



TITLE: **Press release 12th Norient Festival**

DATE: **28.11.2022**



## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT NORIENT FESTIVAL 2023**

**Collective, international, and interdisciplinary, revolving around music, sound, and noise**

The international and interdisciplinary Norient Festival will take place from 11 to 15 January at various venues in Bern, Switzerland. The 12th edition of the Norient Festival will focus on the collective exchange of the experiences of a global community. Our international curatorial team brings together diverse voices and perspectives from artists, thinkers, and cultural activists from Uganda, Kenya, Colombia, India, Lebanon, and more.

With wake-up calls of beats, sounds, and tones, shared concert and club experiences, audiovisual performances, stirring film novelties, and critical think tanks, we reflect together on colonial reappraisal, tell stories from the world today, and look to a pop cultural future.

### **Info, Links, and contact**

Program, trailer, ticketing, and further information :<http://www.norient-filmfestival.com/>

Access to screeners and interviews, Artistic Director Claudia Popovici, other curators, Norient Director Thomas Burkhalter, and/or contributing directors/musicians: on request

Press material for films and live acts as well as for the festival: <https://press.norient.com/>

Contact: Janina Neustupny, Press Officer, janina@norient.com, +41 77 454 48 50



---

## STATEMENT BY THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



*Norient Festival 2023 explores global connectivity and the collective experience of artistic and creative work.*

*For artists, communities are central as they offer a safe space for sharing personal experiences and artistic practices, as well as an exchange at eye level – a principle that also shapes the collaboration of our international curatorial team. Our network is our community.*

*All of this is reflected in our program: **from Kenya to Switzerland, from Morocco to Uganda and Germany, it deals with topics like mental health, techniques of care, friendships and relationships, the sound of pollution, and how collective resistance can be the starting point for artistic collaborations.** NF 2023 attempts to create new spaces of encounter and bring together artistic practices, experiences, and reflections that manifest themselves in sound and image.*

**Claudia Popovici**, Artistic Director NF 2023

## FESTIVALPROGRAMM 2023

After two extremely successful festival editions, first digitally due to the pandemic, then partially with a physical presence, we are looking forward to coming together as a global community in the federal city of Bern. «Reflecting Togetherness Through Sensitivity», we would like to consciously reflect, develop, and experience a sense of togetherness in the 12th festival edition.

The program illuminates the contexts and backgrounds of music, sound, and noise, presents the hard and inspiring life and work realities of artists and cultural workers worldwide, and encourages us to perceive current music and contemporary events from different perspectives. We are convinced that this diversity connects and strengthens our global network. Whether being climate change, social inequality, war, or the precariousness of artists, the challenges of our time must be discussed and mastered together.



---

## FESTIVALFACTS

### #CURATION

The 12th Norient Festival is the responsibility of Zurich-based photographer, filmmaker, and video artist **Claudia Popovici** and has been developed in close collaboration with an international program group. The six-member team consists of **Radha Mahendru (Delhi)**, **Emma Nzioka (Nairobi)**, **Vinzent Preuß (Freiburg i. Br.)**, **Philipp Rhensius (Berlin)**, **Rebecca Salvadori (London)**, and **Luisa Fernanda Uribe (Bogotá)**.

This style of international and multidisciplinary curation was introduced in 2020 by festival director Thomas Burkhalter in order to hand over editorial and curatorial power to artists\* and thinkers\*.

### #BLOCKS

**On the screen** are 18 short films, documentaries, and feature films, produced and shot in 19 countries, with nine Swiss premieres, one European premiere, and one world premiere. Jan Moszumański's documentary ***Singeli Movement: Greed for Speed*** is about the radically fast dance music style singeli, which originated in the Mburahati slum of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Shot close to the community, the film documents the rise of a cross-generational and cross-gender movement that is increasingly infecting the global music scenes with its energy. Live or online Q&As with the directors will take place during almost every festival film block.

