

Press release, 31.08.20

steirischer herbst '20: *Paranoia TV* Program 24.9.–18.10.2020

steirischer herbst announces the complete program for the 53rd festival edition. A calendar overview and detailed information on all *Paranoia TV* events are now available at www.paranoia-tv.com (beta version). The next two weeks are a testing and feedback phase for the interactive website. The user-optimized app is available in the Apple App Store and on Google Play from 24 September.

“We are everywhere this year, even in places where people don’t expect us,” writes artistic director and chief curator Ekaterina Degot in the *Paranoia TV* Guide. The analog guide to this year’s steirischer herbst festival will be available in German starting 16 September at Paranoia TV Headquarters. With a circulation of 390,000, the guide will also be included as an Austria-wide insert in the *Kleine Zeitung*, the *Salzburger Nachrichten*, the *Standard*, and the *Falter* just before the festival opens. An English PDF version will be available by mid-September as well. An overview of the mostly free events and multifaceted formats is already available on the steirischer herbst website, which has been hijacked by *Paranoia TV*, and at www.paranoia-tv.com.

As always steirischer herbst presents entirely new commissioned works this year. In light of current events, the curatorial team has chosen a broad range of formats to ensure safe and largely free access to art even in these days of social distancing and precarious employment. “We asked the artists to develop works that could function both during lockdown and in ‘normal’ times, as well as in between,” says Ekaterina Degot of this year’s program. The festival calendar includes interventions, performances, screenings, and talks at venues in Graz and the surrounding area, as well as extensive online offerings. In addition to premieres of films and series produced especially for *Paranoia TV*, the program features panel discussions, radio plays, online games, and giveaways, that is, artistic works to take home. With such a diverse range of formats, the festival thus also becomes an experiment in how art can reach out to people beyond the well-trodden paths and contexts.

Program Overview—Events in Graz

steirischer herbst '20 will kick off on Thursday, 24 September, with the traditional **opening speech** by its director and chief curator. This year, Ekaterina Degot will be addressing guests from the balcony of the Orpheum. Due to the restrictions that currently apply to large-scale events, the number of visitors gathering in front of Orpheum will be limited, with prior registration required. In order to give as many spectators as possible the chance to watch the opening in spite of contact restrictions, the speech will be broadcast on ninety-nine screens in shop windows in Graz’s city center—something never before attempted on this scale. Thanks to the overwhelming support of Graz’s retailers, the opening speech will flicker across the city with subtitles at 17:00 sharp, catching the attention of passers-by. Afterwards, **Janez Janša**’s unique fusion of radio play and performance will ring in steirischer

herbst '20. Here, visitors will be swept away by taxi on a real and a fictitious journey. Over a one-time radio frequency, two commentators will lead listeners through the European Football Championship final, which was planned for 2020 and then postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus. In Janša's *The Final Match*, Germany vies with Sweden as twilight scenes of Graz fly past the taxi windows and listeners eagerly await the outcome. It's all about ingenious plays, chants, insights into the abysmal world of professional football, reflections on global politics, and ultimately also the utopian and emancipatory potential of the crisis.

Other artistic works in Graz, available for visitors starting 25 September, include **Akinbode Akinbiyi's** installation *Photo Booth* at the Am Eisernen Tor square, which invites visitors to take passport photos of themselves. But the machine also spits out other pictures, showing Berlin during lockdown—scenes of an eerie, socially distanced city pervaded by loneliness. On the Burgring, the installation *Dictionary of Imaginary Places* by **Vadim Fishkin** brings two street lamps to life. They whisper to each other the names of mysterious cities and countries from the world of literature that make us long for far-away places in times when travel is difficult. Another unique artwork is **Roe Rosen's** coloring book for adults entitled *Lucy Is Sick*, which will be given to inpatients and staff during the festival in cooperation with the Landeskrankenhaus Universitätsklinikum Graz. Rosen reflects in the book on the urge for discovery and returns to the early days of his career as an artist in drawings and texts that are by turns witty and melancholy. The German translation is by Thomas Melle.

In the case of **Joanna Piotrowska's** newspaper, art finds its way to its audience in an unusual way as well. In cooperation with the sustainable food delivery service *velofood*, several local restaurants will deliver the specially created artwork directly to Graz households with every order. And those whose hunger for art has still not been satisfied can listen to the sound installation *A Convention of Tiny Movements* by Turner Prize winner **Lawrence Abu Hamdan** the next time they shop at the Spar supermarkets in Sackstraße or the main train station. Using science pioneered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, paper tissues, KitKat packaging, and potato chips in the shop measure object vibrations generated by the human voice and thus report from a not-too-distant future when everyday objects and surfaces will act as monitoring devices.

