We are
8 European festivals and forums

C/O POP FESTIVAL & C/O POP CONVENTION
COLOGNE, GERMANY

ELEVATE - MUSIC, ARTS & POLITICAL DISCOURSE
GRAZ, AUSTRIA

INSOMNIA & MOVEMENT + NEW IDEAS
TROMSØ, NORWAY

NUITS SONORES & EUROPEAN LAB FORUM
LYON, FRANCE

REWORKS FESTIVAL & REWORKS AGORA
THESSALONIKI, GREECE

SÓNAR & SÓNAR+D
BARCELONA, SPAIN

TODAYSART & TODAYSART CONTEXT PROGRAM
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

UNSOUND FESTIVAL & UNSOUND FORUM
KRAKOW, POLAND

joining forces to bring together artists, thinkers, journalists and citizens to shape tomorrow’s culture.
What do we do?

The Faces of We are Europe
We collectively curate and present a yearly selection of new faces. They are artists, activists, researchers or journalists — among many other professions and fields of activity — and belong to a new European generation of changemakers who inspire us through their talent, commitment and conviction.

Overseas events
Once per year, we travel beyond Europe to build bridges with other cultural scenes all over the world, and present our cultural, artistic and entrepreneurial vision to new audiences.

We are Europe’s media platform
We are in the process of launching a new collaborative media platform which will amplify the voices of those advocating for a more inclusive, progressive and democratic idea of Europe. It will rely on international contributors and perspectives, as well as a diversity of formats and languages.

Co-programming activities
Each year, each of the festivals is invited to co-programme within two other cooperation festivals. This exchange broadens the programming spectrum of each event, opening it up to new aesthetics and other artistic scenes, while also introducing artists and speakers to new audiences.
Every year, We are Europe chooses a panel of European change makers; individuals who are pushing ‘reset’ on the European project through music, culture, new European democratic energies, and the renewal of entrepreneurial uses and practices.

Then, We are Europe selects European personalities who stand out for their artistic talent, their commitment and their capacity to inspire social and cultural change at the European level.

They may be musicians, DJs, journalists, new media figures, authors, designers, visual artists, chefs, directors, philosophers, playwrights or cultural entrepreneurs.

This generation of European actors are representative of the core issues addressed by We are Europe:

— The increased appreciation of emerging and innovative European art scenes, above all in the domains of music, visual art, digital creation, design, graphics and cuisine,
— The emergence of European cultural entrepreneurship as a force for change within the social economy,
— The redefinition of democratic issues to drive a newly social, cultural, forward-thinking and progressive Europe,
— The greater role for culture and education in the reconstruction of the European project.

When a personality agrees on being part of We are Europe, they become part of a family:

— they are invited to minimum one of the events of the cooperation,
— as We are Europe is creating a new web media, their profile, and especially the reasons why they are part of We are Europe, will be editorially highlighted, during the year, on our website and social networks,
— they are invited to meet their counterparts in our events and build with us a community sharing the same values.
We are Europe in 2020

Back in February 2020, we presented the first part of our yearly selection, curated by Elevate Festival, c/o pop Festival & Convention, Nuits Sonores & European Lab and Sónar Festival & Sónar+. We had plans to announce the second part in April. However, the sanitary crisis that unfolded worldwide brought most of our activities to a halt.

Elevate Festival 2020 took place just a week before the Austrian lockdown. The rest of our events could not go ahead as originally planned, considered the bans on large physical gatherings that were enforced in numerous European countries.

We decided to shift most of our activities online to adapt to these new conditions. Such unprecedented circumstances gave way to a series of hybrid events, half-physical, half-online, that took place all throughout the autumn:

— 18—19 September: Sónar+D CCCB
— 26—27 September: Reworks connekt
— 01—11 October: Unsound: Intermission
— 21—24 October: c/o pop xoxo
— 22—25 October: Insomnia Festival

In such times, we deemed it more necessary than ever to carry on with our yearly selection of Faces of We are Europe, as a means to support the voices that we find most inspiring and amplify the narratives that will shape tomorrow’s Europe.

In November 2020, time has come for TodaysArt, Reworks Festival & Reworks Agora, Unsound and Insomnia to reveal their nominations.
The Faces of We are Europe 2020
Part 1
Part 2
Agnès Salson is a graduate of the operation and distribution sections of the French cinema school La Fémis. In 2014, she launched the Tour des Cinémas project with her partner Mikael Arnal. Through this project, they traveled across France for a whole summer to discover independent cinemas. The following year, they hit the road to meet European cinemas to explore how these places are reinventing themselves. Together, they document in the book *Cinema Makers* emerging trends in independent film area. Coming back from this trip, they co-founded the ephemeral cinema *La Forêt Électrique* in Toulouse. After this experiment, they won the “Dessine-Moi Toulouse” call for projects to settle permanently in old carpentry workshops and invent a new cinema model mixing creation and distribution, a true Cinema Factory.

**Why Agnès Salson?**
Because her work on cinema and the industry revolving around it is fascinating and profoundly enlightening. She traveled around Europe prior to opening her own cinema to document new, exciting practices, and put forward propositions to reinvent this industry, particularly its independent branch. We hope that her presence in the pool will enable *We are Europe* to be more in touch with cinema networks.
Ali Mahmut Demirel, who studied nuclear engineering and architecture, lives and works in Berlin. He is known for his experimental video practice, in which he employs minimal imagery to create structural compositions that deal with concepts mostly derived from science, architecture and nature.

In mid-2010s, he started using interactive computer-generated images to create interactive live A/V performances. He also initiated a collaboration with electronic music producer Richie Hawtin (aka Plastikman) around the same time, exploring abstract minimal imagery with synchronised sound. Demirel is known across minimal electronic music scene for his singular visual aesthetic developed during that period.

Why Ali Demirel?
We all know Ali M Demirel for his outstanding scenography and videography of Ritchie Hawtin, but it was time to give a platform for this very talented Artist, and Filmmaker to develop his own work. His background in nuclear engineering and architecture are reflected in his edgy and experimental works which are influenced by nature and society. For TodaysArt Festival 2015, he created 'The Pier', a film with footage he shot of The Pier just before the renovation started. For the film, he collaborated with Biosphere, who created an exclusive soundtrack. Fascinated by the way nature took over what humans failed to do, Demirel tried to capture the beauty of the devastating conditions.

More recently we invited him to the Ulaan Bator International Media Art Festival for which he created the first full dome project to be ever presented in Mongolia, called "Ovoo" which is a work in progress on Mongolia in collaboration with Carlota Marques Nadoki Studios & Emilio Arias World.

ali-m.de
ali.m.demirel
ali_m_demirel
vimeo.com/magnetmus
alllone
Artist
Austria

The project alllone was founded by three producers based in Graz and Vienna. Formed out of loneliness, they joined forces to continue their quest through electronic beatmaking. Gravitating towards 170bpm, but never limited, they seek for harmonic and distorted sounds in their productions. Together with Deafblind, three Graz based artists, who generate live visuals and projection mappings, they will present a brand new A/V work.

Why alllone?
Because they are up and rising artist collective from Graz & Vienna, spreading their tentacles into the international scene of 170bpm electronica.

alllone_official
soundcloud.com/alllone
AND.ID
Artist
Greece

After almost two decades, AND.ID remains one of the main ambassadors of the Greek electronic music scene. Whether it's house or techno, melodic or organic, percussive grooves, or rough and edgy snares, one thing is certain: whether on deck live, playing records or leading a full band, AND.ID delivers.

He released his latest album, *Algol Paradox*, in June 2020 to widespread critical acclaim.

Why AND.ID?
He is one of the first artists emerging from Thessaloniki with an international career. He has released most of his production on mobilee records. AND.ID’s latest LP got positive feedback from the likes of Dixon, Michael Mayer and more. He also worked on an exclusive project and collaborated with the Symphony Orchestra of Thessaloniki to reinterpret his latest LP as part of Reworks connekt.

soundcloud.com/and-id
and.idofficial
ANDIDLIVE
and.idofficial
AVEC
Artist
Austria

AVEC appeared seemingly out of nowhere in 2015. With the release of her debut EP "Heartbeats", the young Upper Austrian has bridged the gap between writing heart-felt lyrics and experimenting with textural sounds. Distancing herself from negative life experiences, AVEC simultaneously shared her own creative story through the powerful portrayal of human life and emotions through her music. Although inspired by the likes of Bon Iver, John Mayer, The Lumineers, Oscar and the Wolf, Kings of Leon, Daughter, RYX, AVEC succeeds in creating her own language, where her imagination and ideas come together in her music. Her sound is melancholic but hopeful.

