

# TRANSITIONS

FESTIVAL JÜDISCHER  
GEGENWARTSKÜNSTE

Holzmarkt 25  
& Live Stream

18. — 20.08.2021

»TRANSITIONS. Festival of Contemporary Jewish Arts« presents a diversity of contemporary artistic perspectives and practices that navigate the space between protest and resistance, solidarity and reinvention.

The three-day festival unites around 50 artists – Jewish, non-Jewish, secular, observant, post-migrant or migrant, feminist, Black, PoC and/or Queer – who envision and envisage a different society. What alternative modes of thinking and acting do they incite? How can the transition between old and new be framed artistically?

»TRANSITIONS« invites artists and the public to a pan-European and trans-Atlantic exchange and encourages us to explore new social conditions and visions. The festival celebrates the Art of Resistance and, through a multiplicity of voices – both in their commonalities and divergences – demonstrates the possibilities of shaping social change together pluralistically.

www.dagesh.de/transitions

## Multimediale Art Exhibition TRANSITIONS

TRANSITIONS seeks to create a new Jewish visibility that transcends borders in a European and transatlantic exchange. Via video and sound art, text composition, and other forms of visual and digital arts, over 15 artists will showcase their experience and understanding of solidarity and resistance through aesthetics and artistic practices from a shared and yet diverse contemporary Jewish perspective.

The concept of »TRANSITIONS« describes a liminal space, a threshold condition in which society currently finds itself, both socially and politically. A "betwixt and between" state, where the usual order of things is disrupted and new potentials and limits can be challenged and explored. With »TRANSITIONS« we seek to aesthetically explore ways to create newness founded on the very loss and (transgenerational) trauma of the original places. Speaking from a multiplicity of situated Jewish positions, the art pieces in the exhibition will display the artists' engagement with political events, discourses and movements that impact and mobilise them in their specific context.

### Artists

Liliana Farber, Eduard Freudmann, Yara Haskiel, Nikolay Karabinovych, Krivoy Kolektiv (Sophia Sobko, Irina Zadov, Aravah Berman-Mirkin), Nicolás Melmann, Carlos Metta + Aaron Samuels, Tamara Micner, Katja Pilipenko, Nina Prader, Nikola Radić Lucati, Elianna Renner + Oree Holban, Hadas Tapouchi, Daniel Terna.

## Literatur & Performance: *Literature as Political Practice*

We invite you to a literary relay race. In a blend of live readings and a virtual literary festival, contemporary Jewish and non-Jewish authors present texts that they view as literature of resistance. One author passes the "baton" to the next; a diverse network reads and performs thereby creating an archive of literature of resistance. The writers complement one another's ways of processing the world but they also contradict each other and call upon their readers and listeners to take a bold stand and/or to join them in conversation. The authors are united in their conviction that their art is an action to impact. Literature does not merely describe situations, it tells a new story of society and thus contributes to shaping its future.

With: Enis Maci, Max Czollek, Swantje Lichtenstein, Hila Amit, Sivan Ben Yishai, Esther Dischereit, Rebecca Ajnwojner, Tomer Gardi, Asaf Dvori, Hengameh Yaghoobifarah, Fatma Aydemir, Ivana Sajko, Enrico Ippolito, Cemile Sahin, Shida Bazayr, Cana + Zühal Bilir-Meier, Mazlum Nergiz, Olga Hohmann, Noam Brusilovsky, Anna Hetzer, Carolina Bianchi Ribeiro, Kinga Tóth, Marina Skalova, Nastasja Penzar, Sandra Gugić, Tomer Dreyfus, Sam Max, Keli Freitas, Agnes Borinsky, Mati Shemoelof, Julia Rose Gostynski, Antigone Akgün, Necati Öziri, Tanja Šljivar, Ricardo Domeneck, Deniz Utlü and Ben Osborn!

*Literature as Political Practice* is curated by Sasha M. Salzmann, Jo Frank and Tobias Herzberg – and by the authors themselves, as they pass the baton.

## Performance & Music: *Bodies & Sounds in Movement*

The opening evening, on 18 August 2021, spotlights performing arts. Expressive dance performances, absurd and political theatre excerpts, and poetic live music take the audience on an excursion through liminal spaces. On stage: international Jewish and non-Jewish artists, who creatively engage with topics of location and transformation, resistance and truth.

Featuring performances by: Zufit Simon (Dance); Oxana Chi (Dance) mit Layla Zami (Saxophone), Julius Heise (Vibraphone), Betty Stürmer (Stage Design); Rroma Aether Klub Theater: by and with Slaviša & Nebojša Marković, Rebecca D. Surber; and the Dokumentartheater Berlin (Marina Schubarth & Ensemble)

Curated by the duo Layla Zami Zuckerman and Oxana Chi (Berlin/Brooklyn).

