



Danube Cultural Cluster

DANUBE CULTURE NEWS

Newsletter of the
DANUBE CULTURAL CLUSTER
Association

June 2021

ABOUT US



The Danube. A journey into the past. Belgrad © Österreichische Nationalbibliothek

The Danube Cultural Cluster Association was established in Vienna in 2012 as a **cooperation platform**. It was developed in accordance with the macro-regional initiative of the European Union's Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). Its primary aim is **to represent the interests of artists** and cultural operators, as well as to establish a **communication** and **cooperation** platform for them while generating **own projects** with an eye toward enhancing the "Danube" as a quality cultural brand. The Danube Cultural Cluster is the only regional (transnational) NGO in the field of culture being an official observing member of the international Steering Group of EUSDR Priority Area 3 (Culture, Tourism & People to People Relations).

Our members are institutions and NGOs that have been engaging in numerous international and cultural events, projects and partnership. The members of the Danube Cultural Cluster work on ways **to promote arts and culture** in their respective countries, regions or communities. The Danube Cultural Cluster is an open platform of motivated cultural partners.

In this newsletter you can find out more about our joint activities, the latest efforts of our members and some other exciting artistic initiatives in the Danube region.

More information: <https://www.danubeculturalcluster.eu/>

CURRENT CLUSTER PROJECTS

Art on the Stream (2020-22):

This contemporary art project offers a touring exhibition with artists from 8 countries along the Danube. Despite the pandemic, two stations of the tour could take place in 2020 (Museum Ulm and Castle Schallaburg). Until the next live show is possible (hopefully in October 2021 in Košice), we provide virtual meetings with the artists and the curators. You can also download the catalogue from the homepage of the Danube Cultural Cluster where you can find audioguide files to the art works too. Art on the Stream is an initiative of the „Kulturreferentin“ for the Danube Region at DZM Ulm with several partners from Baden-Württemberg, while the Danube Cultural Cluster is one of the cooperating organisations from the region. In 2022 the exhibition will be presented in Pécs, Osijek, Novi Sad, Timișoara and Sofia. More information here: <https://www.facebook.com/artonthestream>, videos recorded by the artists for the online event „Studio Talks“: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgCial2qpjhD_2bYjQw9Sdw

Fast vergessen (2021-23):

„Almost forgotten“ is the motto of this new project initiated by the „Kulturreferentin“ for the Danube Region at DZM Ulm and implemented in cooperation with the Danube Cultural Cluster. The main idea is to promote the smallest cultural groups (minorities) and languages in the Danube region through their literature. The Danube is the most diverse cultural river region worldwide. We would like to give this diversity a voice with the help of short videos presenting authors and short literary texts of the Csángó, Lipovans, Shockatz, Banat Swabians, Pomaks, Roma, Serbian Slovaks, Carinthian Slovenes and some others. In the short documentations, experts will provide a short introduction into the history and the present status of these ethnic groups. The videos will be available on the Youtube channel of the Danube Cultural Cluster, and some of the authors will be invited to the Donau Lounge at Buch Wien. More information coming soon on social media!





Donau Lounge 2021 (10-14 November 2021, Vienna):

After a digital version 2020 which is still available on the Youtube channel and the website of the Danube Cultural Cluster, we are planning a full size live stage programme of the Donau Lounge in 2021 with a selection of the latest publications from the Danube countries in German translation. The Buch Wien International Book Fair will take place from 10-14 November 2021. Cluster member danube books is one of the long-time partners of the Donau Lounge. Enjoy the video presentations and readings of the digital Donau Lounge 2020 until the new programme will be available: <https://www.danubeculturalcluster.eu/event/donau-lounge-mit-abstand-2020>



© EDA/Stadtarchiv Ulm

9th International Danube Conference on Culture (21-23 November 2021, Ulm):

After several years, the Danube Conference on Culture series returns to its place of birth – Ulm. The conference was first organised here in 2013, and comes back now after Novi Sad, Temeswar, Ruse, Pécs, Linz, Regensburg and the Schallaburg. Under the motto „Pathway to new prosperity”, the organisers would like to discuss the possibilities of a restart for the cultural sector in the Danube region focusing on innovation, finances and sustainability. The conference will take place from 21-23 November 2021 in Ulm. The main organiser is the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts Baden-Württemberg in cooperation with partners from the Danube region. The event will be implemented by the Cluster member European Danube Academy Ulm. More information soon under: <http://danubeculture.eu/>

