

CTM Festival 2024 – Sustain

Date & Theme, Open Calls, Network Projects



FESTIVAL FOR ADVENTUROUS MUSIC & ART, BERLIN

25th EDITION, 26 JANUARY – 4 FEBRUARY 2024

From 26 January – 4 February 2024, CTM Festival will celebrate a silver 25-year anniversary at Berghain, silent green, radialsystem, Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz and other Berlin venues.

CTM 2024 is titled »Sustain« – a weird and fascinating word that touches opposite polarities of the contemporary experience as it speaks of the empathy and determination through which we survive, as well as of our anxieties, losses, and pains. In the word »sustain« we sense both what we are going through while hearing what needs to be done. It is as much a description as it is an imperative as it is a vocation towards more interdependent ways of life. With its 2024 edition CTM Festival asks what if »sustain« were a sound? What would it be like? Music is not only a refuge, but also a constant reminder of our desire to get closer to the brighter end of the spectrum. Looking at musical life and music ecosystems under the perspective of »sustain«, what ideals, ethics, and practices can we identify and discuss to make music a means to work towards something more sane, just, and sustainable?

Three open calls are now announced. Together with Deutschlandfunk Kultur – Hörspiel / Klangkunst and in collaboration with Goethe-Institut, ORF musikprotokoll im steirischen herbst, Ö1 Kunstradio, and tekhnē, the CTM Radio Lab seeks proposals from artists worldwide that engage with the emancipatory potential of technology in music and sound art. The Research Networking Day invites graduate and post-graduate students as well as independent artists conducting self-guided research to submit proposals for short presentations traversing the fields of audio, arts, media, design, and related theoretical disciplines. Writers and thinkers wishing to engage with the topic of Sustain, as well as ongoing topics within independent music ecosystems and scenes, are invited to submit proposals to the CTM Magazine.

Further details on the open calls and the festival theme are to be found on the following pages or on our website <http://www.ctm-festival.de>

Sustain – CTM 2024 Theme

»Sustain« is a weird and fascinating word. It captures the current condition of the world. It shimmers and sways. It is a spectrum. It touches opposite polarities of the contemporary experience as it speaks of the empathy and determination through which we survive, as well as of our anxieties, losses and pains. In the word »sustain« we sense both what we are going through while hearing what needs to be done. It is as much a description as it is an imperative as it is a vocation towards more interdependent ways of life.

In between we endure. This too is to »sustain«, somehow holding out in the disorienting grey blur that covers the vast terrain between a bright and a dark horizon. Unhappy at times, ignorant, numb, guarded, depleted, stubbornly immobile ... making ends meet, day by day, but just so.

What if »sustain« were a sound? What would it be like? An endlessly sustained high-pitched, corrosive sawtooth tone that gradually shreds our minds? Tense. High-strung. Wired. Guilty. Sustain without release, like the anxiety and stress that won't stop running through our bodies, increasingly hard-wired to the accumulating political, ecological, and social crises near and far. Or rather a persistent dull droning hum? Unchanging. Unspirited. Mono. Why not a bright spectral sound that carves out a blissful space of its own, distant from (but not necessarily oblivious to) the hardship of others? Or a gently embracing, undulating chord? Steadily morphing. Warm. Generous. Inviting. Caring. Supportive.

Some people say music is the answer. But no, music is not the answer. It won't solve our problems. So what can music do for us? What can we do with music? Wake us from trances of inert hopelessness, blanketed by privileged ignorance? Shift us into a trance where we'll find relief and the strength to transform? Make our voices heard through a howl of unfiltered expression? Help us stay sane by offering dissonance as an antidote to dissonance, and noise to cancel the noise? Give purpose through community, connecting and weaving with a joyful modulation that travels from mind to mind, from body to body?

We don't really know. Music is vague terrain. A testing ground. An exercise and a deep probe into uncertainty and multiplicity. Yet music also sustains us. It is a refuge, an expression of life. Music is for oneself, and more importantly, a means to extend beyond the self—to express and cherish our relationality with and obligation to others. It is a channel of emotion. It is communication. Information. Contact. A shared narrative. As such it is a tangible reminder of the ethics and ideals that we need to apply and strive towards as we work towards something more sane, just, and sustainable.

