

# RUHRTRIENNALE

## FESTIVAL DER KÜNSTE \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

Press Relations Ruhrtriennale

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### Press Kit Ruhrtriennale 2021 Status August 12, 2021

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## 01 PRESS RELEASE

### **The Ruhrtriennale begins on August 14 Numerous new productions on the occasion of the Festival of Arts 2021 inauguration**

**Bochum, August 10, 2021** – Shortly before the start of the Ruhrtriennale 2021 on August 14, the Festival Team is focusing on program highlights to be presented during the inaugural weekend. The Team is pleased with its advance ticket sales and is anticipating the coming weekend with confidence. "There is nothing that would make us happier than an intense festival experience. We are looking forward to a variety of productions, which will be newly ushered into the industrial architecture of the Ruhr region, and can now be discovered," observes Barbara Frey, the executive director of the Ruhrtriennale 2021-2023. "Hence, it is extremely important to us that we are welcoming hosts to the creative community we have invited as well as for our guests, especially in these difficult times."

The concert scheduled for the break of dawn, a theatrical and musical theater premiere as well as four pieces of installation work are all part of the opening weekend's program on August 14 and 15. The "**Konzert im Morgengrauen**" (Concert at the Break of Dawn), which will take place on August 14 just before sunrise in Gladbeck, will be the introductory event: Besides compositions by Ravel and Sciarrino, interpreted by pianist Virginie Déjos, guests will have the opportunity to experience the premiere of sound works by British musician Chris Watson, who, among other things, is a founding member of the electro-industrial band Cabaret Voltaire and has been commissioned by the Ruhrtriennale. His "Morgenchor" (Morning Choir) will accompany the audience through the blue hour into the light of day and an outdoor communal breakfast.

Barbara Frey will introduce herself as of August 14, with the premiere of the theatrical creation "**Der Untergang des Hauses Usher**" (The Downfall of the House of Usher), a co-production of the Ruhrtriennale and the Vienna Burgtheater. Along with an extraordinary ensemble of eight artists as well as soloists of the Ruhrkohle-Chor (Ruhr Coal Choir), she beckons the audience to explore her vision of the thought cosmos of Edgar Allan Poe – in a production created specifically for the fascinating space of the machine hangar Zweckel in Gladbeck. Another piece by Barbara Frey, "Die Toten" (The Dead) at this year's festival, will make its debut on September 1.

As of August 15, at the Jahrhunderthalle Bochum, the musical theater production "**Bählamms Fest**" (Bählamm's Feast), created by Austrian composer Olga Neuwirth featuring a large group of participants, will present an unreal orgy from both, a visual and a musical perspective. In 13 images, Neuwirth dissects the abysmal painting of morals while wildly crossing the boundaries between past and present, the living and the dead, human and animal as well as desire and reality. Elfriede Jelinek created the libretto based on Leonora Carrington. The young Irish

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Duo Dead Centre has been entrusted with directing Neuwirth's intermedial pioneering work.

To create the installation-based choreography "**The Life Work**", Danish artist Mette Ingvarsten met four women who were born in Japan in the 1930s and 1940s and now live in the Rhine region. Just like Ingvarsten, they left their home country to seek their fortunes in other places – on their own. The minimalist production of emergence and impermanence examines the question as to what life really is and allows collective storytelling to peek through from behind the individual stories. The performance, that will be shown on four consecutive weekends starting August 14, is embedded into the exhibition "Global Groove. Art, Dance, Performance and Protest" at the Museum Folkwang in Essen.

A century in moving portraits: Mats Staub dedicates his artistic work to memory. He seeks the presence of the past in our day and age. His long-term project, which has been growing over many years – "**21 – Erinnerungen ans Erwachsenwerden**" (21 – Memories of Growing Up) contains 200 movies and portrays the storytellers as listeners to their own words. Emerging from different continents, the memories from the beginning of World War II to the outbreak of the current corona pandemic have now been complemented by the stories of eleven individuals from the Ruhr region. The installation, which has been completed specifically for the Ruhrtriennale, will make its debut from August 15 to September 25 in the Turbine Hall of the Jahrhunderthalle Bochum in its full imposing size.

