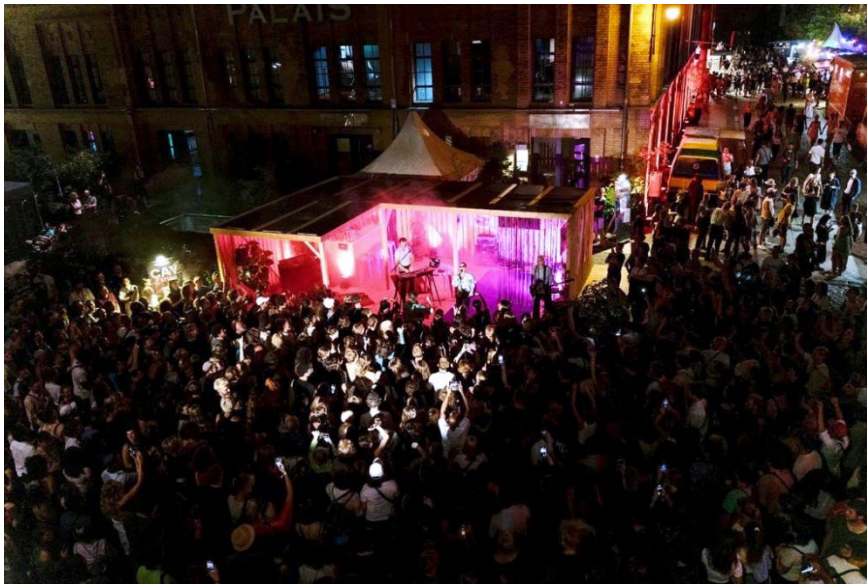


Pop-Kultur/2022

Press release from 29 August 2022

Pop-Kultur 2022 closes full of highlights

- *10,000 visitors on the festival grounds over three days*
- *entirely live, international and accessible*
- *Pop-Kultur 2023 takes place from 30 August to 1 September*



Fuffifufzich at Çaystube @ Dominique Brewing

With an intense DJ set by **BEÄTFÖÖT**, the eighth edition of Pop-Kultur came to a successful end last Friday. On the same evening, **BEÄTFÖÖT** and the drag performers **Kunty Klub** set the mood for dancing with their colourful and fast-paced Commissioned Work. Around **10,000 people celebrated Pop-Kultur from 24 to 26 August** in the outdoor and indoor venues of the Kulturbrauerei.

Different pop music formats, live, international and accessible: this is how Pop-Kultur 2022 introduced itself on the opening evening, which **21 downbeat**, the RambaZamba house band, kicked off with excerpts from their Commissioned Work »**Berlin**«. The Minister of State for Culture and the Media, **Claudia Roth**, also welcomed visitors to the Palais on 24 August in this spirit: *"For eight years now, this festival has been a democratic celebration of everything that makes up pop culture. It has a super exciting, artistic programme that invites all creative people, and the audience, to discover popular music in all its versatility, to argue about it, to look for new impulses, to set them and finally also to celebrate them together"*. This diversity was reflected in the approximately 120 events curated by the programme team consisting of **Yeşim Duman**, **Pamela Owusu-Brenyah** and **Christian Morin** with a focus on the African diaspora, queer positions or post-migrant realities, among others.



*top left: Metz @ Käthe deKoe
bottom left: Arooj Aftab @ Camille Blake
right: GoldLink @ Dominique Brewing*

The Berlin avant-garde pop band **Painting** immediately showcased diversity as a visual joyride. Four festival visitors navigated the gaming worlds of the Commissioned Work »**Painting White on White**« live on stage and thus spontaneously became part of the performance. Speaking of the digital world, in the talk between **Carmelo Lo Porto**, **Jovanka von Wilsdorf** and **Tristan Littlejohn**, NFTs were critically examined. On other panels musicians in exile, musical Stasi entanglements and youth culture were among the focal points.

