

# Roger Fährndrich

## Portfolio 2023

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# The Center of Negativity

Participatory performance project  
Since 2021

The Center of Negativity (CON) creates spaces in the field of art - at festivals, venues and in institutions - to share about bad feelings in one-on-one conversations. These conversations follow a number of protocols and are open to everybody. They last one hour and take place in a shielded setting. The topics discussed are treated confidentially. A series of one-on-one conversations is concluded by a public moment where participants can share their experience if they wish.

The CON is also a research place for negative patterns within the arts. It maps the specific emotional struggles of artists and places them in a larger socio-political context. To this end it conducts workshops in art institutions and collects testimonies from artists.

The conversations take place in private as well as in institutions and at festivals. So far, the CON has appeared publicly at:

Authren Congress, Hamburg, 17.09.2022

[Auawirleben](#), Bern, 5 - 15.05.2022

[Galerie CRMJ](#), Langenthal, 16.10.2021

[Graduation Show](#), KASK, Ghent, 1 - 4.07.2021

Codisco, radical\_house, Brussels, 5.06.2021

Reflection moments:

Office Auawirleben, Bern, 9.01.2023

radical\_house Brussels, 5.12.2022

KASK Ghent BE, 1.12.2022

The Center of Negativity is supported by Kultur Stadt Bern (CH) and radical\_house (Brussels, BE)



CON at the theatre festival Auawirleben Bern, May 2022, Photograph: © Nathalie Jufer



# The Center of Negativity

## PROTOCOLS ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATIONS

All conversations are based on a practice of listening. At the beginning, the conversation partner chooses one of five proposed protocols. After the talk, the conversation partner receives a text that summarizes the meeting and corresponds with the chosen protocol. The recipient determines whether this text will be kept confidential or whether they wish to share it.

The conversation protocols are shortly explained underneath and on the next page.

## DIPLOMA

The Center of Negativity offers the shortest study programs in the world. Diplomas can be obtained in a single interview. We assume that you are an avid practitioner of your negative behavioural patterns. Thus, you will only need to present your qualification and knowledge to the examination committee. To date, the CoN has awarded the following degrees to 25 graduates:

- Master of Arts in Depression (MAD)
- Bachelor of Arts in Avoiding Conflicts (BAAC)
- BA in Romanticising the Blues (BARB)
- MA in Escapism (MAES)
- MA in Suppressing Anger (MASA)
- BA in Self-Castigation (BASC)
- Professional Blamer of Parents (BOP)
- MA in Nothing (MANO)
- MA in Poisoning Atmospheres (MAPOI)
- MA in Self-Limitation (MASL)
- MA in People Pleasing (MAPP)
- Professional Blamer of Dad (BOD)
- Doctor of Happiness Sabotage (DHS)
- CAS Fear of Imposing on Others (FOIO)
- MA in Feeling Insulted (MAFI)
- MA in Hesitation (MAHE)





# The Center of Negativity

## AGREEMENT

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Agreement is an investigation that starts from how the two conversation partners relate. What kind of sensations and memories will occur in a setting in which everything needs to be agreed on? „Do we agree that we sit on a carpet on the floor? Do we agree that we face each other directly?“ Starting from these spacial aspects of the situation, questions can be asked and statements can be made. This synchronisation process can lead to creating new agreements or revise old ones. The conversation builds itself on what comes up in the moment. In the end, all agreements are revisited.

## PORTFOLIO

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Portfolio is a list of bad feelings that have been central to my artistic work and process. The partner chooses two emotions from this list. We then exchange on how they emerge in our lives and in particular how they relate to our artistic experiences and practices.

## JOB INTERVIEW

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The partner applies to work in The Center of Negativity. They define what emotional work means to them and what it could look like. We discuss about the potential of negative feelings in society and formulate a concrete idea they see themselves realising.

## OPEN TALK

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There is always the possibility to have a completely open talk without a set protocol. Or, it is also possible to combine two or more protocols.