And so we remind ourselves with music of our desire to get closer to the bright end of the spectrum, sustaining to transform and transforming to sustain ... like a quarter-century old festival ... perhaps ... or the myriad initiatives, scenes, and people that bravely kindle and uphold musical life everywhere. How can music scenes and practices be less extractive ecologically, culturally, and socially? How can music ecosystems provide space for divergent and independent communities to cross-pollinate and thrive in a climate of growing divisions? What will enable DIY initiatives and attitudes to blossom—particularly in an unstable economy, and in places without access to space? What frameworks and codes are needed to balance the give and take—and who is doing the giving and taking? How do we build scenes where we all work together, growing stronger by creating pathways and access?

CTM Radio Lab 2024

Call for Works

The CTM Radio Lab supports the creation of new works that explore the intersection of radio with live performance within the context of the festival's yearly theme. The initiative is led by CTM Festival and Deutschlandfunk Kultur – Radio Art / Klangkunst in collaboration with Goethe-Institut, ORF musikprotokoll im steirischen herbst, and Ö1 Kunstradio. In 2024 it is also presented within the framework of the sound art initiative tekhnē.

The call is open to artists worldwide and relevant to fields of experimental music, sound art, radio art, new radio drama, and performance. The commissioned works will premiere at CTM 2024 Festival in Berlin (26 January – 4 February 2024), and will be subsequently broadcast in Deutschlandfunk Kultur's Klangkunst programme in spring in the form of a 40–55 minute radio piece. The Österreichischer Rundfunk (Austrian Broadcasting Service) will also present the works via one or more of its platforms: the Ö1 Zeit-Ton or Ö1 Ö1 Kunstradio radio shows, and/or the ORF musikprotokoll im steirischen herbst festival in Graz (Autumn 2024).

This year the Radio Lab focus is on live performance formats (rather than installations). Projects must respond to CTM 2024's theme of »Sustain,« and more specifically engage with the emancipatory potential of technology in music and sound art, which is the core focus of tekhnē. Narrative, speculative, investigative approaches might for example explore technology as a tool to corrupt or strengthen democracy, histories or potentials of radio and modern broadcasting methodologies, the agency of users, accessibility, or other. Live performances should be conceptualised in such a way that a radio piece can be created in the same spirit.

Deadline: 10 September 2023

Further information and to apply: <https://www.ctm-festival.de/festival-2024/open-calls/ctm-radio-lab-2024>

Research Networking Day 2024

Call for Presentations

The Research Networking Day is an exchange platform for graduate or postgraduate students – as well as independent artists conducting self-guided research – traversing the fields of sound, music, arts, media, design, and related theoretical disciplines.

The RND 2024 open call seeks innovative and critical submissions from all areas of study addressing the scope of CTM 2024's »Sustain« theme. The selected candidates will give short presentations (10 min.) within different modules, linked by discussion rounds at the end of each module. RND offers an international platform to exchange with various colleagues and researchers working on related ideas. The initiative also provides a chance to share your research via audio/video after the festival via CTM's [Youtube](#) and [Soundcloud](#) channels.

This RND edition will take place in collaboration with the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK), the Institute Art Gender Nature at the FHNW Academy of Art and Design Basel, Paderborn University, and the Berlin-based network and project space Trust. Entrance to the event is free.

Deadline: 1 October 2023

Further information and to apply: <https://www.ctm-festival.de/festival-2024/open-calls/research-networking-day-2024>

CTM 2024 Magazine

Call for Proposals

Since 2014, CTM Festival has curated a yearly [magazine](#) with the intent of providing a number of entry points into the annual festival theme, and to present voices, ideas, and content that extend beyond the presentation possibilities of a music festival.

This open call seeks proposals from writers and thinkers wishing to engage with the festival theme »Sustain,« and/or to ongoing topics within the independent music ecosystem such as sustainability, equity, access, cross-cultural exchange, technology and tools for production, music aesthetics and practices. Priority will be given to proposals from BIPOC authors/artists, as well as voices from diverse localities, practises, and communities.

Article formats are flexible and can include essays, opinion pieces, research, interviews, fiction, performative writing, speculative exercises, photo-based exposes, etc. Creative / unusual formats are possible but must be flexible and open to discussion with the editorial team, to accommodate the limits of CTM's web architecture.

