

DEUTSCHER 20 LA BIENNALE
PAVILLON 19 DI VENEZIA
JESSICA EKOMANE

**KOOPERATIVE FÜR
DARSTELLUNGSPOLITIK**

MAURICE LOUCA

DJ MARFOX

JAKO MARON

TISHA MUKARJI

MAZIYAR PAHLEVAN

SUSANNE SACHSSE

ELNAZ SEYEDI

58TH INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION

Artist: Natascha Süder Happelmann

Curator: Franciska Zólyom

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Supporters and partners

All information for download: www.deutscher-pavillon.org

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DATES

The German Pavilion will be opened on 10 May 2019, the hour will be communicated in due time.

Biennale Arte 2019: 11 May - 24 November 2019

Preview Biennale Arte 2019: 8-10 May 2019

Opening of the German Pavilion: 10 May 2019

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation for the preview can be obtained only through the Biennale Press Office in Venice:

Deadline for professionals: 14 April 2019

Deadline for press registration: 27 April 2019

<https://www.labiennale.org/en/art/2019/accreditation>

“Generally no one does anything alone.” – Helene Duldung

**58TH INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION
11 MAY – 24 NOVEMBER 2019**

Leipzig, 20.2.2019 – A few months before the opening of the 58th International Art Exhibition, Biennale di Venezia, the curator Franciska Zólyom presents an interim report on Natascha Süder Happelmann’s artistic project for the German Pavilion and will also introduce all the artistic contributors.

Some you already know: Helene Duldung, the spokesperson for the artist, is played by Susanne Sachsse, actress, singer, performer, who is equally at home in theatre, film and music and also Mazyar Pahlevan, who is developing the graphic identity of the project. His design framed the first press conference and is also present on the newly updated website. He is designing the project publication, which will be published by Archive Books.

The spatial concept for the pavilion is being developed by Natascha Süder Happelmann in collaboration with the Kooperative für Darstellungspolitik, who carry out research on the representation of political and cultural issues in the public sphere and understand their practice of spatial design as an ongoing contribution to social debate.

Sound will also play a notable role in the pavilion. In this, Natascha Süder Happelmann will be supported by six composers and musicians, who all come from very specific and also different musical traditions:

Jessica Ekomane combines elements of psychoacoustics, traditional music and Gestalt-principles in her work to explore the psychological and physical responses to sound as well as the recipients engagement with a given sound feature, aesthetic stimulus or spatial situation.

The music of Maurice Louca brings together elements of free improvisation, cosmic jazz, trancelike traditional music, Egyptian shaabi, and minimalism in his unique approach. The frenetic and club compatible music of the producer and DJ Marlon Silva aka DJ Marfox combines African-influenced dance music, such as kuduro, kizombo, funaná or tarraxinha with house and techno.

Jako Maron generates binary and ternary rhythms and uses modular synthesis, drum machine and crackle box to transform and reinvent maloya and séga – the two genres of folk music from La Réunion whose origins trace back to communities of African slaves. An interest in silence as a conscious interval characterises the playing of the inside pianist Tisha Mukarji. Raw music blurs the boundaries between improvisation and composition. Influenced by her background in informatics, Elnaz Seyedi composes chamber music for selected ensembles, redefining New Music.

In the development of this project by Natascha Süder Happelmann, as in numerous solo and collective artistic projects previously, collaboration plays a central role. The collaborating participants introduced above contribute conceptual or artistic formulations, specialist knowledge or interdisciplinary dialogue to the realisation of the project for the pavilion. Sociality, as in the endeavour for reciprocal trust and mutual support, is thereby a central interest.

Parallel to the announcement of the artistic contributors, a second video from Natascha Süder Happelmann will be shown for the first time. Along with the video which was released online on the occasion of the press conference in October, it is on the website of the pavilion (www.deutscher-pavillon.org/journal), on social media, and is an integral part of the project.

The German contribution to the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia is realised on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office and in cooperation with ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen).



Auswärtiges Amt



Institut für
Auslandsbeziehungen

DESIGN VISUAL IDENTITY

MAZIYAR PAHLEVAN is a graphic designer based in New York, educated in Iran and at the Royal Academy of Art in the Hague before obtaining his MFA from Yale, New Haven. Prior to moving to the US he was based in Berlin for three years. He is currently teaching at Pratt Institute, New York.

