

PRESS RELEASE

Crossing Europe Film Festival Linz

Press Release #1/24, 31 January 2024

Local Artists Special 2024: Dagmar Schürrer | YAAAS! Young Programmers | anton bruckner 2024: Crossing Europe Warm-up on 26 April with *Die Phantastische*

Program Press Conference: 18 April 2024, 10:00, Movimiento Linz + Live Stream

In 2024, the six-day period of the 21st edition of **Crossing Europe** will turn Linz once again into the hot spot of contemporary, courageous and artistically ambitious European cinema and its players. Audiences, filmmakers, and guests from Austria and abroad can look forward to a festival program that comprises approx. **140 recent feature, documentary and short films** and an intriguing **supporting program**, mirroring the **diversity of Europe** in a wide variety of aspects and offering the chance to discover the continent in the relaxed atmosphere of a festival.

In this press release, we are happy to announce our first festival highlight, the **Local Artists Special**, which in 2024 is dedicated to the internationally renowned digital artist **Dagmar Schürrer**. We are also presenting our **YAAAS! Young Programmers 2024** responsible for curating the films and hosting the Q&As of the **YAAAS! Competition**. As a **warm-up event** before the festival and in the context of "**anton bruckner 2024**", the anniversary year on the occasion of the musical giant's 200th birthday, Bruckner's oeuvre will receive a new interpretation through the project **Die Phantastische** in the form of a performative screening at the **Movimiento** cinema on **26 April**. The **overall program** of Crossing Europe 2024 will be announced on 18 April, in a **press conference** at the Movimiento that can also be followed via **live stream**.

Local Artists Special 2024: Dagmar Schürrer

In 2024, Crossing Europe Film Festival Linz dedicates a **special program** of its **Local Artists section** to **digital artist Dagmar Schürrer**. Schürrer was born in 1980 in **Vöcklabruck**, Upper Austria, and lives in Berlin. She earned a degree in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London, and devotes herself to **animation** and **extended reality (XR)** technologies, both in her work as an artist and at university level.

In her **animations**, Schürrer links (neuro)sciences and new technologies like artificial intelligence with poetic interpretations of human consciousness: She uses digitally generated 3D objects, found-footage, text, drawings, and sound to create complex, continually transforming **montages** that disband the borders between abstract and figurative, synthetic and organic, and that give a feeling of the presence of multiple dimensions beyond the verifiable physical objectivity.

Her video art, which is the focus of the Local Artists Special, is expanded by Schürrer in her **hybrid works** using XR technology and digital world-building to create spatial and immersive **multimedia installations**.

Presentations of Dagmar Schürrer's digital art included, among others, the Institute of Contemporary Arts and Tate Modern, London, Centre Pompidou, Paris, Haus der Kulturen der Welt or Transmediale Vorspiel, Berlin. Besides numerous other festivals such as the Athens Digital Arts Festival, Diagonale in Graz or Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, **every Crossing Europe edition since 2019** has featured at least one of Schürrer's works in its

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Competition Local Artists. This includes the world premiere of the animation [WE ARE ALREADY HISTORY, AND WE DON'T KNOW IT](#) (AT/DE 2021, CE 2022) and the music video [FAHRVERGNÜGEN – CHRIS IMLER](#) (AT/DE 2018) that in 2019 won her the **Creative Region Music Video Award** at Crossing Europe. We are very glad that at the 21st festival edition, a **short film program** and subsequent **talk with the artist** will provide our audience with the chance to immerse themselves in Dagmar Schürerer's works in a cinematic surrounding. More info to follow in the coming weeks.

YAAAS! Youth Program: Young Programmers 2024

2024 marks the fifth edition of the **YAAAS! Youth Program** that has long established itself as an essential part of Crossing Europe aimed at filling youths with enthusiasm for the film medium and imparting media competence in a low-threshold manner. Alongside a series of events and activities where participants between the ages of 15 and 20 can learn about the entire scope of the film sector and realize their own film ideas, the main component of the youth section is the **YAAAS! Competition**: The 2024 **YAAAS! Young Programmers**, Selina Bartuschek, Thomas Benda, Lina Eberhart, Lisa Felleitner, Florentina Gruber and Aleksa Jovic will select six recent European feature films that deal with the life realities of youths and young adults. The six students from the HBLA für künstlerische Gestaltung Linz receive an introduction to film curating, will write synopses on the works that they have selected and during the festival, they will host the introductions and Q&A sessions at the YAAAS! screenings.

"anton bruckner 2024": Crossing Europe Warm-up on April 26 with *Die Phantastische*

The current Upper Austrian cultural year is dominated by "anton bruckner 2024", which celebrates the musical giant's 200th birthday across the entire province with numerous events and projects. Also in the context of the "Bruckner Year", a **warm-up event before Crossing Europe** will be held in cooperation with the **University of Arts Linz** at the Movimiento cinema on **26 April**: Directed by **Jutta Strohmaier**, a photo and media artist and professor at the University of Arts Linz, and by renowned filmmaker **Siegfried A. Fruhauf**, the project **Die Phantastische** uses artistic-cinematic approaches to introduce a young audience and the interested public to Anton Bruckner and his oeuvre. Using analog, digital and performative interpretations, montages and transformations, **students from the University of Arts Linz** will "tune" the approaches to the celebrant's musical oeuvre while purposefully reflecting upon pop-cultural forms like music videos, social-media tools or AI applications. Following a school screening at 11:00, the **performative screening** will have a public presentation at 16:00, **admission is free**. [This link](#) takes you to the event page on the "anton bruckner 2024" website.

Festival dates: [30 April to 5 May 2024](#)

Program press conference: Thu., 18 April 2024, 10:00 a.m., Movimiento Linz + live stream

Advance ticket sales start: 22 April 2024

Accreditation period: start of March – 3 April 2024