Deadline: 24 September 2023

Further information and to apply: <https://www.ctm-festival.de/festival-2024/open-calls/ctm-magazine-2024>

Shape+ Artist Platform

Artist Roster Announced for 2023/2024

The SHAPE+ initiative for innovative music and audiovisual art has announced the list of artists to be supported in the platform's next year of activity, which combines a selection of audiovisual projects and sound artists alongside musical acts that range from club music and forward-thinking media art to free improvisation and spatial music. This new stage of the SHAPE platform will be marked by an emphasis on residencies and, where possible, greener forms of travel. A select number of these artists will appear at CTM 2024. SHAPE+ is a project by 15 European partners in 15 countries, with Tbilisi's Mutant and Barreiro's Out.Ra / Outfest Radio. The platform is co-financed by the Creative Europe programme.

The 2023/2024 roster includes:

Alto Fuero (FR)	Maya Shenfeld (IL/DE)
Amina Hocine (SE)	Morita Vargas (AR/NL)
Anna Fišere (LV)	Nemerov (HU)
Anthea Caddy (AU/DE)	Nexcyia (US/FR/UK)
AWWWARA (GE)	Nicola Ratti (IT)
bela (KR/DE)	Nikolaienko (UA)
Bintang Manira Manik (ID/NL)	NZE NZE (FR)
Bridget Ferrill (DE)	oldyungmayn (EG/DE)
Candela Capitan (ES)	Ojoo Gyal (MAR/BE)
Cassius Lambert (SE)	Paul Gründorfer (AT)
Cucina Povera (FI)	Petra Hermanova (CZ/DE)
Felicia Atkinson (FR)	PÖ (GHA/FR)
Francesca Mariano (IT)	Rita Silva (PT/NL)
Heinali (UA)	Robert Schwarz (AT)
Iztok Koren (SI)	Sabiwa (TW/DE)
John Object (UA)	Sara Persico (IT/DE)
Juba (UK/DE)	Sébastien Forrester (FR)
Koruth (CZ)	Tahereh Nourani (IRN/AT)
L. Zylberberg (DE)	Triglav (HU)
Manja Ristić (SRB/HR)	VISIO (IT)
Martyna Basta (PL)	XEXA (PT)
Max Eilbacher (US/DE)	Zesknel (GE)
Maxime Denuc (BE)	

More details: <https://shapeplatform.eu/2023/shape-announces-2023-2024-roster-of-artists/>

tekhnē

New Sound Art Initiative and Open Calls

tekhnē is a collaborative project in which six European organisations aim to explore the emancipatory potential of technology in music and sound art. By engaging critically and creatively with technology, and by putting the focus on the user rather than the developer, technologies and methodologies can be demystified and lead to more autonomous mindsets towards the tools around us.

Adding to ongoing conversations on sound and technology, tekhnē will aim to provide a platform for creatives and cultural workers via a combination of research, experimentation, creation, education, and dissemination offered in the form of residencies, commissions, workshops, performances, exhibitions, talks, publications, and radio broadcasts. tekhnē is initiated by Q-O2 (BE), CTM Festival (DE), Skaņu Mežs (LV), OUT.RA (PT), GMEA (FR), TRAF0 (PL), and co-funded by the European Union.

On top of the CTM Radio Lab open call which runs in collaboration with tekhnē until 10 September 2023, an open call for applications to research residencies offered by GMEA, TRAF0, and Q-02 is currently out until **15 September 2023**.

More details and to apply: <https://www.tekhne.website/>

Contact

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CTM 2024 Partners & Funders

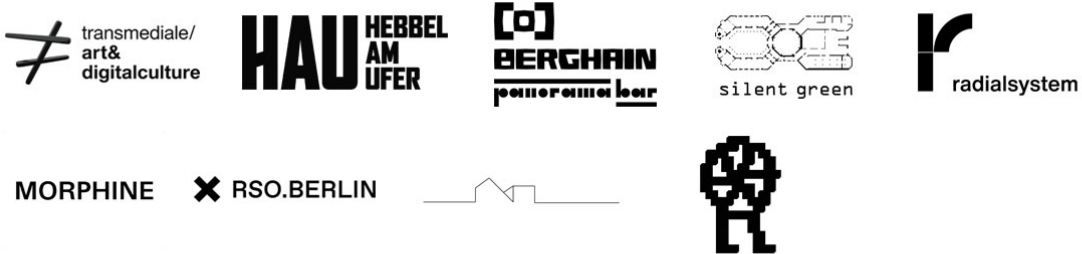
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