**Why AVEC?**
Because the Austrian singer-songwriter AVEC has a unique way of using her lyrics to dissect central ideas about the human condition (e.g. forgetting, repressing and forgiving), allowing us to feel like we are all 'in this' together.
Carin Abdulá
Head Agent — OUTER Agency
Portugal & United Kingdom

Carin Abdulá is the Head Agent of OUTER, the agency and management arm of Berlin Atonal.

With a decade of experience in the music industry ranging from promoting small shows to booking worldwide tours, Abdulá has always been deeply dedicated to championing the independent spirit.

**Why Carin Abdulá?**
Carin knows the music industry backwards — having been an experienced agent and music promoter. She is an active and outspoken member of the music scene, trying to underline its unsustainability and looking for ways to fix its foundations. During the 2020 edition of Unsound, she presented a workshop on intersectional diversity, together with Lyra Pramuk and Niks Delancey.
Carmen Villain
Artist
Norway & Mexico

Norwegian-Mexican artist and producer Carmen Villain makes atmospheric music made up of tapestries of field-recordings, flute, piano, vocals, zither, programmed drums and synths, culminating in her own distinctive sound combining elements of fourth world ambient, experimental pop with an electro-acoustic vibe.

Her latest album Both Lines Will Be Blue (2020) is her third, and first fully instrumental album for Smalltown Supersound. A 7-track collection of cosmic fourth world excursions and dubby ambient jams, the album is written, recorded, played, produced and mixed by Villain in her Oslo studio.

Why Carmen Villain?
She creates a wonderful silky, downtempo ambient with magical flute accompagnement which was nominated to the Norwegian Grammy for 2019.

carmenvillain.bandcamp.com
carmenvillain
carmenvillain
carmenvillain
Caroline Sinders is a machine-learning-design researcher and artist. For the past few years, she has been examining the intersections of natural language processing, artificial intelligence, abuse, online harassment, and politics in digital, conversational spaces. Sinders is the founder of Convocation Design + Research, an agency focusing on the intersections of machine learning, user research, designing for public good, and solving difficult communication problems. As a designer and researcher, she’s worked with Amnesty International, Intel, IBM Watson, the Wikimedia Foundation, and others.

**Why Caroline Sinders?**
Because she is a young artist and technologist researching online harassment, and also a great speaker interested in a variety of related themes. In a moment where we talk about “safe spaces” all the time, and this “safe spaces” pop-up in many cities across the globe, we believe that it is time to wonder about how safe the Internet is for women and non-binary people. As it turns out, it is not at the moment. How can we build safe spaces online? How can we reclaim social networks to be safe spaces? Interestingly enough, parallels can also be drawn between club culture and online communities.
Casual Gabberz
Artist
France

The declared mission of the Paris collective Casual Gabberz is to free Gabber from its negative image and bring it back into the clubs. Their Dj sets resemble a hysterical freakout in which tracks from Happy Hardcore, Trance and Hardstyle genres, i.e. sounds that rely on powerful basses and flashy melodic synths, are mixed up.

Why Casual Gabberz?
Because they deliver a much needed refreshment in the clubbing landscape, pushing the boarders and unifying audiences all over the spectrum.

casualgabberzrecords.bandcamp.com
casualgabberz
Chal Ravens
Music journalist
United Kingdom

Chal Ravens is a music journalist writing about electronic music, club culture and the climate crisis. She currently contributes to The Wire, Resident Advisor, The Guardian, FACT and Bandcamp.

Why Chal Ravens?
Because she dedicates a lot of her work to the links between climate change and club culture, electronic and dance music, which are important and pressing topics. As a journalist, she will also be involved in our web media. Beyond her journalism work, Chal Ravens is also a green activist. She notably founded Clean Scene, an initiative aimed at helping actors of the music industry, including booking agencies or promoters among others, to measure their impact on climate change.
Cocky Eek studied Fashion Design at the Utrecht School of the Arts 1989-1993 and graduated with a final collection Fashion is So Ugly You Have to Change it Every Half Year. Through the years Eek’s favorite materials became wind and air, as she began designing lightweight spatial compositions, floating or flying experiments and large, voluminous forms. Her artistic design practice nowadays consists in creating synaesthetic experiences; dealing with the interplay of all senses.

She was an active member of FoAM, an international cultural laboratory in Brussels, between 2001 and 2016. She also co-founded FoAM Amsterdam in 2005, and received the Prix Ars Electronica Honorary Mention 2011 for the urban foraging project Boskoi. Her work has been presented at Sonic Acts (NL), Le Lieu Unique (FR), Ars Electronica (AUS), ISEA Albuquerque (USA), Todaysart (NL), AxS festival (USA) and the Oerol Festival (NL), among many other platforms.

Why Cocky Eek?
This artist, teacher and researcher is for many years inspiring us with her tactile research lab and her research on pneumatology. Cocky Eek, creates magical chemistry with elemental grace of air, perceptions and space in her neumatological, inflatable art works.

In her latest collaborative work “Spectrum” she created a performative spatial installations that makes colours tactile and tangible. The aspect of touch and physicality is becoming more and more important in these times of isolation.
Conny Frischauf
Artist
Austria

After 20 years in the lab Conny Frischauf releases her debut EP for International Major Label. - Effekt und Emotion is on point when it comes to songwriting, sound aesthetic and craftsmanship. Made with a deep understanding of soundscapes and pop culture, the musical language of Conny Frischauf breathes a magical and melancholic vibe that transfers itself into the subconscious of the listener without any comment. Full of unexpected moves and elegant references which disappear right before getting aware.

Music for advanced dreamers. Discrete, unique, peerless and therefore a perfect match for the IML collection.

Why Conny Frischauf?
Because the out-of-the-box-musician and artist Conny Frischauf is not trying to fit into the established hierarchic structures of art producing, thus making herself the most promising young artist coming from Austria.
“Crystal Ball” hosted by House of Saint Laurent Europe
Artists & Performers International

The ballroom finds its origin in the homo-/transsexual and African-/Latin American scene of New York in the 1960s and 70s. Within these safe space events members of the ballroom community had the chance to celebrate their individuality through an expressive dance style known as Voguing. It is comprised of fashion worldly model poses, which were evaluated by a selected jury. The collective “House of Saint Laurent” (before “The House of Melody”) brought the exceptional concept to Germany and is also presenting the show at the Bürgerzentrum Ehrenfeld.

Why “Crystal Ball” hosted by House of Saint Laurent Europe?
Because The Crystal Ball is a no-brainer: The chance to host Cologne’s first Voguing-Ball is a golden opportunity to raise awareness about ballroom culture, to create a space of free expression and to encourage bombastic self-love within the LGBTQ+/PoC community.

thehouseofmelody.com
TheHouseOfMelody
houseofstlaurenteurope
Dafni Bechtsi
Founder & CEO — CINOBO
Greece

Why Dafni Bechtsi?
She is the creator of CINOBO, the Greek movie streaming platform. Sometimes called the "Greek Netflix", it was launched when the first quarantine started — offering Greece a large panel of independent productions, classics, documentaries, movies shown at festivals or experimental movies, trying to share the productions hard to reach. She is an inspiration as she shows that national platforms don’t have to fear giants like Netflix and can actually find great success locally.

Dafni is the Managing Director, Founder and CEO of CINOBO, a Greek streaming service for independent cinema.

She founded the company while she was completing a PhD in Molecular Parasitology at the University of Glasgow (Scotland): “there is a gap in demand for independent cinema. Going to major festivals in recent years, I realized the wealth of content that is available worldwide and that unfortunately rarely reaches the eyes of the public.” I wanted to recommend a film to friends I knew would not be able to find anywhere,” she says.
Danai Nielsen is a solo dream-pop, synth-based composer and singer, who uses voice FX to create musical dialogues between a male and a female alter ego persona. Her live performances involve creating music in real-time, using samples, loops and organic sounds. Her sound is described as dream pop.