CLUSTER MEMBERS' PROJECTS

Aquaphone Festival 2021 (3 October 2021, Štúrovo/Esztergom):

At the beginning of the 1950ies, the bridge between Štúrovo (SK) and Esztergom (HU) was in ruins. It was almost impossible for relatives and friends on each side of the Danube to get in touch or communicate. People would go down to the river, mostly on windless evenings, to talk to each other. The water carried the sound of short messages, often encoded, to the other bank half a kilometre away. The AquaPhone performance refers year by year to this phenomenon, honouring all the lives whose secrets had at one time been entrusted to the Danube, recalling this testimony of people's yearning to talk together, and of their inventive genius bridging borders and distances under difficult conditions. In 2021, the AquaPhone performance – and the small festival around – is planned for 3 October. More details about the literary dialogue (always written by famous authors from SK, HU or sometimes other countries) and the whole programme will follow soon. AquaPhone is a project of Cluster member *The Bridgeguard Residency Programme* Štúrovo.

Danube Dialogues – Festival of Contemporary Art 2021 (7-30 September 2021, Novi Sad):

Danube Dialogues Festival is an international multimedia mosaic festival of visual arts of the Danube region, taking place simultaneously in various galleries and alternative places in Novi Sad. Artists, art professionals and critics from the countries of the Danube region participate in this festival, offering an extremely interesting insight into the current art trends of the region. The Festival is offering a well-defined concept, judging by the artworks exhibited by artists from each of the Danubian countries, by the dialogue exhibitions between the artists from Serbia and one of the selected countries, by carefully conceptualized conference themes, by the separate display of Serbian artists during this international event. The *Danube Dialogues* 2021 topic is **Art and Society in a Forced Reality**. At the end of the second decade of the 21st century, the term “new reality” appeared as a premonition of drastic changes in the way of life in the post coronavirus time. What will be the answer to this state of the world offered by art when the man of today is a hostage of the entire world order in which he is overwhelmed by the combination of capitalism and technological medialization. The programme is focused on relation between art, society and technology and features several exhibitions and art events as well as a hybrid international conference. The main organiser of the festival is the *Gallery Bel Art Novi Sad*.

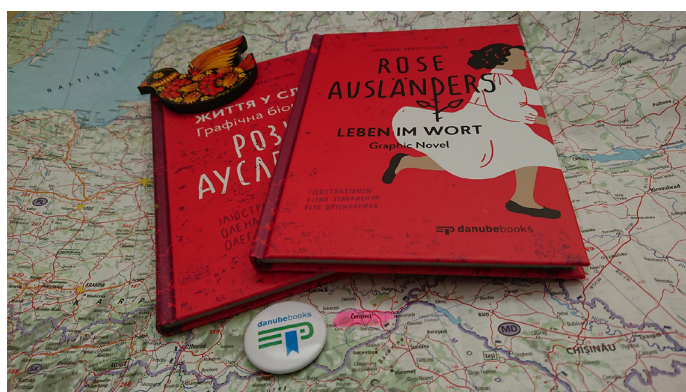
More information: <http://danubeartfest.org/>



© Danube Dialogues Festival

danube books – Book releases and social media 2021:

danube books starts the first half of 2021 with three new publications: In January, the sixth volume of the poetry series edition *textfluss* was published with contemporary poems by the well known prominent Viennese author, philosopher and composer Sophie Reyer. (*Silberstrom bin ich*, ISBN 978-3-946046-23-3). Dr. Oxana Matychuk from the University of Czernowitz has published the German edition of her graphic novel about the life and work of Rose Ausländer at danube books (*Rose Ausländers Leben im Wort*, ISBN 978-3-946046-27-1). Psychologically and linguistically interesting miniatures are offered by Kristiane Kondrat's stories. Her memories of her childhood in the multicultural Banater Bergland will be published at the end of June. (*Bild mit Sprung*, ISBN 978-3-946046-24-0). Another two novels are planned for publication in autumn 2021. During the pandemic, danube books has increased its social media activities to strengthen direct contact with readers. In addition to Twitter and Facebook, the publisher can now also be found on Instagram and youtube. Homepage: <https://www.danube-books.eu>