**On stage**, local and international performers and DJs will present themselves. Ambassadors of the Ugandan epicenter for electronic music, **Nyege Nyege**, will be there, among others. The Ugandan trio **HHY & The Kampala Unit**, formed by the Portuguese sound researcher Jonathan Saldanha (HHY & The Macumbas), outstanding percussionist Sekelebele (Fulu Miziki), and Ugandan trumpeter Florence Lugenwa, creates radically polyrhythmic futuristic music. In the hyper-eclectic DJ set that follows, South Sudanese **Turkana** blends music from Nkisi to Grace Jones as well as leftfield African electronica, hard dance, and broken techno from the Global South.

### #BUBBLES

Immerse yourself, reflect, and experience. The so-called Norient Festival #BUBBLES enable an open exchange of experiences with cultural actors from all over the world in discussion rounds, A/V installations, and audiovisual performances. What sonic capacity artists have for climate protection and biodiversity, how music journalism can think *with* instead of *about* music (Sonic Worlding), and where the audiovisual tour and conversation with the Ugandan music label Nyege Nyege will lead will be discussed from Fri–Sun in the afternoon at the PROGR cultural center.

### #VENUES & PARTNERS

Seven venues in Bern support the festival as important partners. These include the **Reitschule, Rex**, and **Kellerkino cinemas** for the programmed film blocks, the **Kunsthalle Bern** for the first time with four audiovisual installations and performances (two world premieres), the **PROGR cultural center** with the festival center at Stube im PROGR co-operated by Radio Bollwerk, for thematically wide-ranging bubbles at kulturpunkt and the Kleine Bühne, as well as the festival opening and closing night at bee-flat, the ISC Club for the Norient club night, and the **soso space** hosted by Radio Bollwerk. The centrally located venues are close to each other and are easily accessible by foot, bike, and public transport.

### #TICKETS

Tickets are now available on the festival website: <https://norient-festival.com/tickets>

Online tickets can be booked for individual program blocks as well as festival passes that allow access to all film screenings, live events, and discussion rounds.



---

## ABOUT THE NORIENT FESTIVAL AND NORIENT

The **Norient Festival** is constantly evolving. Eleven years ago, Thomas Burkhalter (Norient Director, ethnomusicologist, and audiovisual artist) and Michael Spahr (video artist and former co-festival director of editions 1–4) launched the panorama for social contexts and backgrounds around music, sound, and noise. From the very beginning, **the aim was to tell stories from today's world from multiple perspectives, facilitate captivating and frequently challenging film and concert events, and find new ways of discussing relevant issues of our time with audiovisual performances, DJ sets, and experimental formats. The collective exchange of a global community is and remains a core concern of the festival.**

In addition to the approximately 1,300 festival visitors at the last edition in Bern, the festival now reaches an ever larger audience through international collaborations. In 2022, Norient curated a sub-program of the Planet Ears festival in Mannheim (DE), the Il Cinemino cinema in Milan (IT), and was present at the Blackstar International Film Festival in Accra (GHA) with the film *Contradict* by Thomas Burkhalter.

The Norient Festival is part of the **music research platform Norient** (<https://norient.com>) founded in 2002. The name, referring to Edward Said's influential book *Orientalism* (1978), is a play on words («No Orientalism»). Our concern is not only to program films, music, sounds, and audiovisual works from outside the Euro-American world, but more fundamentally to make a relevant selection and share the power of curation with non-European actors.

This practice is lived out by Norient in a variety of projects: in 2022, among others, in the **multimedia virtual exhibitions *Norient City Sounds*** on Nairobi and Beirut, in the second and third seasons of the podcast series ***TIMEZONES*** co-produced with the Goethe-Institut, or in the monthly column *Sonic Worlding*. The newly founded publishing house Norient Books (<https://norient.com/books>) will also publish a book on the politics of curation in spring 2023, a continuation of the online special ***Politics of Curation*** by Philipp Rhenius and Monia Acciari.

Norient is an audiovisual gallery and a community (of practice) for the sound of the world: contemporary music, quality journalism, cutting-edge research, projects, and events like the Norient Festival (NF). Norient conceives music, sound, and noise as seismographs of our time, facilitating space and place for thinkers and artists from (currently) 50 countries to tell new and different stories of the now and tomorrow. The goal is to support (sub)cultural diversity, broaden horizons, and open up dialogue across people, continents, and disciplines.

