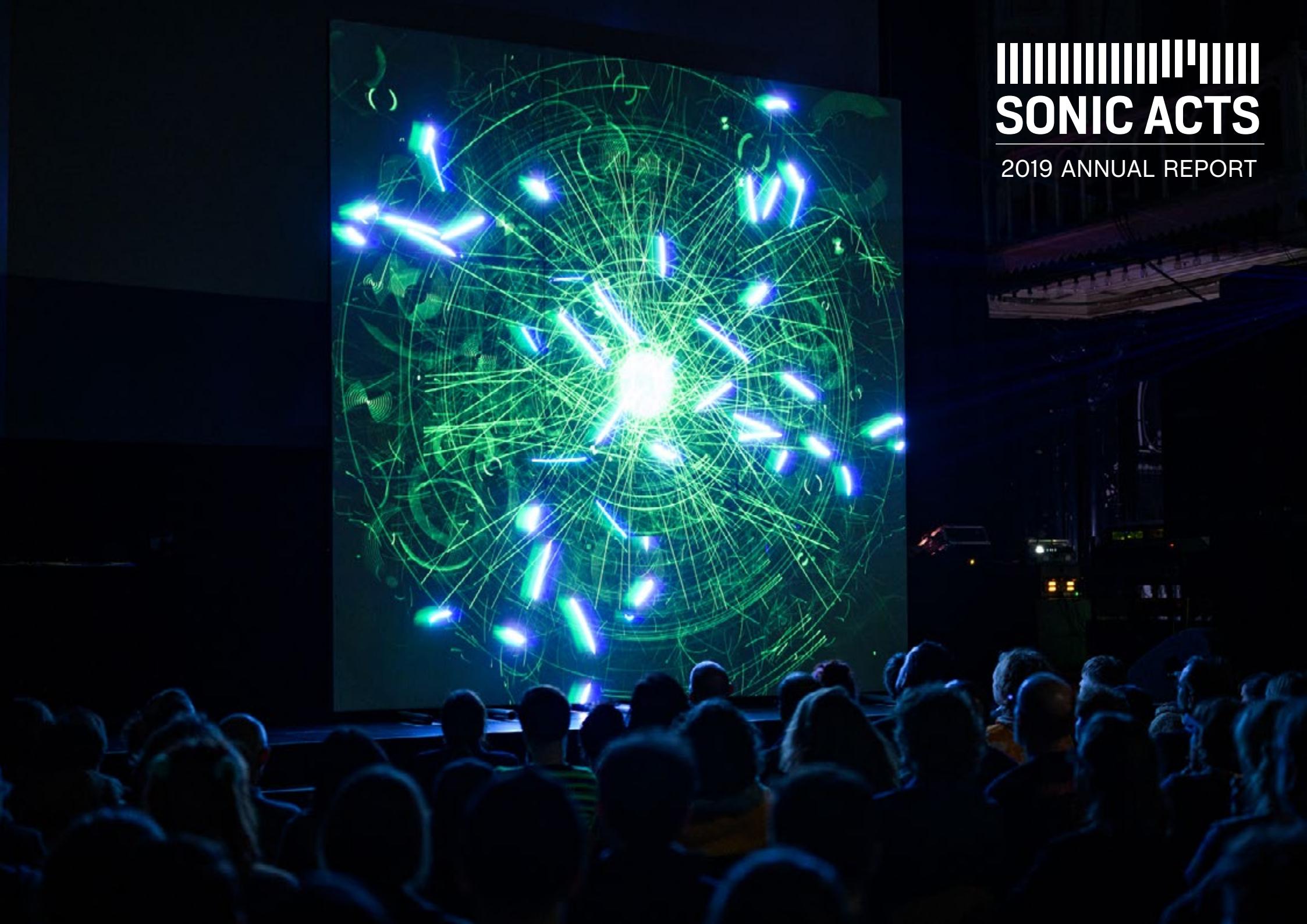




2019 ANNUAL REPORT



# ARTISTS

9T Antiope	Christina Kubisch	Fien	João Polido	Mārtiņš Ratniks	Rainer Kohlberger	The Otolith Group
Áine O'Dwyer	Chynna Rogers	Filipa César	Jodi Dean	Matale	Ramon Amaro	The Rodina
AJA	Claude Speeed	Flavia Dzodan	Johan van Kreij	Mette Rasmussen	Rana Hamadeh	Thomas Ankersmit
Alexis Destoop	Clausthome	Fossil Free Culture NL	Jonas Bers	Mieriën Coppens	Rick Dolphijn	Timothy Morton
Alobhe	Cyprien Gaillard	François Bonnet	Joost Rekvelt	mobilegirl	rkss	Tony Cokes
Ana Vaz	Dave Quam	gamut inc	Judith Hamann	Nazar	Rosi Braidotti	Ulrike Ottinger
André Castro	Didier Debaise	GIL	Jung An Tagen	Nina Pixel	Ryoko Akama	Unsettling
Andreas Kühne	Divoli S'vere	GIRLISONFIRE	Karl Klomp	Nuno da Luz	Sasha Litvintseva	Verdensteatret
Annie Fletcher	DJ Marcelle/Another	Gregory Sholette	Karrabing Film	Okkyung Lee	Satin de Compostela	Vilde&Inga
Anthea Caddy	Nice Mess	HC Gilje	Collective	Oli XL	Slikback	Wilted Woman
Arie Altena	DJ Nervoso	Het Interstedelijk	Katía Truijen	Olivier Marboeuf	Snufkin	Yantan Ministry
Ash Sarkar	Drone Operatør	Harmonium Verbond	Keith Fullerton	Oxhy	Sondra Perry	YATTA
Baloji	Elizabeth A. Povinelli	Hesska	Whitman	Parisa Madani	Stoffel Debuyser	Yoong
Bby Eco	Emily Pethick	Hugo Esquinca	Lee Patterson	Petit Singe	Straub-Huillet	Zeno van den Broek
Bbymutha	Emma Wolukau-	Irit Rogoff	Louis Henderson	Philippe Dao	Streifenjunko	ZULI
Beatriz Ferreyra	Wanambwa	James Massiah	Lukas Marxt	Phoebe Collings-	Susanne M. Winterling	
Beny Wagner	Ephraim Asili	Jennifer Walshe	Lyra Hill	James & Last Yearz	SUUTOO	
Bergsonist	EVOL	Jeremy Deller	M.C. Schmidt	Interesting Negro	TAYHANA	
BJ Nilsen	Exploited Body	Ji Youn Kang	Maeve Brennan	Pierce Warnecke	The Living and the	
Charm Mone	Fedde ten Berge	Jin Mustafa	Marta Mateus	Polina Medvedeva	Dead Ensemble	

# SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019

## - HEREAFTER

Under the heading *Hereafter* the 25-year anniversary edition of Sonic Acts took place from 21 to 24 February 2019 in Amsterdam. The festival brought together young voices, cutting-edge productions and forgotten pioneers, with experimental works and innovative ideas offering radically new visions of our contemporary world. In doing so, the festival highlighted the equal potential of dancing and discussion, thinking and making, to spawn new and alternative ways of navigating our environments.

Over 120 artists and theorists from diverse fields were invited to share their visions through the prism of exhibitions, lectures, audiovisual performances and installations, film screenings, sensorial walks, seminars and workshops, including many commissioned works. By creating a space of shared concerns, and presenting work that activates the imagination, the festival was both a celebration of contemporary revelations and a means to address some of the challenges that will follow us into the next quarter of a century.



Chynna Rogers at Progress Bar.  
Photo by Pieter Kers.

