

## Today'sArt 2019

International festival for art, music and technology, The Hague - The Netherlands

19 - 22 September 2019



# Douglas Rushkoff, Koert Van Mensvoort, Srećko Horvat & Pia Klemp (Sea-Watch) offer inspiring insights into the future of humanity

*Today'sArt reveals spectacular Context Program for 2019 festival edition, with widely celebrated keynote speakers, philosophers and a debate on the future of Europe.*

The anniversary edition of Today'sArt is less than 8 weeks away, and this means the time has come to announce the first names of this year's in-depth Context Program. With keynote speeches by Douglas Rushkoff and Koert van Mensvoort, an inspiring talk between philosopher Srećko Horvat and Sea-Watch captain Pia Klemp alongside a dialogue between thinkers Daan Roovers and Maxim Februari, the enriching discourse program of the 15th festival edition will explore the theme of 'CONSCIOUSNESS.'

# Confirmed Context Program

**Speakers:** Douglas Rushkoff - Koert van Mensvoort - Srećko Horvat - Pia Klemp - Daan Roovers - Maxim Februari

**Artist talks:** Refik Anadol - Pablo Valbuena - Ralf Baecker - Evelina Domnitch + Dmitry Gelfand

## TDA19: Consciousness

What is going to be humanity's role and relevance in our digital future, and what role will philosophy, ethics, and creativity play? What is our relationship with artificial intelligence? Do we choose nature over technology? And how fine is the line between them, if there is a line at all? These are some of the questions the international festival for art, music and technology Today'sArt aims to answer this September in The Hague, together with its artists, audience and speakers.

With this year's festival theme, 'CONSCIOUSNESS', Today'sArt leaves the dystopian scenarios on conflict, 'black boxes' and artificial intelligence from previous years behind. Instead, the festival focuses on the possibilities of digital technology, on topics like artificial emotions, digital consciousness, machine hallucinations and meditations, and especially humanity in the digital age.

## Our technological future Douglas Rushkoff & Koert van Mensvoort

Keynote speaker **Douglas Rushkoff**, one of the most influential thinkers of our time, thinks we should refocus on the human in our digital future. The widely celebrated author, speaker and media-expert describes in his newest book 'Team Human' how money has become a tool for exploitation, education has become a factory and the internet being something that divides rather than connects us. The human consciousness is complex and incomprehensible, Rushkoff states, which is why any attempt to express it through algorithms is just another attempt to escape from ourselves and humanity as a whole. This is why he calls for a new society, one that is based on collaboration and consciousness — a 'Team Human' that focuses on human connection rather than the digital infrastructure that undermines it.



*Douglas Rushkoff. photo: Seth Kushner*

Artist and philosopher **Koert van Mensvoort** (CEO Next Nature Network) will discuss his views on our technological future, both in his keynote and in dialogue with Rushkoff. The thinker, who was nominated for the We Are Europe Changemakers network by Today'sArt, writes about the evolution humanity is currently undergoing together with new technology. But Van Mensvoort doesn't only describe problems: he provides concrete, feasible solutions that will make the future satisfying for both humanity and the planet while increasing our understanding of technology all the same.

## The birth and death of Europe

### Srećko Horvat & Pia Klemp

Philosopher **Srećko Horvat** and **Pia Klemp** from **Sea-Watch** will hold a panel discussion at Today'sArt. The two will talk about migration, democracy and the borders of the European Union. Europe is outsourcing more and more rescue operations in the Mediterranean. And while 3D reconstructions of a rescue mission, created by **Forensic Architecture** and **Forensic Oceanography**, have shown the Libyan Coastguard is impeding the missions rather than leading them, Europe keeps sending money their way. Migrants, lost at sea, are left to die, and the ones who do make it onto the boat are locked up and even assaulted after their return. Why is it that the European citizen is not – or doesn't want to be – conscious of what is happening just outside the borders of their 'Fort Europe'? Which way is European politics headed? And are there still opportunities for the European citizen to change direction?



*Srećko Horvat*

Klemp and Horvat will use their unique experience with the European evolution to answer some of these questions. Horvat is an author and philosopher from Croatia, and also co-founder of DiEM25. This pan-European political movement is striving towards writing a democratic constitution for the European Union. He will interview Klemp, who works as a captain at the Mediterranean rescue operations of Sea-Watch. In June this year, it was announced Italian authorities are charging her for 'assisting illegal immigration' during her work on a rescue vessel, a charge she is risking 20 years in prison for.

