

**SOUND (in)**  
**SYSTEMS**







# SOUND(ING) SYSTEMS

An exciting interactive program to complement and expand Nik Nowak's installation *Schizo Sonics* currently exhibiting at Berlin's KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art (13.9.2020 to 15.5.2021). This bonus concept will unfold via a one-day symposium and three live performances from the 20.03.2021 to 24.04.21. (All elements to be streamed)

*SOUND(ING) SYSTEMS* examines the history of the Cold War via the so-called 'Lautsprecherkrieg' (loudspeaker war) and the 'Studio am Stacheldraht' (Studio at the Barbed Wire) in Berlin.

The program focuses on the surprising political entanglements of Jamaican and Korean sound systems in the global struggle between the great powers fighting for ideological influence; the controversial use of acoustic weapons in Cuba as well as the politicization of subcultural movements. A critical analysis of the ideological demands made on sound systems separate to the Cold War, examining the global transformations of sound system cultures.

What factors might account for both how, and why, sound system culture, (in its varied, wide-reaching global forms), and the medium of sound itself, have become gravitational spheres to which the military, covert government agencies, cultural producers, and theorists alike have been increasingly drawn since the onset of the (first) Cold War? At which point did sound politics become an increasingly important weapon in the cultural-political armory for factions of the fine arts, philosophy, scientific research, sound research, feminist and queer discourse and practice, as well as for clubs and subculture?



# Symposium

## *The Cold War Continuum:*

## *The Role of Sound Systems in the Vibrational Delusions of Sonic Warfare*

20 March 2021, 12 pm – 8.30 pm (live stream)

A symposium designed and moderated by **Jessica Edwards** (UK/GER)

Participants:

**Prof. Louis Chude-Sokei** (USA)

Director of Boston University's African-American Studies Program, author of *The Sound of Culture: Diaspora and Black Technopoetics* (Wesleyan University Press, 2016), and Editor-in-Chief of *The Black Scholar*.

**Sarah Farina** (GER) and **Dr. Kerstin Meißner** (GER)

Founders of *Transmission* – audio and visual project for the political and historic relevance of international sound, club and rave culture.

**Dr. Steve Goodman** (UK)

Known as Kode9, founder of *Hyperdub* label and author of *Sonic Warfare: Sound, Affect, and the Ecology of Fear* (MIT Press, 2010).

**Nik Nowak** (GER)

Artist and creator of the mobile sound system sculptures *Panzer* (2011) and *The Mantis* (2019).

**Sebastien Carayol** (FR)

Journalist and Curator of the exhibition *Jamaica Jamaica!* (Philharmonie de Paris, National Gallery of Jamaica).

**Martin Kowalski** (GER) author and philosopher in conversation with **Dr. Bodo Mrozek** (GER) Berliner Kolleg Kalter Krieg | Berlin Center for Cold War Studies and **Prof. Helmut Müller-Enbergs** (GER) political scientist and professor at the Center for Cold War Studies at the Institute for History at Syddansk university.





# Performance I

## *A War of Decibels: SCHIZO SONICS live*

21 March 2021, 8 pm – 9 pm (live stream)

Performance with **Nik Nowak, afrobionix, Infinite Livez, Konstantin Tschechow und Moritz Stumm**

The first performance is a live interpretation of the audio element of Nik Nowak's sound installation *Schizo Sonics*. Due to the current pandemic, the KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art has been closed since the end of October, so *A War of Decibels* has been adapted for the audience to digest from the comfort of their home.





# Performance II

## *From A Whisper to A Riot*

10 April 2021, 8 pm – 10 pm (live stream)

Performance with **DJ Uta, Sarah Farina und Perera Elsewhere**

DJ Uta, Sarah Farina and Perera Elsewhere are arguably some of the most constant influential protagonists of the Berlin bass music scene.

Whilst they produce and play across many genres, they are consistently connected by the low end of the frequency spectrum. Sarah Farina and Uta organized the *Rec Room* series of events at the Berlin Club OHM.



# Performance III

## *Crossing Borders*

24 April 2021, 8 pm – 9 pm (live stream)

Performance with **DJ Scotch Rolex with Lord Spikeheart and Shin Hyo Jin**

An exclusive performance from the Japanese producer DJ Scotch Rolex (alias DJ Scotch EGG) and the Uganda-based Grind Core singer Lord Spikeheart and the Korean percussionist Shin Hyo Jin.

During his stay in Uganda in 2019, Dj Scotch Rolex combined Japanese ceremonial Shinto music with African polyrhythm. Rolex and Lord Spikeheart developed a new style of music by combining roaring and distorted grind core vocals with experimental electronic beats, crossing the existing genre boundaries.

For this one-off performance, developed especially for *SOUND(ING) SYSTEMS*, DJ Scotch Rolex introduces the classically trained instrumentalist Shin Hyo Jin.



**SOUND(ING) SYSTEMS** takes place within the context of Nik Nowaks exhibition *Schizo Sonics* at Kesselhaus, KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art.

**SOUND(ING) SYSTEMS** was created under the artistic direction of Nik Nowak, the technical direction of Endre Ketzel and the project management of Elke Moltrecht. The symposium was designed by Jessica Edwards.



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