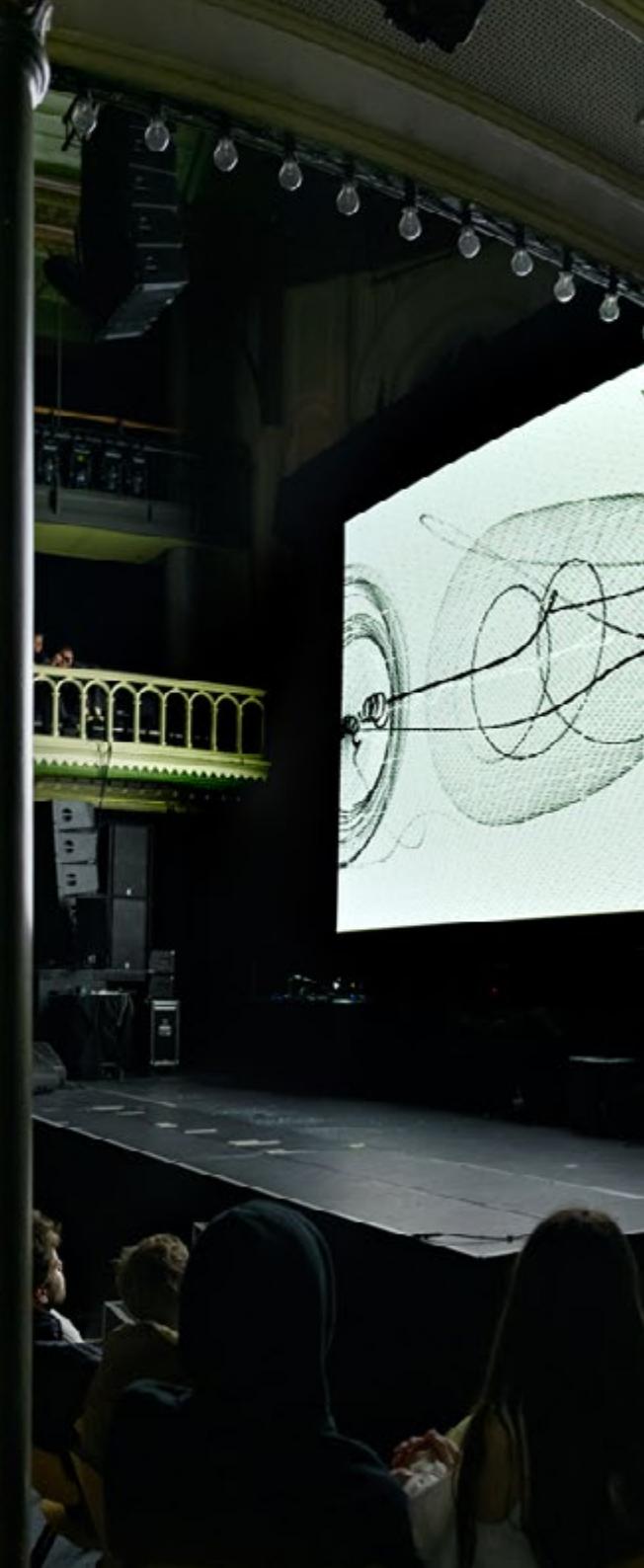


Verdensteatret, *Hannah*, at Sonic Acts at Stedelijk.  
Photo by Pieter Kers.



*'Sonic Acts is an exceptional festival. Nobody in the Netherlands offers such an uncompromising and experimental programme and presents it with such a sense of detail.'*

Thomas Ankersmit



SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019  
EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS

HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts

*Arti et Amicitiae, De Brakke Grond & Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam,  
8 Feb–3 Mar*

Sonic Acts Festival 2019 included an expansive exhibition presented in three acts across three spaces in Amsterdam – Arti et Amicitiae, De Brakke Grond and Stedelijk Museum – displaying works by artists with a shared drive to explore, engage and address the ‘legacies’ of our past through nuanced voices.



*'The Sonic Acts exhibition is one of the best editions of recent years.'*

Metropolis M

Cyprien Gaillard, *Nightlife*, at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Louis Henderson with João Polido & The Living and the Dead Ensemble, *These lowest depths, these deeps*, at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, *Promised Lands*, at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.



## SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS

### HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts *Arti et Amicitiae*, 8 Feb–3 Mar

The works on display at Arti et Amicitiae excavated structures of power, and made visible their cultural and political engagement with colonial projects. Artists represented included Cyprien Gaillard, Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, Louis Henderson and João Polido with The Living and the Dead Ensemble, Rana Hamadeh in collaboration with André Castro, and Sondra Perry.

Sondra Perry, *Lineage for a Multiple-Monitor Workstation: Number One*, at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.



*'HEREAFTER succeeded in curating a clash of ideas; a space where critical academic research could be refracted through live art.'*

Aesthetic Magazine

Rana Hamadeh, *Étude #1: On Recitation*, at HEREAFTER  
– An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Alexis Destoop, *Phantom Sun*, at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Lukas Marxt, *Imperial Valley (cultivated run-off)*, at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.



## SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS

### HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts De Brakke Grond, 16 Feb–3 Mar

At De Brakke Grond, the exhibition dealt with questions of landscape manipulation, pollution and ethnographic gaze, with works by Alexis Destoop, Ana Vaz, Christina Kubisch, Lukas Marxt and Ulrike Ottinger.

Ana Vaz, *Mediums*, at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.

*'Experimental, cinematic delights with images and sounds that linger in your head.'*

Metropolis M



Burrows like mole tunnels floored with wood,





Stedelijk opening of *HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts*. Photo by Pieter Kers.



A selection of video works by Tony Cokes at *HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts*. Photo by Boutaina Hammana.

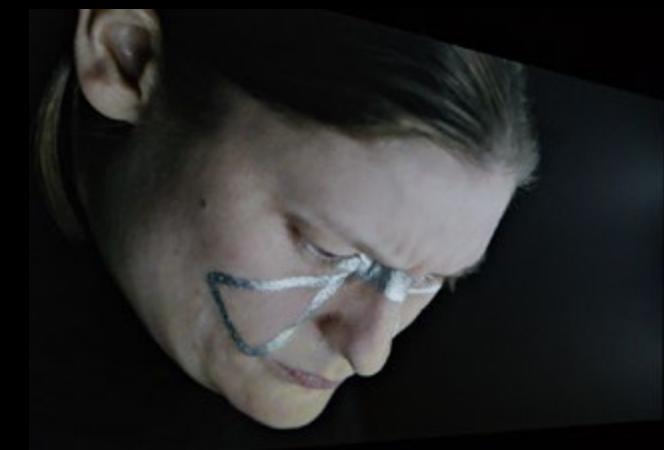
## SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS

### **HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts** **Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, 22 Feb–3 Mar**

The third part of the exhibition, at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, placed an emphasis on emancipatory struggles and their media representations, with works by Tony Cokes and The Otolith Group.



The Otolith Group, *The Third Part of the Third Measure*, at *HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts*. Photo by Pieter Kers.



I need a new  
pool in my  
backyard.

Kabulistan, Zekun Ghosh,  
12-year-old Afghan terrorist,  
will return to play tennis  
with his American country  
friends including himself  
and everyone else.



*'You will be shot brutally to another  
world and another time.'*

Volkskrant

hey wa  
our fuc  
etireme  
oney.



*'This mode of running an event at numerous modalities: lectures, performances, exhibitions and social interactions, is really reflective of how we work at this stage and its wonderful to have one's personal practice reflected at the level of a large public event.'*

Irit Rogoff

Irit Rogoff, *Becoming Research*, at the Conference. Photo by Pieter Kers.

## SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 LECTURES, FILMS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### Conference & Film Programme

*De Brakke Grond, 22–24 Feb*

Sonic Acts held a three-day conference at De Brakke Grond, where internationally renowned artists and speakers reflected on some of the crucial topics of the present, such as the challenges we face in the era of the Sixth Mass Extinction, the precarity of the work force, and society's inherited, normalised and perpetuated power structures. Featuring lectures by, among others, Rosi Braidotti, Irit Rogoff, Gregory Sholette, Jodi Dean, Flavia Dzodan, Ramon Amaro, Ephraim Asili and Elizabeth A. Povinelli.

Running parallel to the conference, a film programme offered several speakers the possibility to expand their lectures with moving images, with films by Maeve Brennan, Karrabing Film Collective, Straub-Huillet, Marta Mateus and Filipa César.



Audience at the Conference.  
Photo by Pieter Kers.

*'Sonic Acts gathered together practitioners and theorists of contemporary politics and aesthetics to produce an unparalleled artistic and intellectual public – an explosion and penetration of the contemporary conditions of our social world. It is a model for critical public artistic discussion.'*

Elizabeth A. Povinelli



Elizabeth A. Povinelli, *After the End, Stubborn Affects and Collective Practices*, at the Conference. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Rosi Braidotti, *Necropolitics and Ways of Dying*, at the Conference. Photo by Pieter Kers.

*'This festival is a truly generative force. Combining critique and creativity with ethical and social accountability, Sonic Acts are cognitive, affective and relational experiments with what we are capable of becoming.'*

Rosi Braidotti



*'The conference offers cerebral stimuli that still echo into the night, shifting the ground on which the evening's music stands.'*

The Wire

RAMON AMARO  
@RAMAMARHINO



Divoli S'vere & Bbymutha at Progress Bar.  
Photo by Leon Rice Whetton.

## SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 PERFORMANCES

A diverse range of performances took place throughout the festival at Paradiso, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, manifesting in various forms. These included live diffusions of new and revised acousmatic sound works; hybrid performances by some of the most defiant artists in contemporary club culture; radical, immersive audiovisual presentations; and theatrical stagings inspired by the gradual unfolding of geological time.



Thomas Ankersmit, *Perceptual Geography*, at the Festival Opening. Photo by Pieter Kers.



*'Sonic Acts is one of the most relevant and necessary festivals in Europe. More than just showcasing cutting edge music and interdisciplinary arts, the festival weaves a network of artistic and intellectual research that resonates in the longer term, in order to tackle the multifaceted problem of the meaning of being alive in a digitized, globalized and endangered world.'*

Francois Bonnet

## SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 PERFORMANCES

### Festival Opening – Acousmonium Paradiso, 21 Feb

For the festival opening at Paradiso, Sonic Acts welcomed back INA GRM from Paris with their legendary 80-speaker orchestra, the Acousmonium, exactly 11 years since we first had the honour of hosting them. The evening featured commissioned works by Okkyung Lee and BJ Nilsen, a new piece by Thomas Ankersmit dedicated to Maryanne Amacher, legendary works by Dick Raaijmakers, Eliane Radigue and Régis Renouard Larivière, and acousmatic live performances by Beatriz Ferreyra, Anthea Caddy and Judith Hamann, as well as François Bonnet and Keith Fullerton Whitman.

Keith Fullerton Whitman, *Rythmes Naturels*, at the Festival Opening. Photo by Pieter Kers.



*'A unique and artistically highly satisfying event. Besides a high-level line-up and unique mixture of artists from experimental music, improvisation and electronica, Sonic Acts offered interesting panels and social events, where artists and audience exchanged ideas and expanded their networks.'*

gamut inc



gamut inc, Aggregate, at Sonic Acts at Stedelijk. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Het Interstedelijk Harmonium Verbond at Sonic Acts at Stedelijk. Photo by Pieter Kers.

## SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 PERFORMANCES

### Sonic Acts at Stedelijk Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, 22–24 Feb

A wide variety of sound art performances – many of which were premieres – took place at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, furthering the ongoing collaboration between the museum and Sonic Acts. These included multichannel performances by Nina Pixel, Ji Youn Kang, Fedde ten Berge and Hugo Esquinca; a series of audiovisual stagings by Verdensteatret; and live appearances by gamut inc and Het Interstedelijk Harmonium Verbond.

*'Sonic Acts have their finger on the pulse in terms of what is happening in the electronic music field and audiovisual art scene.'*

Verdensteatret



Verdensteatret, *Hannah*, at Sonic Acts at Stedelijk. Photo by Pieter Kers.



SUUTOO at Progress Bar. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Bbymutha at Progress Bar. Photo by George Knegtel.

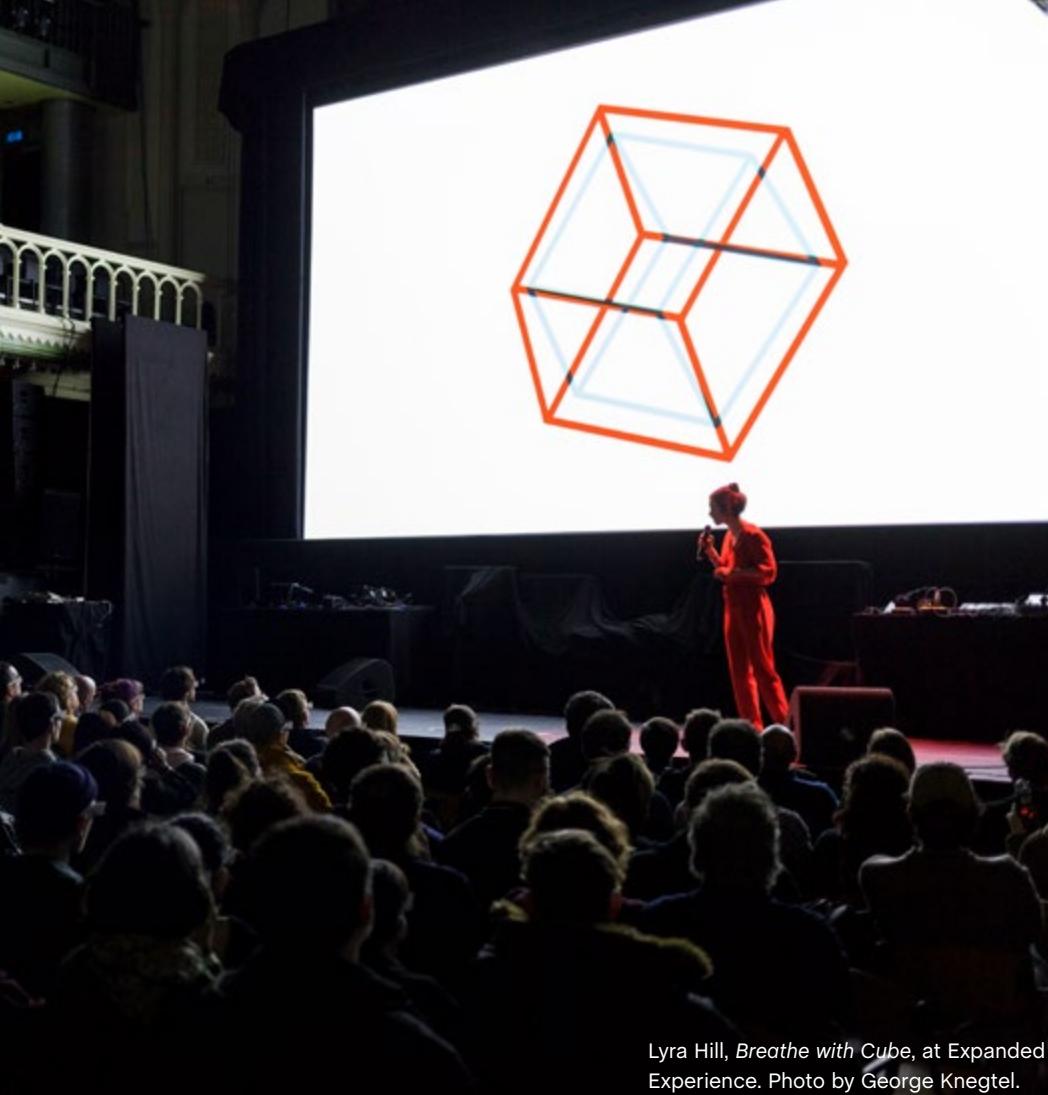


Phoebe Collings-James & Last Yearz Interesting Negro, *Sound as Weapon*, Sounds 4 Survival, at Progress Bar. Photo by Pieter Kers.

## SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 PERFORMANCES

### Progress Bar Paradiso, 22 Feb

At Paradiso, a special edition of Progress Bar featured an abundance of live performances and sound-world assemblages by some of contemporary club culture's most defiant vocalists, DJs, multimedia artists and poets – a growing community of artists whose work traverses nightlife and socio-political activism. The extensive line-up included Charm Mone, SUUTOO, Bbymutha, Divoli S'vere, YATTA, GIRLISONFIRE, James Massiah, mobilegirl, Slikback, Oxhy, AJA, and many others.



Lyra Hill, *Breathe with Cube*, at Expanded Experience. Photo by George Knechtel.

## SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 PERFORMANCES

### Expanded Experience Paradiso, 23 Feb

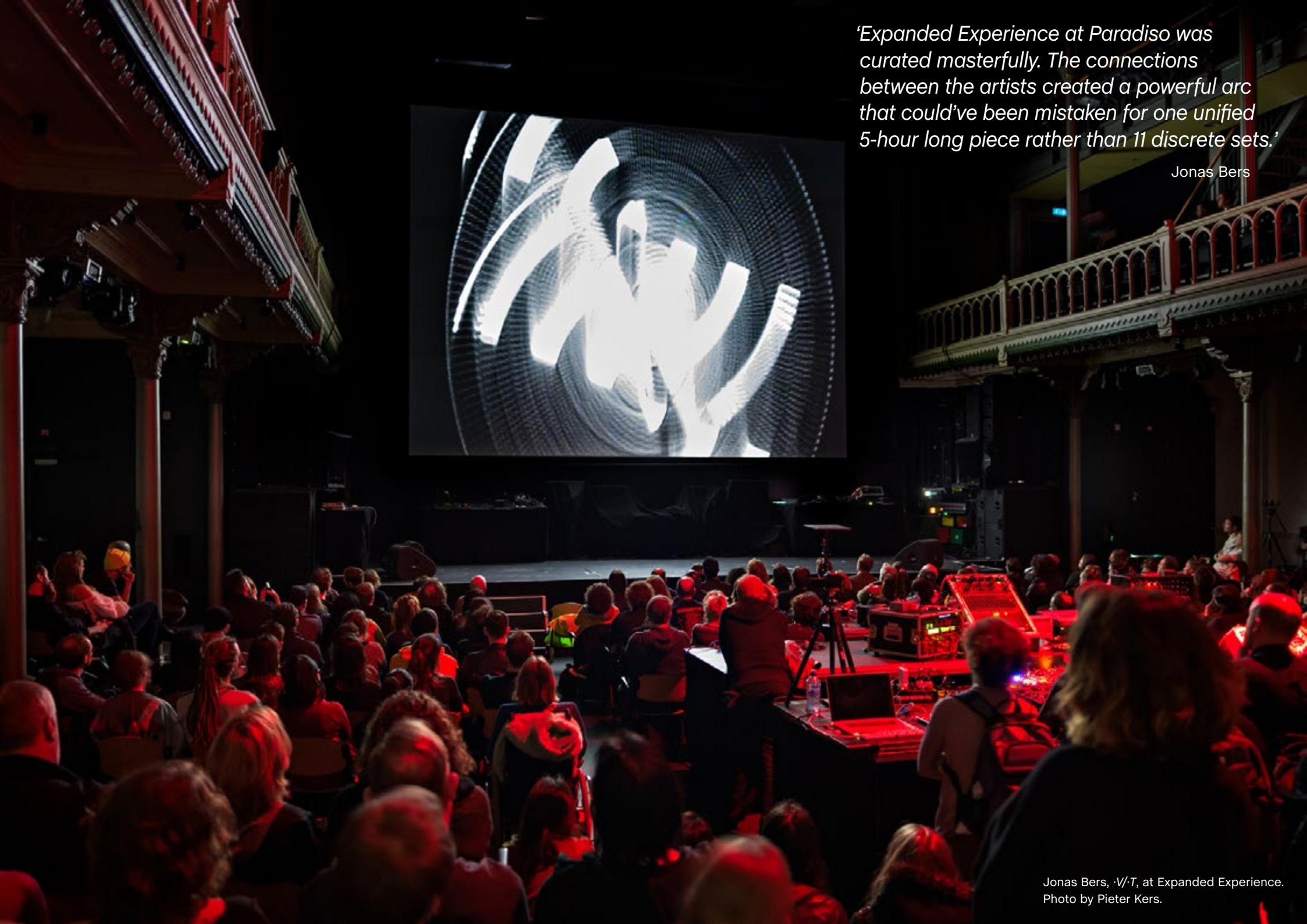
Expanded Experience, held at Paradiso, was a night programme that celebrated 25 years of Sonic Acts to the fullest. Dedicated to exploring radical audiovisual and sonic stimulations in various immersive, expanded and full-on sensory artistic expressions, the evening featured performances by, among others, Lyra Hill, Jonas Bers, Drone Operatør & Mette Rasmussen, 9T Antiope & Rainer Kohlberger, Jung An Tagen, EVOL, Wilted Woman, ZULI and Bergsonist.



Jonas Bers, *·V/T*, at Expanded Experience.  
Photo by George Knechtel.



Audience at Expanded Experience.  
Photo by Pieter Kers.

A wide-angle photograph of a theater interior during a performance. The stage is dark, but a massive screen at the front displays a bright, abstract digital artwork consisting of concentric, undulating blue and white patterns. The audience, seen from behind, is seated in rows, looking towards the stage. The theater's architecture features ornate red and gold decorations on the balconies above.

*'Expanded Experience at Paradiso was curated masterfully. The connections between the artists created a powerful arc that could've been mistaken for one unified 5-hour long piece rather than 11 discrete sets.'*

Jonas Bers

Jonas Bers, ·V/-T, at Expanded Experience.  
Photo by Pieter Kers.

**SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019**  
**PERFORMANCES**

**Festival Closing – Time Time Time**  
**Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, 24 Feb**

The festival's closing event took place at Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ with the world premiere of *Time Time Time*, a new opera written by composer Jennifer Walshe and philosopher Timothy Morton, which was co-commissioned by Sonic Acts. The extended dramatic work – a musical and philosophical reflection on the multiple layers of time – was performed with sound artists M.C. Schmidt, Lee Patterson, Áine O'Dwyer, Streifenjunko and Vilde&Inga.

'*Time Time Time* has such a documentary-like character, testament to the years of research behind it.'

De Groene Amsterdammer



Jennifer Walshe, Timothy Morton, M.C. Schmidt, Lee Patterson, Áine O'Dwyer, Streifenjunko, and Vilde&Inga, *Time Time Time*, at the Festival Closing. Photo by Pieter Kers.

*'Seen in its entirety, one of the most powerful identities of the past year.'*

Dutch Design Awards



*Hereafter animation by The Rodina. Screenshot.*



*Visual design at the Conference.  
Photo by Pieter Kers.*



*Hereafter festival guide*



*Entrance to De Brakke Grond.  
Photo by The Rodina.*



*Hereafter merchandise, De Brakke Grond. Photo by The Rodina.*

## **SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL 2019 VISUAL IDENTITY**

The visual identity of Sonic Acts Festival 2019 was developed by Amsterdam-based design studio The Rodina, who with Swiss designer Mateo Broillet produced a futuristic typeface specially for the festival. The festival's visual products were distributed expansively, with promotional videos displayed by the Dutch national railway operator NS, a broad poster campaign throughout Amsterdam, and digital flyers and animations shared widely via online networks. The identity was nominated for the Dutch Design Awards 2019.



Workshop: Sub-Conscious Decision-Making while Performing Live Electronic Music. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Seminar on Contemporary Theory, Creativity, The Earth & Us. Photo by Pieter Kers.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME: WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & GUIDED TOURS

A number of workshops, seminars and guided exhibition tours were organised by Sonic Acts in 2019, providing opportunities for participants to engage with and contribute to discussions that were provoked throughout Sonic Acts' annual activities.

### Workshop: Sub-Conscious Decision-Making while Performing Live Electronic Music **STEIM, 20 Feb**

Led by Keith Fullerton Whitman, participants looked at the challenges posed by an orchestral approach to electronic instrumentation, with an expanded lecture, demonstration and discussion about the implementation of improvisational concepts within rigid compositional frameworks.

### Seminar on Contemporary Theory, Creativity, The Earth & Us **Utrecht University & University of Amsterdam, 14–22 Feb**

Led by Rick Dolphijn with guests Rosi Braidotti and Susanne Winterling, participants mapped key thoughts relating to life and death from a posthuman perspective. Organised with Platform for Posthuman Ecologies and the Contemporary (post)-Humanities (Utrecht University) in collaboration with the Research School for Media Studies (RMeS).

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME: WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & GUIDED TOURS

### The Sound Hunter – Workshop for Children Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, 24–25 Feb

Led by sound artist Fedde ten Berge, children were able to explore various ways of producing digital and analogue sounds. Developed in collaboration with Kunst Centraal.



*The Sound Hunter – Workshop for Children.  
Photo by Pieter Kers.*

### Critical Writing Workshop De Brakke Grond, 21–24 Feb

Led by Arie Altena and Katía Truijen, emerging writers and critics were brought together to focus on the different critical modes that can be used to write about, describe and discuss art, sound and music.

### Workshop: The Hidden City De Brakke Grond, 25–27 Feb

Led by Christina Kubisch, participants were invited to explore and record electromagnetic signals in Amsterdam and transform and transcribe them into a composition, performance or text work to be presented and discussed.



*Critical Writing Workshop.  
Photo by Pieter Kers.*



*The Hidden City workshop. Photo by Pieter Kers.*

# HEREAFTER An Exhibition in Three Acts

Under the title HEREAFTER, the Sonic Acts 2019 exhibition aims to explore the genesis of our current crisis – and what happens in the hereafter – by reflecting on the issues we are forced to confront on a daily basis: the inequalities caused by colonisation and geostrategic manoeuvring, the challenges brought forth by immigration and the climate crisis, the ever-present exploitation and precarity of the work force, and the way technological advancements disrupt and not emancipate – that is, the gooey mesh of global capitalism. In order to gauge the complexities and interconnections of this crisis and re-imagine a different reality, it is helpful to look back, re-evaluate and untangle the threads that encumber our thinking outside the sticky terrain of neoliberalism.