<http://maziarpahlevan.us>

SPOKESPERSON HELENE DULDUNG

SUSANNE SACHSSE is an actress. She was a member of the Berliner Ensemble, where she worked with Heiner Müller, Robert Wilson and Einar Schlegel. She is widely known for her starring roles in numerous films of Bruce LaBruce, including *The Raspberry Reich* (2004), *Pierrot Lunaire* (2016) and *The Misandrists* (2018). She has worked in performance, film, art and music contexts with Yael Bartana, Zach Blas, Phil Collins, Keren Cytter, Josiah McElheny, Vegard Vinge / Ida Müller and Xiu Xiu, among others. Currently, Sachsse is touring in Ligia Lewis's *Water Will (A Melody)* and writing, directing and starring in a feature-length radio play for North German Radio (NDR). Sachsse is lyricist, singer and bassist of the band GIRLS. In 2017, she was honored with a Premio Maguey Queer Icon Award at the Guadalajara International Film Festival.

SPATIAL CONCEPT

The **KOOPERATIVE FÜR DARSTELLUNGSPOLITIK** (JESKO FEZER, ANITA KASPAR, ANDREAS MÜLLER) carries out research on the representation of political and cultural issues in the public sphere. It understands the spatial design of viewer relationships as a contribution to social debate, as a cultural process of both questioning and conviction. The politics of representation it embodies organises these negotiations in space, opening up discursive social spaces. Jesko Fezer, Anita Kaspar and Andreas Müller, former co-editors of the journal *An Architektur*, teach experimental design, urban planning and exhibition design at various universities. They have been working together at their studio for exhibition design since 2008. The exhibitions they design, mainly in the cultural field, include the Design Collection at the Hamburg Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, *The Whole Earth* and other presentations for the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, as well as the travelling exhibitions *Geniale Dilletanten* and *Games and Politics* for the Goethe-Institut.

<https://darstellungspolitik.de>

SOUND COMPOSITION

(Texts by Manuela Benetton)

JESSICA EKOMANE is a composer, musician and sound artist based in Berlin. In her work she combines elements of psychoacoustics, Gestalt and traditional music to explore our psychological and physical responses to sound as well as our engagement with a given sound feature, aesthetic stimulus or spatial information. Her artistic research focuses on how individual characteristics may influence the significance the listener attributes to sound. Also, she questions the way in which individual perception, collective experience and social identity are connected in the music event.

In her compositions and sound installations, the artist provokes cognitive responses through the use of space, technology, field recordings, human voice, objects and raw materials. Following a narrative flow, the sound often operates through contrasts: from noise to melody, from minimal to complex rhythmical structures. The result is an ever-changing soundscape

in which the listener could float endlessly. Jessica Ekomane will release her first album in 2019 via Important Records.

<https://jessicaekomane.com>

The musician and composer MAURICE LOUCA is one of the most prolific and adventurous figures in Egypt's thriving experimental arts scene. Elements of free improvisation, cosmic jazz, trancelike traditional music, Arabic melody and minimalism meet in his wholly unique vision, blurring the borders between composition and improvisation with gorgeously atmospheric results.

In recent years, Louca has gained a global reputation through his remarkable solo albums *Salute the Parrot* (2014) and *Lekhfa* (2017), with an expanding lineup of genre-defying collaborations, most notably his trio The Dwarfs of East Agouza, the multicultural collective Alif, and the bands Bikya, Lekhfa and Karkhana. He has also contributed his North African percussion loops and scintillation keys to other projects, composing for theatre, film and contemporary art.

His latest album *Elephantine* is his most ambitious work to date, but also a bold next step in his development as a composer, arranger and bandleader. For this album Louca is joined by a 12-piece multinational band for a panoramic odyssey through pensive lulls, hard-grooving hypnosis and moments of avant-jazz catharsis.

<https://mauricelouca.bandcamp.com>

DJ MARFOX is the alias of the producer and DJ Marlon Silva, a key figure on Lisbon's Afro-Portuguese electronic scene as well as a renowned name in a worldwide network of dedicated seekers of new directions in electronic social music. He first connected with music in the early 2000s when he heard the kuduro artist DJ Nervoso playing at a party, and left feeling inspired to begin his own productions. Since then, his ascent has been slow and steady. Marfox makes music that is "free", un beholden to any style, although its origins lie in the atmosphere of Lisbon's *African nights* on the edges of the city, where West African zouk rubs up against Brazilian pagode and commercial R'n'B. His unique, frenetic, club-ready music has stylistic depth and incorporates African-influenced dance music such as kuduro, kizomba, funaná, and tarraxinha with traditional house and techno.

Having also released on Lit City Trax, Warp Records, he is one of the figureheads of the roster of Príncipe Discos, the independent label that has harboured a generation of voices from the barrios surrounding Lisbon, exposing the world to their explosive raw energy.

JAKO MARON is the 'sound alien and healer' from the island of La Réunion who makes tradition rhyme with experimentation. He uses modular synthesis, drum machines and a crackle box to reinvent and mutate *Maloya* and *Séga*, the two folk genres on La Réunion whose origins trace back to African slave communities. The artist reimagines the folk music of his homeland, banned until the 1960s due to its strong political engagement, in stripped-down electronic beats, and propels it straight into the future with a new meaning and social usage.