Since going solo in 2019, she has completed a tour across Europe, performed at festivals such as Taste the Music, FiftyFifty Lab & Reeperbahn (Athens, Belgium, Hamburg) and released her debut album *Unbelievable* on United We Fly.

**Why Danai Nielsen?**
Danai Nielsen is an amazing performer and the new hope of Hellenic Electronic pop. We believe she has a bright future.
Why Dasha Rush?
We find Dasha Rush to be a fascinating artist and activist, at once committed to genre-bending experimentations and driven by a desire to explore the boundaries of her art. She has explored the realms of contemporary music and dance, but has also continually sought to build new bridges with technology and performance art. She is also a risk-taker and a sharp mind, who has an acute awareness of the interconnections between art and activism.

Dasha Rush is pushing back the boundaries on all fronts. At the cutting edge of her art, she regularly throws herself into the deepest waters of techno in order to extract its purest essence, in addition to collaborating on projects blending artistic creation, dance and music – including Les Territoires Éphémères, which she presented at Nuits Sonores Brussels. Ambient and atmospheric, but without ever losing sight of its musical sensibilities, her sound is a welcome respite from the frenzy of the dancefloor.
Dave O’Donnell
Music producer
United Kingdom

Why Dave O’Donnell?
Because Dave O’Donnell has extensive experience in radio and podcast production, across different topics (music, economics, politics) and media (the Guardian, the Economist, and the BBC). What we liked the most about him is that he works in voice technologies, researching ways in which voice experiences can be integrated in media in innovative and meaningful ways.
David Möllerstedt
Head of Audio — Teenage Engineering
Sweden

David Möllerstedt is the co-founder and Head of Audio at Teenage Engineering, a Stockholm-based electronics company which develops and produces synthesizers. Möllerstedt’s early career started at Swedish synth manufacturer Elektron, and his prior experience includes five years at EA DICE as Head of Audio, working on games such as the Battlefield franchise and Mirror’s Edge. Teenage Engineering was established in 2005 by Möllerstedt, Jesper Kouthoofd, David Eriksson and Jens Rudberg, and is known for its core product OP-1, a portable all-in-one synthesizer, sampler and sequencer. Möllerstedt has also been involved in a number of music productions since the 1990s.

Why David Möllerstedt?
Because David Möllerstedt is one of four founders of Teenage Engineering, a Swedish consumers electronics company and manufacturer based in Stockholm. Its products include electronics and synthesizers, with its core product being the OP-1. Musicians who use Teenage Engineering products include Beck, Bon Iver, or Depeche Mode. With the OP-1 (and other instruments) Teenage Engineering developed an iconic tool, both in the sense of design and usability.

teenage.engineering
teenageengineering
jugendingenieur
teenageengineering
Based in Oslo, Norway, composer, musician and music producer Helge Sten (aka Deathprod) has been crafting his music since the early 90s, a deeply atmospheric, grainy minimalism that slows time down and explores the very particles of sound itself. The Deathprod concept arose in 1991 when Sten realized his complex array of homemade electronics, samplers, sound processing and analogue effects — cumulatively known as the “Audio Virus” — could add a musical dimension above and beyond the merely technical. Almost obsolete samplers and playback devices distort and transform sounds into unrecognizable mutations of their former selves. The virus breeds layers of complex and overlapping sonic debris, creating a kind of cellular composition.

**Why Deathprod?**

A stalwart in the Norwegian experimental electronic music scene. He released his first album 15 years ago now, so we wanted to catch up with Deathprod and get our bodies massaged by his physical onslights of dark ambient, drone and noise in a spectacular and unique architectural venue — The Arctic Cathedral.

depthprod.com
depthprod.bandcamp.com
depthprod
Why Dj Marcelle?
Because whether that is between nationalities, genres, or anything else. DJ Marcelle is the perfect example of a We are Europe artist in that regard; a lifelong vinyl collector who has gained a new public thanks to her idiosyncratic mixes of global dance music from any genre.

Although DJ Marcelle has been collecting music longer than most of us have been alive, she still feels like The Netherlands’ sweetheart. She’s an artist with a mischievous, rule-bending and almost ironic approach to her DJing, producing and radio hosting – cut with her trademark wit yet supported by an unquestionable amount of skill. Well known for her three-turntable setup, DJ Marcelle makes compositions out of songs and symphonies out of mixes – colliding disparate genres, appropriated vocal snippets and warped soundscapes into a giant Frankenstein-like melting pot. Her performances are “inventive, euphoric and above all powerful.” in Resident Advisor
Dmitry Gelfand & Evelina Domnitch
Artists
Russia & Belarus

Dmitry Gelfand (b.1974, St. Petersburg, Russia) and Evelina Domnitch (b. 1972, Minsk, Belarus) create sensory immersion environments that merge physics, chemistry and computer science with uncanny philosophical practices. Current findings, particularly regarding wave phenomena, are employed by the artists to investigate questions of perception and perpetuity. Such investigations are salient because the scientific picture of the world, which serves as the basis for contemporary thought, still cannot encompass the unrecordable workings of consciousness.

Having dismissed the use of recording and fixative media, Domnitch and Gelfand’s installations exist as ever-transforming phenomena offered for observation. Because these rarely seen phenomena take place directly in front of the observer without being intermediated, they often serve to vastly extend the observer’s sensory envelope. The immediacy of this experience allows the observer to transcend the illusory distinction between scientific discovery and perceptual expansion.

Why Dmitry Gelfand & Evelina Domnitch?
Evelina Domnitch and Dmitry Gelfand have been an artist duo since 1998. Their work is characterized by a serious exposition of quantum mechanics and philosophy - but expressed in aesthetic, immersive works - in which experience is central. What in science often only manifests itself in data, in their art becomes ‘sense data’, sensory data. The installations provide access to a reality that we know in theory, but which usually escapes our senses.

We appreciate the way in which Domnitch and Gelfand succeed in making processes that we know thanks to science tangible. They manage to keep the mystery of almost unknown phenomena intact and to show it to us. Without exception, their work can be enjoyed without prior knowledge. It shows the beauty of the processes in all their simplicity, not spectacular, not explosive, but very subtle and elegant.

**Why Félicia Atkinson?**
Felicia’s interdisciplinary approach to composition makes her a unique voice. Her music is subtle and erudite, full of threads and hints that require patience and focus - a state so needed in 2020. She also co-runs the fantastic independent imprint Shelter Press, where she publishes music and books.

feliaatkinson.com
feliciaatkinson.bandcamp.com
atkinsonfelicia
felicia_atkinson
Fiori Zafeiropoulou
Coordinator — Fashion Revolution Greece
Greece

Fiori is an academic and social entrepreneur. She is the Country Coordinator of the global movement Fashion Revolution.org in Greece and the Coordinator of Raise Your Voice Festival to end modern slavery and climate change.

She is also the founder of Social Fashion Factory – SOFFA.gr that targets environmental regeneration and social inclusion of victims of slavery and refugees. She was the central speaker at UN Women Day 2018 & the central character of the Swiss documentary ‘One Over Many’ by Daphne Bengoa, Produced by Fluxum Foundation.

Why Fiori Zafeiropoulou?
Fiori Zafeiropoulou is the voice of the Fashion Revolution movement in Greece and has an influence internationally. Fiori is mainly active in the fight against modern-slavery and climate change related to the fashion industry. She advocates for it to become clean, safe, transparent and accountable.

fashionrevolution.org/europe/greece
soffa.gr
Florence To
Artist & director
United Kingdom

Why Florence To?
We chose Florence To because of her unique style and multiple skills for creative technology – even beyond visuals and scenography, which is the field she is most known for. She can give talks, workshops, create installations or provide visuals and scenography for musicians.