Online Content

Throughout the festival period, also stop by www.paranoia-tv.com, the *Paranoia TV* app, and Paranoia TV Headquarters to catch premieres of artist films. **Ahmet Ögüt's** new documentary film-essay *Artworks Made at Home* will be the first film available on 24 September. **Josef Dabernig** will take viewers on an analog ride into the uncanny valley starting 25 September. The deceptively simple plot of his new short film *All the Stops* unfolds on country roads, revealing an enchanted world created by meticulously timed camera shots and angles. **Clemens von Wedemeyer's** *Emergency Drill Revisited*, **Dani Gal's** *Three Works for Piano*, **Pauline Curnier Jardin's** *Slow Passions*, and *Night Herons* by **Joanna Rajkowska** and **Robert Yerachmiel Sniderman** will also premiere during the festival.

Among the series produced especially for *Paranoia TV* is **Ingo Niermann's** explosive alternative-reality novel *Deutsch Süd-Ost*, presented in 25 episodes by acclaimed actress Mavie Hörbiger. Niermann imagines what it would be like if prominent white men retreated to a "bastion" in the Southeast of Germany. There, they invent revolting trends in music, fashion, sex, food, and terrorism, establish "Nazi zoos" and attempt to get beyond themselves. On the opening weekend, the entire series will be screened for the public at Paranoia TV Headquarters, and new episodes will be released online every day. The subversive soap opera *Soap* by **Tamar Guimarães** (with **Luisa Cavanagh** and **Alejandro Millán Pastori**) will likewise premiere during the festival on *Paranoia TV*. And in *Das Ende vom Lied*, **Christian von Borries** and the famous pianist **Jonathan Aner** embark on a search for political clues in the history of chamber music.

The text-based online game *Year 01*, created by **Alexandra Pirici & Jonas Lund**, tells the story of a mysterious chronic fatigue syndrome that brings the whole world to a standstill—with choreographic qualities and ethical challenges. In *PRAAB* we learn how to go back to the office again to fall in love. **Chrystèle Nicot** and **Antoine Alesandrini's** online game, available from 30 September, questions both the old office culture and the new world of online tutorials. In *Screen-Talk.com 1.9*, two egocentric doctors compete to find a cure for a mysterious pandemic. **Neil Beloufa & Bad Manner's** biting satire on medical (pseudo)science in the neoliberal information age sets off on a twisted path through an online game brimful with videos. Is it a film, a game, or a new form of art?

Paranoia is a central theme in the new radio play by **Susanne Sachsse, Marc Siegel**, and **Xiu Xiu**. The musical entertainment broadcast *YOU'RE SO PARANOID, YOU PROBABLY THINK THIS RADIO SHOW IS ABOUT YOU* explores what becomes of the body in a moment of intensified social and governmental control. In chanted choirs and linguistic collisions, the work provides answers drawing a paranoid poetic-theoretical arc through history.

An unprecedented cooperation with **Ö1** brings the *Paranoia TV* program through radio to Austrian listeners. Drawing on both personal experience and artistic-narrative reflection, the seventeen-part podcast *Who's Afraid of...* explores the vulnerabilities of artists and authors, and their responses to various threats. In addition, *Kunstsonntag* on **Ö1** will be dedicated to steirischer herbst '20 on 18 October.

Discursive Program

In "Ideas," the discussion format on *Paranoia TV*, philosophers, artists, thinkers, and specialists debate the current state of the world, paranoia, and the virus. A mix of live-streamed panel discussions, prerecorded conversations, and talks at Paranoia TV Headquarters promises many enlightening hours listening to prominent guests such as **Franco "Bifo" Berardi**, **Bill Fontana**, **Bobby Gillespie**, **Heimo Halbrainer**, **Herwig G. Höller**, **Srećko Horvat**, **Eva Illouz**, **Adam Kleinman**, **Stephanie Krisper**, **Achille Mbembe**, **Robert Pfaller**, **Milo Rau**, **Drehli Robnik**, **Johann Skocek**, **Hito Steyerl**, **Natascha Strobl**, **Ece Temelkuran**, **Mark Terkessidis**, **Yanis Varoufakis**, **Martin Wabl**, and **Mark Waschke**.