**Trucker on the Danube Route**

Be it the young academics who are still trying to leave their home countries in Southeastern Europe in droves in the hope of a better future, be it the nurses from the Balkan countries who work or are urgently needed here in our hospitals and nursing homes, be it the young IT specialists, for example from Romania, who are helping to advance the digitization process in Germany and Austria: the “faces of the Danube” are diverse and say more about the social and economic reality in the Danube region than bare figures. The *European Danube Academy* wants to introduce these faces in the next few years – with events in various formats, interviews and publications. We want to start with a profession that we constantly encounter in large numbers on the streets and rest stops, on the borders and bridges of the Danube region: the “truckers”, the professional drivers on their large trucks. Truck drivers are usually true experts in Europe. They often cross several national borders in Europe every day, know the European traffic routes, the peculiarities of the countries - they are an intercultural community that rests together every day on countless rest areas along our highways. Truck drivers are a special group of people: less than 2% of professional drivers are women, they often work around 80 hours a week, are away from home and family for a long time and are at the same time a less recognized professional group. Despite their presence on the streets of Europe and their importance in supplying people and the European economy, little is often known about them. The “Trucker on the Danube Route” project is intended to use events and media to bring the public closer to the life of truck drivers along the Danube, give them a voice and demonstrate their importance for the economy and society in the Danube region.

© danube books

HAPPY EU – Exhibition near Paris:

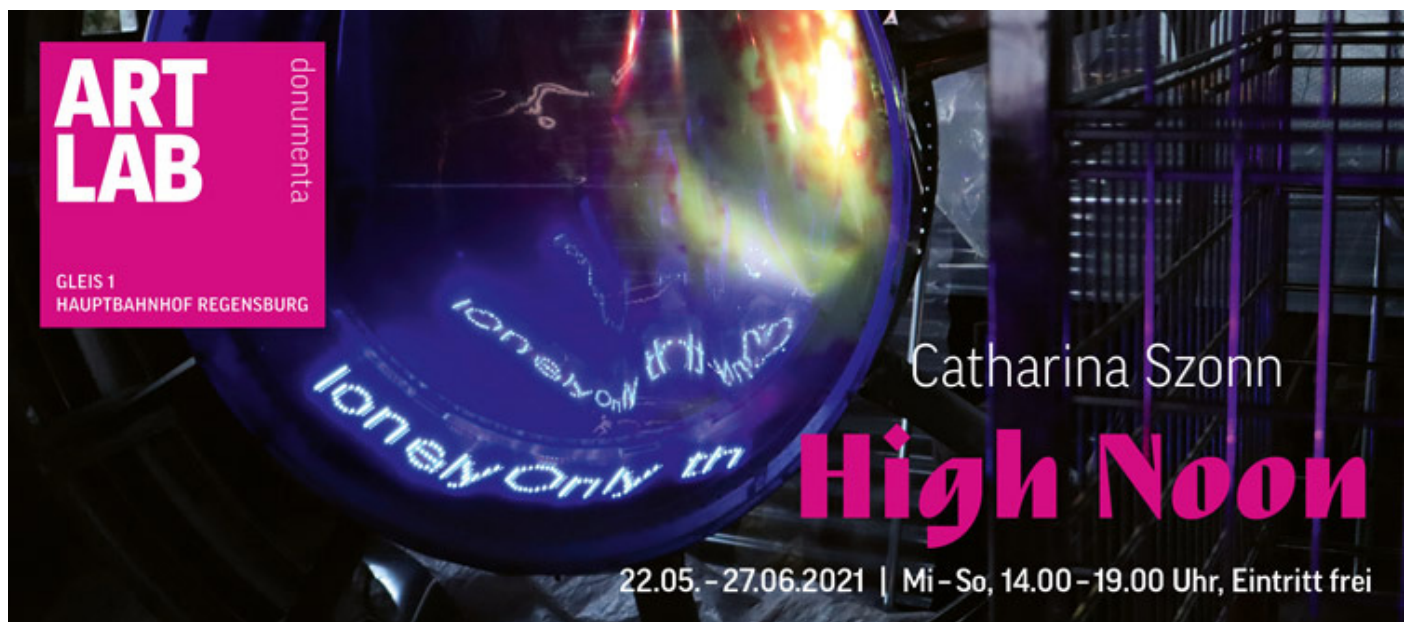
In Vincennes, a city on the eastern outskirts of Paris, there was an exhibition about people from five European cities who are committed in different ways to Europe, its common values and society. The project is organized by the European House in Paris, the project partners are danube connects from Ulm, Vincennes in France, Bacau in Romania, Cuba in Portugal and Cácares in Spain. Further exhibitions are planned for 2021/2022. The aim of the project is to promote the political and social participation of citizens in Europe and to support them in their commitment to democracy and civic participation. The following people are presented from Ulm: Elena Flügel from the Association for Humanity Ulm, Ilse Hehn, author and artist, Kathinka Leyhr, employee of the Danube Office Ulm/Neu-Ulm, Thomas Zehender with his danube books publishing house and Marko Vrbancic, health trainer. Further information: <https://paris-europe.eu/visite-de-lexposition-happy-eu-a-vincennes/>, Photos from the exhibition: <https://www.facebook.com/danubeconnects/posts/4153264354693632>