Artist and director Florence To designs and produces sound and light installations creating generative motion graphics with a strong focus on architectural spatial design in site specific projects. The Scottish born artist graduated from The Glasgow School of Art in 2008 with a Masters in Design originally specializing in textiles and tailoring. She merged her skills with digital technologies in 2011 to develop installations in underground and disused spaces using its defects as an advantage. Through working in various disparate architectural environments guided her process further into exploring the effects of cognitive and emotional triggers, and how different sensory arrangements are experienced within space.

florence-to.com
florence.to
Francis Gay
Journalist
Germany

Francis has directed key world / folk / pop festivals and organises many concerts across Germany. Long-time freelance journalist, DJ and world music consultant, Francis Gay is a radio producer, Head of Music at WDR Funkhaus Europa in Cologne. With a huge network in Germany, he is a very influential taste-maker in world, folk and crossover projects.

Why Francis Gay?
Francis Gay is one of the most renowned journalists and experts for Global Pop in Germany and Europe. For many years he has been the music director of one of the best public radio stations (WDR COSMO) in Germany and is active as a DJ. His latest project “The Sound of the Revolution” traces the current worldwide protest movements based on their soundtracks.
Gaika
Artist
United Kingdom

Gaika is an English rapper born and raised in Brixton. His music is a fascinating blend of grime, dance hall, garage, hip hop and R&B. His debut album Basic Volume was released this year, and described by the artist himself as a "collection of alchemical parables for all the Immigrants who wander the earth in search of themselves".

Why Gaika?
Gaika is an uncompromising artist and performer, focused on creating new independent networks for black artists from the UK. In 2020, he launched a series of streaming events named Nine Nights, together with the Spectacular Empire collective.
Born in Rabat, Morocco, Glitter ٥٥ arrived in Lille, with her Chaabi roots and honed electronic selections. These days she lives in Paris and her sound is a mix of her North-African influences, ethereal techno and cosmic disco, in particular during her residencies at Rinse France.

**Why Glitter ٥٥?**
Because, while refuting "oriental music" or "arabic techno" labels, Glitter ٥٥ perfectly mixes the influence of the African continent in general, and particularly of South and East Africa as well as Maghreb. She has unearthed rai titles and forgotten popular Arabic music by crossing them with an eclectic repertoire, crisscrossing the continents and engaging in a dialogue of cultures.
GoGo Penguin
Artist
United Kingdom

Manchester-based leftfield piano trio GoGo Penguin are Chris Illingworth piano, Nick Blacka bass and Rob Turner drums. Their music has been described as acoustic-electronica but they draw equally on rock, jazz and minimalism, computer game soundtracks and glitchy-electronica to create their unique music. Their 2014 album v2.0 (Gondwana Records) was named a Mercury Prize album of the year alongside albums from Damon Albarn, Young Fathers and Jungle. In 2015 they signed to Blue Note Records and released the albums Man Made Object in 2016 and A Humdrum Star in 2018. Their EP, Ocean in a Drop (Music for Film) is released in October 2019 and they are currently recording a new album for release in 2020.

Why GoGo Penguin?
Because the Manchester-based trio GoGo Penguin immediately appealed to us because their avant-garde experimentalism and progressivism have put jazz on the map again.

gogopenguin.co.uk
gogopenguin
gogo_penguin
gogo_penguin
Gudrun Gut
Artist
Germany

Gudrun Gut is regarded as an icon of the early Berlin underground on stage. As a founding member of bands like Malaria! or Matador and former member of Einstürzende Neubauten, Gut is regarded as a central figure of the German industrial and post-punk scene of the 1980s. With her solo project, gender activist Gut presents enigmatic electro-pop, in which lascivious spoken word, hypnotic synth sounds and minimal techno beats come together in an idiosyncratic way.

Why Gudrun Gut?
Because, hailing from the Berlin’s subculture of the 70’s, Gudrun Gut still carries the flag of the musical evolution, always being authentic in her approach to the avant-garde electronic music. Her contribution to the rise of female* artists through her Monika label remains incomparable.

gudrungut.com

gudrun.gut

gutgudrun
Hyphen-Labs is an international design studio working at the intersection of technology, art, science, and the future. Through their global vision and multi-disciplinary backgrounds, they are driven to create engaging ways to explore planetary-centered design. In the process they challenge conventions and stimulate conversations, placing collective needs and experiences at the center of evolving narratives.

Hyphen Labs was founded by Carmen Aguilar y Wedge and Ece Tankal, who work with a group of collaborators from all over the world.

Why Hyphen-Labs?
They use cutting edge technologies that blur the borders between virtual and real, and they use this technologies to address questions about gender, feminism, environmentalism, socio-politics and more. With their considerable number of collaborators from all over the world, they also strengthen the visibility of women working with emerging technologies.
Ikram Bouloum
Artist & Researcher
Morocco & Spain

Ikram Bouloum is a force of artistic impulse in many directions. Born in Torelló to Moroccan parents, Ikram has been living in Barcelona for eight years, where she has developed her artistic side as a dj, playing at most of the Barcelona clubs and parties. Her sessions are conceived as a narrative form, a kind of sonic literature, and her club utopia is a polyphonic space where many voices are represented at once.

Ikram is also part of the renovated Vol venue in Barcelona and she is a member of the Zen 55 collective, formed by artists that use the party space to experiment, learn or research their ideal club, either from a sensorial experience or as thought.

Why Ikram Bouloum?
Not only is Ikram breaking new ground sonically as a unique voice in forward thinking club music, she’s also a great example of the power in community and scene building. A key behind the scenes agitator in Barcelona’s electronic underground for years – whether as a dj or part of the collective involved in the essential venue Vol – her dedication to grassroots culture and her constant levelling up of herself and those around her makes her a perfect face for We Are Europe.

soundcloud.com/ikrambouloum
ikrambouloum
IkramBouloum
ikrambouloum
Irina Nalis
Transformation psychologist
Austria

Irina Nalis is a psychologist, cyclist, reader and techno veteran. She has a background of 15+ years in consulting of private/public/non-profit institutions. Being a uni:docs fellow of the University of Vienna, PhD candidate and lecturer, she supports the ideas of critical psychology that challenge the dogma of statistical significance in a publish or perish academia and instead aim for societal relevance. She entertains a hate/love relationship with the art(world) which lead her in the 00s to the founding of the Vienna Biennale for Fine Arts and more recently to serve as advisor to a former culture minister and the city councilor of arts and science. Currently, she collaborates with Mostlikely Architecture in the development of a common space city model. Irina is an advocate for new work and new culture and an ambassador for the Vienna Manifesto on Digital Humanism.

Why Irina Nalis?
Because Irina Nalis has a sharp mind, and is able to express herself in a very accessible way. She has been doing talks at several festivals over the years and can be found not only on panels but also on the dancefloor, as she has sustained a passion for electronic music and culture for many years.

ao-psy.univie.ac.at/en/about-us/irina-nalis-neuner
Jacob Bilabel
Activist
Germany

Jacob Bilabel is the founder of the pan-European Green Music Initiative (GMI), an independent cross industry think-tank to inspire people in the music festival and events industry to run their operations greener and smarter. The non-profit-organisation brings together more than 350 festivals and 500 venues and reaches out to more than 3 million young europeans through its activities. GMI acts as cross sectoral innovation and research agency for Europe’s music and entertainment industry. As project leader of the EE MUSIC project, he was responsible for a series of more than 60 workshops which took place in 27 European countries to encourage and equip festivals, clubs and venues with key knowledge and tools to begin understanding and improving energy efficiency. In 2018 he got appointed as part of a research consortium developing off grid hydrogen generator sets for festivals and events. Both projects received funding for European Commission’s research and innovation programs.

Why Jacob Bilabel?
Because he is a motivating speaker, very communicative and always comes with a positive attitude. He is a mover and maker, leading initiatives as well as his own think-tank. His personality and mindset fits perfectly with the very spirit of our festivals & forums.

🌐 greenmusicinitiative.de
🌐 thema1.de
حض jacob_bilabel
Jay Glass Dubs, the acclaimed musical venture of Dimitris Papadatos, is an exercise of style focusing on a counter-factual historical approach of dub music, stripped down to its basic drum/bass/vox/effects form.

A key figure in the electronic dub scene for years, Dimitris is a composer, musician and sound artist based in Athens (Greece) who’s actively running three projects: Jay Glass Dubs, KU and The Hydra. His work has been presented in various institutions and festivals. He has also recorded a number of mixes for international radio stations and has notably run monthly shows on Noods Radio (Bristol, UK) and LYL Radio (Lyon, France).