Conference

Utopian thinking will be the topic of discussion at the conference *Utopia: Conference for Practical Criticism* at the Forum Stadtpark from 9 to 11 October. In workshops, lectures, and online, speakers and guests will discuss alternatives to the current relations between humans and animals, as well as anti-racist, feminist, economic, and democratic utopias. Participants include **AK.Unbehagen, Fahim Amir, Antonia Biberger, Silvia Federici, das kollektiv, Antonia Manhartsberger, Alexander Neupert-Doppler, and Jonas Schändlinger**. In connection with the conference, **Nika Dubrovsky** and **David Graeber** ask themselves: "What does ideal care look like?" Participants in a webinar jointly design a utopian care unit whose structures and protocols will be visualized live in a chalk drawing outside the Medical University of Graz.

Festivals within the Festival

This year, steirischer herbst is home to three festivals at once. For the second year in a row, steirischer herbst is collaborating with the Murau initiative **STUBENrein**. From 5 to 9 September, process-oriented projects in response to the coronavirus crisis will take place in the fourteen municipalities of the Murau district under the theme *#breakthecircle / Systeme neu denken*.

Out of Joint is the new literary festival at steirischer herbst, taking place for the first time from 6 to 9 October, marking the beginning of a three-year partnership with Literaturhaus Graz. The title, borrowed from *Hamlet*, was already decided at the end of last year, but today it has taken on a whole new meaning. Graz author **Clemens J. Setz** holds the opening address, and parts of the program are streamed live on *Paranoia TV*. Also contributing will be **Martin Brachvogel, Tanja Busse, Jonathan Coe, Tomer Gardi, Lisz Hirn, Klaus Kastberger, Konrad Paul Liessmann, Robert Pfaller, Das Planetenparty Prinzip, Monika Rinck, Kathrin Röggla, Judith Schalansky, Eva Schulev-Steindl, Franz Solar, Martin Sprenger, Daniela Strigl, Tessa Szyszkowitz, Margarethe Tiesel, Cécile Wajsbrot, and Rudi Wiederhofer**.

This year's **musikprotokoll** delves deep into *Hidden Sounds* and will offer, from 7 to 11 October, numerous live concerts, sound installations, audio walks, music theater, and projects conceived for the internet and the Ö1 radio station. The explorations of hearing and sound will be performed and interpreted by the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra (RSO Wien), top contemporary music ensembles, and musicians from SHAPE, the EU festival network for innovative music and audiovisual art.

Parallel Program

As every year, the steirischer herbst program will be framed by offerings from local institutions and partners and embedded in a rich and varied parallel program. The walking tour taking place on 26 September presents an excellent opportunity to

experience many parts of it. In addition to the installation *Private EU Border Fence*, by **Catrin Bolt** in cooperation with the **Institut für Kunst im öffentlichen Raum Steiermark**, a number of exhibitions provide visitors with a taste of Graz's diverse art scene. These include *(Being) in the Picture* at the **Forum Stadtpark**; *Image Wars: The Power of Images* and *Gerlind Zeilner: Cowgirls* at the **Künstlerhaus, Halle für Kunst & Medien**; *CYBORG SYNTHESIS* at **esc medien kunst labor**; *Domestic Optimism. Scene One: Modernism – A Lesbian Love Story* at the **Grazer Kunstverein**; *Bill Fontana: Sonic Projections* and *Bill Fontana: Primal Energies* at the **Kunsthaus Graz**; *PER TINA* by Ryts Monet at the **QL-Galerie**; *In Suspense: Albeit Unintentionally—Rather Acrobatic* at the **< rotor > center for contemporary art**; and *LIVING WITH BENJAMIN AND BRECHT: Temporary Housemate Wanted from November 1, 2020, in ca. 1900 Apartment, Partly Furnished* at **kunstraum_8020**.

Paranoia TV App

The *Paranoia TV* app offers the most convenient way to dive into the universe of the media consortium *Paranoia TV*. The app will be available for free download for iOS and Android from 24 September. It will host the *Paranoia TV* program for the duration of the festival. The app is divided into three views. The first is a chronological feed of the published content, updated several times a day. The second is an overview of the complete *Paranoia TV* program, divided into categories. The third is a calendar for the period from 24 September to 18 October, showing online events as well as events in Graz and Styria. The three views also give information on events offered by the Office of Open Questions, the steirischer herbst art education team, the parallel program, as well as the festivals within the festival: musikprotokoll, STUBENrein, and *Out of Joint*. More information on each of these sections of the festival can be found via the app menu.

If desired, users can receive push notifications regarding short-notice program updates, last-minute events, and information on special screenings, whether online or on-site. New content is uploaded daily at midnight (Graz time). During the day several updates and live events are also added to the feed. Films and videos are available in the app until 1 November (with a few exceptions) and can be bookmarked to watch at will.