## CLOSING MOMENT

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A series of conversations at a festival is concluded by a public moment where participants can share their experience if they wish. This is a touching and important moment, as it brings individual struggle into a collective.

## BACKGROUND

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The Center of Negativity assumes that bad feelings contain a transformative power that can change lives, as therapies show in certain cases. But therapies are usually focused only on individuals. The CON also starts its investigation on the individual level, but asks how to connect this important work on the individual with a collective, societal work. In that way, it asks what implications bad feelings could have on society, if they were regarded as more valuable.



Conversation box at the theatre festival Auawirleben at Waisenhausplatz in Bern CH, May 2022, Photograph: © Stefan Maurer



Closing Moment, KASK Ghent, July 2021, Photograph: © Benina Hu

## Roger F. & The Structure

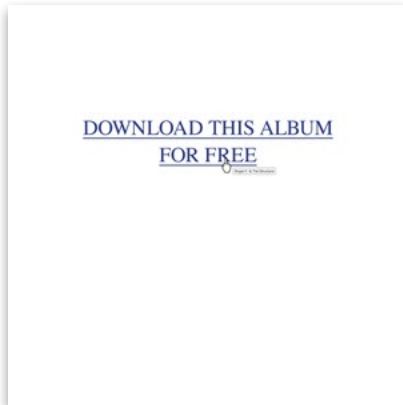
Music Project  
Since 2014

## Collaboration with Andrej Marffy

As Roger F. & The Structure, Roger Fähndrich writes and plays songs about individuality, obsessions, the relational consequences of budgets in art collectives and capitalism in general.

## ALBUMS

2020



2016



Concert 26 August 2022, Leherzimmer Bern, Photograph: Sabahet Meta



# Roger F. & The Structure

## VIDEOS

- 2023 Freedom (1)  
Videoclip - 0:40 min  
Directed by Giorgia Piffaretti
- 2021 CRMI LIVE, Performance Videos  
Video: Sam Brookes, Remo Zürcher  
Audio: Stefan Schischkanov  
[Was sollen wir nur tun?](#) - 4:13 min (2)  
[The Whip](#) - 5:22 min (3)  
[I'm Glad](#) - 3:05 min
- 2020 [Slowly Going Mad](#) (4)  
Promotional video - 2:50 min
- 2020 [Pile Up Guilt](#) (5)  
Videoclip - 3:09 min
- 2020 [Professional Blues](#) (6)  
Videoclip - 1:46 min
- 2019 [Everything Is Full Of Capital](#) (7)  
Performance Video - 2:35 min
- 2018 [Selbstoptimierung](#) (8)  
Videoclip - 4:40 min
- 2017 [White Men With Guitars](#) (9)  
Videoclip - 6:14 min  
Editing: Giorgia Piffaretti
- 2017 [Live In Pink](#) (10)  
Performance Video - 4:30 min  
Camera: Tanja Schwarz
- 2016 [Long Island Ice Tea](#) (11)  
Videoclip - 4:00 min
- 2016 [Dear Director](#)  
Performance Video - 2:41 min
- 2016 [Everything Is Full Of Capital](#) (12)  
Videoclip - 2:45 min



(1)



(5)



(9)



(2)



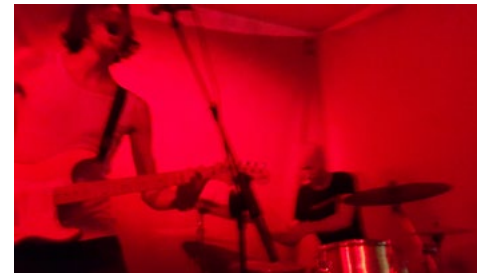
(6)



(10)



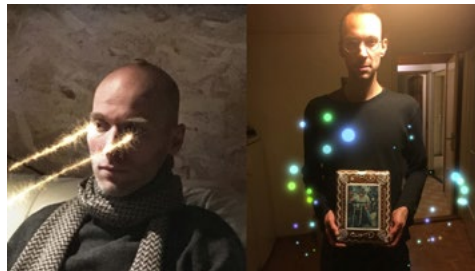
(3)



(7)



(11)



(4)



(8)



(12)

# Am I Evil?

Lecture-Performance  
50 min

Commissioned and curated by  
Simone Basani and Alice Ciresola  
For *JEANNE. Or The Western Touch*

In "Am I Evil?" Roger Fähndrich starts from the scarce historical information about art dealer and collector Jeanne Walschot to create a defiant, semi-fictional lecture-performance about her life.