**Cooperation of the ADK with the Freesze Society Budapest:**

The Academy of Performing Arts Baden-Wuerttemberg (ADK) in Ludwigsburg and the Freesze Society Budapest agree to start a long-term cooperation in the area of performing arts.

The basis of this agreement is the mutual understanding that it is key to foster the contemporary education in the performing arts in a European framework. Our common ground is the assumption that our students have different backgrounds and different languages but that these differences constitute a primary source of creation. Thus, we take the post-national diversity of Europe beyond the idea of homogenous national identities as well as the differences in languages and traditions as point of departure for our cooperation projects. All collaborations initiated on the base of this agreement are student-centred as they focus on the artistic development of each participating student. Furthermore, the cooperation aims to establish a new European study program in the performing arts in further cooperation with a group of major European arts universities from different countries (such as a.o. Mozarteum Salzburg, Akademia Teatralna Aleksandra Zelwerowicza Warschau and Accademia Teatro Dimitri Switzerland). The goal is to develop a contemporary and innovative programme that is not based on the usual national understanding of performing arts (still mostly based on the tradition of national languages), but sets off from a multilingual approach and from differing theatre traditions, conceiving theatre education explicitly from the point of view of transcultural and international theatre making. More information: <https://adk-bw.de/>

Happy EU – © Thierry Guillaume



ART LAB Gleis 1 by documenta e.V. Regensburg - Catharina Szonn: High Noon

documenta ART LAB Gleis 1:

With this project, documenta e.V. is permanently present at Regensburg Central Station. The former underground feeder to the tracks has been an art laboratory and exhibition venue since 2019. Between the poles of science, society and art, the ART LAB Gleis 1 sees itself as a field of experimentation. Several times a year, a different artist or group designs this extraordinary space. Current exhibition: "High Noon" by Catharina Szonn, from 22 May - 27 June 2021. The artist Catharina Szonn from Frankfurt am Main stages her futuristic, consumption-critical, space-consuming large-scale installation there.

Another, permanent project of documenta e.V. is the artist in residency programme: In order to strengthen international exchange in the region, documenta e.V. regularly invites artists from the Danube countries to spend a month in the UNESCO World Heritage City of Regensburg. More information: www.documenta.de

The Museum of the Danube Swabians Ulm "reloaded":

After 20 years of existence, the DZM is modernising and updating its permanent exhibition. The heart of the museum remains the presentation of Danube Swabian history from emigration to the present day. However, an additional exhibition on the cultural history of the Danube is completely new. Danube Swabians. Departure and Encounter: With a new title, exciting exhibits from our depot, tried and tested items and one or two surprises, the exhibition tells the story of the Danube Swabians. Contemporary Danube Swabian witnesses talk about their experiences in video interviews. At hands-on stations, visitors can eat maize, which was also called Kukuruz, or accompany young Danube Swabians on their emigration to America. In a new media guide, Danube Swabian men and women take visitors through the exhibition and provide in-depth information on the objects. Danube. River Stories: We bring the Danube into the museum! The river meanders through the new exhibition like a blue ribbon. With objects, photographs, films and illustrations, the DZM tells 22 stories about life on and with the Danube. Visitors meet the legendary Danube dinosaur, pass rapids with the Ulm box and visit famous coffee houses in Vienna and Budapest. The Ulm Danube pebbles also find their way into the new exhibition.