His acclaimed album Epitaph (2019) was described as an underground phenomenon which fashions a wide-ranging attempt to move beyond his dub influences. His latest album, Soma, released in August 2020, also gained wide critical acclaim and confirmed Jay Glass Dubs’s position as one of the undisputed masters of contemporary leftfield music. In this double LP, one can find elements of Bristolian rap, Detroit and Chicago house and Jamaican dub, although the result is far from any categorization proving his own soundworld is more than words can describe.

Why Jay Glass Dubs?
He is of the most sharp and cutting edge acts emerging from Greece. Jay Glass Dubs has released amazing works on labels such as Ecstatic, Berceuse Heroique and more — he is definitely an artist to watch.
Jenny Hval
Artist
Norway

Jenny Hval is best known as a recording artist and musician, but her background and interests are multidisciplinary, and in her music output there is an invisible web of references to experimental fiction, theatre and film as well as music and sound art of many forms. In 2015, she staged an experimental concert piece at Black Box teater in Oslo, based on the album Apocalypse, girl, released the very same day as the performance. This piece was Hval’s first project with theatrical elements: performance, choreography and video as well as musical performance.

With her latest project, The Practice of Love (2019), Hval took one step further into a multidisciplinary, immersive performance between music, literature and theatre. She explored both sonic, visual and choreographical ideas in order to stage the writing process as a performative practice.

Why Jenny Hval?
She is a multi-talent who never ceases to surprise and amaze us — she can never be boxed in or go stale in her artistic approach — which is something we love.
Jessica Ullevålseter
Visual Artist & Activist
Norway

Jessica Ullevålseter (NO) was born in Norway and lived between Barcelona and Mexico during her studies. Her work, influenced by situationism and performative art, is inspired by change and the possibility to change, in particular by the meeting.

Ullevålseter also explores how art can create bridges beyond the art world and how artists can teach other people how to become artists themselves; she believes that the way of art is a different mind-space that should be taught to all people and is able to change the world.

She draws inspiration from a variety of sources, from European mysticism and shamanism to religious studies, forms of activism and philosophy. She regards herself both as an artist and activist; questioning the artist’s role in society and looking into at as a means of communication that can transmute existing hierarchies and reconcile the opposites: art and politics, spirituality and science, this and that, me and the other.

**Why Jessica Ullevålseter?**
As an artist and speaker Jessica Ullevålseter is interested in art as a bridge between worlds. Drawing her inspiration from European mysticism, ritual and perennial philosophy, she challenges boarders and dualities, and pairs it up to political situations and debates.
Karolina Grzywnowicz is a visual artist, using an interdisciplinary approach. Her practice is research-based, making use of archival materials, interviews, oral history, and bibliographic records. Her works deal with plants in social and political context, often of the violent nature. In her recent sound projects, by gathering the grassroots songs of migrants, she proposes the real soundtrack of exile. She is interested in empathy and care as a form of resistance. She works using various media: sculpture, sound installation, site-specific public installation, art intervention.

She graduated from Jagiellonian University, the Faculty of Comparative Literature. Her works were exhibited e.g. in Akademie der Künste der Welt (Cologne), Hellerau – Europäisches Zentrum der Künste (Dresden), Zachęta National Gallery of Art (Warsaw), Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Onomatopee Projects (Eindhoven), Unsound (Kraków). She is a former fellow of Akademie Schloss Solitude (Stuttgart) and a resident at Ujazdowski Castle Center for Contemporary Art (Warsaw). She lives and works in Berlin.

Why Karolina Grzywnowicz?
She is a Berlin-based artist and activist interested in empathy and care as a form of resistance. Her practice is research-based, making use of archival materials, interviews, oral history and bibliographic records. The songs of her most recent project, Every Song Knows Its Home, act as forms of resistance and express deep feelings of longing and belonging, preserving erased and suppressed memories.
Karzin Choden is an Royal Thimphu College graduate (Thimphu, Bhutan) and a manager at the Bhutan Art Gallery. She hosts the Bhutan Art Club where artists of different genres including writers, painters, filmmakers, dancers and singers gather to talk on art and other creative themes.

She is also part of VAST Bhutan (Voluntary Artists Studio, Thimphu) which is a not-for-profit organisation with the primary aim to provide opportunity to the Bhutanese youth to participate and develop their potential artistic talents especially in contemporary art, develop sense of social responsibilities through community services and also to explore art as a vocation.

Why Karzin Choden?

Karzin Choden is an artist and curator from Bhutan and she is a project manager at VAST, which is an amazing art initiative that tries to inspire and give a platform for young artists in Bhutan. She works on a project to empower the youth of Bhutan and to connect them Internationally and has a dream to one day become an international curator. We are convinced that there are so many things we can learn from her, coming from a high, isolated and mysterious Himalaya kingdom that measures the economy based on Gross National Happiness and which is Carbon Negative, which means it absorb more CO2 than it emits.
Kiddy Smile
Artist
France

Catapulted into the public consciousness by Beth Ditto, Kiddy Smile seeks to spread the retro love in his beats – all of which he produces, sings and sometimes even raps over himself. Deeply influenced by the sleazy, lazy feel of 80s and 90s house music and the fabulous legacy of the Ballroom scene, he has performed live alongside the likes of Hercules & Love Affair, The Gossip and LCD Soundsystem. Through his own music and performances, Kiddy has kept the nostalgic sounds of the dancefloor very much alive.

Why Kiddy Smile?
Because he is no less than a dancer, singer, DJ and actor, black and queer activist, spearhead of voguing in Paris. Through his music and performances, Kiddy has kept the nostalgic sounds of the dancefloor very much alive.
His performance at the Elysée in June 2018, during the Fête de la Musique, is one to remember. As an activist, Kiddy Smile had an important message to convey: “What’s the point of being part of a queer counterculture if you can’t offer a picture of people of color who don’t apologize for being there, who are proud, on a day other than the Pride Walk, in the highest place of power in France?”

kiddysmile.club
kiddysmile
Kimchi and Chips
Interdisciplinary Artist & Researcher
South Korea

KIMCHI and CHIPS studio is a Seoul based art studio founded in 2009 by Mimi Son (KR) and Elliot Woods (EN). Their practice begins at the recognition that the arts, sciences and philosophy are not distant disciplines which must be bridged, but act as alternative maps onto the same territory, and that employing these maps in tandem allows the territory to be navigated more readily.

Their research-based approach has caused them to give the ‘first word’ on a number of artistic formats both conceptually and in execution - specifically within the fields of volumetric images in fog and 3D projection onto non-designed forms. Consequently, they became the first Korean artists to win the Award of Distinction at Ars Electronica signifying their importance within the field of media art. By releasing their techniques online as over 100 open source code libraries, countless other practitioners have adopted the studio’s understanding and incorporated it into their own work.

Why Kimchi and Chips?
Physicist tell us that light acts both as a particle and as a wave. Korean-British artist duo Kimchi and Chips explore the ambiguity of this semi-material to stunning effect.

They provides glimpses into a practice that is less cookery and more alchemy. There are robotic mirror matrices, makeshift mist machines, and lights behaving otherworldly, taking form and performing motion. We describe their work as drawing in the air with light and we think it is time to see ore of their works within Europe and within our network.
Lalin Akalan is a programming director and a strategic consultant who works with institutions, festivals and corporations to curate public programs with a focus on technology, immersive experiences, social impact and digital arts. Akalan creates platforms, structures, themes and new formats for research, dialogue and knowledge transference via conferences, incubation programs, exhibitions, skill development curriculums and self-productions to aid new forms of collaboration in the ecosystem of creative industries.