As a contribution of Urbane Künste Ruhr to this year's Ruhrtriennale, the installation "**Absorption**" by Asad Raza, an artist from the United States, will be on display in the former Allbauhaus in downtown Essen starting on August 14. Soil – a mixture of sand, loam and compost particles will penetrate even the most remote corners of the history-laden building. Before and during the exhibition, the soil will be continuously infused with organic and inorganic matter from the Ruhr region, such as sewage sludge, scrap paper and hair. Among other things, the composting process will turn it into new soil, which Raza refers to as "neosoil". A team of "cultivators" from the local area will be on hand throughout the duration of the exhibition until September 25. It will filter the soil under the direction of scientists, break it down into its components, analyze it and remix it. The new soil will be gifted to visitors, small garden associations and welfare institutions.

But there's more: Beyond the halls, regional artists, starting on August 14 and throughout the entire festival, invite us to discover the routes between the performance venues of the Ruhrtriennale in Bochum, Duisburg, Essen and Gelsenkirchen free of charge and around the clock – via tramway, bicycle or on foot, alone or with others. The only thing required for the "**Wege**" project: a smartphone and a set of headphones to for instance download and listen to tracks by Stefan Schneider, which audibly bring to life the Duisburg in Between in conversations with people from Kaßlerfeld, Ruhrort, Laar and Meiderich. For details please visit [www.ruhr3.com/wege](http://www.ruhr3.com/wege)

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Starting on August 15, the Pappelwald Cantina will serve as a **meeting place** and a stop to linger, offering sustainable and fairly-priced culinary delights as well as the festival library right outside the Jahrhunderthalle Bochum.

In the week immediately after the **inauguration**, "**L'Étang**" (Der Teich) by choreographer, director and puppeteer Gisèle Vienne will make its debut and on August 19, "**A Divine Comedy**" the most recent accomplishment of choreographer and extreme performer Florentina Holzinger will make its first stage appearance.

The concert program includes a performance by "**Full Blast**", a group featuring jazz musician Peter Brötzmann on August 20, which marks the start of the MaschinenHausMusic series in the Blower Hall in the landscape park Duisburg North. Other highlights in August include "**Stil ist Gewalttat**" (Style is an Act of Violence) featuring composer Patricia Alessandrini and the concert of the Bochum Symphony, for the first time conducted by its new general music director Tung-Chieh Chuang. The first of three pop concerts with French-Ivory Coast rapper Lala & ce will be performed on August 29. As part of a literature and dialog series that begins on August 22, Swiss dramaturg, romancier and essayist Lukas Bärfuss along with scientists and actresses will probe into the nature of human beings.

Moreover, there are two artistic projects that can only be experienced in the **digital** world: "**Aparición**" which translates into "Appearance" in English and is a creation of action artist Regina José Galindo from Guatemala, as well as the interactive Zoom performance "**Unterscheidet euch!**" (Distinguish Yourself!) by Turbo Pascal will debut in conjunction with the Young Triennale. The performative work of Galindo draws attention to the large number of murders of women as well as domestic violence targeting women in Germany. For instance, throughout the duration of the festival, every third day, an anonymous female body will appear in public spaces of the Ruhr region unexpectedly – living memorials dedicated to the murder victims. Images of the activities will be published simultaneously on the Ruhrtriennale website.

The complementary digital **audio and video events** will include seven recordings produced in cooperation with the ARD Radio Festival and Culture Radio WDR 3 as part of the WDR 3 Culture Partnership. There are also three video on demand programs as well as two live streams complimented by mediation and conversation formats on [www.ruhr3.com/digital](http://www.ruhr3.com/digital)

A large number of productions are already very well booked, including a lot of the productions that will premiere on site. A few days prior to the beginning of the Festival, Dr. Vera Battis-Reese, managing director of the Kultur Ruhr GmbH, is satisfied with ticket presales. "The desire to experience art directly is clearly evident. We are very pleased to see the vast demand. In particular, our audience anticipates with excitement the artistic work in 'Der Untergang des Hauses Usher' and 'Die Toten' of new executive producer and director Barbara Frey.

