementing foreign terminologies on human rights without proper translations.

Giorgi Rodionov is a Tbilisi-based artist and curator focused on social and political stories from the South Caucasus. Most of his works are research-based and transform into different media. Rodionov also founded Untitled Tbilisi – an art space aiming to bring the artists together to open the dialogue on human rights.

Dreaming As an Active Practice (Dreaming and Dream Tech As Sites of Liberation)

Mia Imani Harrison
1–3 pm, Workshop
Kunstverein Wagenhalle

Guiding principles and questions in this workshop will include: Who can afford to dream? Recognizing the need to reclaim sleep and dreams from colonial agendas, Black activists and artists have led the »rest for resistance« movement. This movement has developed alongside the rapid growth of sleep tech into a multibillion-dollar industry of products for sleep-deprived consumers. The next frontier is dream neurotech-technology that directly interfaces with the dreaming mind. Examples include lucid dreaming wearables, dream recording, and dream advertising.

Mia Imani Harrison interrogates the ways that disenfranchised communities can heal individual, communal, and societal trauma by creating works that live in between the worlds of art and science. This »third way« mixes unconventional methods (dreams, rituals) and science (ethnography, geography, psychoanalysis) to dream new potential ways of being.

The Internet Farm and the Philippine Circumstance

Mac Andre Arboleda
4 pm (30 min.), Screening and artist talk
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Mac Andre Arboleda will screen an extract of his video tentatively titled *The Internet Farm and the Philippine Circumstance*. This video presents his work *The Internet Farm*, a web-based project and collective that was further developed out of the militarized pandemic situation in the Philippines. In the following discussion, Arboleda will address topics surrounding mutual aid, digital media in the age of platform capitalism, soft networks, and artmaking in the pandemic.

Mac Andre Arboleda is an artist interested in exploring the sickness of the internet through research and dialogue, art, and text, and organizing and publishing. He is the founding president of the UP Internet Freedom Network, an alliance of students and volunteers advocating for digital rights in the Philippines and beyond.

Futura Trōpica – A Decentralized Network

Juan Pablo García Sossa (JPGS)
4:30 pm (30 min.), Artist talk
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Today, it is still a common belief that tech innovation in the Tropics is a direct legacy of colonial and postcolonial intervention, rather than a manifestation of genuine, blooming interactions between emerging technologies, and endemic practices, and costumes. Juan Pablo García Sossa will introduce investigations in territories in Colombia, Brazil, Kenya, Tanzania, India, Vietnam, and Thailand, among many others. García Sossa has been investigating how emerging technologies are being »misused« or reappropriated by grass-root popular culture in the Tropics, developing scenarios otherwise unthought in the so called Global North. After months of lateral exchange around situated knowledge examining our natural and artificial environments, *Futura Trōpica* has special focus on further developing the concept of FLOW (Free Libre Open Wild) Systems as a shift from FLOSS (Free Libre OpenSource Software). Systems meant to be mutable, re-appropriable and wild.

Juan Pablo García Sossa (JPGS) is a designer, researcher, and artist fascinated by the clash between emerging technologies and grassroots popular culture in the Tropics. His practice explores the development of cultures, realities, and worlds through the reappropriation of technologies from a Tropikós perspective (the Tropics as a region and mindset).

How to Complete a Network?

Panel with Juan Pablo García Sossa (JPGS), Dina Karadžić and Vedran Gligo, moderated by Mac Andre Arboleda
5 pm (45 min.), Panel
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Initiated by Mac Andre Arboleda, *How to Complete a Network?* brings together artists and collectives from the *Digital Solitude* network whose practice involves organizing and building networks and collectives, whether online or offline, toward a particular cause. This panel looks at the concerns, aspirations, and failures in solidarity building, to answer how to better nurture existing networks, especially in a world mediated by technology. Mac Andre Arboleda begins this inquiry with his personal experience of establishing the Artists for Digital Rights Network, an alliance of artists/activists in the Asia-Pacific.

Mac Andre Arboleda is an artist interested in exploring the sickness of the internet through research and dialogue, art, and text, and organizing and publishing. He is the founding president of the UP Internet Freedom Network, an alliance of students and volunteers advocating for digital rights in the Philippines and beyond.

Juan Pablo García Sossa (JPGS) is a designer, researcher, and artist fascinated by the clash between emerging technologies and grass-root popular culture in the Tropics. His practice explores the development of cultures, realities, and worlds through the reappropriation of technologies from a Tropikós perspective (the Tropics as a region and mindset).