Open source: Norient makes insights and knowledge accessible and **has membership models for individuals and institutions**. Journalists, researchers, event organizers, artists, and those who deal professionally or privately with contexts around music, sound, and noise receive unlimited access as members to well-founded articles and columns, curated mixtapes, podcasts, videos, and other multimedia specials. The consistent keywording of all media content enables targeted and topic- and region-specific research with results that reflect the perspective of locally anchored cultural actors and researchers. On request, we will gladly arrange contact with experts and artists from our network: <https://norient.com/become-member>



---

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW & TIMETABLE

TITLE	REGION(S)
Block 1: <i>Breaking Free: Sonic Changemakers</i>	LIT/UK/UGA/SUD
Block 2: <i>Musical Pioneers of the Diaspora: Smashing Boundaries, Standing United</i>	DE/TUR/USA
Block 3: <i>On the Fast Track: From African Turbo Beats to Headbanging Heroines</i>	POL/TZA/USA/LBN
Block 4: <i>Shapeshifters: Unleash the Beasts of Imagination</i>	FRA/VEN/RWA/USA
Block 5: <i>Techniques of Care</i>	UK/ISL/ITA/GER
Block 6: <i>Sonic Sentience: Raising Awareness for a Dying Planet</i>	CH/MAR/UK/UGA
Block 7: <i>Broad(er)casting: Aligning Wavelenths in Wartimes?</i>	DE/IND
Block 8: <i>Rap Identitis: Echoes of Masculinity</i>	FRA/COD/BEL/ZAF
Block 9: <i>Empowering Musical Journeys: Ego Death and the Rebirth of the Self</i>	DE
Block 10: <i>Closing Night: Avant Electro Folk Connections</i>	EST   CH
	<b>CURATION</b>
Bubble 1: <i>Sonic Sentience: Can You Hear the Ocean's Voice?</i>	Carla J. Maier
Bubble 2: <i>Noriental Worlding: Thinking With All Senses</i>	Philipp Rhenius
Bubble 3: <i>Norient x Nyege Nyege: At the Heartbeat of African Electronic Music</i>	Claudia Popovici
Bubble 4: <i>Musical Capitalism: Is Survival Possible?</i>	Emma Nzioka

The Norient Clubnight x ISC  
soso space/ Lounge x Radio Bollwerk & more.

All venues are located in Bern, Switzerland.

### Wednesday, 11 January 2023

#### FESTIVAL OPENING

8 pm **Block 1** Turnhalle im PROGR

#### ***Breaking Free: Sonic Changemakers***

In cooperation w/ bee-flat

#### FILMS

Techno, Mama (LIT, 18')

Isn't It a Beautiful World (UK, 13')

Kwetu Kwanza (UGA, 14')

LIVE: HHY & The Kampala Unit (UGA)

DJ SET: Turkana (SSD)

### Thursday, 12 January 2023

8 pm **Block 2**, Kino REX 1

#### ***Musical Pioneers of the Diaspora: Smashing Boundaries, Standing United***

#### FILME

Love, Deutschmarks, and Death (DEU, 98')

+ Q&A online w/ Cem Kaya

Leave the Door Open (TUR/USA 60')

11 pm, **soso space**, Bern

**Norient x Radio Bollwerk Clubnight** (program tba)

8 pm **Block 3**, Kino in der Reitschule

#### ***On the Fast Track: From African Turbo Beats to Headbanging Heroines***

#### FILME

Weltpremiere: Singeli Movement: Greed for Speed

+ Q&A live w/ Jan Moszumański

Sirens (USA/LEB 78')



---

## Friday, 13 January 2023

3.30 pm, **Bubble 1**, PROGR, kleine Bühne

### **Sonic Sentience: Can You Hear the Ocean's Voice?**

Lecture, Zeynep Bulut

Film: Atlantic Ragagar (CH, MOR, 32')

Panel, Gilles Aubry, Zeynep Bulut

Moderation: Carla J. Maier

8 pm, **Block 4**, Kino in der Reitschule

### **Shapeshifters: Unleash the Beasts of Imagination**

FILME

Meet Doug (FRA, 26')