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The same is true for the two major musical theater productions 'Bählamms Fest' as well as 'D • I • E'. Many of the concerts, including 'Elias' by the Chorwerk Ruhr and 'Point Line Area' by composer and drummer Fritz Hauser are extremely popular, as is 'Thelonious' which will be performed in conjunction with the Young Triennale. We recommend that our audience keeps an eye on the Ruhrtriennale website. It is one of our objectives to further expand the room for audience accommodation even more if possible. "

In a joint effort with third party experts from the medical, hygiene and ventilation technology sectors, the Ruhrtriennale has developed a qualified **hygiene concept** that implements all of the latest conditions as well as those that are still to be expected for a pandemic adequate festival. In particular the multi-stage package of measures developed jointly with the responsible government agencies and the University of Health in Bochum, enables the festival to act flexibly given the current dynamics. Generally, at all events of the Ruhrtriennale the medical mask obligation and the 3G-rule (tested, vaccinated, recovered) apply.

Right now, executive producer Barbara Frey and her artistic team are questioning the current fracture lines, confusing historic constructs of identity, collective and individual remembrance processes and the complex relationship between human beings and nature. The Ruhrtriennale 2021 is the first conducted under the management of the Swiss theater director. From August 14 through September 25, the annual Festival of Arts will celebrate a program on the boundaries between musical theater, concerts, theatrical events, dance, performance, installation, literature and dialog at nine performance venues in the cities of Bochum, Duisburg, Essen and Gladbeck, which will be complemented by digital events.

This year's Ruhrtriennale comprises 37 productions and projects, including eleven in-house and co-productions. Boasting eight world premieres paired with five German premieres and four adaptations from the Ruhrtriennale 2020 program, the international festival invites its audience to attend a total of 117 events highlighting different artistic experiences. More than 600 creators of art from around 30 countries will participate in this year's Ruhrtriennale.

Thanks to the involvement of ten universities from Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, the **Festival Campus** is once again part of the program, just like in previous years.

Specifics about the program and a wide range of content background information **are available in the magazine** on [www.ruhrtriennale.de/de/magazine](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de/de/magazine) and in the **Festival Catalog** along with a **photo gallery** by artist Tobias Zielony, who has been commissioned for this project by the Ruhrtriennale.

## 02 FAKTEN / SPIELSTÄTTEN / TICKETING

### FACTS

The Ruhrtriennale 2021 is comprised of 37 productions and projects, including eleven in-house and co-production. At nine performance venues in four cities, 117 events will take place. Boasting eight world premieres, five German premieres as well as adaptations from the program of the 2020 Ruhrtriennale, the international festival invites its audience to a wide variety of artistically inspiring experiences. More than 600 creative artists from around 30 countries will be present at the Ruhrtriennale 2021.

The **digital audio and video events** include seven recordings made in cooperation with the ARD Radio Festival and Culture Radio WDR 3 offered in conjunction with the WDR 3 Culture Partnership. There are also three video on demand as well as two live stream options, complemented by mediation and conversation formats.

Furthermore, there are two artistic projects that can only be viewed online: "Aparición" by Regina José Galindo, whose performances in public places are documented on the Ruhrtriennale website as well as the interactive Zoom performance "Unterscheidet euch!" produced in conjunction with the Young Triennale by Turbo Pascal.