The video works and installations presented in collaboration with De Brakke Grond reimagine terrains scarred by man-made industrialization in California's Imperial Valley (Lukas Marxt); reconfigure the strategic geopolitical area of the Russian Norwegian border area, undergoing catastrophic effects of climate change, while at the same time playing a prominent role in the industrial and military Northward expansion (Alexis Destoop); or try to reassess the 2011 Fukushima tsunami and nuclear disaster through transformations and mutations of the body (Ana Vaz). The works show us the impact of humankind on the environment, but they also shine a light on the communities affected by exploitation and oppression, aimed at the people living on geostrategic lands or on the pathways of the grand Enlightenment project (Ulrike Ottinger). Finally, there is Amsterdam, mapped as a terrain uncovering the city's hidden electromagnetic phenomena, its invisible wavelengths and charges (Christina Kubisch).

The HEREAFTER exhibition is presented as a triptych. The first part opened on 8 February at Arti et Amicitiae, the second part on 16 February at De Brakke Grond and the third opens on 22 February at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. The exhibition is open until 3 March.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME: WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS & GUIDED TOURS

### Guided Exhibition Tours

*Arti et Amicitiae & De Brakke Grond, 8 Feb–3 Mar*

Sonic Acts organised regular guided tours of its exhibitions at Arti et Amicitiae and De Brakke Grond. The guided tours offered additional context to the works on display and expanded the reach of the exhibition through the involvement of groups of students and teachers from various educational institutions.



Visitors at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts, De Brakke Grond. Photo by Pieter Kers.

## RESIDENCIES, COMMISSIONS & CO-PRODUCTIONS

The commissioning of new work, often developed during residency periods, has become a spearhead of Sonic Acts in recent years. A large amount of commissioned works and international co-productions were presented throughout the year.

**Time Time Time – Jennifer Walshe, Timothy Morton, M.C. Schmidt, Lee Patterson, Áine O'Dwyer, Streifenjunko, Vilde&Inga**

Opera exploring the multiplicity of temporalities of the heart of being human. Written by Jennifer Walshe and Timothy Morton. Commissioned by Borealis, Sonic Acts, MaerzMusik, Ultima Oslo Contemporary Music Festival, and London Contemporary Music Festival/Serpentine Galleries. Funded by the Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung. Part of Re-Imagine Europe.



Jennifer Walshe, Timothy Morton, M.C. Schmidt, Lee Patterson, Áine O'Dwyer, Streifenjunko, and Vilde&Inga, *Time Time Time*, at the Festival Closing. Photo by Pieter Kers.



## RESIDENCIES, COMMISSIONS & CO-PRODUCTIONS

### ORE – BJ Nilsen

Acousmatic work revealing research into the mining of iron ore and its impact on society. Developed for the Acousmonium sound diffusion system during a residency at INA GRM. Commissioned by INA GRM and Sonic Acts as part of Re-Imagine Europe.

### 𠂇 / Teum (The Silvery Slit) – Okkyung Lee

Acousmatic composition written for computer generated sounds, pre-recorded materials and cello. Developed for the Acousmonium sound diffusion system during a residency at INA GRM. Commissioned by INA GRM and Sonic Acts as part of Re-Imagine Europe.



Okkyung Lee, 𠂇 / Teum (The Silvery Slit), at the Festival Opening. Photo by Pieter Kers.

Acousmonium at the Festival Opening. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Ji Youn Kang, *Untitled*, at Sonic Acts at Stedelijk. Photo by Pieter Kers.

## RESIDENCIES, COMMISSIONS & CO-PRODUCTIONS

### Untitled – Ji Youn Kang

Sound work performed with two customised bamboos, a small Korean gong, and analogue real-time processing devices. Commissioned jointly by Sonic Acts and A4 for the Pentacle 15.3 Surround Sound System as part of Re-Imagine Europe.

### Bias Loop – Nina Pixel

Poetic sound work exploring ideas of uncertainty and reconnecting with the self. Commissioned jointly by Sonic Acts and A4 for the Pentacle 15.3 Surround Sound System as part of Re-Imagine Europe.

### Deformation Studies on Dimension and Structure for Fifteen Point Three – Hugo Esquinca

Sound work meditating on the acoustic resonances of space. Commissioned jointly by Sonic Acts and A4 for the Pentacle 15.3 Surround Sound System as part of Re-Imagine Europe.



Ryoko Akama, *Kosetsu*, at Sonic Acts at Stedelijk. Photo by Pieter Kers.

## RESIDENCIES, COMMISSIONS & CO-PRODUCTIONS

### **Kosetsu – Ryoko Akama**

Sculptural work examining accidental aural properties, performed with glass jars, hearing aids and motors. Co-commissioned by Sonic Acts and STEIM for STEIM's series of microTONE installations.

### **#71.1 – Joost Rekveld**

Generative audiovisual composition for radar display tube and analogue chaotic circuit. Co-commissioned by Sonic Acts for the series of microTONE installations.



Joost Rekveld, #71.1, at Sonic Acts at Stedelijk. Photo by Pieter Kers.

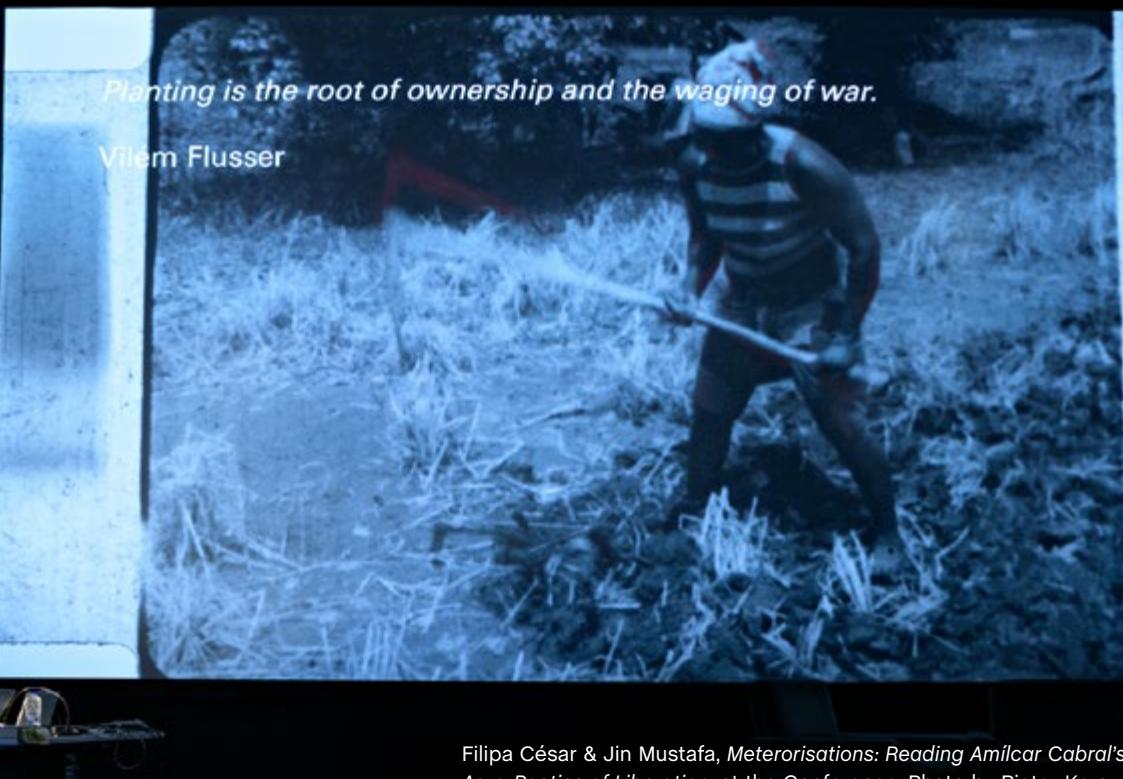
## RESIDENCIES, COMMISSIONS & CO-PRODUCTIONS

### Radiant (live) – HC Gilje

Audiovisual work with white laser projections and light-capturing phosphorescent pigment. Part of Re-Imagine Europe.

