

# transmediale / press release



transmediale 2023:  
*a model, a map, a fiction*

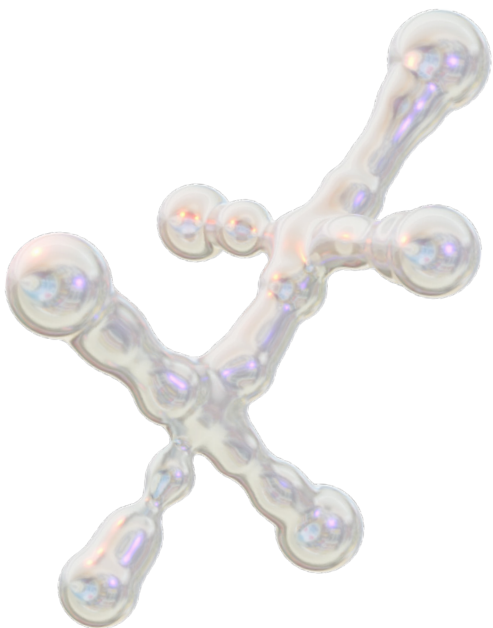
1–5 February 2023  
Akademie der Künste,  
Berlin and across the city

Programme Overview 2023

Details of the 2023  
transmediale festival  
*a model, a map, a fiction*

**The 36th edition of transmediale festival takes place at Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg, and at locations throughout Berlin from 1 to 5 February.**

**The five-day festival – *a model, a map, a fiction* – explores how scale reconfigures relations, politics, and affects.**



From the spatial to the temporal, the intimate to the geopolitical – scale and its many technological manifestations have long been means for measuring and organising. As machine learning and automated tools become common, the scaling of images and representations fabricates and circulates realities. The politics of scaling can contest established hierarchies of information by favouring certain representations over others. A conspiracy theory spreads simultaneously at multiple scales. A hologram of the Queen attempts to reignite public favour for a nation in decline. A smartphone operates planetary-scale logistics. A text prompt can generate a million images.

The 2023 transmediale festival will explore the scalar politics and tactics at stake, questioning how the instrumentalisation and affect of scale can be challenged. *a model, a map, a fiction* begins with an opening evening of exhibition, performance, and music and is followed by four days of discourse, artistic interventions, and workshops. Opening alongside the festival on 1 February, an exhibition featuring Alan Butler and Simone C Niquille will be on view in Akademie der Künste until 26 February. Alongside the festival week, a citywide exhibition, *Out of Scale*, takes place from 26 January to 26 February. Further details on the evening programme and collaboration with CTM Festival will be announced shortly.

## timeline

20 Jan–5 Feb	<a href="#">Vorspiel</a>
26 Jan–26 Feb	<a href="#">Out of Scale</a> A citywide exhibition
31 Jan	<a href="#">Marshall McLuhan Lecture</a> Canadian Embassy
1 Feb	<a href="#">Opening Festival</a> Akademie der Künste, Berlin
1–5 Feb	<a href="#">Festival</a> Akademie der Künste, Berlin
1–26 Feb	<a href="#">Exhibition</a> Akademie der Künste, Berlin

Festival

## a model, a map, a fiction

Akademie der Künste, 2 – 5 February

Taking place across four days, the festival's discourse programme brings together international artists, researchers, performers, and thinkers for a series of conversations, lectures, panels, performances, demos, film, and workshops.

Demos offered by **Anna Engelhardt** and **Mark Cinkevich** and others draw upon the legacy of the demoscene as they share methodological insights into their infrastructural investigations. **Hannah Jayanti** and **Alexander Porter's** lecture performance, *Strata*, will take us to the Badlands of South Dakota. As they descend into nuclear silos and watch a Blackfooted ferret sleeping, landscapes reveal themselves through perspectives of time, species, and histories.

Made of moments of gathering and collective activation, recording sessions around **Nicole L'Huillier's** installation *La Orejona* will take place across four days. The audience will be invited to collective performances of cañitas and screaming sessions.

This year's **film programme** features a selection of short films by **Nina Davies**, **Graeme Arnfield**, **Lex Brown**, **Ryan Jeffery**, **업체leobchae**, and many more. On Saturday evening, a new feature film – *The Signal Line* by French filmmaker **Simon Ripoll-Hurier** – investigates a secret CIA

programme on psychic vision and extrasensory perception. Situated between divination and espionage, the sci-fi documentary explores the possibility of perceiving the invisible, of seeing through walls, bodies, time, and space and sharing these visions.

### Artistic Interventions

Akademie der Künste, 1–5 February

Dispersed across the building, a series of artistic interventions consider new scalar tactics through practice-based approaches. Featuring newly commissioned work by transmediale residents 2022 **Antonia Hernández** and **Laura Cugusi**, **fantastic little splash** (Lera Malchenko and Oleksandr Hants), **Marc Lee**, and **Nicole L'Huillier**, with more to be announced. The projects were developed during the residency in Berlin and are presented for the first time at the festival.

