

New Art

on Stage

brut



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brut nordwest

Nordwestbahnstraße 8–10, 1200 Vienna

Thu, 3rd to Sun, 6th February, 8:00 pm*

Stefanie Sourial
City of Diaspora

Performance

World premiere

in English

*The performance on Fri, 4th February, will be followed by an artist talk, moderated by Janine Jembere & Sushila Mesquita.

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Stefanie Sourial City of Diaspora

{Hiding place}

{World in between}

{Eye-opener}

Performance

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Idea, concept, performance Stefanie Sourial

Development, performance Faris Cuchi Gezahegn, Hyo Lee

Development, video projection, set design Sunanda Mesquita

Research, dramaturgical support Janine Jembere, Sushila Mesquita, Mara Verlič

Costume design Kids of the Diaspora

Light Design Denise Kamschal

Photography Abiona Esther Ojo

Production mollusca productions

A co-production by Stefanie Sourial – Verein für souriales Theater and brut Wien

With the kind support by and much appreciation for the City of Vienna's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Civil Service and Sport.

Supporters



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A city within the city, but those who do not know it cannot see it. The *City of Diaspora* is marked on no map, yet it is real. It is visible to those who live in the diaspora, somewhere between residence and origin. For one night, Stefanie Sourial's performance allows the audience to get a clear, unfiltered look on the *City of Diaspora*. Can your own city remain the same once you see it through different eyes?

The experience of losing one's origin and identity often lies in invisible spheres as language, tradition, tastes, family relations, behaviour and physical appearance disappear. Remembering and missing things one has never known becomes a key experience that creates that feeling of living in a world in between. To describe this world, artists based in Vienna were invited to write short stories discussing their own experiences in a fantastic/utopian narrative style. These short stories form the basis for the individual episodes of *City of Diaspora*, a production brought to the stage by Stefanie Sourial with the artists and performers Hyo Lee, Faris Cuchi Gezahegn and Sunanda Mesquita.



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The City of Diaspora is a city within a city.
It is a world in between.
It is a memory of something that has never been experienced.
It is the M.O.T.U.
It is “the memory of the unknown”.
It is a condition and an emotion.
It is invisible.
It is visible between the poles of residence and origin.
It is neon, not pastel.
It is assimilation and extinction.
It is empowerment and resistance.
It is constructed from the shadow of a real world.
It is the real world.
It is control over one’s own personal narrative.
It is seeking and hiding.
It is the best of hiding places.
It is the ghoul and the Dell.
It is the condition that follows disappearance.
It is the loss of origin and identity.
It is the gaining of identity and origin.
It is the neighbourhood found on no map.

On the foundation of the *City of Diaspora* lays the thoughts, words, and musical notes of following

Music

CL, 멘붕 (MTBD)

NCT127, 영웅 (Kick It)

Tirzah, *Holding On*

Rophnan, *Get Work*

Zaouli Dance from Cote d’Ivoire

Ethiopian Traditional “Eskista” from Gober

Ethiopian Traditional Gamo Dance

Books, lectures, theories, films

- Sara Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others*
- Octavia Butler, *Lilith's Brood-Trilogy | Wild Seed | Kindred*
- Fatima El-Tayeb, *European Others: Queering Ethnicity in Postcolonial Europe*
- Alexis Pauline Gumbs, *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals*
- Koleka Putuma, *Collective Amnesia | HULLO, BU-BYE, KOKO, COME IN*
- Ijeoma Umebinyuo, *Questions for Ada*
- Ytasha Womack, *Afrofuturism | Online Lectures*
- Danae Martinez, *Why I Am (Not) an Afropessimist*
- C. Riley Snorton, *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity*
- Warsan Shire, “HOME”
- Solange, “When I Get Home”
- Missy Eliot, “She is B**tch for make up”

Bios

Stefanie Sourial, born 1981, works as a performance artist in Vienna and teaches at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna at the department for performative art. She graduated from Jacques Lecoq – International Theatre School in Paris in 2007. Before and during her education she worked as street sweeper, production assistant and performance coach at performance festivals all over the world. In 2001/2002 Stefanie led theatre workshops with homeless teenagers in Cairo, Egypt.