## Discussion: *We talk Tachles! Art and curation as a practice of resistance* "The function of art is to do more than tell it like it is – it's to imagine what is possible." bell hooks

To round up the three-day festival, we connect the dots of TRANSITIONS and talk tachles: What signifies art of resistance? Where is the tipping point between aesthetics and activism? When does the aesthetic and curatorial gaze turn into political agenda setting? And is a (self-)critical artistic practice necessarily defined as political art? In discussion with Mirjam Wenzel (Director of the Jewish Museum Frankfurt), Nuran David Çaliş (theatre and film writer & director) and Ricardo Domeneck (writer & translator), we talk about the potential, the impact and responsibility of art and curation as a practice of resistance and transformation.

Moderated by Julia Y. Alfandari (DAGESH) and Tillmann Severin (Author & Publisher).

## Workshops: *Critical Arts Education*

In addition to the artistic works and discussions, the festival places a major emphasis on critical arts education in practice. In this context, the festival will include workshops on Thursday and Friday on the topic of art and cultural education linked to the fight against antisemitism and racism. The workshops are offered to young people (15 yrs+) to jointly cultivate and elaborate methods, experiences and processes for unlearning and relearning.

Facilitator: Nelly Alfandari (Arts educator, PhD candidate in critical pedagogy and social justice, theatre practitioner in theatre of the oppressed).

## Artist Talk

Esra Küçük (Allianz Kulturstiftung) and Andreas Görger (German Federal Foreign Office) in conversation with the curator and artists of the multimedia exhibition TRANSITIONS. In this time of transition, the artists' works address global issues that they view with utmost relevance and urgency. Their works speak from a variety of situated Jewish positions, they seek ways of coalitions, and in that they make visible, comment on, and contribute to a diversity of political events, discourses, and movements that affect them.

Moderated by Julia Y. Alfandari (DAGESH).

# P R O G R A M M E

Wednesday, August 18

16.00 Uhr, Sälchen

Exhibition Opening and Tour  
with Curator Daniel Laufer (DE + EN)

17.30 Uhr, Außenbühne

Festival Opening und Opening Performance

18.00 Uhr, Außenbühne

Artist Talk

Esra Küçük (Allianz Kulturstiftung) and Andreas Görger (Foreign Office) in conversation with artists of the Art Exhibition TRANSITIONS.  
Moderated by Julia Y. Alfandari (DAGESH).

19.30 Uhr, Außenbühne

*Bodies & Sounds in Movement*

With: Zufit Simon, Oxana Chi, Layla Zami, Julius Heise, Rroma Aether Klub Theater, Das Dokumentartheater Berlin.

Curators: Layla Zami & Oxana Chi.

Thursday, 19. August

11.00 Uhr — 20.00 Uhr, Sälchen

TRANSITIONS Art Exhibition

09:00 — 14.00 Uhr, Terrasse

Workshop I

DAGESH on Tour: Arts Education Workshop with Youth (Age: 15 years+). Registration required.

18.00, Außenbühne

*Literature as Political Practice:*

*a literary relay race*

With: Fatma Aydemir, Max Czollek, Esther Dischereit, Tomer Gardi, Swantje Lichtenstein, Cemile Sahin, Hengameh Yaghoobifarah, Sivan Ben Yishai, Mazlum Nergiz, Sandra Gugić, Antigone Akgün, Hila Amit, Enis Maci and many more!

Curators: Tobias Herzberg, Sasha M. Salzmann, Jo Frank.

Friday, 20. August

11.00 Uhr — 20.00 Uhr, Sälchen

TRANSITIONS Art Exhibition

10:00 — 14.00 Uhr, Terrasse

Workshop II

DAGESH on Tour: Arts Education Workshop with Youth (Age: 15 years+). Registration required.

18:00 Uhr, Außenbühne

*We talk Tachles! Art and curation as*

*a practice of resistance* [Event held in German]

Talk with: Mirjam Wenzel (Director of the Jewish Museum Frankfurt), Nuran David Çaliş (Theatre and Film Writer & Director) and Ricardo Domeneck (Writer & Translator). Moderated by Julia Y. Alfandari (DAGESH).

19:30 Uhr, Außenbühne

Shabbat ceremony opened by Isidoro Abromovicz, Cantor and Musician.

## Impressum

Festival Curators, Organisers and Contributors:

Sasha M. Salzmann (Literature), Tobias Herzberg (Literature), Jo Frank (Literature + Festival Coordination), Layla Zami and Oxana Chi (Performance + Music), Daniel Laufer (Exhibitions), Julia Y. Alfandari (Festival Coordination, Discussion + Workshop), Tillmann Severin (Festival and Exhibitions Assistance + Editor), Stephanie Haerdle (Media + Communication), Ida Flik und İpek Erdöl (Graphic Design), Alexander v. Falkenhausen (Website), Jake Schneider und Diana Weis (Translation), Jakub Šimčík (Exhibition Production Manager), Maria Sand und Yana Lemberska (DAGESH).

A festival organised by



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