Dina Karadžić is an artist active in the areas of visual, digital, and net art. Dina is art director of Format C, an art organization focused on experimental multimedia research and collaborative creation, and volunteers with many community non-profits and independent art initiatives.

Vedran Gligo is a self–taught DIY hacker/artist/cultural organizer. Strongly applying open-source principles in everyday life and practice and working to empower the local community by holding free and open digital workshops in Zagreb's Autonomous Cultural Center through the hacklab01.org project which he cofounded in 2009.

LET'S WRITE A CURSE

Ulla Heinrich, Andara Shastika in conversation with Elke aus dem Moore and akiko soyja
7 pm (45 min.), Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

Members of dgtl fmnsm and guests in conversation about the dgtl fmnsm web residency call for Akademie Schloss Solitude: »Resting: Undesired by the Market,« structural violence in the art field and feminist perspectives on equity. *LET'S WRITE A CURSE* came up in an online discussion dgtl fmnsm had with the international applicants for the »Resting!« call. The discussion focused on the question of intersectional justice within the arts community. Together, demands on institutions were developed, which will be presented during the talk.

For dgtl fmnsm collective: **Andara Shastika** is an artist who works with digital media and performance, community organizer based in Kassel, and currently one of the artistic assistants at the research project *ComArts (Community Arts)* in the University of Applied Sciences Dusseldorf, led by Prof. Dr. Swantje Lichtenstein and Prof. Maria Schleiner.

Ulla Heinrich is the founder of dgtl fmnsm, cultural educator, curator for hybrid and digital arts and CEO of the queer feminist Magazine »Missy Magazine«.

Elke aus dem Moore is the director of Akademie Schloss Solitude. Her curatorial and programmatic approach is based on the principles of encounter, exchange, and dialogue. The interconnection of global social questions with local experiences and a contemporary art practice are characteristic for her curatorial work.

akiko soyja is moved by interruptions of binary thinking, by how we can connect various struggles & movements and what societies do to our bodies. They focus on anti-racism, queer feminism, empowerment and powersharing in their works.

Aftermath of Future Deaths

Anna Engelhardt (from Distributed Cognition Cooperative)
8 pm (30 min.), Lecture performance, livestream

Please be aware that this lecture performance contains explicit images of acts of war that some viewers may find disturbing or that may lead to re-traumatization.

Colonial wars, associated with the conquest of space, spread out into time. Russian colonial invasions span generations and subject their targets to repeated cycles of fear and violence. Russian weaponry, advertised to exist in the high-tech future of remotely controlled battles, is stuck in the mud of time. In its obsolescence, its colonial violence persists. As the dead of one war haunts the dead of another, Anna Engelhardt thinks about how to amplify the hardwired obsolescence of Russian colonialism.

Anna Engelhardt is a Russian research-based media artist and writer. Her investigations take on multiple forms of media as they develop over time, including publications, videos, websites, and physical objects. Her primary interest lies in decolonial approaches to cyberspace, which she advances in her Ph.D. on Russian cyber warfare as a colonial enterprise.

Magandzelo

Nkhensani Mkhari
8:30 pm (30 min.), Performance, guided meditation and discussion, livestream

Magandzelo is a tsonga word for ritual. Nkhensani Mkhari will be offering an online ritual of meditation or »Ehleketa hi vuenti« which functions to (re)connect the participants with their ancestral lineage. A transtemporal ephemeral gesture looking back and forward in time.

Nkhensani Mkhari is a multidisciplinary artist, curator, and healer based between Cape Town and Johannesburg with a keen interest in the intersections between art and technology. Their artworks function as multimodal material-semiotic metaphors.

Clearing The Traum(a): A Ritual Of Collective Healing

Mia Imani Harrison
9:30 pm (45 min.), Performance
Kunstverein Wagenhalle and livestream

»I dream a dream that dreams back at me.«
– Toni Morrison

During the REM sleep cycle, our brain consolidates, downloads, and processes the data from the day. It is also a time when our body undergoes paralysis, but our mind is the most active as we dream. Much like our paralyzed body during sleep, trauma can get frozen in the body during our waking life – locked in pockets of cells. Ultimately, it creates a blockage of energy that stops us from connecting with ourselves and others. This occurrence is not just present inside a person. Collective bodies (communities) and geographical bodies (land/water) can also hold the tension. *Clearing The Traum(a)* is an opportunity to witness each other as we seek multi-dimensional healing. As we engage in this collective ritual, we will tap into these living memories to move through them and collectively dream of a new reality.