### Meteorisations: Reading Amílcar Cabral's Agro-Poetics of Liberation – Filipa César & Jin Mustafa

Performative lecture exploring the agronomic writings of Amílcar Cabral, a leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde. Part of Re-Imagine Europe.



Filipa César & Jin Mustafa, *Meteorisations: Reading Amílcar Cabral's Agro-Poetics of Liberation*, at the Conference. Photo by Pieter Kers.



HC Gilje, *Radiant (live)*, at Expanded Experience.  
Photo by Pieter Kers.

## RESIDENCIES, COMMISSIONS & CO-PRODUCTIONS

### Sound as Weapon, Sounds 4 Survival – Phoebe Collings-James & Last Yearz Interesting Negro

Collaborative performance embodied through a symbiotic relationship between dance, music and sculpture. Commissioned by Bergen Kunsthall and Sonic Acts as part of Re-Imagine Europe. Based on work developed in residency at Wysing Arts Centre.

### The Informals / Неформалы – Polina Medvedeva & Andreas Kühne

Audiovisual work about notions of decentralisation and collectivism, and non-conformist ways of living in the digital age. Commissioned by Sonic Acts and Inversia Festival as part of Re-Imagine Europe.



Phoebe Collings-James & Last Yearz Interesting Negro, Sound as Weapon, Sounds 4 Survival, at Progress Bar. Photo by Pieter Kers.

*'Sonic Acts Festival combines the unique qualities of showcasing in-depth research and fostering critical dialogue, engaging its audience and speakers from a variety of disciplines (artists, scientists, policy makers) in envisioning structures of the future.'*

Polina Medvedeva & Andreas Kühne

## RESIDENCIES, COMMISSIONS & CO-PRODUCTIONS

### Electrical Walks Amsterdam – Christina Kubisch

Public walk utilising sensitive wireless headphones, whereby the acoustic qualities of electromagnetic fields become amplified and audible. The work enables a new experience of the city, uncovering Amsterdam's hidden electromagnetic phenomena. Part of Re-Imagine Europe.

### Étude #1: On Recitation – Rana Hamadeh with André Castro

Installation comprising organ book, organ book machine, Disklavier, Sony cube monitor and horn speakers, exploring the question of the 'documental' and taking segments from Qur'anic scripture as a starting point.

Christina Kubisch, *Electrical Walks Amsterdam*, at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Rana Hamadeh with André Castro, *Étude #1: On Recitation*, at HEREAFTER – An Exhibition in Three Acts. Photo by Pieter Kers.



Karl Klomp, *Spatial Media Design*, at Progress Bar. Photo by Pieter Kers.

#### RESIDENCIES, COMMISSIONS & CO-PRODUCTIONS

##### Accidental Geopoetics – The Rodina

Design intervention and navigation infrastructure that takes revealing and hiding as two basic principles of design practice. Part of Re-Imagine Europe.

##### Spatial Media Design – Karl Klomp

Spatial media environment designed specially for the festival's performance programmes at Paradiso, including an impressive LED installation suspended from the ceiling of the main hall.



The Rodina, *Accidental Geopoetics*, at Sonic Acts at Stedelijk. Photo by Pieter Kers.



## PROGRAMME SERIES: PROGRESS BAR

OT301, 1 Nov & 20 Dec

With the Progress Bar programme series, Sonic Acts seeks to foster innovation and cultural diversity, as well as address the changing role of cultural institutions, by providing a platform for new forms of contemporary art and digital culture. It serves as a meeting point for a community of young digitally connected makers and emerging thinkers and writers.

Performing artists included Nazar, Satin de Compostela, Snufkin, SUUTOO, TAYHANA, Bby Eco, Exploited Body, Hesska, Oli XL and Parisa Madani.

TAYHANA at Progress Bar. Photo by George Knegtel.



Parisa Madani at Progress Bar. Photo by George Knegtel.

SUUTOO at Progress Bar. Photo by George Knegtel.





*'Sonic Acts are platforming incredibly talented, boundary-pushing artists from diverse backgrounds and gender expressions.'*

Metal Magazine



Audience at Progress Bar. Photo by George Knegtel.



Fossil Free Culture NL at Progress Bar.  
Photo by George Knegtel.



Fossil Free Culture NL at Progress Bar. Photo by George Knegtel.

## PROGRAMME SERIES: PROGRESS BAR

**OT301, 1 Nov & 20 Dec**

Progress Bar combines a programme of lectures, presentations and film screenings with audiovisual performances and an adventurous club night. It is focused on new developments in art, music, politics and society, with line-ups consisting of local and international artists who often combine their artistic practice with socio-political activism.

Speakers included Tracian Meikle and Judith Leysner of 'intra-curricular initiative' Unsettling, and the collective Fossil Free Culture NL. Films that were screened included Jeremy Deller's *Putin's Happy* (2019) and *Zombies* (2019) by Baloji.

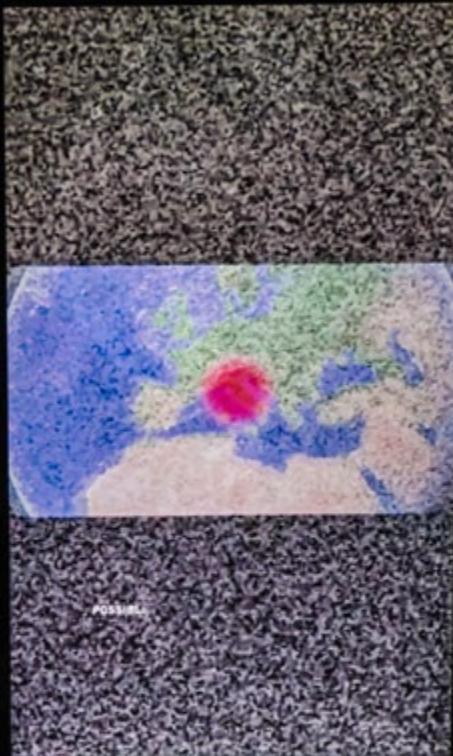


*'It's not an overstatement to say that this format, characterised by a borderless melange of different voices, experiences and performances, is one that needs replicating across the clubbing scene.'*

Crack Magazine

# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS & DISTRIBUTION RE-IMAGINE EUROPE

Re-Imagine Europe is a four-year project in which ten European cultural organisations collaborate on the production, presentation and distribution of new artistic work that responds to current social and political challenges, such as the impact of technological advancement, climate change, migration and rising nationalism. Re-Imagine Europe was initiated by Sonic Acts and involves artistic residencies, commissions, workshops and symposia, using art to empower a young generation of Europeans to explore new ideas.



Ljubavnice, *I would rather be a cyborg than a goddess*, at Extravagant Bodies Festival, Zagreb. Photo by Sanjin Kastelan.



The Rodina, *Accidental Geopoetics*, in Lyon.  
Photo courtesy of The Rodina.



bod [包家巷] & Schwestern Sisters (SwS), *WIWMAVGA/WLDSAATCWA*, at Extravagant Bodies Festival, Zagreb. Photo by Sanjin Kastelan.



The Rodina, Accidental Geopoetics, in Lyon. Photo courtesy of The Rodina.



Jennifer Walshe, Timothy Morton, M.C. Schmidt, Lee Patterson, Áine O'Dwyer, Streifenjunko, and Vilde&Inga, *Time Time Time*, at MærzMusik, Berlin. Photo by Camille Blake.



Okkyung Lee, 韶 / Teum (The Silvery Slit), at Présences électroniques, Paris. Photo courtesy of INA GRM.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS & DISTRIBUTION RE-IMAGINE EUROPE

2019 was a successful year for the international distribution of works realised in co-production with Sonic Acts and via Re-Imagine Europe. The largest distribution was *Time Time Time* by Jennifer Walshe & Timothy Morton. After its premiere at Sonic Acts Festival, it was presented by Borealis in Bergen, Norway; MærzMusik in Berlin, Germany; at Ultima Contemporary Music Festival in Oslo, Norway; and at London Contemporary Music Festival, UK. All performances were received with great media attention.



Jennifer Walshe, Timothy Morton, M.C. Schmidt, Lee Patterson, Áine O'Dwyer, Streifenjunko, and Vilde&Inga, *Time Time Time*, at London Contemporary Music Festival. Photo by Dawid Laskowski.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS & DISTRIBUTION CO-PRODUCTION IN RUSSIA

In Russia, as a continuation of the 2018 Living Earth project, and in collaboration with Inversia Festival, Sonic Acts presented a field recording lab with artist BJ Nilsen, as well as performances and audiovisual presentations by Thomas Ankersmit, Red Brut, Andreas Kühne & Polina Medvedeva and Telcosystems. The international activities that Sonic Acts has been developing in Russia are part of a collaboration with Murmansk-based cultural organisation Fridaymilk. The collaboration goes back to 2012 and the research for the Dark Ecology project, which was initiated by Sonic Acts and Norwegian curator Hilde Methi, in collaboration with Fridaymilk and other partners.