Sourial creates her own solo projects, i.a. *FREAK* (2014/15), touring Austria, Germany and Switzerland, as part of Freischwimmer Festival 2014 and released the music album *Amsterdam* for which she won the “Blue Bird” Singer Songwriter Award 2014. From 2009–2014 Sourial participated as a performance artist in Katrina Daschner’s queer-feminist performance project *Club Burlesque Brutal*. Since 2012 she has been working with the multi-award-winning company “Theater

Ad Infinitum” as a co-creator and performer in the UK. Since 2017 Stefanie is part of PCCC*-Vienna’s first Queer Comedy Club where she regularly performs antiracist and queer stand-up comedy skids. In 2019 Stefanie Sourial premiered her performance trilogy *Colonial Cocktail* co-produced by brut Wien. Her performances follow socio-critical, political and historical content, all of which she negotiates on a personal level.

Faris Cuchi Gezahegn (they/them/theirs) is an intersectional LGBTQIA* advocate/activist, a performance artist, PCCC* standup comedian, and poet who uses different mediums such as style activism, writing, performance, and video/audio installations to bring social change and start a conversation that catalyzes change on issues they face while navigating day-to-day life as femme non-binary Ethiopian/African LGBTQIA* advocate with experience of asylum-seeking and refugee in Austria and also back to their homeland Ethiopia. They are co-founder and co-director and counter-narrative lead at House of Guramayle. House of Guramayle is a collaborative intersectional platform created by socially and politically marginalized Ethiopian activists around the world. They are also co-founders of Celestial Poetic monthly QBIPoC open mic night at Villa Vida café at the historical queer community center Türkis Rosa Tippp. They are members of Afro Rainbow Africa collective started by Queer African for Queer African in Austria by welcoming folks in their wholeness both as African/African decent queer bodies. They work as a social mental health worker at Queer Base, an organization that welcomes queer folks that are seeking asylum by providing different services such as legal representation, social consulting, housing, and many more.

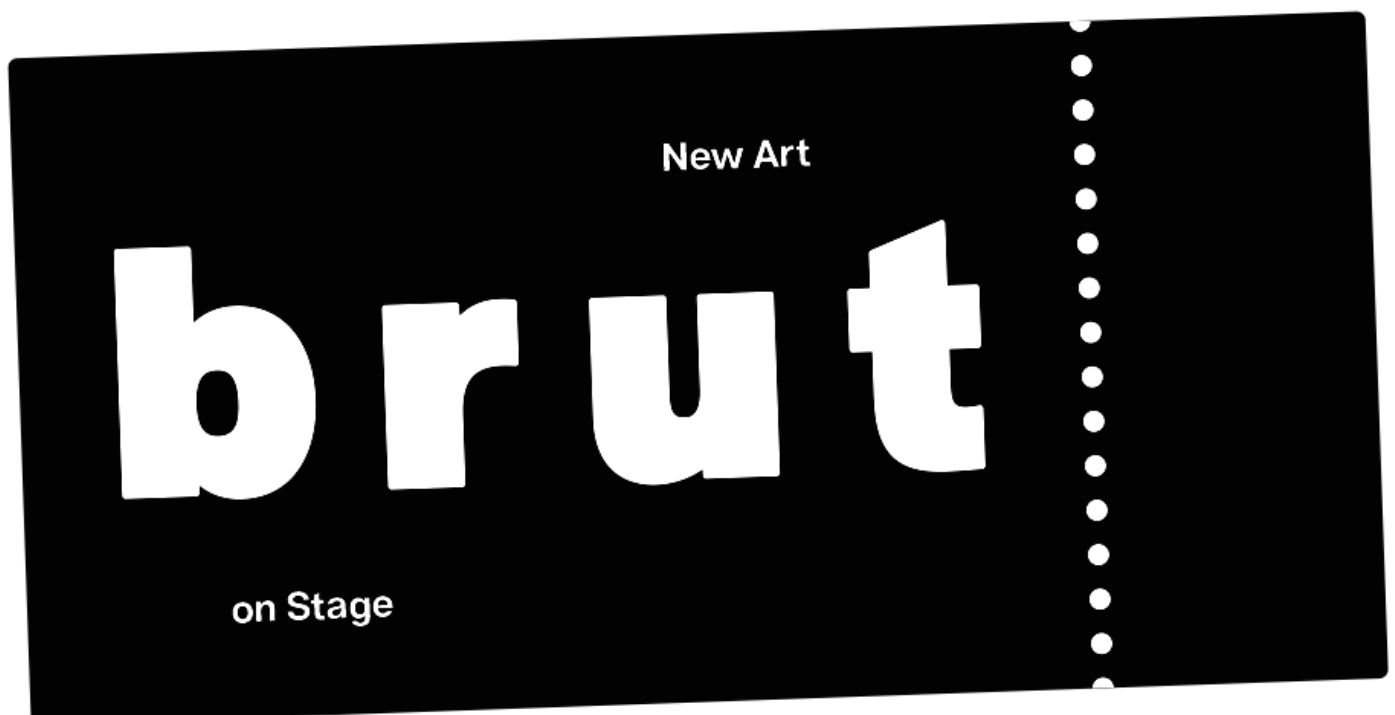
Sunanda Mesquita is a visual artist and co-founder of Anti*colonial Fantasies and WE DEY x SPACE in Vienna. Their artistic practice focuses on the possibilities of a radical, utopian, queer, feminist collectivity of Black people and People of Color and issues of community, solidarity, and belonging.