Mia Imani Harrison is an international interdisciplinary artivist (art + activist) and arts writer. Harrison interrogates the ways that disenfranchised communities can heal individual, communal, and societal trauma by creating works that live in between the worlds of art and science. This »third-way« mixes unconventional methods (dreams, rituals) and science (ethnography, geography, psychoanalysis) to dream new potential ways of being.

Xzavier Stone

10:30 pm, DJ set
Kunstverein Wagenhalle

Closing the festival, Xzavier Stone will play a DJ set. Recontextualizing rap music and R&B in a contemporary manner is an ever-present motif in his works, which reflects Xzavier's interest and passion in hip-hop culture. Over the years, Stone's ways to manifest his sonic visions reached far beyond the realm of hip-hop and positioned him as an exceptional artist in his own right. Seeking growth through innovation is what turns his compositions into genre-defying sonic experiences.

Xzavier Stone is an artist, producer, DJ & vocalist. He honed his sound painstakingly in the shadows for years before building a core audience who are drawn to his uniquely bold yet playful works released via Fractal Fantasy, his own XZA imprint & joint platform »YAWREDDY?!« with frequent collaborator Modulaw. Xzavier is currently working on the release of his sophomore album, which is set to be released in July 2022.

LIVESTREAM

On the following days, the festival program will be livestreamed via Vimeo and on the festival website.

Thursday, May 12, 2022
Livestream from 7–8 pm

Friday, May 13, 2022
Livestream from 5–10:30 pm

Saturday, May 14, 2022
Livestream from 4–10:30 pm

Follow the event live here, no registration required.

Connect with us, stay in the loop, and share your thoughts with our Signal group chat.

The Signal group chat is used during the festival as a guide, announcement board, and online forum.

Having difficulties accessing Signal or Vimeo?
Please write to us at: fragilesolidarity@akademie-solitude.de

LOCATIONS/ACCESSIBILITY

Akademie Schloss Solitude
Solitude 3
70197 Stuttgart

Akademie Schloss Solitude can be reached by public transport on bus line 92 to the Solitude stop. For more information about bus line 92's exact timetable, please visit the VVS website. Akademie Schloss Solitude has designated free visitor parking facilities. A ramp for wheelchairs runs across the backyard, although the path is gravel. The workshop spaces are barrier-free and accessible. There is no wheelchair-accessible restroom.

Württembergischer Kunstverein
Schlossplatz 2
70173 Stuttgart

Württembergischer Kunstverein is an approximately five-to-ten-minute walk from Stuttgart's main train station. Exit in the direction of Königstrasse, then take the first street left onto Marstallstrasse, then right onto Stauffenbergstrasse. The nearest U-Bahn station is Schlossplatz. Exit in the direction of Bolzstrasse. On Bolzstrasse, make a left, then turn right onto Stauffenbergstrasse. The WKV's exhibition and event spaces are barrier-free and accessible. A wheelchair-accessible restroom is available.

Merz Akademie
Hochschule für Gestaltung, Kunst und Medien
Teckstraße 58
70190 Stuttgart

Merz Akademie can be reached by public transport (U4/U9 station Bergfriedhof/Merz Akademie). Please follow Hackstraße (passing the Zollamt), turn left onto Teckstraße and then take the first entry on the right into the Kulturpark Berg. The Merz Akademie is only partially barrier-free.

Kunstverein Wagenhalle & Neue Schachtel
Innerer Nordbahnhof 1
70191 Stuttgart

Kunstverein Wagenhalle and Neue Schachtel are best reached by public transport. Starting at the main station, the U-Bahn line U6 (direction: Gerlingen), U7 (direction: Mönchfeld), U5 (direction: Killesberg) or U15 (direction: Stammheim) can be taken. Please exit at the stop Pragfriedhof. At the first intersection, make a right onto Hedwig-Dohm-Straße. Continue to the end of the street and turn right onto Innerer Nordbahnhof/Kunstboulevard. The workshop spaces are barrier-free and accessible. A wheelchair-accessible restroom is available. There is parking directly in front of the venue.

GUIDE FOR INCLUSION

Admission

All events on site and online are free admission except the afterparty at Neue Schachtel.

Accessibility

The locations Württembergischer Kunstverein and Kunstverein Wagenhalle are barrier-free and accessible, with a wheelchair-accessible restroom.

The locations Akademie Schloss Solitude and Merz Akademie are only partially barrier-free. Please find more information in the Locations menu.

Language

The festival program will be held entirely in English. On request we are happy to provide simultaneous German whispered translation.