## **(In)dependence of technology** Daan Roovers & Maxim Februari

Additionally, TodaysArt will take its audience to a philosophical, but also personal aspect of the festival theme. As users of technology, we all put enormous amounts of trust into systems we don't understand, without even realizing it. In fact, these systems were designed for easy use and not for understanding, making us vulnerable and dependent on the very technology we love. How far does this dependence go, and how does it relate to our autonomy? Is it time for a new renaissance? In this panel, held in Dutch, philosopher **Daan Roovers** and publicist, philosopher and jurist **Maxim Februari** will talk about our current tipping point in the technological revolution.

In her work, Daan Roovers often pleads for a new political consciousness: “It’s not a bad idea to reform our democracy, in a time where tech and globalization are changing the world at a rapid pace” she recently stated in an interview with Filosofie Magazine. Her colleague Februari researched our technological future as well in his newest book ‘Lump’ (2017). How is ‘the human’ keeping a grip on his surroundings, in a society that is dominated by big data and technology? Februari seems to have a clear message for the reader: never surrender to data, only to life itself.

# Artist Talks



*Evelina Domnitch (r) & Dmitry Gelfand (l)*

The extensive art exhibition at **The Electricity Factory** will also expand on the festival theme. In order to give more background and context to the artworks and installations, some of the artists will explain their works in a series of **Artist Talks**. Among others, **Refik Anadol**, **Pablo Valbuena** and **Ralf Baecker**, whose works all explore technology's potential, will dive deeper into the ideas and tech behind them. A presentation that also can't be missed is the one by **Evelina Domnitch** and **Dmitry Gelfand**, artists in residence at the Crossing Parallels program in collaboration with the TU Delft. Their complex, scientific works lay bare the aesthetics of technology in a way that's almost surreal.

**In addition to today's announced keynotes, panels, discussions and artist presentations, more captivating speakers of Today'sArt 2019 will be revealed over the next weeks. Stay tuned for the latest news on the music and AV-program of our 15th edition as well!**

# Confirmed Program

## Art

Evelina Domnitch + Dmitry Gelfand | Gabey Tjon A Tham | Pablo Valbuena | Ralf Baecker | Refik Anadol

## AV & Tech Shows

Aïsha Devi ft. MFO present ∞E=TRv | Byetone | Caterina Barbieri + Ruben Spini | fuse presents DÖKK | Kazuya Nagaya + Ali M. Demirel | patten | Push 1 Stop + Wiklow | Ryoichi Kurokawa | Joris Strijbos + Daan Johan

## Music

Bamao Yendé | Bendik Giske | Carla dal Forno | Crystallmess | Ewa Justka | Hibotep | Katharina Ernst | Linn da Quebrada | MCZO & Duke | Nihiloxica | Oceanic | Oktober Lieber | Sentimental Rave

## Context

Daan Roovers | Douglas Rushkoff | Koert van Mensvoort | Maxim Februari | Pia Klemp | Srećko Horvat

# Tickets

Day tickets and weekend passes are available in our online ticket shop:  
<https://todaysart.stager.nl/2019/tickets>

# About TodaysArt

TodaysArt is a Dutch festival and a cultural organization that focuses on the transdisciplinary intersection of art, music, technology and society. Its annual festival TodaysArt has been a part of the Dutch cultural infrastructure for more than 15 years. Born at the dawn of our digital age, TodaysArt is and always has been a true pioneer in the fields of media art, music and technology. Its extensive global network is reflected in its programming, as well as its curious approach to presenting and supporting new works and artists. TodaysArt has built up an impressive international profile by presenting and producing works that are developed through direct and intensive relationships with some of today's leading artists. A member of European networks and festival associations We Are Europe and SHAPE, TodaysArt is consistently involved in international collaborations, by connecting artists to creative centres across the globe and bringing pioneering talent to local audiences.

## Find TodaysArt online:

www.todaysart.nl  
www.todaysart.org

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#todaysart2019

# Press

Luka Kueter (NL):

Press kit:

Media Accreditation form:

press@todaysart.nl

<http://bit.ly/2IB5XSD>

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