Evoking multiple characters, he tries to fill the gaps of her life narration to understand Walschot's feelings. In this quest, he cannot help but questioning his position toward the subject of his research, and specifically his perspective as a white, male artist and songwriter.

## PERFORMANCES

Memento Festival, Buda Kortrijk, 18/03/2023  
KAAP, Salon Arents, Brugge BE, 20/01/2023  
Buda, Kortrijk BE, 20/05/2022



Performance 20 Mai 2022, Buda Kortrijk - Videostills by Simone Basani and Alice Ciresola



# Tutti Frutti

Participatory performance  
3 - 5 Mai 2019

Curated by Simone Basani

With Ine Van Horen, Miriam Mathys, Jesse Vandamme, Bilal Alnouri, Lukas, Jaco, May, Maria, Shila Anaraki, and others

Tutti Frutti was conceived for the Mayday May-day Festival in Ghent and blurs the boundaries between artist and audience. The basis for this encounter is a number of songs that I wrote.

During the three days of the festival, everyone was invited to visit me in order to make music together. On the last day, the ensemble thus created performed six pieces of music for an audience:

Preach Madness  
A Language Without Violence  
Here I Am  
White Men With Guitars  
The Real Thing  
The Real

Tutti Frutti is an open space, a workshop, a gathering around and through music. I see it as a necessary piece between Roger F. & The Structure and The Center of Negativity.

[Excerpts](#)



Pictures from the process, 3 - 5 Mai 2019, Campo Ghent, Videostills and Performance on 5 Mai 2019, Campo Ghent, Videostill



# The Drollinger Solution

Essay Movie  
2017

HD-Video, Stereo, 32 min  
English, Swiss German

Collaboration with Sarah Elena Müller

With the help of a futuristic technology two obsessive control freaks put themselves in an artificial coma. Thereby they hope to unclench their tied up thinking patterns. The shady programm F.O.X. guides them through their subconscious, but the experiment gets out of hand as the two participants start to struggle against the linking activities of F.O.X.

[Watch](#)

## SCREENINGS

Video-Σ, Basel CH, 11/11/2017

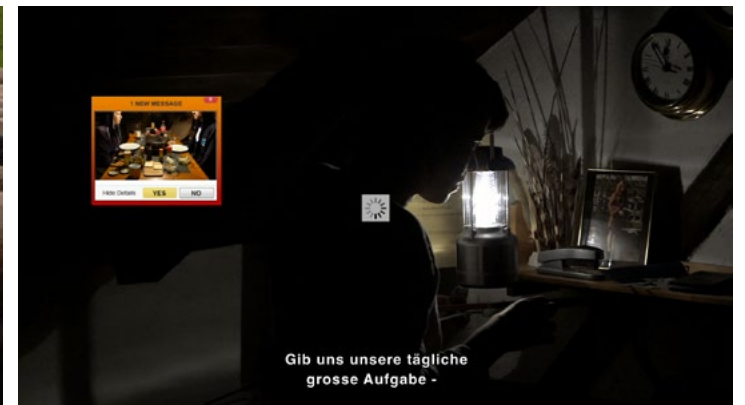
Stadtgalerie Bern CH, 6-22/7/2017

Mad Scientist Festival, Museum of Natural  
History Bern CH, 9/9/2016

Chrämerhuus Langenthal CH, 31/1/2016



Videostills



# The Financial Report of the Transnational Arts Commons 2014

Video, 2015

HD- Video, Stereo, 13:02 min  
English

Essayistic documentation of an art project about commons economy, narrated from the perspective of the accountant. The material is taken from a livestream which was broadcasted during the Bern Biennial 2014 on YouTube.