### Marshall McLuhan Lecture 2023

Canadian Embassy, 31 January

The annual Marshall McLuhan Lecture – the prelude to the festival – takes place on 31 January at the Embassy of Canada in Berlin. This year's McLuhan Lecture is held by Svitlana Matviyenko, a key figure in digital militarism and Professor of Critical Media Analysis at Simon Fraser University, Canada. Her lecture will explore nuclear cyberwar and energy terrorism and the scale of its ecological impact.

Simon Ripoll-Hurier, *The Signal Line*, film still, 2023

Exhibition

## Alan Butler and Simone C Niquille

Akademie der Künste, Halle 3, 1–26 February

This collaborative exchange between Alan Butler and Simone C Niquille interrogates the technical and socio-political implications of computer-vision technologies. A simulation of an extreme weather report of a never-ending storm is interrupted by duckrabbit – the star of an animated TV series – who tells their queer coming-of-age story of self-discovery and their struggles with vision technologies. Roaming through California's Yosemite National Park, the news reporter screams *My First Summer in the Sierra* (1869), an account of 'nature writing' by John Muir, in defiance of the storm, while duckrabbit ponders their desires for ambiguity in a world composited and remade with CGI assets. As these worlds begin to collide and blur, their uncanny representations come apart at the seams. Questioning the gaps between the realities generated by CGI and simulation technologies and their high-resolution capturing of the present, the exhibition asks how we hold together when the line between impending doom and entertainment becomes unclear. The exhibition features the premiere of two new video works by Alan Butler and Simone C Niquille.

**Alan Butler** explores material and philosophical ideas about how imagery and meaning function in technologically mediated realities. He is a member of the collective ANNEX who represented Ireland at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2020.

**Simone C Niquille** is a designer and researcher based in Amsterdam NL. Her practice, Technoflesh, investigates the representation of identity and the digitisation of biomass in the networked space of appearance.

### Festival participants

Abdoumalig Simone, Adriana Knouf, Alaa Mansour, Alexandra Anikina, Ali Akbar Mehta, Anthony Downey, Antonia Hernández, Aris Komporozos-Athanasiou, Bahar Noorizadeh, Basma Alsharif, Benjamin Gerdes, Birgit Schneider, Casper Laing Ebbensgaard, Cassandra Troyan, Che Applewhaite, Chloé Galibert-Laîné and Guillaume Grandjean, Dennis Dizon, 업체leobchae, eeefff (Dzina Zhuk, Nicolay Spesivtsev), Evan Roth, fantastic little splash (Lera Malchenko, Oleksandr Hants), Farzin Lotfi-Jam, Femke Snelting, Florian A. Schmidt and Sebastian Schmieg, Francesco Sebregondi, Georgina Voss, Graeme Arnfield, Helen Pritchard, Hannah Jayanti and Alexander Porter, Heba Y. Amin, Irene Fubara-Manuel, Jara Rocha, Kathryn Yusoff, Kerry Holden, Laura Cugusi, Lesia Kulchynska, Lex Brown, Lukáš Likavčan, Shaoling Ma, Maria Dada, Mark Cinkevich and Anna Engelhardt, McKenzie Wark, !Mediengruppe Bitnik, Michael Salu, Nadim Choufi, Nicole L'Huillier, Nina Davies, Noura Tafeche, Olesiy Radynski, Rosa Menkman, Ryan Jeffery, Shannon Mattern, Silvio Lorusso, Simon Ripoll-Hurier, Simone C Niquille, Sria Chatterjee, Sungsil Ryu, Su Yu Hsin, Susan Schuppli, Suzanne Treister, Svitlana Matviyenko, Tung-Hui Hu, Vivienne Griffin, Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, and others.