Influenced by old-school hip-hop, electro and dub, he works with slow tempos and a range of hypnotic synthlines to generate binary and ternary rhythms that are dark and inscrutable, yet effective and evocative. "But it is exactly that subtleness that makes this fusion so intriguing: rather than emphasizing the novelty of this folkloric-electronic pairing, Maron opts for a subtler, deeper kind of hybrid." His music is released by the adventurous Ugandan label Nyege Nyege.

<http://www.jakomaron.com>

Artist and composer TISHA MUKARJI is one of the finest inside pianists on the contemporary scene today. She started being interested in piano and piano tuning at a very early age. After studying contemporary music, her enthusiasm for improvisation was ignited during a circuitous route through the Middle East and Europe, where she encountered and collaborated with a variety of musicians with very different styles and artistic languages. Interested in the exploration of silence as absence, Mukarji plays delicate but intense, raw music of great beauty, blurring the boundaries between improvisation and composition. Her confident style of playing is distinct and defined by a great understanding of the instrument, coupled with a sense of timing and attentiveness that give sounds breathing space and a cohesiveness of structure.

Tisha Mukarji, currently based in Paris, has performed and recorded her work extensively in Europe. She is the author of the book *Auscultation* (Argobooks) and has released the records *ffansion | fancies* (2016), *Dots and Lines* (2016), *Schall und Rausch | Vapour* (2014) and *Outwash* (2012).

<http://www.fugitivestudies.com>

With a background in informatics, ELNAZ SEYEDI composes chamber music for selected ensembles, intrepidly redefining New Music. Haptic and tactile as well as atmospheric and spiritual, her compositions move between the severe and the delicate. Inspired by literature, architecture and visual art, Seyedi explores the notions of subjectivity, memory and distance in her work, and questions the individual perspective towards all that is existent.

After studying music theory and composition with Alireza Mashayekhi in Tehran, she continued her studies in Europe with Younghi Pagh-Paan and Jörg Birkenkötter, Günter Steinke and Caspar Johannes Walter. Her music has been performed at numerous festivals, and she is currently a composer in residence at the International Ensemble Modern Academy in Frankfurt.

<http://elnazseyedi.com/>

**NATASCHA SÜDER HAPPELMANN AND FRANCISKA ZÓLYOM COLLABORATE WITH
THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS ON THE REALISATION OF THE PROJECT
"GERMAN PAVILION 2019":**

Ernest Ah

**is developing the Summer School in Venice together with the artist (in collaboration with
Biennale Urbana)**

Sina Ahmadi

works on the sculptural elements of the installation

Manuela Benetton

curates the music programme in Venice and worldwide

Alessandro Borgomainerio, AB VENICE

organises venues in Venice and plans events with local partners

Michele Braga

is responsible for the technical organisation of the musical events in Venice

Louise Bromby and Mark Hamilton/the Kolenda Group

translate and edit the communication material from the German

Beatrice Di Buduo

is responsible for press and public relations

Nicholas Bussmann

is responsible for the implementation of sound technology in the pavilion

Deutschlandfunk Kultur

participates in artistic production and its distribution

Jessica Ekomane, Maurice Louca, DJ Marfox, Jako Maron, Tisha Mukarji, Elnaz Seyedi

each composes a sound contribution for the pavilion

Stefan Fischer

coordinates procedures in the production of the installation at the pavilion

Henriette Gallus

advises on questions of communication strategy

GfZK - Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig

places its infrastructure at the disposal of the project as an institutional partner

Goethe-Institut

is a cooperation partner for the events in Venice and worldwide

Michael Hahn

assists with the realisation of the installation at the pavilion

Katrin Kappenberger
is responsible for project management

Jasper Kettner
accompanies the artist as a photographer during the realisation of the project and the publications

Kooperative für Darstellungspolitik
Anita Kaspar, Jesko Fezer and Andreas Müller design the spatial concept for the pavilion

Felix Meyer
assists the artist and carries out research

Tanja Milewsky
is the editor of the print media and website

Mazyar Pahlevan
designs all publications for the project

Domenik Pasemann
assists with press and public relations work and organises public events

Stefan Pente
advises on the dramaturgy of performative events

pöge druck
produces the printed matter for the German Pavilion

Susanne Sachsse
plays the role of Helene Duldung, Natascha Süder Happelmann's spokeswoman

Joy Tyson
works with Sina Ahmadi on the sculptures

Ulrike Uhlig
programmes the website www.deutscher-pavillon.org

Martin Weigert and Clemens Kusch
from the architectural office cfk architetti in Venice supervise the implementation of structural measures in the pavilion

THE GERMAN PAVILION 2019 IS SUPPORTED BY:

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