Awareness

Throughout Saturday, May 14, 2022, an awareness representative will be on site at Kunstverein Wagenhalle and will also be present for the two workshops *Queer Artists' Perspective on the Socio-Political Mutations* and *Dreaming As an Active Practice (Dreaming and Dream Tech As Sites of Liberation)*.

Livestream

For people who do not wish to attend the events physically or do not wish to travel, parts of the festival program will be livestreamed via Vimeo and on the festival website. Parts of the workshops program will take place online. Please find more information in the livestream menu or in the program overview.

TEAM/CONTACT

For general requests, please write to
fragilesolidarity@akademie-solitude.de

For press requests, please write to
presse@akademie-solitude.de

For workshop registrations, please write to
register@akademie-solitude.de

Festival team (A–Z)

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Beria Altinoluk
Online support, freelance

Alina Anderson, Hannah Araujo-Ulmer, Peter Carey-Yard, Hedda Dönnges
Exhibition guides, freelance

Roland Batroff
Lighting, freelance

Konrad Behr, Leon Giacomo Goltermann, Janina Müller, Marius Schwingel
Livestreaming team, freelance

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Elke aus dem Moore
Director, Akademie Schloss Solitude

akiko soyja
Awareness commissioner, freelance

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Head of production management, freelance

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Akademie Schloss Solitude

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Akademie Schloss Solitude · Württembergischer Kunstverein · Merz Akademie · Online only · Kunstverein Wagenhalle

Timetable

May 10, 2022

Modifying Food Texture
Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang

Communal Cooking
Elia Nurvista

Modifying Food Texture
Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang

Communal Cooking
Elia Nurvista

Dinner
with work by Elia Nurvista

May 11, 2022

Pivillion – Your Darknet Pocket Gallery
Format C (Dina Karadžić and Vedran Gligo)

Pivillion – Your Darknet Pocket Gallery
Format C (Dina Karadžić and Vedran Gligo)

Soft Bread, Hard Times
Agnes Cameron and Gary Zhexi Zhang

Yesterday's Rice, Tomorrow's Solidarity
Anca Rujoiu and Elia Nuvista

A Matter of Course
Aline Xavier Mineiro

May 12, 2022

Expanding Solidarities in Interactive Digital Videogame Projects
Grayson Earle, Peter Polack, Ricardo Miranda Zúñiga

Castle of Crossed Destinies: Ground Workshop
Castle of Crossed Destinies (Aouefa Amoussouvi, Sasha Engelmann, Olivia Berkowicz)

Opening Ceremony of the festival's venue and exhibition

Traces of the 1907 Socialist International Congress Margret Frenz, Grayson Earle, Ana María Gómez López

appropreciation
Kristina Arlekinova

May 13, 2022

The Notion of Schiller's »Spiel«
Spielgruppe

The Trolley Dilemma
Simona Dumitriu and Ramona Dima

Fantastic Confabulations
Jazmina Figueroa and Theodoulos Polyviou

The Grave Danae Tapia

Solidarity must be defended
Simina Neagu, Eszter Szakács, and Naeem Mohaiemen

Epistolary Ancestries
Kiran Kumar

DESMONTE (To Become undone) Pedro Oliveira

Zebularin + After party

May 14, 2022

Queer Artists Perspective on the Socio-Politcal Mutations
Giorgi Rodionov

Dreaming As an Active Practice (Dreaming and Dream Tech As Sites of Liberation)
Mia Imani Harrison

The Internet Farm and the Philippine Circumstance

Futura Tropica – A Decentralized Network

How to complete a network?
Juan Pablo García Sossa, Dina Karadžić, Vedran Gligo, moderated by Mac Andre Arboleda

LET'S WRITE A CURSE
Ulla Heinrich, Andara Shastika, Elke aus dem Moore, akiko soyja

Aftermath of Future Deaths

Magandzelo Nkhensani Mkhari

Clearing The Traum(a): A Ritual of Collective Healing
Mia Imani Harrison

Xzavier Stone

10:00 10:30 11:00 11:30 12:00 12:30 13:00 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 15:30 16:00 16:30 17:00 17:30 18:00 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00

IMPRINT

Fragile Solidarity/Fragile Connections
May 10–14, 2022

Published on the occasion of the festival »Fragile Solidarity/ Fragile Connections« by Akademie Schloss Solitude in cooperation with Kunstverein Wagenhalle, Württembergischer Kunstverein and Merz Akademie

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AKADEMIE
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SOLITUDE