

## PRESS RELEASE

ZKM at Esch2022 – European Capital of Culture  
Hacking Identity – Dancing Diversity  
27.02.2022 – 15.05.2022

*Giving tangible presence to changing identity – this is the aim of the exhibition »Hacking Identity – Dancing Diversity« held by the ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe. Kicking off the Esch2022 – European Capital of Culture year Esch2022 on February 26th, visitors to the Möllerei will have the opportunity to marvel at the transformation of material industrial culture into a versatile media space.*

As part of the European Capital of Culture 2022, the ZKM was invited by Esch2022 to design an exhibition offering a new vision for the 21st century in a new venue symbolic of the industrial past of the region. The location, the »Möllerei«, is a newly converted former warehouse in Esch-Belval, originally used to store raw materials for the production of cast iron in the nearby blast furnaces.

Where Minette, the iron ore of the region, was once transported via conveyor belts, rail tracks and a gigantic ramp, digitally generated film images now weightlessly unfold; where clouds of mineral dust once billowed up, sound waves of electronic music permeate the air. The exhibition Hacking Identity – Dancing Diversity presents media art and contrasts heavy industry with information technology.

The exhibition speaks of the shifts occurring within our digital society, where everyone who is online is both sender and receiver at once. Ethnic, social and gender identities are being constantly renegotiated. Differing interests and multiple voices can, however, narrow into inflexible fault-lines of identity political confrontation. The invited artists contribute to the debates on identity and diversity by employing strategies of »hacking« in aesthetically very dissimilar ways. Originally derived from information technology, this term refers to creative methods of overcoming usage restrictions. Applied to the power of definition and to cultural norms, hacking also describes experimental forms of acting for change.

Video installations, large-scale screen projections, participatory artworks and sculptural objects visualise phenomena related to the dissolution, duplication and mixing of identity. The works offer serious and light-hearted encounters with doppelgängers, avatars, iconic figures from the world of gaming, bizarre sci-fi creatures and surprisingly ambiguous mirror images.

With works by:

Kateryna Borovschi (ES), Ludger Brümmer (DE), Saddle Choua (BE), Nadim Choufi (LB), Danica Dakić (DE), Margret Eicher (DE), Thomas Feuerstein (AT), Chiara Fumai (IT), Christoph Girardet (DE) & Matthias Müller (DE), Daniel

February 2022

**The ZKM at Esch2022:  
European Capital of Culture  
Exhibition  
Hacking Identity – Dancing Diversity**

Exhibition opening  
Sun, 27.02.2022

Duration of the exhibition  
Mon, 27.02.2022 – Sun, 15.05.2022

Location  
Esch/Luxembourg Möllerei  
European Capital of Culture

Press contact  
Tanja Binder

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Founders of ZKM



Baden-Württemberg  
MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

Partner of ZKM



Heiss (DE), Hanna Haaslahti (FI), Délio Jasse (IT), Marc Lee (CH), Marie-Luce Nadal (FR), onformative (DE), Dennis Oppenheim (US), Wong Ping (HK), Jonathan Rescigno (FR/DE), rosalie (DE), Lázaro Saavedra (CU), Tristan Schulze (DE), Christa Sommerer (AT) & Laurent Mignonneau (AT), Lu Yang (CN), Virgil Widrich (AT).

Hacking Identity – Dancing Diversity is accompanied by a programme of public events, including guided tours and workshops. A catalogue published by Hatje Cantz will be issued in Spring 2022.

The exhibition is produced by the ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe and has been curated and organised by Anett Holzheid (senior researcher and consultant at ZKM) and Peter Weibel (artistic-scientific chairman and CEO of the ZKM).

Press images can be downloaded from the homepage [www.zkm.de/presse](http://www.zkm.de/presse)

For further questions, please contact: [presse@zkm.de](mailto:presse@zkm.de)

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