

# RHIZOM Festival

## Sustainability

The question of how club culture can be made sustainable, plays a central role at the RHIZOM Festival 2022. As a basis for the planning, implementation and further development of the festival, the collective has developed a sustainability concept based on previous experience. This concept refers to the 'three-pillar model' of sustainability, which considers the areas of 'society & social issues', 'environment' and 'profitability' as equal. The RHIZOM Festival 2022 will provide a platform to showcase the intangible value of club culture and the social innovations and organizational initiatives that emerge from it.

From an economic perspective, the countless hours of volunteer work invested in preparing and staging non-commercial cultural events are brought into focus. At the same time, responsibility is assumed with regard to the environmental compatibility of the cultural sector and negative environmental impacts are reduced to a minimum.

In order to achieve our sustainability goals, innovative, experimental and discursive approaches will be tested and evaluated in the preparation and at the festival itself, in the most direct communication possible with the audience, the artists and the partners involved. There will be space for this at the congress and in the installations and performances presented. The message of the measures developed and the changes made will be formulated positively and the resulting free space will be used creatively. With these measures, the RHIZOM Festival wants to encourage self-reflection and achieve a positive educational effect.

The core of the sustainability concept is a series of measures and activities, some of which are new and some of which have already been developed in the past three festival editions in 2017, 2018 and 2019. A fixed component that has become a trademark of the festival is the awareness concept with the entrance ritual. All visitors are thus sensitized to a mindful interaction with each other, which prevents conflicts of all kinds. Ideally, this community feeling of embodied diversity, which is clearly perceptible at the festival, also has an effect later on in private life.

Since the first edition, the festival has used vegetarian food prepared from "foodwaste" food for visitors and artists. The food on offer has always received enthusiastic feedback.

Furthermore, the festival works closely with the Rote Fabrik as venue and partner. In this way, existing infrastructures and technology can be used, while the Rote Fabrik generates added value. Visitors have the freedom of choosing their own admission fees, which enables low-threshold access. With the self-selected admission price (Prix Libre), the value of cultural events is discussed with the

audience and low-threshold access for financially disadvantaged people is made possible.

In the area of mobility, air travel for the artists' journey will be dispensed with from 2022. For the curation of the content, this means a geographical restriction, but enables the focus to be placed on lesser-known and up-and-coming local musicians, as well as making greater use of synergies with other organizers. The journey of the visitors to the festival will also be addressed.

Another thematic focus will be on sustainable consumption. The previous "Drug Checking" offer will be expanded with a discourse on the social impact of consumption and trade, as well as the still widely unknown environmental impact of chemicals from the production of laboratories in Europe, Asia and South America.

At the end, the entire festival will be evaluated on the basis of sustainability criteria, and a detailed environmental balance sheet will be drawn up, which can be used as a planning basis for future editions.