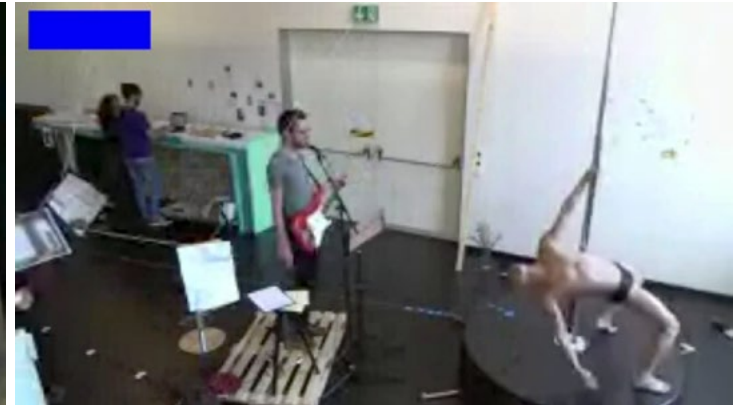
[Watch](#)

## EXCERPT

*Dear spectator, I am sorry, but this is not for you. This is only for the people who are involved in the KunstAllmend. As you keep watching this, you will probably get involved too. Most likely because you feel offended. If this is of no interest to you, go consume something. Like kitten on YouTube.*

## PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Anabel Sarabi, Daria Gusberti, Einat Tuchman, Ernestyna Orlowska, Jazmin Taco, Joel Verwimp, Kate Rich, Maia Gusberti, Marc Kilchenmann, Myriam Wegenast, Nicolas Galeazzi, Patricia Reed, Philippine Hoegen, Roger Fähndrich, Sophie Schmidt, Sandra Draheim, Tina Lange, Georgious Papadopoulos



Videostills



# Art Is Dead (It Died For Me)

Essay Film  
2014

HD-Video, Stereo, 17 min  
German, Swiss German, English

This film led to two things:

On the one hand, to the question of whether the crises of the world trigger inner conflicts or whether the outside just appears lost and hopeless through a lens that is colored by depression and melancholia.

On the other hand, it led to the emergence of the rock musician Roger F., who uses other tools to deal with this question than the filmmaker Roger Fähndrich.

*"My biggest fear is that my talent will not be noticed in a scale that feels large enough. Self-realisation has to be overcome, but it can only be overcome once it has happened. The crucial question is whether the self-realisation of an individual can actually help the realisation of humanity. In other words, does Nick Cave help socialism?"* The soundscape scratches away the word „socialism“.

[Watch](#)

## SCREENINGS

Kulturesk Bern CH, 16/04/2015

Progr Bern CH, 4 - 7/09/2014



Videostills



# I will not imagine the suffering of others

Essay Film  
2013

HD-Video, Stereo, 55 min  
German, English Subtitles

Collaboration with Tanja Schwarz

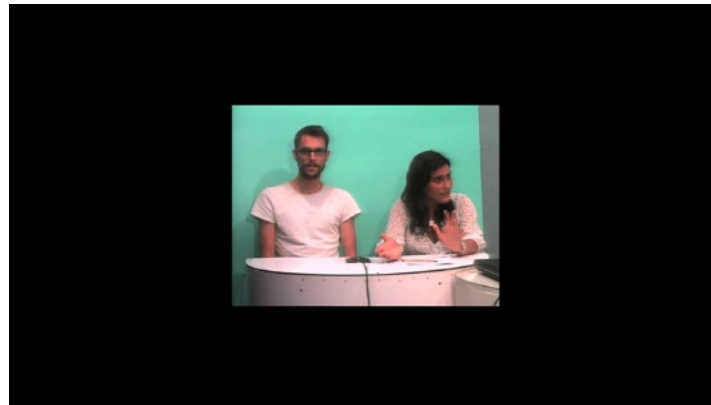
This autobiographical film essay was realised between 2011 and 2013. Based on the questions „How to live?“ „How to act?“ „How to love?“ „How to make art?“, Tanja Schwarz and Roger Fähndrich embarked on a cinematic quest. They consciously crossed the boundaries between love and work relationships, reality and imagination, art and life.