Me & The Beasts (VEN, 78')

+ Q&A online Nico Manzano

Neptune Frost (RWA/USA, 105')

8.30 pm **Block 5**, Kunsthalle Bern

### **Techniques of Care**

AV/INSTALLATIONEN/PERFORMANCES

On Friendship and the City (dialogic form/10')

by Rebecca Salvadori (UK)

An Invisible Ode (av/live, 20')

by Olivia Salvadori & Francesco Fabris (IT/ISL/AUS)

ICS 39.040.99b (a/v performance, 30')

By André Vida & Lucia Margarita Bauer (DEU/USA/HUNG)

Albe (a/v installation, 35')

11 pm, Festival Center, Stube im PROGR

### **Lounge by Radio Bollwerk**

Program tba.

## Saturday, 14 January 2023

11 am, **Block 6**, Kellerkino

### **Sonic Sentience: Raising Awareness for a Dying Planet**

FILMS

Atlantic Ragagar (CH/MOR, 32')

+ Q&A live Gilles Aubry

The Grief Interval (UK, 19')

Kwetu Kwanza (UGA, 14')

2 pm, **Bubble 2**, PROGR, kleine Bühne

### **Nororient Worlding: Thinking With All Senses**

FILM- UND AUDIOSESSIONS, READINGS, PANEL  
with Rayya Badran.

Moderation: Philipp Rhenius

4.30 pm, **Bubble 3**, PROGR, kleine Bühne

### **Norient x Nyege Nyege: At the Heartbeat of African Electronic Music**

FILM SCREENING, PANEL

Pauline Bedarida aka PÖ, Jan Moszumański  
and DJ Turkana

Moderation: Claudia Popovici & Lea Heimann

8 pm, **Block 8**, Kino in der Reitschule

### **Rap Identities: Echoes of Masculinity**

FILMS

Meet Doug (FRA, 26')

Libende Boyz (COD/BEL, 46')

+ Q&A online tba

Mutant (ZAF, 67')

+ Q&A live with Basil Anliker aka Baze (CH) about  
his collaboration with Isaac Mutant: Album BRU  
(released: 2.12.2022, Eret)



8.30 pm, **Block 7**, Kino REX 1

***Broad(er)casting: Aligning Wavelengths in Wartimes? The Norient Clubnight x***

FILMS

The Sound of Friendship. Warm Wavelengths in a Cold, Cold War (GER/IND, 63')

+ Q&A live Anandita Bajpai

Oh, It Hertz! (NOR, 87')

11 pm, ISC Club

DJ SETS

tba, Turkana (SSD), Coco Em (KEN), PÖ (GHA/FRA)

### **Sunday, 15 January 2023**

11 am, **Block 9**, Kellerkino

***Empowering Musical Journeys:***

***Ego Death and the Rebirth of the Self***

FILMS

Overheim (DEU 2022, 23')

A Sound of My Own (DEU, 53')

Sometimes It Was Beautiful (DEU, 52')

2.30 pm, **Bubble 4**, Kulturpunkt, PROGR

***Musical Capitalism:***

***Is Survival Possible?***

VIDEO INSTALLATION, PERFORMANCE, PANEL

by Janice Iche, Audry Powell

Moderation: Emma Nzioka

8.30 pm, **Block 10**, Turnhalle im PROGR

***Closing night: Avant Electro Folk Connections***

Cooperation w/ bee-flat

## **MEDIA OFFICE**

We are happy to arrange access to screeners as well as interviews with curators, directors, artists, and other researchers and cultural actors involved in the Norient Festival. Please contact us as early as possible. We look forward to seeing you at the festival in Bern from 11 to 15 January 2023 and to your editorial consideration of the program.

### **Info, Links, and contact**

Program, trailer, ticketing, and further information : <http://www.norient-filmfestival.com/>

Access to screeners and interviews, Artistic Director Claudia Popovici, other curators, Norient Director

Thomas Burkhalter, and/or contributing directors/musicians: on request

Press material for films and live acts as well as for the festival: <https://press.norient.com/>

Contact: Janina Neustupny, Press Officer, janina@norient.com, +41 77 454 48 50