Current positions;
- Director and Curator for Digilogue (Arts and Technology Platform by Zorlu Holding and Zorlu Performing Arts Center)
- Sonar İstanbul Festival +D Curator (Creativity, Technology and Business)
- Sonar İstanbul Audio-Visual Performances and Installations Curator
- xtopia Founder

Why Lalin Akalan?
Lalin Akalan is a personality in the Istanbul Digital Art scene. She is the curator of International events such as Digilogue and Sonar+D Istanbul. Full of energy, ideas and a positive approach; she is a tech enthusiast focusing on the intersecting realms of Contemporary Arts, Performing Arts, Technology, Research, Philosophy and Festival Culture. Having Akalan within our network will help us to build a bridge with Turkey and its many great artists.
Linn Da Quebrada
Artist
Brazil

Linn Da Quebrada is both Queen of baile funk – a genre that she infuses with pop music and electronica – and one of Brazil’s most recognisable LGBTQI+ activists. Defining herself as queer, trans and black, her political and social remonstrations are a constant thread running through her music. And nowhere more so than on her audiovisual concept album Pajubá, created as a trans companion piece to Beyoncé’s Lemonade. As multi-faceted as she is fascinating, the peerless Linn Da Quebrada is tearing up the rulebook and diving headfirst into the music of tomorrow.

Why Linn Da Quebrada?
Because Linn da Quebrada asks the questions that divide contemporary society and is an incredible rapper. Her music, in addition to being political, is invigorating and fascinating. She was heralded a queer icon back in Brazil very early in her career, and has also become so in Europe, where the best festivals compete to secure her name on their lineups, and where films about her life are screened in every art-house cinema.
Lisa Blanning
Writer & Editor
USA & Germany

Lisa Blanning is an American writer and editor on music, art, and culture, as well as a booking agent. She is a former editor at The Wire in London and Electronic Beats in Berlin—the city she currently operates out of. She is especially engaged in movements in contemporary electronic music and digital art and culture. She has published cover stories for print publications in three different countries and led panel discussions and artist talks for festivals, events and organizations such as Sónar, Unsound, Haus der Kulturen der Welt and Ableton’s Loop conference, as well as presenting lectures at institutions such as the University of East London and Institut für Populäre Musik in Bochum.

Why Lisa Blanning?
Lisa Blanning is known for her work as a music journalist, as well as an agent and promoter, working with Kontra agency. She has extensive experience working as a moderator of discussions at festivals and music events.

lisablanning.com
lisablanning
Mahmoud Alhaj
Visual Artist & Arts Teacher
Palestine

Mahmoud Alhaj is a Palestinian visual artist and arts teacher born in 1990. He holds a BA in Journalism and Media from Al-Aqsa University (2012) and is the founder of Art Garage magazine (2013).

Alhaj is a member of the Palestinian Expressive Artists Association, and has been working as a visual arts teacher at the Palestine Red Crescent Society since 2017. In 2019, he collaborated with artist Suzanne Groothuis on a land art workshop titled Intimate Terrains for the Palestine Museum. Alhaj has produced four solo exhibitions and has exhibited widely in Palestine and Europe, including a recent participation in Art in Isolation at the Middle East Institute (USA, 2020), Within the Vacuum at Shababeek for Contemporary Art (Palestine, 2019), Contemplative Contrasts at the A.M. Qattan Foundation (Palestine, 2019) and Orient 2.0 at Pulchri Studio Den Hague (Netherlands, 2017).

Why Mahmoud Alhaj?
Alhaj is a Palestinian visual artist and an arts teacher at the Palestine Red Crescent Society since 2017. Through his work with children, Al Haj wants to use art to enhance the resilience of children living in Gaza. To him, art is a tool for both connecting and healing, and his dream is to be able to tour his art globally. In his practice, he challenges the borders he and his fellow artists face in Palestine.
Masayoshi Fuhita is a Japanese vibraphonist composing in an experimental and exploratory way.

Fujita first learned how to play the drums, followed by extensive vibraphone training to craft and play his own, mostly jazz and electronic-influenced compositions. He came to the attention of Erased Tapes’ founder Robert Raths in 2012. Not only because the vibraphone is an intriguing instrument, but also the way he treats his instrument and draws ethereal and layered sounds, is what truly attracted Raths to Fujita’s work.

The Berlin-based composer and vibraphonist’s most recent album *Book of Life* sees the vibraphone accompanied by more orchestral elements and voices, creating a wider landscape of sound.

**Why Masayoshi Fuhita?**
One of the most consistent modern classical composers. He is using a rather not popular instrument, the vibraphone exploring its different utilities providing a unique soundscape. He has collaborated with Jan Jelinek, Guy Andrews among others and he releases mainly on Erased Tapes.
Mazlum Karataş
Artist & Activist
Kurdistan & Norway

Mazlum Karataş is a Kurdish multi-instrumentalist musician, artist and activist.

As a refugee in Tromsø, he deals with issues of migration and asylum seekers and is interested in topics such as multi-culturalism, human rights, Indigenous people and minorities (ethnic or national). He believes that what he and other refugees and asylum seekers experienced cannot be expressed with words: this is his way and style in his music.

Why Mazlum Karataş?
He is a Kurdish artist, activist and multi-instrumentalist that uses musical improvisation with traditional instruments to express resilience and human experience. With an honest and vulnerable approach and style he engages the audience through sound and takes us on a journey through musical landscapes full of emotions.
Milica Janković (1990) is a visual artist who resides and creates between Montenegro and Italy. She is also a founder of a nonprofit art organization Atelie22, winner of Waiting For The Better Future, project supported and financed by Prince Claus Fund, Netherlands. The project, designed by her, aims to create new perspectives for young people in Montenegro, and a safe environment for the discussion of social and political issues and the free exchange of knowledge. Conducting a research into problems currently facing young people they are organizing cultural events in the form of talks, workshops, lectures and exhibitions aimed at Montenegrin youth, addressing senses of belonging, identity, subjectivity, and collectivity.

In 2020, she also organised Living the E(art)h international art project, a virtual-sound installation supported by Ministry of Culture of Montenegro that aimed at putting together artists from different backgrounds and create a final work using social media network tools.

**Why Milica Janković?**
Milica Jankovic is a young artist from Montenegro. Next to her international career in the arts she is also a cultural activist that deserves to receive a strong platform such as We Are Europe; as she aims to create new opportunities, perspectives and a safe environment as well as a platform for the exchange of knowledge for the young generation of Montenegro.

She is organizing cultural events in the form of talks, workshops, lectures and exhibitions aimed at the Montenegrin youth, addressing senses of belonging, inspiration, identity, subjectivity, and collectivity.
The immaterial and intangible character of light, colour and motion forms the starting point of Nicky Assmann’s spatial installations, in which she endeavours to heighten the perception. With a background in Film and ArtScience, she combines artistic, scientific and cinematographic knowledge in experiments that use physical and chemical processes. By implementing natural and optical phenomena she creates visual music compositions for an immersive and sensorial experience. The resulting visual, kinetic, and spatial compositions evoke sensory interference in self-created and often ephemeral macro-universes.

Assmann holds a Bachelor of Arts in Film Science from the University of Amsterdam and a Master in ArtScience from the Interfaculty of the Royal Conservatoire & the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. She is part of the Macular collective, which focuses on art, technology, science, and perception.

**Why Nicky Assmann?**

Nicky Assmann is fascinated, among other things, by the immaterial and elusive character of light, in which colors and synaesthesia play a major role in her work. From her fascination with cinematography, she develops screens made of various materials, such as soap films, copper plates, metal grids and plexiglass. No traditional projection screens: instead of image carriers, it is the screens themselves that become images by means of light. The movement you see is the transformation of the screen itself for which she makes compositions. In addition to developing an individual oeuvre, she is part of the collective Macular, which investigates the relationship between art, technology, science and perception.

We are especially impressed by the beauty of Nicky Assmann’s work and how, with the aid of technology, she manages to create engaging sensory experiences that enchant and surprise the observer.

nickyassmann.com
vimeo.com/nickyassmann
NIKS
Co-founder — Black Bandcamp
United Kingdom

Hailing from south-east London via Bath, is versatile leftfield digger and co-founder of the newly formed Black Bandcamp NIKS. NIKS’ face and name has become the forefront of the underground scene, as her profound interview in DJ Mag’s July edition and “Perspectives in the Scene” for Resident Advisor, explains why this selector and activist is one to keep your eye on.

