

**ever elusive**  
thirty years of transmediale  
2 Feb – 5 Mar 2017  
HKW and various venues, Berlin



## Thirty years of transmediale: *ever elusive* opens on 2.2. at HKW

### Press Preview:

The press preview takes place on 1 February 2017, 12:00 at Haus der Kulturen der Welt. To participate, please register [here](#).

### Press Kit:

High-resolution images and further information are available in our [press kit](#).

Berlin, 24 January 2017

On 2 February 2017, transmediale, with continued support from the Kulturstiftung des Bundes, begins the month-long program *ever elusive* (2.2.–5.3.2017) at 18:30 at Haus der Kulturen der Welt, celebrating the 30th edition of the festival. With transmediale 2017, Haus der Kulturen der Welt re-opens its doors after a period of extensive renovation.

The official opening ceremony of *ever elusive – thirty years of transmediale* starts at 19:30.

The special exhibition “[alien matter](#)” opens at 18:30, which is curated by Inke Arns and co-financed by Berlin LOTTO Foundation. The group show features works by 30 international artists and is on display until 5 March 2017.

“Alien matter” refers to man-made, and at the same time, radically different and potentially intelligent matter—the outcome of a naturalization of technological artifacts becoming autonomous agents, challenging the central role of human subjects.

At 18:30, Jenna Sutela’s video mantra *RI JIRI I O WA NU RU DAINICHI T-1000* (2016) will be screened, depicting a series of spherical mazes that juxtapose *Physarum polycephalum* (slime mold) with organizational and spiritual charts.

During the opening ceremony, a series of performative and audiovisual program teasers demonstrate the past, present, and future of media cultures: Rasheeda Phillips and Moor Mother introduce their philosophy of Black Quantum Futurism, and a short film by Olia Lialina and Kevin Bewersdorf revisits early Internet culture and its mystification of

**ever elusive**  
thirty years of transmediale  
2 Feb – 5 Mar 2017  
HKW and various venues, Berlin



technology. Additionally, Bill Kouligas and Amnesia Scanner, aided by the algorithms of Harm van den Dorpel, present a live excerpt of their joint performance *Lexachast*, digging deep into the unpredictable nature of online visual culture.

Speeches by Kristoffer Gansing, artistic director of transmediale, Bernd Scherer, director of Haus der Kulturen der Welt, as well as Hortensia Völckers, artistic director of the Federal Cultural Foundation, and Günter Winands, Head of the directorate of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, accompany the opening ceremony outlining the context, themes, and program of *ever elusive – thirty years of transmediale*.

From 20:00, a video installation featuring early 1970s films by Lillian Schwartz including *Pixillation*, *UFOs*, *Mutations*, and *Enigma* will be on display. Schwartz is a signature pioneer in computer-generated art and animation who encouraged the development of digital image processing through exchanges between scientists, engineers, and artists. Within the context of the 30th edition of transmediale, this tribute to her seminal oeuvre reflects recurring themes of computer animation in the 1980s, the first decade of the festival.

At 21:30, Jenna Sutela also presents a performative reading from her forthcoming publication *Orgs: From Slime Mold to Silicon Valley*, dealing with decentralized organisms and organizations. Sutela investigates the potential of a technological future destined to become a neo-biological civilization, and is accompanied by readers Nile Koetting, Jessica Lauren Elizabeth Taylor, and Elvia Wilk.

Beginning at 22:00, experimental musician James Ferraro performs his new work about the blurry lines dividing humanity and artificial intelligence. Ferraro's prolific output straddling pop, R&B, noise, low-tech, and hi-tech eludes categorization, and perhaps, is best described as the defining soundtrack of our confusing decade.

### Opening night *ever elusive – thirty years of transmediale*

- |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18:00       | Doors open at Haus der Kulturen der Welt                                                                                                                                                        |
| 18:30–00:00 | Exhibition opening of “alien matter”                                                                                                                                                            |
| 18:30–00:00 | Video installation <i>RI JIRI I O WA NU RU DAINICHI T-1000</i> by Jenna Sutela                                                                                                                  |
| 19:30–21:00 | Opening ceremony with Rasheedah Phillips & Moor Mother (Black Quantum Futurism Collective), Amnesia Scanner, Bill Kouligas & Harm van den Dorpel, and a film by Olia Lialina & Kevin Bewersdorf |
| 20:00–00:00 | Installation of <i>Hybrid Pleasures. Early Films of Lillian Schwartz</i>                                                                                                                        |
| 21:30–22:00 | Performative reading by Jenna Sutela                                                                                                                                                            |
| 22:00–00:00 | Live set by experimental musician James Ferraro                                                                                                                                                 |

transmediale is a project by Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH in collaboration with Haus der Kulturen der Welt. The festival has been funded as a cultural institution of excellence by Kulturstiftung des Bundes since 2004.

The special exhibition “alien matter” is co-financed by Berlin LOTTO Foundation.

Tabea Hamperl  
[press@transmediale.de](mailto:press@transmediale.de)  
tel: +49 (0)30 24 749 792  
<https://transmediale.de/>