The film consists of documentary footage of the Occupy movement in Zurich and recordings of a trip to South America. By juxtaposing these realities, it places the quest for private happiness in relation to social-political struggles. Our off-voices hold the erratic impressions together, circling around the complex themes of resistance, capitalism, love, the end of the world, and the possibilities and limits of art.

[Watch](#)

## SCREENINGS

Espace Libre Biel CH, 21/09/2022  
Lehrerzimmer Bern CH, 1/05/2017  
Centre PasquArt Biel CH, 24/4 - 12/06/2016  
Kunstzeughaus Rapperswil CH, 30/11/14 - 8/2/15  
Kino Kunstmuseum Bern CH, 21/09/2014  
Lisabird Contemporary Wien AT, 7/09/2014  
Kino Kunstmuseum Bern CH, 31/03/2014  
Kunstmuseum Olten CH, 1/12/13-9/03/14  
Centre PasquArt Biel CH, 8/12/13-19/01/14  
Stadtgalerie Bern CH, 20/09/2013  
Kunsthau Langenthal CH, 17 - 21/07/2013



Videostills



# Roger Fähndrich

## BIOGRAPHY

I'm a multi-disciplinary artist and musician born in 1982 in a Swiss working-class milieu. My work explores the interplay between socio-political realities and feeling bad, and how narratives shape everyday life.

As Roger F. & The Structure, I write and perform self-doubting, often paradoxical protest songs, that aim to foster critical reflection. I am also the founder of The Center of Negativity, a relational space for conversations about difficult emotions. This project emerged from my research on the parallels between artistic practices and emotional work.

I am a member of the collective School of Love, engaging in the notion of love as societal concern and exploring different ways of being together. In partnership with Tanja Schwarz, I lead seminars in art schools that delve into the intricate relationship between art and suffering. I also contributed to Door to Door, a social-artistic project aimed at dismantling divisive 'us vs. them' discourse through conversations at people's doorsteps and in public spaces.

My studies include an MA of Visual Arts, Specialisation Autonomous Design, from KASK School of Arts Ghent (BE) and a BA in Fine Arts from Bern University of the Arts (CH).

[www.roger-f.com](http://www.roger-f.com)

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### EDUCATION

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2018 - 2021	Master of Arts of Fine Arts Specialisation Autonomous Design KASK Ghent BE
2007 - 2010	Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts Bern University of the Arts CH
2004 - 2005	Vocational School option Arts, Olten CH
2003 - 2004	Preliminary Course Arts and Design, Aarau CH
1998 - 2001	Commercial Apprenticeship, Olten CH

### PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITIONS, SCREENINGS (SELECTION)

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2023	Memento Festival, Buda Kortrijk BE
2023	Musea Brugge, Salon Arents Bruges BE
2022	Theater Festival Auawirleben Bern CH
2021	KASK Ghent BE
2020	Tranen van de kunstmarkt, Kunsthal Ghent BE
2020	Clair-Obscur Filmfestival, Basel CH
2019	Mayday Mayday Festival, Campo Ghent BE
2017	Argument Place, Stadtgalerie Bern CH
2017	Ikonen2, Heiliggeistkirche Bern CH
2016	Mad Scientist Festival, Naturhistorisches Museum Bern CH
2016	Aeschlimann Corti-Stipendium, Centre PasquArt Biel CH
2015	BONE Performance Festival, Bern CH
2014	KunstAllmend, Biennale Bern, Dampfzentrale Bern CH
2013	Jahresausstellung Kt. Solothurn, Museum of Art Olten CH
2013	Phantom Fundamental, Kunsthau Langenthal CH
2012	Ostrale 012, Dresden DE
2012	Palazzo Wyler (Raum No 5), Bern CH
2011	Café des Réves, Helmhaus Zürich CH
2010	Mit Absichten, Kunsthau Langenthal CH
2009	Etagen, LOEB Bern CH