Andreas Kühne & Polina Medvedeva, *The Informals / Неформалы*, at Inversia Festival, Murmansk. Photo by Eduard Mikryukov.



Andreas Kühne & Polina Medvedeva, *The Informals / Неформалы*, at Inversia Festival, Murmansk. Photo by Eduard Mikryukov.

*'Sonic Acts provides a platform for experimentation and entertainment, creating a safe space for radical imagination.'*

Polina Medvedeva & Andreas Kühne



## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS & DISTRIBUTION

Other examples of international distributions in 2019 were:

- *ORE* by BJ Nilsen and 韦 / *Teum (The Silvery Slit)* by Okkyung Lee at Présences électroniques in Paris, France.
- *Sound as Weapon, Sounds 4 Survival* by Phoebe Collings-James & Last Yearz Interesting Negro at Borealis in Bergen, Norway.
- *The Informals / Неформалы* by Polina Medvedeva & Andreas Kühne at the Inversia Festival in Murmansk, Russia; at A4 - Space for Contemporary Culture in Bratislava, Slovakia; at Lofoten International Art Festival in Svolvær, Norway; and at Lighthouse, Brighton, UK.
- *WIWMAVGAIWLDSAATCWA* by bod [包家巷] & Schwestern Sisters at Extravagant Bodies Festival in Zagreb, Croatia.
- *I would rather be a cyborg than a goddess* by Ljubavnice at Extravagant Bodies Festival in Zagreb, Croatia.
- *Radiant (live)* by HC Gilje at Stereolux in Nantes, France.
- *Accidental Geopoetics* by The Rodina at lectures and presentations in Leipzig, Lyon and Stuttgart.
- *Imperial Valley* by Lukas Marxt at the Kunsthalle in Graz, Austria, and at STATE Studio in Berlin, Germany.
- *Isosphere* by Joris Stribbos, developed in 2015 for Dark Ecology, was realised as a permanent installation at Fjordplassen in Trondheim, Norway.



*Hereafter* publication and posters. Photo by The Rodina.

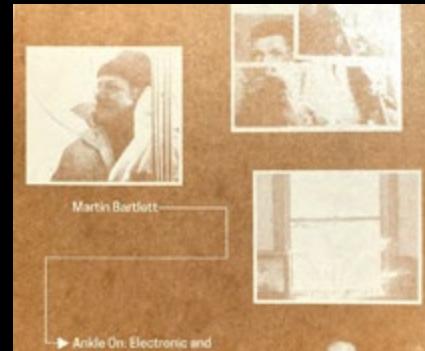
## PUBLISHING

To accompany Sonic Acts Festival 2019, Sonic Acts published a new book comprising written and visual contributions from the festival's conference speakers, performers, filmmakers, and other participants. The publication included contributions by, among others, Jodi Dean, Gregory Sholette, Clausthome & Mārtiņš Ratniks, Flavia Dzodan, Rana Hamadeh, Susanne M. Winterling, The Living and the Dead Ensemble, Elizabeth A. Povinelli, William L. Fox, Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa, Filipa César, Ephraim Asili, and Ana Vaz.

An extended version of BJ Nilsen's *ORE* was released as a special product run, with each comprising a cryovial tube of iron ore and an individual download code to the sound piece. And the CD *Martin Bartlett – Ankle On: Electronic & Orchestral Works* was released in collaboration with label Arc Light Editions.



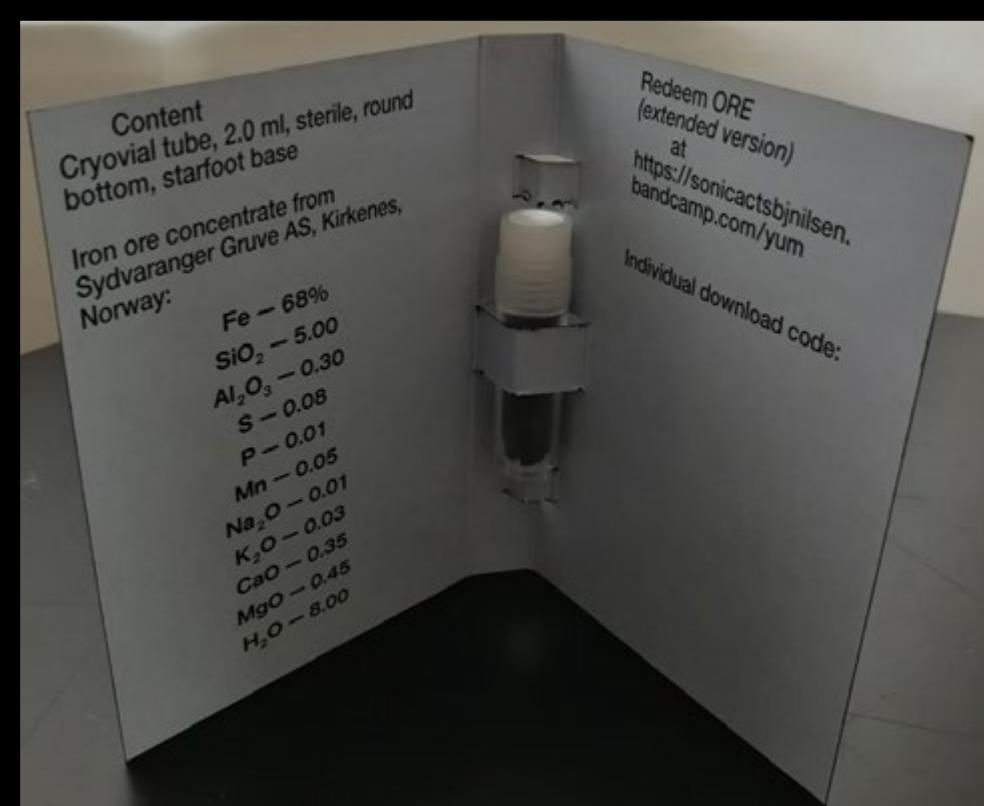
Underbelly bookstore at De Brakke Grond. Photo by Pieter Kers.



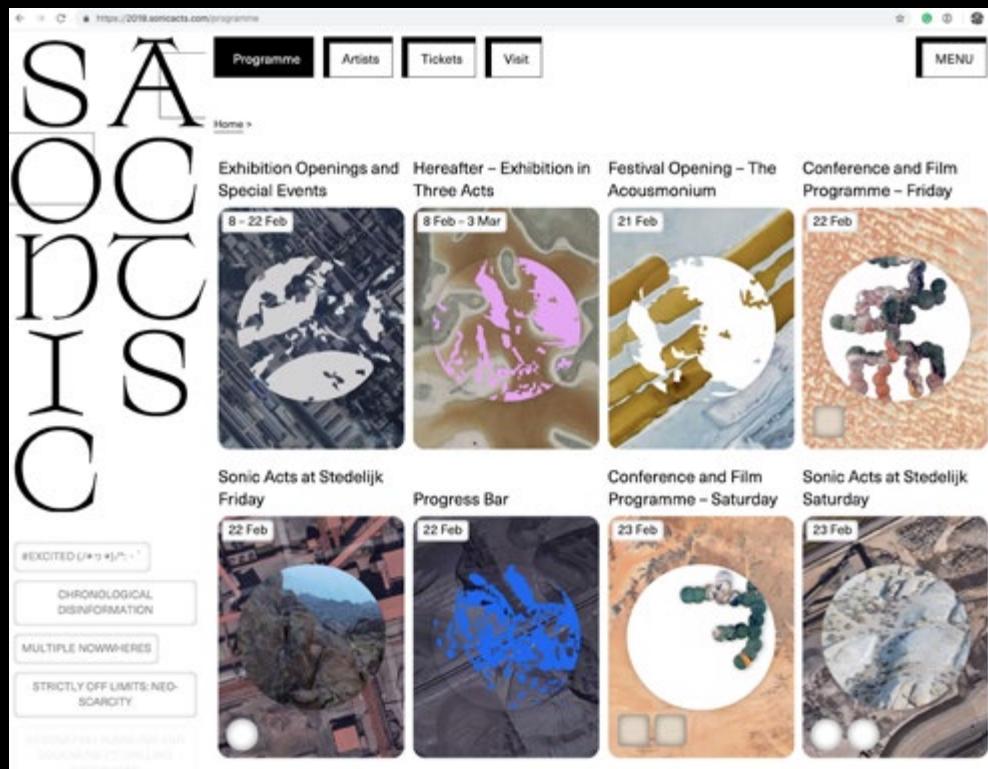
*Martin Bartlett – Ankle On: Electronic & Orchestral Works*