A major draw was the atmospheric and contemplative performance of the Pakistani Grammy winner **Arooj Aftab**, with fans queuing in front of the Palais. The American rapper **GoldLink** and his fan club also created a great atmosphere in the completely full Kesselhaus. In one of the more intimate venues, **FOKN Bois** were able to inspire with thoughtful political tones, for example on LGBTQIA rights in Ghana. As the last act on the opening night, the Canadian punk rockers **Metz** said goodbye to Wednesday's crowd with a brilliant storm of guitar riffs.

On the second day of the festival, **Fuffifufzich** transformed the Çaystube into a main stage. For her performance, hundreds of visitors gathered in the Kulturbrauerei courtyard around the stage, which was specially designed for Pop-Kultur and accessible without a ticket. As an interactive and collective format, the Çaystube - with performances by **Wa22ermann** and **Tama Gucci**, among others - was a much-frequented highlight on all three days. The Commissioned Work »**Karaokee Express**« by **gal sherizly & Nhu Huỳnh** also invited a wide variety of people to celebrate on stage or to simply sing along. Thus, the Çaystube served as a safe space in the middle of the festival's hustle and bustle.

Meanwhile, in packed cinemas there were thought-provoking talks, including »**Artists off the Mainstream**« with **M3NSA** and **Wanlov the Kubolor** from **FOKN Bois**, the Ghanaian rapper **M.anifest** and Musicboard resident **Poetra Asantewa** as well as »**Ethics of Appropriation**« with pop journalist **Jens Balzer**, **Julian Warner** aka **Fehler Kuti** and journalist and scientist **Aida Baghernejad**.



*left: KABEAUSHÉ @ Dominique Brewing
right: MC Yallah @ Camille Blake*

There were also unique performances by parts of the group **Ja, Panik**, who had to spontaneously perform in a smaller line-up due to a corona case, though they added a saxophonist; **Oklou** from France, who transformed the Kesselhaus into a mystical forest full of hope with her synth-pop sounds and stage decoration; **MC Yallah** and her beatmaker **Debmaster**, who disseminated love with their powerful mix of conscious rap, grime, punk and trap. **KABEAUSHÉ** brought the second day of the festival to an exhilarating close. With hypnotic ease, the artist from Kenya sent the audience into a dancing frenzy.

Even the rainy weather on day three could not spoil the mood. Eagerly awaited performances by **M.anifest**, Ukrainian rapper **alyona alyona** and Future Pop artist **Hannah Diamond** left the audience beaming. The talk »Nicht deine Inspiration«

(Not your inspiration«) with **Graf Fidi**, **Adina Hermann**, **Rebecca Maskos** and **Amy Zayed** explored the question of how people with visible disabilities experience so-called "inspiration exploitation" and what we can do to counteract it.



Talk »Nicht deine Inspiration« with (from left to right) Graf Fidi, Rebecca Maskos, Amy Zayed and Adina Hermann @ Käthe deKoe

To conclude the festival, Commissioned Works were in the spotlight. The Berlin avant-garde trio **GEWALT** took the audience on a voyeuristic, to-the-limit experience with »Du bist Gewalt«; in contrast, **K.ZIA** created a space full of human warmth and affection with »K.ZIAs Living Room Experience«. And **Sanni Est** led the audience into a world of personal transformation that was both healing and frightening in »Photophobia«.



K.ZIA with »K.ZIAs Living Room Experience« © Dominique Brewing

Katja Lucker, festival director and managing director of the Musicboard Berlin, is enthusiastic about the eighth Pop-Kultur Festival, at which, for the first time since the pandemic, the young talents of **Pop-Kultur Nachwuchs** and **Goethe Talents** were able to meet live and exchange ideas: *"Considering the backlog of concerts this summer, we are happy that so many people wanted to intensively celebrate and discuss pop culture with us. With this positive energy, we will soon start our preparations for 2023"*.

The next edition of Pop-Kultur will be live from 30 August to 1 September 2023.

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