### AWARDS AND GRANTS

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2022	Reasearch Grant, City of Bern
2018	Travel Grant, City of Bern
2014	4-year Studio Grant, PROGR Bern City of Bern
2012	Award for Film, Development Grant Canton of Solothurn

### RESIDENCIES

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2021	C-Takt, Neerpelt BE
2021	Buda, Kortijk BE
2021	radical_house, Brussels BE
2019	Land in Sicht, Ottobeuren DE
2018	Residency Greveniti GR
2016	Leaving Langenthal #1

### PRESS

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2022	<a href="#">Studieren im Kompetenzzentrum für schlechte Laune</a> (german) Julia Stephan, Swiss Media
2022	<a href="#">Wir alle leiden</a> (german) Martin Burkhalter, Der Bund
2020	<a href="#">Download This Podcast For Free</a> Talk with Ernestyna Orlowska

### PUBLICATIONS

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2021	Feeling Bad, Artbook issued with Tanja Schwarz
2010	Blätterkörper, Magazine

# Roger Fähndrich

## WORKSHOP FACILITATION & EDUCATION WORK

2022	Am I Evil? - Erotic Writing Workshop Salon Arents, Bruges BE
2022	School of Love - Open Design Course, Ghent BE
2022	School of Love - Athénée Joseph Bracops, Cifas, Brussels BE
2022	Am I Evil? - Erotic Writing Workshop Buda, Kortrijk BE
2022	The Art of Feeling Bad Seminar for MA and BA Students Zurich University of the Arts, CH
2022	Out Of Order Contemplations - Money & Art Kdg, St. Lucas Antwerpen BE
2021	School of Love - INFRA Vooruit, Ghent BE
2021	School of Love - Broederschool Sint-Niklaas Vooruit, Ghent BE
2021	Out Of Order Contemplations KASK, Ghent BE
2021	Hello Darkness my Old Friend Seminar (Y-Toolbox) for BA & MA Students Bern University of the Arts, CH
2021	Out Of Order Contemplations Online Workshop, State of the Arts
2021	School of Love - T'vier Buda Kortrijk BE