Why NIKS?
We worked with Niks this year at Unsound, and her contribution to the discourse program was impressive - both as a moderator and panelist. The Black Bandcamp initiative she is a co-founder of could be also a great tool for programmers and organisers of events both within our network and outside of it.

blackbandcamp.info
soundcloud.com/niksdelanancy
NiksDelanancy
niksdelanancy
Spanish singer and artist Francisco Contreras Molina (b. 1985) aka Niño de Elche is one of today’s most risk taking voices in flamenco, incorporating poetry, politics and aesthetics, and is fully committed to investigating music and flamenco’s distant traditional folklore. Active since 1995 (10 years old) he won many flamenco prizes.

Why Niño de Elche?
Because since his first experiments with the flamenco form, Niño de Elche has impressed by his ability to take risks and breathe new life into the genre. In addition to his unique musical vision, he is also a keen collaborator with musicians of all stripes.
Núria Conde
Scientist and biohacker
Spain

Núria Conde is a post-doctoral researcher at Complex Systems Laboratory at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) in the PRBB (Barcelona Biomedical Research Lab). She holds a major in biology and an engineering degree in informatics and performed her research thesis about biocomputation. Nuria teaches biology for architects, artists and designers at IAAC (Catalonia Institute of Advanced Architecture) and GreenFabLab, and she helps to run the biohacking lab DIYBioBcn.

Why Núria Conde?
Because biology plays an increasingly interesting role in digital arts and maker culture. The accessibility of technologies like genomic engineering raise new possibilities. It could open up a whole new world for citizen science and lead to new discoveries. At the same time, it raises many ethical questions. What can happen when we, as humans, manipulate DNA?
Núria is a genomic engineer during the day, and a biohacker in the afterhours. Through her work, she bridges the gap between cutting edge science and DIY practice, between science and art, and maker culture.

iaac.net/dt-team/nuria-conde
People You May Know is a duo formed by the Alicante Susana Hernández Pulido (aka Ylia, founder of Animah Records) and Francisco Mejía from Caracas (aka Phran and DJ Phidias). Both share a mutual love for experimentation and improvisation in the creative process. The Barcelona duo released their EP "One Hand Clap" in Hooded Records, in 2018. They make use of drum machines, synthesizers and all kinds of effects pedals to reach the intersection of humor, psychedelia and hedonistic dance music. In 2019, PYMK makes its live debut in which they have been able to develop a new faster, frenetic and danceable repertoire, strolling between styles such as acid, electro, rave and techno music, with certain winks to other Latin and Iberian musical influences.

Why People You May Know?
Because, as individual djs and producers, Susanna Hernandez and Fran Meija (better known as Ylia and Phran) have done more than any other djs to invigorate Barcelona’s electronic music underground over the last few years. As People You May Know, their talents combine, resulting in a delicious blend of electro, rave, subbass and tropical syncopated rhythms, at once a testament to collaboration and to creating utterly unique dance music.

soundcloud.com/peopleyoumayknowpumk
peopleyoumayknowpumk
Portrait XO
Artist & Creative Director
United Kingdom

From a young age, Portrait XO has always been inspired by jazz and improv but her upbringing was strongly focused on classical piano. After listening to Radiohead and Bjork for the first time in the late 90’s, that changed her entire perception of music making. With an ongoing interest in exploring experimental approaches to writing, her move to London from 2006-2015 set her towards a new direction and appreciation for electronic music production. She’s a singer, songwriter, producer, and installation artist working in AR/VR/XR and AI. She continues to explore different sounds from soulful pop to experimental to keep her productions evolving. Her latest experiment with AI involves feeding a neural network with 1 hour of her vocals that generated 10 hours of new audio.

Why Portrait XO?
Because Portrait XO is not only an artist with synaesthesia between taste and sound - she incorporates art, music, science, and AI into her expressions as a singer/songwriter/producer installation artist. As a resident artist at Factory Berlin, she is also exploring creative AI, sound, and interactive media.
Pussykrew
Artists
USA & Poland

Originally hailing from Poland, Ewelina Aleksandrowicz and Andrzej Wojtas are NYC-based award-winning directors and immersive media artists working under the moniker Pussykrew. Creating captivating videos, virtual installations, AR experiences, and sculptures, Pussykrew explore spaces in between digital and physical realms, blending fluid identities and futuristic landscapes through experimentation with 3D, real-time performance, photogrammetry, and VR sculpting. Over the last decade, they have presented their work in over thirty countries while participating in various brand activations, international film festivals, gallery shows and tech fairs.

Why Pussykrew?
NY-based Pussykrew are a Polish-born duo of visual artists and directors. Their work integrates virtual and immersive environments with a deep understanding of independent music and socio-political contexts.

hybrid-universe-emulation.net
pvssykrew
pvssykrew
pvssykrew
Karolina Rec is a composer and cellist. She has been performing under the name Resina since 2016. She has so far released two albums ("Resina", 2016 and "Traces", 2018) on Fat Cat Records / 130701 and an EP with remixes ("Traces - Remixes", 2019, by Ben Frost and Lotic among others). She also created a soundtrack entitled Vampire: The Masquerade – Shadows of New York, which was released by the Polish label Coastline Northern Cuts in September 2020.

Why Resina?
Warsaw-based Resina is a brilliant performer and composer, as a solo artist as well as a frequent collaborator with different amazing artists, such as percussionist Hubert Zemler, Maciej Cieślak and many more. She connects electronic soundscapes with virtuosic cello performances, with unique narratives behind her pieces.
Sofia Avramopoulou is a Project Coordinator at PERA. She graduated from the School of Architecture of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and University of California, Berkeley, as a Fulbright Foundation, Leventis Foundation and Gerondelis Foundation scholar. She has professional experience in Greece, U.S.A and in Switzerland as a member of an interdisciplinary research & design group of ETH, Zurich, focusing on urban development & social infrastructure design. She has participated in international projects in collaboration with International Organizations, Municipalities and other Authorities. She is a member of the BMW Foundation Responsible Leaders Network and she is a Humanity in Action Fellow.

Why Sofia Avramopoulou?
In her work, she promotes the development of innovative social spaces and quality of life improvement within contemporary urban environments. After her following international opportunities in the US or as a researcher in Switzerland, she now shows the importance of coming back where you come from to design the communities that you dream of. She is indeed very much interested in the relationship between the urban environment, social realm and infrastructure.
Steven Van Lummel

PIP

Netherlands

Steven van Lummel (’81) graduates in 2003 from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. Since then, he has been using his hometown The Hague as a canvas to interpret the world that is so incomprehensible to him. With this in mind, Van Lummel founded Skatepark Sweatshop in 2008 and independent cultural hub PIP in 2007: a place where people from all walks of life come together for art, culture and experiment. In 2019 he was the first artist in residence at modern art museum Het HEM in Zaandam where he made a book and had a solo art show. His often somewhat absurdist illustrations and connecting texts form a backdrop for asking questions. Together with Electronic producer Tom Trago he form Studio Wega, together they create non linear musical installations.

Why Steven Van Lummel?

Because Steven Van Lummel is a creative and cultural actor and entrepreneur who has made a lasting impact in the Dutch underground music art and club scene. He is the owner of the legendary PIP club in The Hague and has been promoting independent culture ever since. Beyond that he is also an artist, writer and designer, whose unconventional perspective needs to be amplified.
Sylwia Chutnik
Writer & Activist
Poland

Sylwia Chutnik a Polish novelist, writer, feminist and social activist. She is a graduate of Cultural Studies and Gender Studies at the Warsaw University, with many of her works dealing with feminism, gender issues, Polish culture and history. Chutnik is a member of the Union of Polish Writers and the Union of Writers Association, a lecturer at the Institute of Polish Culture at the University of Warsaw and at the Writing Machine and a columnist — featured in the likes of Polityka, Pani, Wysokie Obcasy, Gazeta Stołeczna and many more.

Why Sylwia Chutnik?
Sylwia Chutnik is a known and outspoken voice in Poland, as a renowned writer, activist and journalist, vocal during the anti LGBTQIA+ propaganda coming from the Polish right-wing. She has also contributed a powerful essay for the Unsound Intermission book about her experience of publicly coming-out in Poland during this time.

sylwiachutnik.com
sylwia.chutnik
sylvia.chutnik
Tacobitch is an interdisciplinary music-collective consisting of ambitious young humans. The music originates from boredom regarding habitual methods in music production and it could sound like musicians playing the triangle, but wanting the triangle to sound like the inside of the Icelandic volcano Katla. That doesn’t necessarily mean their profile is angry or pessimistic, but rather festive, theatrical and sporty. Are we humami jumami or are we dancer?