**9** performance venues in  
**4** cities: Bochum, Duisburg, Essen and Gladbeck  
**117** events  
**37** productions and projects  
**11** in-house and co-productions  
**8** world premieres  
**5** German premieres

### 11 IN-HOUSE AND CO-PRODUCTIONS (listed chronologically based on performance dates)

"Bählamms Fest"  
Olga Neuwirth, Leonora Carrington, Elfriede Jelinek / Musical

"Der Untergang des Hauses Usher"  
Edgar Allan Poe, Barbara Frey / Play

"L'Étang"  
Gisèle Vienne / Play

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"A Divine Comedy"  
Florentina Holzinger / Dance

"D • I • E"  
Michael Wertmüller, Albert Oehlen, Rainald Goetz / Musical

"Los Años"  
Mariano Pensotti / Play

"CASCADE"  
Meg Stuart, Philippe Quesne, Brendan Dougherty / Dance

"Morning Choir" Chris Watson in "Konzert im Morgengrauen"

"The Life Work" Mette Ingvarsten / Installation, Performance

"Wege" / includes audio walks in public spaces

## **8 WORLD PREMIERES**

"D • I • E"  
Michael Wertmüller, Albert Oehlen, Rainald Goetz / Musical

"Der Untergang des Hauses Usher"  
Edgar Allan Poe, Barbara Frey / Play

"A Divine Comedy"  
Florentina Holzinger / Dance, Performance

"Los Años"  
Mariano Pensotti / Play

"Point Line Area"  
Fritz Hauser / Concert

"La Luna en el Amazonas"  
Mapa Teatro / Play

"Morning Choir" Chris Watson in "Konzert im Morgengrauen"

"The Life Work"  
Mette Ingvarsten / Installation Performance

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## **5 GERMAN PREMIERES**

"Die Toten"

James Joyce, Barbara Frey / Play

"CASCADE"

Meg Stuart, Philippe Quesne, Brendan Dougherty / Dance

"The History of Photography in Sound"

"Michael Finnissy / Concert

"GROSSE STIMMUNG"

Edu Haubensak / Concert

"tränseö" Ragnhild Berstad in "Nachtraum" / Concert

## **4 ADAPTATIONS FROM THE RT 2020 PROGRAM**

"Los Años" World premiere

Mariano Pensotti / Play

"CASCADE" German premiere

Meg Stuart, Philippe Quesne, Brendan Dougherty / Dance

"Elias"

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Chorwerk Ruhr/Conductor Florian Helgath / Concert

"GROSSE STIMMUNG" German premiere Edu Haubensak /

Concert

## **4 EVENTS THAT OFFER FREE ADMISSION**

"Absorption"

Asad Raza / Installation

"Wege" Concept: Aljoscha Begrich, with Anna Kpok, RUHRORTER, Stefan Schneider, tehran:public, loekenfranke, peng! Collective / Public Space Project

"Pappelwaldkantine"

Festival Library at the Jahrhunderthalle Bochum

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## DIGITAL PROGRAMS

VIDEO (chronological listing)

"**Bählamms Fest**" offered as a video on demand starting on August 23 at [www.ruhrtriennale.de](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de)

**Svetlana Maraš & Peter Evans** offered as a live stream on August 25 on [www.ruhrtriennale.de](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de)

"**Point Line Area**" offered as both, a live stream on September 18 and a video on demand starting on September 20 on [www.ruhrtriennale.de](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de)

"**La Luna en el Amazonas**" offered as a video on demand starting on September 19 on [www.ruhrtriennale.de](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de)

AUDIO (chronological listing)

The concert featuring **Full Blast** will be broadcast as a compilation of "Stil ist Gewalttat" (Style is a Violent Act) and "Visionary Architects" on September 5 during the ARD Radio Festival as part of the concert series that begins at 8 PM on [www.ardradiofestival.de](http://www.ardradiofestival.de).

The concert "**Stil ist Gewalttat**" will be broadcast as a compilation with Full Blast and "Visionary Architects" on September 5 during the ARD Radio Festival as part of the concert series that begins at 8 PM on [www.ardradiofestival.de](http://www.ardradiofestival.de).

The concert "**Visionary Architects**" will be broadcast as a compilation with Full Blast and "**Stil ist Gewalttat**" (**Style is a Violent Act**) on September 5 during the ARD Radio Festival as part of the concert series that begins at 8 PM on [www.ardradiofestival.de](http://www.ardradiofestival.de).

"**Nachtraum**" (**Night Dream**) will be recorded by the WDR for a radio broadcast and aired at a later date on the show "WDR 3 Konzert" [www.wdr.de](http://www.wdr.de).