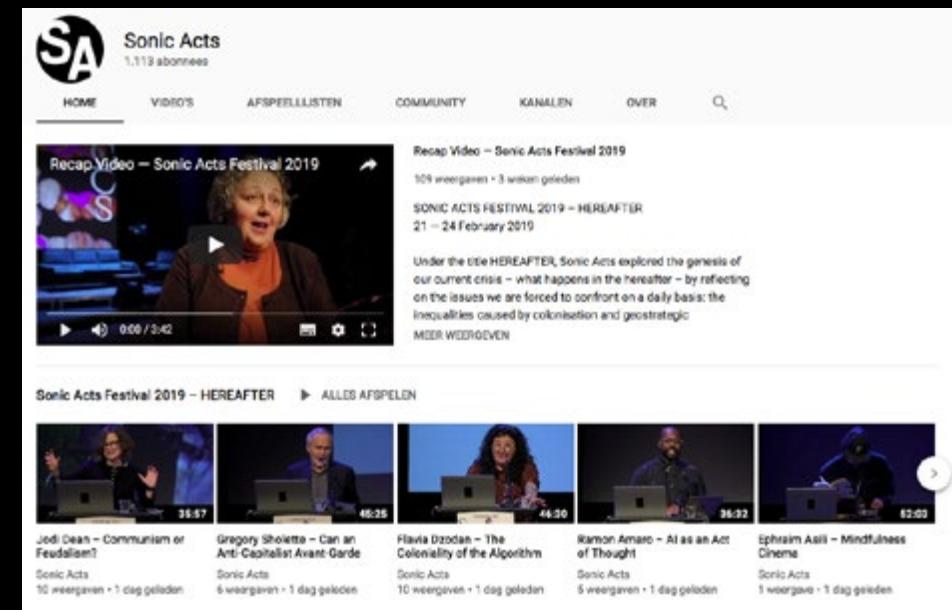
*Hereafter* publication



BJ Nilsen, *ORE* (extended version). Photo by BJ Nilsen.



Festival website. Screenshot.



Bergsonist mix for Sonic Acts. Screenshot.



Festival website. Screenshot.

## (ONLINE) DISTRIBUTION

Video recordings of the festival's three-day conference were published on the Sonic Acts YouTube and Vimeo channels, and the conference was live-streamed during the festival. Texts produced at the Critical Writing Workshop were made available online via the Sonic Acts blog, while interviews, mixes and podcasts with artists were published by various media partners, including The Wire, De Groene Amsterdammer, Crack Magazine and Metropolis M; and radio broadcasts with artists were transmitted via platforms including Red Light Radio and Operator Radio.

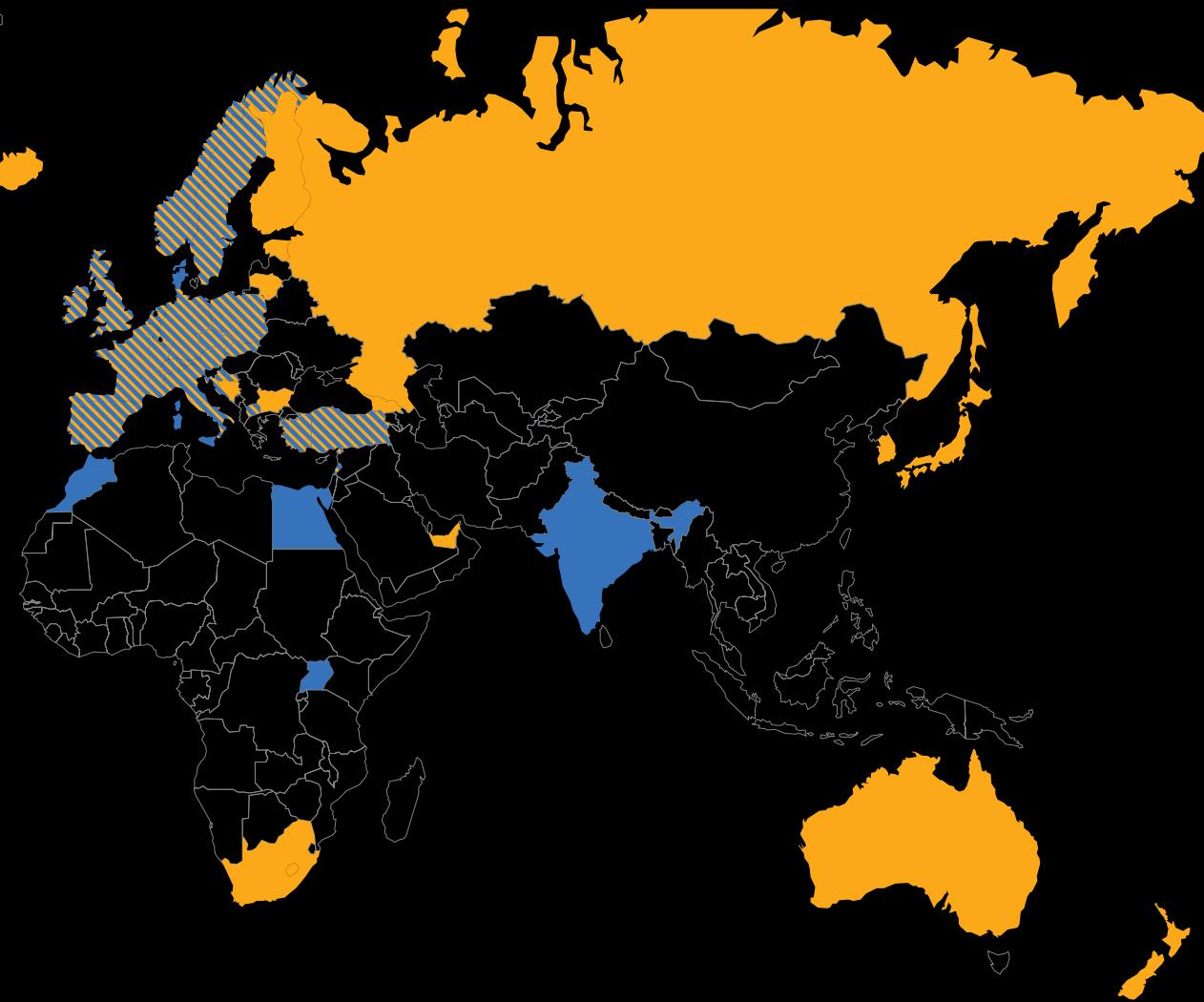


rkss mix for Sonic Acts. Screenshot.



*'Sonic Acts not only enriches our local scene but also puts Amsterdam on the international map as a hub of innovation and paradigm shifting initiatives. This festival makes the city of Amsterdam proud and artists, academic, cultural programmers and critics travel from all over Europe to attend.'*

Flavia Dzodan



## FACTS & FIGURES

- 16,371 ❤️ visitors nationally
- 4,546 🌎 visitors internationally
- 75,189 🌐 website visits (54,917 unique users)
- 27,500 📸 social media followers
- 90,800 🎥 video views
- 486,947 👍 Facebook reach
- 398,900 💬 Twitter impressions
- 900,000 📜 public reach (on account of advertising)

## FUNDERS & PARTNERS



Jung An Tagen, *Agent Im Objekt*, at Expanded Experience. Photo by George Knechtel.

Sonic Acts was funded in 2019 by Creative Industries Fund NL, Amsterdam Fund for the Arts, Mondriaan Fund, Fonds 21, VSBfonds, Performing Arts Fund NL, Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung, Het Nieuwe Instituut and Goethe Institut. HERAFTER is part of Re-Imagine Europe, and co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

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Works commissioned as part of Re-Imagine Europe are co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

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FONDS 21

VSBfonds,  
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AK  
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Muziekgebouw



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PRIESTOR  
SÚČASNEJ  
KULTÚRY

STEIM

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BOREALIS

Berliner Festspiele  
MoerzMusik

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