More information: <https://www.dzm-museum.de/>



Sharing Future Artist in Residence Ruse 2021:

Every year, the *International Elias Canetti Society*, in cooperation with the Danube University Rectors' Conference, awards the Artist in Residence grant "SHARING FUTURE" and offers European artists the opportunity to explore the cultural landscape of the Danube city of Ruse, Bulgaria. This year's scholarship goes to the German-Romanian author and playwright Thomas Perle. He will be in Ruse for a month in September and October to realize his multilingual project "donauwellen". During his stay, he will work on a piece around the Danube, a river rich in history, and collect voices from people living near the Danube. Thomas Perle was, by the way, one of the authors in the Donau Lounge 2020 programme. Watch his video on the YouTube channel of the Danube Cultural Cluster! More information to Sharing Future Artist Residence: www.eliascanetti.org



DANUBE CULTURE PROJECTS WORTH TO KNOW ABOUT (SELECTION)

Foto: Márton Méhes

MS-Fusion A.I.R.:

The MS-FUSION A.I.R. project of the Austrian artist Rainer Prohaska (AT) is about to start its journey on the Danube. It is a unique "Artist & Scientist in Residence" programme, based on a customized ship, floating downstream the river Danube... Learn more about the programme, its goals, operations and activities here: <https://www.ms-fusion.net/>

Danubia Voyage & Project:

The artists Ramona Poenaru & Gael Chaillat (compagne Des Châteaux en l'air - Strasbourg/FR) have just started their fantastic artistic journey on the Danube! From May to August 2021 they will travel from Strasbourg to the Danube Delta on board the AMORADOS. During the journey they will log images, sounds, experiences and impressions, and encourage dialogue with people who can tell us the river's «story»; people who know and frequent the river (historians, geographers, biologists, artists, sailors, fishermen, labourers, residents). This harvest of sensory information will nourish the writing of the show DANUBIA - (Mirror in the Waters). A progressive map of our trip will be accessible on a website : www.danubia.org

Further information also available here:

<https://deschateauxenlair.jimdofree.com/>

The Danube – a journey into the past (4 May – 7 November 2021, Vienna):

In the large special exhibition "The Danube", extraordinary works from the Austrian National Library invite visitors on a "journey into the past". The Danube is presented as both a border and a link, as a space of yearning for artists and as a traffic route. And of course, it is also about natural disasters and natural areas worth protecting. The highlight of the exhibition is a spectacular 44-meter-long reproduction of the famous Pasetti map. This map, published by the Imperial-Royal State Ministry from 1857, shows an extremely precise image of the Danube in the territory of the Habsburg Monarchy from Passau to the Iron Gate. More information: <https://www.onb.ac.at/en/museums/state-hall/current-exhibition/the-danube-a-journey-into-the-past>

Light and sound on new bridges

is a project, which establishes a Europe-wide network with more than 200 students from 19 schools in 10 Danube countries. Thematically and content wise "Light and sound on new bridges" ties in with the reality of young people's lives: What does the current situation mean for individuals on a day-to-day basis? Which prospects are offered? How can teenagers participate in political processes? How do teenagers become political actors? What visions and utopias can we develop for the European idea? "Light and sound on new bridges" connects both mottos of the European capitals of culture Timisoara (light and sound) and Novi Sad (on new bridges). This is about putting the creative, aesthetic site in the foreground. Together with the teenagers the project goes on the search for the similarities and connections, which hold Europe together within, in three phases (I in Europe, You in Europe, We in Europe). The participants are invited to be creative and discuss in different workshops. So, a network is developing, that accompanies the teenagers in their everyday life and offers numerous opportunities to open a window to Europe. "Light and sound on new bridges" is a cooperation project of the Kulturreferentin for the Danube Region at the DZM Ulm, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the State of Baden-Württemberg and the Donaübüro gGmbH Ulm/Neu-Ulm.

More information:

<https://www.donaubuero.de/licht-und-klang-auf-neuen-bruecken>

Transdanube Travel Stories

is a running Interreg project within the Danube Transnational programme. Recognising the vast cultural and natural heritage, the project Transdanube Travel Stories aims at supporting sustainable tourism in the Danube region by implementing innovative promotion concepts (new narratives) and sustainable mobility management tools. The project's lead partner is the Environmental Agency Austria. More information: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/transdanube-travel-stories>



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