Paranoia TV Headquarters

Tickets for individual performances on-site in Graz are available from 16 September at Paranoia TV Headquarters (Herrengasse 26, 8010 Graz) and online as of today in the webshop at www.paranoia-tv.com/tickets. But the headquarters is not only a place for quick transactions—whether in ticket sales or visitor services—it is also a forum for art and discourse.

Powered by artificial intelligence, a **digital reincarnation of Sigmund Freud** invites you to take part in an interactive “therapy session” with a twist. During the festival, visitors can share their worries and fears with a deepfake avatar of the paranoia expert, who—thanks to AI and machine learning—is able to answer their burning questions.

Starting on 24 September, artist films specially produced for *Paranoia TV* will be screened on the lower level of the headquarters. And from 16 September, the first floor will offer an in-house café, run by Gatto Lupo, as well as an area for artist talks or for following online events on-site after prior registration. The installation *Cuddle Porn* by Moscow artist **Igor Samolet** and the cartographic artworks created by the collectives **Gelatin** and **studio ASYNCHROME** will also be on display there. A copy of these fantastical topographies can be purchased at the nearby Moser bookstore.

The headquarters is also home to the **Office of Open Questions**, the steirischer herbst art education and outreach team. Anyone who is interested in a guided experience in examining the *Paranoia TV* program is invited to participate in their events online or on-site. As in previous years, the Office of Open Questions will engage with visitors' impressions and opinions in an open dialogue, suggest topics for discussion, and offer fresh perspectives on the artistic projects in the festival. This year, the educational offerings range from DIY workshops and watch parties to Zoom conferences and interactive tours.

An overview of all events at the Paranoia TV Headquarters can be found in the calendar at www.paranoia-tv.com; changes may be made at short notice.

Participating artists and collectives

Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Akinbode Akinbiyi, Neïl Beloufa & Bad Manner's, Christian von Borries & Jonathan Aner, Sergey Bratkov, Alexander Chernyshkov, Pauline Curnier Jardin, Josef Dabernig, Nika Dubrovsky & David Graeber, Vadim Fishkin, Dani Gal, Thomas Geiger, Gelatin, Tamar Guimarães in collaboration with Luisa Cavanagh und Rusi Millán Pastori, Rana Hamadeh, Janez Janša, Maika Knoblich & Hendrik Quast, Lina Majdalanie & Rabih Mroué, monochrom, Chrystèle Nicot & Antoine Alesandrini, Ingo Niermann, Lulu Obermayer, Ahmet Ögüt, Diederik Peeters, Joanna Piotrowska, Alexandra Pirici & Jonas Lund, Judy Radul, Joanna Rajkowska and Robert Yerachmiel Sniderman, Roe Rosen, Susanne Sachsse / Marc Siegel / Xiu Xiu (Jamie Stewart), Igor Samolet, Liv Schulman, John Smith, studio ASYNCHROME, Theater im Bahnhof, Sung Tieu, Clemens von Wedemeyer, and Anna Witt

Participants in the discussion program on "Ideas"

Franco "Bifo" Berardi, Bill Fontana, Bobby Gillespie, Heimo Halbrainer, Herwig G. Höller, Srećko Horvat, Eva Illouz, Adam Kleinman, Stephanie Krisper, Achille Mbembe, Robert Pfaller, Milo Rau, Drehli Robnik, Johann Skocek, Hito Steyerl, Natascha Strobl, Ece Temelkuran, Mark Terkessidis, Yanis Varoufakis, Martin Wabl, and Mark Waschke

Paranoia TV design:
Grupa Ee

Curatorial team:
Mirela Baciak, Ekaterina Degot (artistic director and chief curator), Henriette Gallus, Dominik Müller, Christoph Platz, David Riff

The entire program is available on our website at www.paranoia-tv.com. The *Paranoia TV* Guide will be available from 16 September at Paranoia TV Headquarters.

For photos and further information, please visit www.paranoia-tv.com/press.

Accreditation

Journalists can obtain accreditation for the festival from now until 16 September. To apply for press accreditation, please contact us by email at press@steirischerherbst.at, providing us with your contact details and naming the media you will be reporting for. On-site accreditation is not possible this year. Due to sanitary measures for containing the coronavirus, the total number of visitors allowed at performances and talks is very limited. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Requests for press accreditation:
press@steirischerherbst.at

About steirischer herbst

Every autumn since its founding in 1968, steirischer herbst has provided a platform for new productions, provoking and shaping public debates in a variety of forms across disciplines and media. steirischer herbst continually reinvents itself in an effort to redefine the conceptual basis for what culture can mean for contemporary society in Graz, Austria's second most populous city.

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