

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



Thirty years of transmediale: Excursions *Interventions* and *Ecologies*

With UBERMORGEN, Telekommunisten, Shu Lea Cheang, Martin Howse, Jamie Allen, Joanna Zylinska, Jonas Lund & Sebastian Schmiegl, and others

Press Accreditation:

To participate in the excursions or closing weekend, please register at press@transmediale.de.

Press Kit:

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

Berlin, 17 February 2017

Last Wednesday, transmediale continued the month-long program of [ever elusive – thirty years of transmediale](#) with the excursion *Imaginaires* at Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus which culminates in two performances and a talk by Laurie Anderson during the closing weekend (4–5 March 2017).

Before the closing weekend transmediale moves further throughout the city with two upcoming excursions: Tomorrow's excursion *Interventions* takes place at ver.di and *Ecologies* will be held at silent green Kulturquartier on 24 February 2017.

The *Interventions* excursion focuses on new approaches to immanent critique, opposition, and collective organization in relation to the crisis of datafied politics and digital populism. It examines the possibilities and constraints of critical empowerment when political parties, security agencies, and platform companies embrace disruptive practices and subversive strategies.

As part of the program, the artist group UBERMORGEN gives a talk about “Binary Primitivism”. The term, coined by the group, promotes digital art aimed at simplifying depictions of machine aesthetics and targets an artistic return to the pre-post Internet. UBERMORGEN demands the reconstruction and re-contextualization of the “primitive” figure in contemporary media culture, which is characterized by extreme divisions.

Diann Bauer, Tatiana Bazzichelli, Jonas Lund, Sebastian Olma, and Sebastian Schmiegl participate in the panel *On Subversion and Beyond: Reconsidering the Politics of Resistance and Interference*, moderated by Daphne Dragona. Panelists discuss possibilities

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for intervening in current political systems and pre-existing infrastructures, starting with interpretations of terms like subversion and disruption—once connected to artistic practice, as well as network research and hacktivism, they have now become integral parts of economic models, and the rise of digital populism.

The evening ends with a delegate assembly within the framework of the *Telekommunist International*, commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the Putilov Strike in 1917 and the subsequent Russian Revolution. The Telekommunisten, a Berlin-based collective whose work investigates the political economy of communications technology, will engage attendees with the 100 year old vision in order to develop a new social agenda for the next 100 years.

Excursion: Interventions, ver.di, Paula-Thiede-Ufer 10, 10179 Berlin

18 February 2017

With Tatiana Bazzichelli, Željko Blaće, Daphne Dragona, Baruch Gottlieb & Dmytri Kleiner (Telekommunisten), Seda Gürses, Laboria Cuboniks, Jonas Lund & Sebastian Schmieg,

Ewa Majewska, Diana McCarty, Gavin Mendel-Gleason, Sebastian Olma, Daniel Tirado, and UBERMORGEN

More about the Interventions program [here](#).

For the excursion **Ecologies** on 24 February 2017, transmediale moves to silent green Kulturquartier. The event features new artistic research into messy, disperse ecologies, which characterize planetary life, as it is re-constructed in flows of data, capital, and natural resources. In order to make the underlying planetary systems more tangible, the micro- and macro-political will be connected and the problematics of scale are brought to the foreground through talks, installations, a performance, and a workshop. The program also deals with the resource heavy realities of technology, its impact on the earth from a geological “deep time” perspective, and looks at new approaches to earth's native media such as mushrooms and rocks.

On view at silent green are two installations:

In their art project *T-Shroom*, Katrīna Neiburga and Art bureau OPEN promote the symbolic values of the tea-mushroom, better known as kombucha—a bacterial organism producing fermented teas ranked among traditional drinks of the Baltic states and Russia for more than a century. In 1999, Latvian artists smuggled a t-shroom over the border of Sweden as an alleged Eastern European refugee, endangered in its homeland by the invasion of global soft drink brands like Coca-Cola.

In the biotechnologically responsive installation *Mycophone_unison*, Saša Spačal, Mirjan Švagelj, and Anil Podgornik theorize that the human body can no longer be seen as a unified entity due to its plurality of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, and archaea. The artwork takes the form of a celestial map, serving as a navigation tool for exploring this multiplicity.

Jamie Allen and Martin Howse from the artist group Shift Register will host another program workshop. In the light of the shifts between industrialized capitalism and the knowledge afforded by techno-science, the group's project maps human activities on earth, and registers indicators as ambiguous negotiations and signposts of planetary exhaustion. Their

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fieldwork translates earth media using a custom built Earth Lab—a research, workshop, and exhibition site made for publicly examining, presenting, and discussing their findings.

Martin Howse also performs the sound piece *Terra Muta 000* within a dirty laboratory setting, giving voice to the silent earth, the crow, and the darkened earth worm (*Lumbricus terrestris*). Both the crow and the worm are creatures that give and take material voice from the earth, and are implicated mythically and materially within cycles of decay, death, and rebirth.

A feature talk with Art Laboratory Berlin inaugurates the new Mycelium Network Society including members Art bureau OPEN, Shu Lea Cheang, Katrīna Neiburga, Anil Podgornik, Saša Spačal, Mirjan Švagelj, and Taro. The underground network investigates fungi culture as “the neurological network of nature” because of its ability to communicate and process information. In our post-digital, post-media, post-internet, and post-enlightenment era, the group considers mycelium as a potential solution for strategizing new political tactics and salvaging economic meltdown.

Excursion: Ecologies, silent green Kulturquartier, Gerichtstraße 35, 13347 Berlin
24 February 2017

With Jamie Allen & Martin Howse (Shift Register), Art bureau OPEN, Shu Lea Cheang & Katrīna Neiburga & Anil Podgornik & Saša Spačal & Mirjan Švagelj & Franz Xaver & Taro (Mycelium Network Society), Christian de Lutz & Regina Rapp (Art Laboratory Berlin), and Joanna Zylinska

More about the *Ecologies* excursion [here](#).

Upcoming program

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

Press releases introducing the performances of Laurie Anderson as well as the closing weekend program will be sent out separately.

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

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.

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