**Why Tacobitch?**
Oh my God! Just check their video - dance tutorial and the nomination explains itself - An artist collective from Oslo with boundless energetic performances and fresh sounds.

- [tacobish.com](http://tacobish.com)
- [soundcloud.com/tacobitch](http://soundcloud.com/tacobitch)
- [tacobish](https://facebook.com/tacobish)
- [tacobitchcollective](https://instagram.com/tacobitchcollective)
Tamara Ehs teaches political education at the University of Vienna. Her research focuses on the social issues of democracy and the rule of law, most notably on constitutional jurisdiction, direct and participatory democracy, and the legal and historical foundations of European integration. She is also chair of the think-and-do-tank IG Demokratie. She studied politics, communication and law at the University of Vienna, Sciences Po Lille and European Academy of Legal Theory Brussels. She was a research fellow at the Institute for Legal and Social History at the University of Salzburg until 2017. Before that, she was a research fellow at the IFK and at the Institute for Legal and Constitutional History at the University of Vienna. She was also a visiting scholar at the Harvard Law School and at the New York Public Library, as well as a guest lecturer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Comenius University Bratislava, Free University Berlin and University of Graz.

Why Tamara Ehs?
Because she is a political scientist and democracy activist. She is active in several democracy initiatives, is also a journalist and writer, and is generally a good communicator. She has been involved at festivals many times over the past years and has hosted workshops as well as participated in panel discussions.
Tommy Four Seven
Artist
United Kingdom

British born, Berlin-based Tommy Four Seven has established himself as a leading name in today’s techno scene. Releasing on labels such as CLR, Electric Deluxe and Stroboscopic Artefacts, he also runs his own imprint and event series 47 and is one half of experimental electronic duo These Hidden Hands. Not only major artist on the techno scene, he is also a committed artist who does not hesitate to claim his veganism and to advocate the animals welfare. His amazing album, Veer, is a meditation on many of the crises that the world is facing in the wake of environmental crises and existential threats to humanity.

Why Tommy Four Seven?
Because he is a leading name in today’s techno scene. He is an uncompromising artist with an inimitable artistic touch, but also a committed person who openly claims his veganism and is an animal welfare advocate. In this sense, his amazing album, Veer, is a meditation on many of the crises that the world is facing in the wake of environmental crises and existential threats to humanity.

tommyfourseven.com
tommyfoursevenofficial
tommyfourseven_47
Tundra Collective is a St. Petersburg-based collaborative artistic collective, focused on creating spaces and experiences by exploring facets of interaction between audio and visual images with human emotions.

Tundra Collective are specialized in multi-media performances and interactive audio-visual installations. Their multidisciplinary team involves musicians, sound engineers, programmers and visual artists. The team is known for works presented at festivals of multi-media art in Russia, Asia and Europe. Most of Tundra works have been premiered, reviewed and highly acclaimed by Creators Project, FastCoDesign, Creative Applications, LSN and many other high profile media.

Why Tundra Collective?
Because it is rare to find a studio creating large scale AV that blends digital mapping and reactive lasers so elegantly, placing the focus on immersion rather than just spectacle.

tundracollective.com
wearetundra
Vincent Moon
Filmmaker
France

Vincent Moon is an independent filmmaker from Paris. He was the main director of the Blogoteque’s Take Away Shows, a web-based project recording field work music videos of indie rock related musicians as well as some notable mainstream artists like Tom Jones, R.E.M., or Arcade Fire. For the past ten years, Vincent Moon has been traveling around the globe with a camera in his backpack, documenting local folklories, sacred music and religious rituals, for his label Collection Petites Planètes. He works alone or with people he finds on the road, and most of the time without money involved in the projects, trying to produce and distribute films without following the established industry standards. He shares all his work, films and music recordings, for free on internet, under a Creative Commons license.

Why Vincent Moon?
Because he is an extraordinary artist who combines music, filmmaking and performance in his work. He will work with other artists to create a new audiovisual experience at Elevate this year. He is also scheduled to take part in panel discussions.

vincentmoon.com
petites_planetes
Victoria dived into the Cologne start-up scene more than seven years ago. After her studies in business, she worked as a product manager at the music streaming service simfy before moving to the start-up incubator STARTPLATZ. There, she organized and moderated events of all kinds for the start-up scene. Her network grew considerably and Victoria quickly became an important contact point for founders, talents, companies and investors throughout NRW and beyond. In November 2016, she founded the ART@TECH art festival, which she also curates. Since then, she has organized five festival editions and several concerts, with which she provides a platform for artists and musicians who are developing and performing technological art. Since the beginning of 2018, Victoria has been planning, organizing and moderating events as a freelancer for various clients such as The Digitale Leute Summit. She is also the co-founder of moversxshakers UG.

Why Victoria Blechman-Pomogajko?
Because Victoria Blechmann is one of the rare species of people who act on the edge of start-up business and art. As a curator of the ART@TECH event series, she provides an important platform for artists and musicians, who are developing and performing technological art.
Why Vivian Doumpa?
Her vocation is to reinvent urban planning, through citizen participation, diverse use of public spaces, inclusion strategies, and neighborhood revitalization. The challenges that we face in today’s urban area need professionals like Vivian to rethink the way we want to live.

Vivian Doumpa is an urban planner and geographer, with a specialization in (creative & participatory) placemaking. She has international experience on placemaking and citizens’ participation in urban planning, especially in matters of public space and neighbourhood revitalization. Throughout her work she integrates aspects of socio-cultural management, non-formal education and community building. She is an associate partner for STIPO, a Netherlands-based team for urban development, and board member of Placemaking Europe network. "Kyklos – Urban Sustainability and Circularity Lab" in Thessaloniki is a new platform for her to develop with the rest of the team of InCommOn NPO new strategies, methodologies and tools for community building, inclusion and placemaking by re-framing circularity and achieving impact on local level.
Zosia Holubowska
Artist
Poland

Zosia Hołubowska is a queer non-binary sound artist, musician, and a music activist. In 2014, they founded a queer synth laboratory “Sounds Queer?”, where they organize, facilitate and run workshops on electronic and synthesizer music. They are also a part of Oramics, a collective dedicated to promoting women, queer and non-binary musicians on the electronic music scene. They perform solo as Mala Herba, exploring sex and body positivity through ritual dark wave performances. Currently, they are a Ph.D. Fellow at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, working within queer methodology in sound artistic practice. Their solo works were presented in Guggenheim Museum Bilabo (2016), Research Pavilion at The Venice Biennale (2017) and Mumok in Austria (2016).

Why Zosia Holubowska?
Zosia Holubowska had previously run a workshop at Unsound, but it was their 2020 Community of Grieving project that really attracted our attention, for connecting electronic compositions with traditional Polish forms, as well as their vocal skills. They are also a member of the Oramics collective, promoting queer, non-binary and female musicians from Poland.
In 2019, they were the Faces of We are Europe

Aaju Peter Lecturer
Agnieszka Wiśniewska Journalist
Albert Barqué-Duran Artist
Angela Richter Activist
Anna vs June Artist
Bendik Giske Artist
Bjarki Artist
Bogomir Doringer Researcher and artist
Caterina Barbieri Artist
Caterina Di Fazio Philosopher
Cliff Fluet
Colin Self Artist and composer
Daphne Matziaraki Filmmaker
Deena Abdelwahed Artist
Despina Trivolis Journalist
Dorian Concept Artist
Dream Wife Artist
Efraín Foglia Designer
Emilja Skarnulyte Artist
Grandbrothers Artist
Hamill Industries Creative studio
Hania Rani Artist
Hauschka Solar punk
Hibotep Artist
Hior Chronik Artist
J-Zbel Artist
James Holden & The Animal Spirits Artist
Jay Springett Solar punk
Jenna Sutela Performer
Jovanka von Wilsdorf Artist
Juliana Huxtable Artist
Katharina Nocun Activist

We Are Europe

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