decolonialkilljoy.com

Hyo Lee was born in Seoul, South Korea. She lives and works as an artist in Vienna. Hyo Lee studied photography and video installation at the University of Applied Art Vienna and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. She performed in *Colonial Cocktail – Volume 2: Spirits* (2019) by Stefanie Sourial and in *Pomp* (2020), *Plum Circus* (2019), *Pfauenloch* (2018), *Pferdebusen* (2017), *Perlenmeere* (2016), *Powder Placenta* (2015), *Parole Rosette* (2012) and *Flaming Flamingos* (2011) by Katrina Daschner.

Performance, dance and theater as present

The vouchers and more info can be found in our webshop at brut-wien.at.



Coming up

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Nordwestbahnstraße 8–10, 1200 Vienna

Art of Assembly

{Gathering}
{Radical democracy
{Art & politics}

Thu, 10th February, 8 pm

With Edit Kaldor u.a. / Hosted by Florian Malzacher

**Gesellschaftsspiele: The Art of Assembly XIII –
in cooperation with Theater Neumarkt Zürich**

SAVE SPACES VS. BRAVE SPACES?

Lectures, discussions, online platform / Talk brut series in English

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Nordwestbahnstraße 8–10, 1200 Wien

Fri, 11th / Sat, 12th / Mon, 14th / Tue, 15th February, 8 pm

Veza Fernández

Alalazo

Performance in English

{Cry of liberation}
{Sound experience}
{Ecstatic symphony}

brut at Naturhistorisches Museum Wien

Burgring 7, 1010 Vienna

brut Extras

{Ecological thinking}
{Everything is connected}
{Traces in time}

Wed, February 23rd, 7 pm

Claudia Bosse with Christina Gruber and Mathias Harzhauser

Circular Ecologies: Memory of stones

Background talk as part of ORACLE and SACRIFICE in
the woods (Part 1/3)

Talk / Normadic Theory brut Extras in German

Save the date

imagetanz 2022

04th to 26th March 2022

imagetanz 2022

In March, imagetanz once again presents new positions in **choreography** and **performance** with a diverse three-week programme full of world premieres by local artists, international guest performances and studio visits.

The choreographer duo **Rykena/Jüngst** from Hamburg will open the festival edition on March 4th, 2022 with **SHE LEGEND**.

Tickets and info: brut-wien.at

Media partners

FALTER



intro

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