

Werkleitz Festival 2021

move to ... sociosphere, ecosphere, bodydatasphere

18 June – 12 September

Conference and Discourse Programme *new world dis/order*

18 June – 4 July

Online Exhibition EMAP Garden @ Ars Electronica

8 – 12 September

moveto.werkleitz.de



Total Refusal (Susanna Flock, Adrian Jonas Haim, Robin Klengel, Leonhard Müllner
In cooperation with Jona Kleinlein), *Red Redemption - A Brute Marxist Class Analysis*, 2021 © Total Refusal

In what kind of a future world do we want to live? Werkleitz Festival in New Spheres

Which innovative ideas can art provide for the societal, ecological and technological challenges of the future in an age of global transformation? That is one of the central questions of the **Werkleitz Festival 2021 *move to ... sociosphere, ecosphere, bodydatasphere***, which due to the pandemic will be held in two phases.

In cooperation with the German Federal Cultural Foundation and supported by the ZEIT Foundation, the online conference ***new world dis/order*** will be streamed from the former headquarters of the East German Ministry of State Security in Halle (Saale) and explore the questions of the three festival spheres. On consecutive weekends from 18 June to 4 July lectures by experts from the realms of science, art and technology will be presented online along with a range of events including performances, films and podcasts. From 8 to 12 September the closing exhibition will feature 44 artistic works by grant recipients of the European Media Art Platform (EMAP) in the virtual EMAP Garden of the Ars Electronica.

Conference and Discourse Programme *new world dis/order*: 18 June (opening) to 4 July 2021

19 – 20 June, *move to ... sociosphere*: On the opening weekend the speakers will present analyses and unique perspectives on the social, political and economic challenges of our digital, globalized society. Related issues will be artistically explored by Total Refusal, who have developed a tour through *Red Dead Redemption 2* that critically examines the depiction of the professional world in computer games, and more. There will also be a streaming exchange between the WRO Media Art Biennale and the Werkleitz Festival in cooperation with the Silbersalz Festival.

26 – 27 June, *move to ... ecosphere*: In the lectures (with Q&A) the effects of humans on the ecosphere will be analyzed, as this has long since ceased to be an abstract concept but can now be seen and felt by (virtually) everyone. An audio walk by the LIGNA artist collective will also explore this subject.

3 – 4 July move to ... bodydatasphere: The lectures on this weekend will focus on the datafication of our bodies. Is it now time to transcend the body and enter into a posthuman or transhuman era? In addition, two performances will descend into the realm of the *bodydatasphere*: *Empathy Swarm* – with a swarm of robots that can be remotely controlled online – and *Kissing Wave* (working title) – a social distancing experiment especially conceived for the festival that explores our kissing behavior under the current circumstances.

The **conference and discourse programme** will be flanked by film productions from award-winning EMAP artists (including Chloé Galibert-Laîné (FR) & Kevin B. Lee (DE) and Total Refusal (AT)), and by podcasts and features from the festival center.

Online Exhibition EMAP Garden @ Ars Electronica 8 – 12 September

The Werkleitz Festival 2021 is a correspondence location of the 2021 Ars Electronica. In the past 4 years the artists and collectives at 11 institutions of the European Media Art Platform have been researching the most urgent challenges of our age. From **8 to 12 September** the virtual closing exhibition will feature 44 works that have been produced with the support of Creative Europe. The three spheres of the Werkleitz festival provide the framework for these works as well: the artistic examination of the *sociosphere* led to the creation of subversive tools which individuals can use to defend themselves against digital surveillance. In the realm of the *ecosphere* climate change and maritime pollution are examined or artificial life forms are created as a metaphor for posthuman life. Works in the *bodydatasphere* investigate the swarm intelligence of robots or create tulip patterns from Bitcoin exchange rates. The *EMAP Bal Masque* organized by IMPAKT represents the conclusion of the four-year grant-production cycle of the European Media Art Platform.

Cultural and media partners include MDR KULTUR, arte Kurzschluss and the international art magazines *Neural* and *Arshake*.

Alongside Werkleitz the following members of EMAP are among the main organizers:

Ars Electronica, Linz (AT); Foundation for Art and Creative Technology (FACT), Liverpool (UK); IMPAKT, Utrecht (NL); Antre Peaux, Bourges (FR); LABoral, Gijón (ES); Kontejner, Zagreb (HR); WRO Art Center, Wrocław (PL); RIXC, Riga, (LV); Onassis Stegi, Athen (GR); m-cult, Helsinki (FI)

Additional regional partners:

Silbersalz Festival, DOK Leipzig, Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle, Salinemuseum Halle (Saale) e.V. and the Francke Foundations (co-directorship with Werkleitz for the cultural year *Halex, siede Salz! Herkunft trifft Zukunft* in Halle (Saale)).

main sponsors:



The Conference and discourse programme *new world dis/order* is organized in collaboration with the German Federal Cultural Foundation and supported by the ZEIT Foundation



cooperation partners

cultural partners

The 2021 Werkleitz Festival move to ... is part of the cultural year *Halex, siede Salz! Herkunft trifft Zukunft* in Halle (Saale).