## CONCERTS

26.08.23	(BE)	Saint-Gilles, Zone de Rencontre 2023, solo	01.12.18	(CH)	Bern, Lehrerzimmer, Anne's and Sabo's Party
19.08.23	(CH)	Bern, Schützenmatte, Schütz Sommerbühne	27.08.18	(CH)	Bern, Lehrerzimmer, Video Release
08.07.23	(BE)	Bruxelles, Atelier Mommen	28.07.18	(GR)	Greveniti, solo
05.07.23	(BE)	Bruxelles, Brasserie Illegaal, Divagation, solo	14.07.18	(RS)	Novi Sad, CK13, solo
02.06.23	(BE)	Bruxelles, La Chambre de l'Art et de la Culture	16.06.18	(CH)	Hasliberg Goldern, Ecole d'Humanité, solo
21.04.23	(BE)	Bruxelles, POELP, solo	24.02.18	(CH)	Nyon, Place du Marché 2, Eeeeh!
14.01.23	(BE)	Bruxelles, Médiathèque, solo	26.01.18	(CH)	Bern, Gränni
14.12.22	(BE)	Bruxelles, Meyboom, solo	23.12.17	(CH)	Nidau, Schallgässli Festival
05.11.22	(BE)	Bruxelles, Avenue des Villas, solo /w. DIAN	22.12.17	(CH)	Zürich, Meyer's
16.10.22	(NL)	Rotterdam, Het Nieuwe Instituut	01.12.17	(CH)	Bern, Sabo's Birthday Party
26.08.22	(CH)	Bern, Lehrerzimmer	11.09.17	(CH)	Bern, Lehrerzimmer, solo
10.07.22	(BE)	Gent, Sylvester Gallery, solo	22.08.17	(CH)	Bern, Solstage, Schützenmatte
07.05.22	(CH)	Bern, Auawirleben	19.07.17	(CH)	Brenzikofen, BOUI-BOUI
05.11.21	(CH)	Solothurn, Fever, solo	20.05.17	(CH)	Bern, Voodoo Rhythm Hardware Store
28.08.21	(BE)	Ekkergem, parkje voor politie, solo	06.05.17	(CH)	Huttwil Improvisorium + Die Kekse
11.07.21	(BE)	Brussegem, solo	05.05.17	(CH)	Bern, Cold Storage
01.05.21	(CH)	Langenthal, CRMI	28.04.17	(CH)	Bern, Fabrikoool + Papaya Fuzz
29.04.21	(CH)	Bern, Connected Space, Offenes Feld	03.03.17	(CH)	Luzern, Jazzkantine, solo
20.01.21	(BE)	Gent, Truck Stop, solo	16.02.17	(CH)	Luzern, Industriestrasse
23.10.20	(CH)	Bern, Zoobar with REA	13.12.16	(CH)	Bern, Spaza Institute, KaosPilots, solo
19.09.20	(BE)	Gent, The Broken Heart Hotel	26.10.16	(DE)	Hamburg, Jupibar, solo
28.08.20	(BE)	Gent, Kunsthal	01.10.16	(CH)	Bern, Stube im Progr, solo
01.08.20	(BE)	Gent, Kunsthal	17.09.16	(CH)	Lotzwil, Innenhoffest
14.10.19	(DE)	Berlin, Schokoladen	10.09.16	(CH)	Bern, Lehrerzimmer, Progr-Hof-Fest
11.10.19	(DE)	Bremen, tba /w Fake Experience	18.08.16	(CH)	Langenthal, Wuhrplatzfest
09.10.19	(DE)	Stuttgart, Waggons /w Fake Experience	11.06.16	(CH)	Bern, Punto, Album Release
05.10.19	(DE)	Ottobreuren, Museum für zeitgenössische Kunst	19.12.15	(CH)	Münsingen, Orangerie, solo
18.09.19	(CH)	Bern, Rössli Bar, Support für Tommy Lobo	10.09.15	(CH)	Bern, Schwobhaus, Sofar Sounds, solo
11.09.19	(CH)	Bern, TP2, Unplugged in der Stube	05.09.15	(CH)	Olten, Tattarletti, solo
07.09.19	(CH)	Riedholz, Kettenreaktion 2019	25.06.15	(CH)	Bern, Milieu, Blond Documentary Lab, solo
24.07.19	(BE)	Gent, Café Fatima	04.06.15	(CH)	Bern, Zeppelin, solo
11.06.19	(BE)	Gent, De Zaal, Patricia Patif, solo	13.03.15	(CH)	Zürich, public space with Marks Blond, solo
01.06.19	(BE)	Gent, Café Fatima	29.11.14	(CH)	Burgdorf, Hunyadi Fest, solo
25.05.19	(CH)	Bern, Sounds Like Bern, Schützenmatte	28.11.14	(CH)	Bern, Theaterplatz, solo
27.03.19	(BE)	Gent, De Zaal, solo	18.11.14	(CH)	Bern, Playground Lounge, solo
23.03.19	(BE)	Hasselt, KABAAL, solo	31.10.14	(CH)	Zürich, Les Complices, solo
09.03.19	(BE)	Hasselt, KABAAL, solo	31.07.14	(CH)	Bern, Playground Lounge, solo
22.12.18	(BE)	Gent, OBSG, Yalda Night, solo	11.07.14	(CH)	Bern, Hinterzimmer, Progr, solo
20.12.18	(BE)	Gent, De Zaal, solo	08.02.14	(CH)	Bern, That Karaoke Party, solo