Simone C Niquille, duckrabbit.tv, production still, 2023, courtesy of the artist

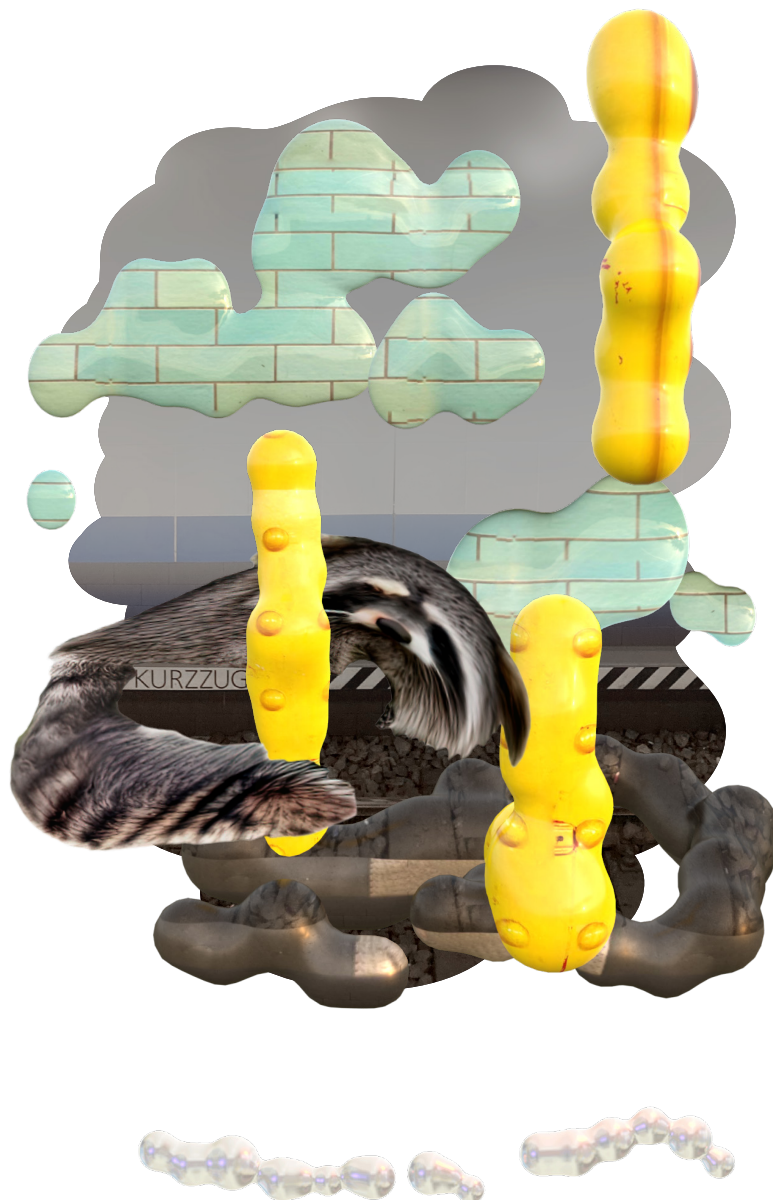
Exhibition

## Out of Scale

Across the city, 26 Jan – 26 February

Alongside the festival, transmediale presents the free citywide exhibition **Out of Scale**. Distributed and embedded across eBay Kleinanzeigen, Tempelhofer Feld, transmediale warehouse, and the city's Spätis and U-Bahn, the exhibition challenges the optimised image of the city as generated by the algorithmic process that scales across networks and platforms. Featuring work from over twenty international and Berlin-based artists, interventions explore the city's networks, questioning our reliance on the technological organisation of the city, generating new perspectives through enquiries into environmental ruin, bio-surveillance politics, anti-colonial resistance, and other-than-human identities.

With Anna Ehrenstein and Jeanne-Ange Wagne, bela, Cy X, Elio J Carranza, enorê, Eva Papamargariti, Joana Moll, Lauren Lee McCarthy, Lorna Mills, McKenzie Wark, Nazanin Noori, Nestor Siré, Nora Al-Badri, Patricia Domínguez and Suzanne Treister, Rosa Menkman, VNS Matrix, Tanat Teeradakorn and NÚÚ P3AÆ3, Uma Breakdown, Wednesday Kim, Sabrina Ratté, and Xcessive Aesthetics.



The 2023 festival edition is curated by Nora O Murchú (artistic director of transmediale), Bani Brusadin, Elise Misao Hunchuck, Lorena Juan, Ben Evans James, and Jussi Parikka (curatorial advisor) and made by the transmediale team.

### transmediale – festival for art and digital culture

For over thirty years, transmediale has created a space for critical reflection on cultural transformation from a post-digital perspective. At the heart of transmediale's activities is the annual festival. Each festival edition focuses on a specific theme related to art and digital culture that is reflected through a variety of programmes. transmediale takes place in different venues across the city like Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Akademie der Künste, or Kunstquartier Bethanien. Since 2021 and for the first time in the festival's history, transmediale runs it's own studio space at silent green Kulturquartier.

## transmediale/

transmediale e.V.  
Gerichtstr. 35  
13347 Berlin  
T: +49 (0)30 959 994 231  
M: [info@transmediale.de](mailto:info@transmediale.de)

### PRESS CONTACT

Romana Weissbacher  
M: [weissbacher.artpress@uteweingarten.de](mailto:weissbacher.artpress@uteweingarten.de)  
T: [uteweingarten.de](mailto:uteweingarten.de)  
M: [press@transmediale.de](mailto:press@transmediale.de)

### ARTPRESS

Ute Weingarten  
Danziger Str. 2  
10435 Berlin  
T: +49 (0) 30 48 49 63 50  
M: [artpress-uteweingarten.de](mailto:artpress-uteweingarten.de)

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