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NUITS 
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SONORES
& EUROPEAN LAB
BRUSSELS 2023



**NUITS SONORES & EUROPEAN LAB BRUSSELS
6TH EDITION FROM 12 TO 15 OCTOBER 2023**

For its 6th edition, Nuits sonores & European Lab Brussels received over 11,000 festival-goers from all over Belgium and Europe to a thrilling festival experience in the heart of Brussels. Over 70 artists took to the stage over four days and three nights in the European capital, showcasing a vibrant local and international electronic scene. In addition, 60 speakers contributed to rich debates at the European Lab forum.



COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE

The festival, co-produced by Bozar and Arty Farty Brussels, was all about collaboration and exchange of knowledge, with artistic and reflective content that enhanced the cultural landmarks in which it took place. A series of captivating, interconnected events unfolded across the fruitful territory of a city more curious than ever.

VENUES AND MINDS THAT HAVE SHAPED A PROJECT FOR 6 EDITIONS

The whole capital vibrated to the rhythm of the festival, offering its audiences a singular experience: numerous sold-out events testify to the resounding success of an eclectic and abundant program. A rich experience was offered to festival-goers from Brussels, Flanders, Wallonia, France and overseas. Such as the relevant and much-needed exchanges at European Lab, a number of free concerts fusing electronic music and world influences, and the innovative party experiences that transformed **Reset** and **Bozar** into unprecedented dancefloors.

Thanks to its lighting and scenography, the festival made its mark with a distinctive aesthetic and a visual coherence over its different formats. It succeeded in creating a journey between the prestige of Bozar and the underground of **Brasserie iLLeGaal** or **Reset**, between the city center and the periphery, between the power of discourse and bodily movement.

EUROPEAN LAB BRUSSELS: TWO DAYS OF ADVOCACY FOR MEDIA INDEPENDENCE IN EUROPE

European Lab, part of the festival program, explored **media independence as a common good within the European public sphere**.

Welcoming over 500 people, the event, **partly conceived in partnership with the SPHERA network**, highlighted collaboration with independent media and artists, creating a space for reflection on media independence (monetizing podcasts, breaking away from web giants), decentralization as a technical means of independence, and the diversity of cultural narratives in Europe with a plurality of media such as **Kajet Journal** (Romania) **Apache** (Belgium), **Easterndaze** (Czech Republic), **Krytyka Polityczna** (Poland), **444** (Hungary).

The forum also gave a voice to music festivals that become the media, and showcased various players on the cultural scene in partnership with European webradios such as **Microwave** (Belgium), **Refuge Worldwide** (Germany), **Palanga Street Radio** (Lithuania) and **Lahmacun radio** (Hungary).

The **Reset!** network of European cultural structures and media, supported by **Arty Farty**, also came together for the occasion to underline its commitment to cultural and media independence in the run-up to the European elections.



A VARIETY OF INNOVATIVE, CHALLENGING AND FESTIVE ARTISTIC ACTS ACROSS THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION

On Thursday evening, **Caterina Barbieri** gave Bozar's Salle Henry Le Bœuf a show worthy of a grand opening, with futuristic melodies and spellbinding visuals. She was followed by **David August**, who presented his new project **VIS** live for the first time, shattering the boundaries between classical and experimental music, accompanied by choreographer **Franka Marlene Foth** and set designer **Marcel Weber**.

Over the next two nights at Bozar, **Richie Hawtin's** program on Friday night and **HAAi's** on Saturday lived up to their promises.

Richie Hawtin transformed Bozar into an extraordinary multi-sensory show. Psychedelic lights, experimental films and techno vibes made for an experience worthy of the best science-fiction films.

The following day, Australia's **HAAi**, more frenzied than ever in the Henry Le Boeuf hall, offered an evening of varied sound and stage experiences, from **Vegyn's** live set akin to video game soundtracks, to Brussels' **Dienne** as an omniscient one-woman orchestra, the **Karenn** duo, formed by producers Blawan & Pariah, and their many analog machines, and Germany's **Boys Noize**, who oversaw the specially-designed set in Hall Horta.

Club **C12**, the festival's nocturnal space, was marked by the thundering set of oJoo sets and **Baraka's** fascinating live show. A huge line-up in front of the club testified to the public's great anticipation for the set by **DJ Gigola** and **MCR-T**, who took full possession of the central stage that had been built especially for the festival, while **Brodinski** brought the intimate **C11** stage to a fitting close.



The alternative venue **Reset**, operated by **Arty Farty Brussels**, saw its walls occupied by three renowned labels and collectives on Saturday and Sunday nights.

The **PAN** label opened the doors of Reset's Auditorium with the ultra-saturated sound of **Heith**, leaving room in the club for the tortured, thunderous vocals of **Amnesia Scanner**. Sunday's closing, conceived by Brussels collective **Brikabrak** and Portuguese label **Príncipe**, created a total symbiosis between the two teams for a Sunday of undeniably comforting energy, with the hybrid live of **M I M I** mesmerizing the audience, and **Martha Da'ro** transforming the Auditorium into an ephemeral dance floor.

From Thursday to Saturday, audiences were also able to get out of the center of Brussels to visit three alternative venues that enriched the festival's artistic offerings.

In Forest, the **Brasserie iLLeGaal** warehouse hosted three nights of festivities, ranging from rugged rock energy on Thursday evening, experimental techno sounds on Friday at the invitation of the **Kontakt Group** (Brussels) and **Warning** (Berlin) collectives, including a live performance by Ukrainian **Poly Chain**, to baile funk rhythms on Saturday with Brazilian **DJ K**, guest of the Belgian collective **Rebel Up**.

Meanwhile at **LaVallée** (Molenbeek) we hosted live jazz/ambient performance by **Dishwasher_** and the return of Finnish multi-instrumentalist and producer **Jimi Tenor** at **Les Ateliers Claus** (Saint-Gilles).



THANK YOU!

This edition was born out of a common desire on the part of Arty Farty Brussels, Bozar and all the partners associated with the project, to build a collaborative and inspiring event in Brussels.

We are endlessly grateful to our institutional supporters and partners (City of Brussels, Brussels-Capital Region, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, visit. brussels, SPHERA) for their unfailing support in the creation of this project and their constant benevolence, the partner structures, venues and collectives (Brasserie iLLeGaal, LaVallée, C12, Les Ateliers Claus, Reset, Bozar, Meakusma, Brikabrak, Príncipe, Kontakt Group, Warning, PAN), private partners (Resident Advisor, Lillet, Absolut, Vedett, JCDecaux) and media partners, technical and logistical service providers, as well as the 70 artists and 60 guest speakers. Our warmest thanks go to all the volunteers and associated teams, without whom this project would not have been possible, and last but not least to the public, who have made us so proud by enabling us to present them this wonderful adventure.

PHOTOGRAPHY

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