**The three-episode dialog series on the nature of human beings** under the direction of Lukas Bärfuss will be recorded for the WDR 3 Forum in cooperation with the Culture Radio WDR 3 as part of the WDR 3 Culture Partnerships. The air dates are August 29, September 5 and 19, 6 PM. [www.wdr.de](http://www.wdr.de).

A vast variety of **introductions to works** and **interviews** will be accessible as ongoing audio programs with constant additions on [www.ruhrtriennale.de](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de).



## **LOCATIONS AND PERFORMANCE VENUES**

**BOCHUM** Jahrhunderthalle Bochum, Turbine Hall and surrounding premises

**DUISBURG** Kraftzentrale and Blower Hall, Landscape Park Duisburg North

### **ESSEN**

Salt Warehouse, UNESCO Cultural  
Heritage Site Zollverein  
Museum Folkwang  
PACT Zollverein  
Former Allbauhaus

**GLADBECK** Machine Hall Zweckel

## **TICKETING**

ONLINE [www.ruhrtriennale.de](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de); BY PHONE AT +49 (0) 221 280-210, Mon – Fri 8 AM to 8 PM / Sat 9 AM – 6 PM / Sun 10 AM – 4 PM.

Combination ticket: The admission tickets are valid for the entire public transportation system Rhine-Ruhr (VRR) throughout the day of the event on all buses and regional transportation trains (2<sup>nd</sup> class) for travel to and from the event location. The tickets are non-transferable.

Deine Triennale! (Your Triennale Passes): Children / school and university students (up to 30 years of age) receive a discount of 50 % upon presentation of relevant documentation.

Last Minute Tickets are available to children, school and university students (up to 30 years of age) starting 30 minutes prior to the event start time for EUR 10; subject to availability. These discounts are also in effect for federal volunteer workers, apprentices and out of work individuals. This discount cannot be combined with the early reservations discount.

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## 03 SPONSORS / SUPPORTERS / PARTNERSHIPS

We would like to express our special gratitude to our sponsors and friends of the Ruhrtriennale. If it were not for their generous support, we would not be able to implement such an ambitious program. Their assistance enables us to enjoy the freedom of realizing ideas and to create a place of extraordinary artistic productions and experiences.

### SHAREHOLDERS AND SPONSORS

Ministerium für  
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## COOPERATIVE AND NETWORK PARTNERSHIPS

The Ruhrtriennale 2021–2023 is a partner of the action network Nachhaltigkeit in Kultur und Medien (Sustainability in Culture and Media), which is supported by the German Federal Government's Commissioner for Culture and Media.

Bochum Marketing / Proust Book Store / Kultur.Pott Ruhr / Museum Folkwang / Publicity Werbung GmbH / Ruhr Tourismus GmbH / Zollverein Foundation / RuhrBühnen / Ströer Media.

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## 04 PRESS RELATIONS

### MEDIA SUPPORT CENTER ON THE WEBSITE

A **media folder, which, among other things, provides brief copy** on all events is available in PDF format for download from [www.ruhrtriennale.de/presse](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de/presse).

In the media support area you will also find a selection of print ready **photographs** that are available without paying a licensing fee. We continually expand this collection.

In this area you will also find the **media accreditation form**. Please submit the completed form to us along with your ticket requests if you have not already done so. You will receive a written confirmation for us, subject to ticket availability.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the accreditation form, you will find information on the **bus shuttle** that is available free of charge for rides from and to the Essen Main Station to the Machine Hall Zweckel in Gladbeck. This service is available for the Concert at the Break of Dawn on August 14 as well as all performance days of "The Downfall of House Usher." Advance registration is mandatory.

We will make every effort to make available to you **audio and video material** of specific productions shortly prior to the start of the festival. If you have any questions, would like to discuss topics and get assistance with advance on location visits, we will be happy to assist you.

### MEDIA RELATIONS

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FESTIVAL DER KÜNSTE \_\_\_\_\_ 2021

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Ministerium für  
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