

ever elusive
thirty years of transmediale
2 Feb – 5 Mar 2017
HKW and various venues, Berlin



Thirty years of transmediale: Monthly program

with Laurie Anderson, Black Quantum Futurism Collective, UBERMORGEN,
Telekommunisten

Press Accreditation:

If you would like to participate in the excursions or the closing weekend, please apply at press@transmediale.de.

Press Kit:

High-resolution images and further information are available in our [press kit](#).

Berlin, 6 February 2017

transmediale has launched the month-long program of [ever elusive – thirty years of transmediale](#) with sold-out festival days at the newly renovated Haus der Kulturen der Welt.

In addition to the special exhibition “[alien matter](#),” which runs until 5 March 2017 at Haus der Kulturen der Welt, three thematic excursions targeting specific aspects of *ever elusive* take place at different venues in Berlin. The [closing weekend](#) (4–5 March 2017), culminates with a performance by multimedia artist Laurie Anderson, the first in Berlin since five years. On each evening, Anderson presents a recent version of her work *The Language of the Future* and speaks about her career spanning multimedia work shown at past editions of transmediale to her current experiments in VR.

The first excursion [Imaginaries](#) takes place on 8 February 2017 at Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus. *Imaginaries* challenges standardized histories and future trajectories of media practice and theory through discussions and a performance by Rasheedah Phillips and Moor Mother of Black Quantum Futurism Collective.

The panel *Alternative Futurism: Middle-East Imaginaries* responds to current discussions in Gulf futurism. Panelists Bager Akbay, Morehshin Allahyari, Ayhan Ayteş, Ebru Yetişkin, and moderator Jussi Parikka imagine potential outcomes for placing key moments of Western technological histories in media archaeologies of the Middle East.

During the performative reading *Ritual Causality 003*, Rasheedah Phillips and Moor Mother of Black Quantum Futurism Collective weave science fiction realities with African concepts of time, ritual, and sound presenting innovative works that offer practical ways for escaping time loops, oppression vortices, and the digital matrix.

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In the lower foyer, the visitors have the opportunity to browse their book *Black Quantum Futurism Theory & Practice* (2015) while listening to a collection of tracks developed especially for the volume.

Two further installations are also on view in the foyer including *The Watch* by cultural history researcher Sophia Gräfe and artist Darsha Hewitt. The video and installation re-imagines domestic technology from the German Democratic Republic, and sets out to explore how subtle forms of surveillance are felt in domestic and psychic spaces, connecting everyday technology used in the GDR with present-day issues related to privacy and household autonomy.

The Last Angel of History (1996) is an influential video-essay by John Akomfrah and Black Audio Film Collective's Edward George, which looks at the origins, impact, and significance of Afrofuturism and techno music for the black diaspora. It was screened and nominated for an award at transmediale in 1997.

Excursion: Imaginaries, Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus, Luisenstraße 58, 10117 Berlin

8 February 2017, 15:00–20:30

With Bager Akbay, Morehshin Allahyari, Ayhan Ayteş, Sophia Gräfe, Darsha Hewitt, Jussi Parikka, Rasheedah Phillips & Moor Mother (Black Quantum Futurism Collective), and Ebru Yetişkin

The Watch, Installation

By Sophia Gräfe, Darsha Hewitt

The Last Angel of History, Installation

By John Akomfrah / Black Audio Film Collective

Black Quantum Futurism Theory & Practice incl. Soundwaves, Installation

By Rasheedah Phillips & Moor Mother (Black Quantum Futurism Collective)

15:00–15:30, Talk

Always More, Always Less: An introduction to Imaginaries of Media

With Kristoffer Gansing, Sophia Gräfe, and Darsha Hewitt

15:30–17:30, Panel

Alternative Futurism: Middle-East Imaginaries

With Bager Akbay, Morehshin Allahyari, Ayhan Ayteş, and Ebru Yetişkin

Moderated by Jussi Parikka

19:00–20:30, Performance

Ritual Causality 003

With Rasheedah Phillips & Moor Mother (Black Quantum Futurism Collective)

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Upcoming program

18.02.2017, 11:00–21:00 [Excursion: Interventions](#) at ver.di
With Tatiana Bazzichelli, Laboria Cuboniks, Jonas Lund, Sebastian Olma, Sebastian Schmiege, Telekommunisten, UBERMORGEN, and others

24.02.2017, 11:00–22:00 [Excursion: Ecologies](#) at silent green Kulturquartier
With Mycelium Network Society (Shu Lea Cheang, Saša Spačal u.a.), Shift Register (Martin Howse, Jamie Allen, Jonathan Kemp), Joanna Zylinska, and others

04. + 05.03.2017 [Closing Weekend](#) at Haus der Kulturen der Welt
With Friederike Anders, Laurie Anderson, Emilien Awada & Constanze Ruhm, Christophe Bruno, Florian Cramer, Valie Djordjevic, Rotraut Pape, and Caspar Stracke

A press release introducing the excursions *Interventions* and *Ecologies*, as well as the closing weekend program will be sent out separately.

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transmediale is a project by Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH in collaboration with Haus der Kulturen der Welt. The festival has been funded as a cultural institution of excellence by Kulturstiftung des Bundes since 2004.

The special exhibition “alien matter” is co-financed by Berlin LOTTO Foundation.

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