

VARIATIONS

music for piano and keyboards



FONDATION
BNP PARIBAS



le
lieu
unique

festival

30.03.24

→ 07.04.24

lelieuunique.com
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44000 Nantes, France

© Diane
Severin
Nguyen

VARIATIONS

Music for piano and keyboards

at Le Lieu Unique (Nantes, France)

from Saturday 30 March to Sunday 7 April 2024 – 8th édition

In partnership with the Fondation BNP Paribas, Le Lieu Unique, the centre for contemporary culture in Nantes, is organising an annual festival of experimental music based around the piano and keyboards: Variations.

From Saturday 30 March to Sunday 7 April 2024, Variations will present some thirty concerts spanning across jazz, electronic, experimental, traditional and pop music, while showcasing the exciting mix of genres at play in contemporary musical creation.

Variations will be staged across multiple different venues, from the galleries of the Musée d'art, to the rarefied setting of the Chapelle de l'immaculée or the workshops of the Libre Usine. The festival will also take up residence with long-standing partners Stereolux, Pannonica and the Cinématographe, as well as with a new collaborator, Trempo.

Creating experiences in a variety of different formats remains the festival's mantra, always looking to disrupt our habits as spectators: deep, introspective listening or, on the contrary, powerful, extreme sounds, talks, film screenings, clubbing... Variations aims to offer moments of sharing, celebration and collective energy.

True to its identity, Variations continues to pay tribute to different forms of piano: solo (Joep Beving, Bruce Brubaker, Amaro Freitas); quartets (Melaine Dalibert) and keyboards of all kinds (Radio Hito); as well as to jazz in its most militant forms with three artists close to the Black Lives Matter movement—multidisciplinary artist Lonnie Holley, saxophonist and singer Matana Roberts, and the sextet, Mike Reed & The Separatist Party.

The programme—which always aims for equal representation—features

pioneering electronic musicians, including Americans Maryanne Amacher and Pauline Oliveros, renowned for their mutant approach to sound, while also giving a carte blanche to Italian drum prodigy and activist explorer Valentina Magaletti, who invites the duos Harrga (UK) and Aude Rabillon and Soizic Lebrat (France). From pop to electro, the festival will also be inviting leading female artists from all over the world to take part including Julia Holter, Marie Davidson, Noémi Büchi, Faten Kanaan, and Jessica Winter.

Festival highlights include an unmissable show by synth legend Oneohtrix Point Never, an evening that promises to shake up both bodies and ears with Stephen O'Malley & Greg Anderson's legendary group Sunn O))) and Japanese quartet Goat, and the 10th anniversary of Shouka Records, which bridges the gap between traditional music from the Maghreb and contemporary electro.

.../...



Another highlight of this 8th edition of Variations is the invitation extended to artists whose work is situated between performance and artistic installation.

Composer Clément Vercelletto unveils a strange instrument, the engoulevent (nightjar). This small portable organ, whose pipes have been replaced by bird calls, will draw the audience into

an imaginary aviary. From birdsong to cosmic calls, the Tout l'univers project by visual artist Xavier Veilhan and scenographer Alexis Bertrand uses a modular structure, woven with wires, tubes, and sounds, to bring the audience face to face with a distant galaxy.

From contemporary classics to the most cutting edge

international musical trends, for 10 days, audiences of all ages—expert, enthusiasts, and newcomers alike—will be immersed in the excitement of a programme packed with discoveries and new experiences, all at affordable prices and with a host of free events.

With the artists

Oneohtrix Point Never (USA) • Sunn O))) (USA) • Julia Holter (USA) • Lonnie Holley (USA) • Xavier Veilhan & Alexis Bertrand (FR) • Bruce Brubaker (USA) • Contrechamps and Zwischentöne play Maryanne Amacher (USA/CH/DE) • Valentina Magaletti (IT) • Marie Davidson (CA) • Aude Rabillon and Soizic Lebrat (FR) • Widad Mjama et Khalil Hentati, "Aïta Mon Amour" (MA/FR) • Deena Abdelwahed (QA) • Rusnam (DE) • The Separatist Party (USA) • Matana Roberts (USA) • Amaro Freitas (BRA) • Joep Beving (NL) • Goat (JP) • Noémi Büchi (CH) • Clarissa Connelly (GB) • Harrga (GB) • Melaine Dalibert (FR) • Radio Hito (FR) • Faten Kanaan (SY/JO/LB) • Pauline Oliveros (USA) • Cole Pulice (USA) • Clément Vercelletto (FR) • Jessica Winter (GB) • Bruit Noir (FR) • ...

> [Playlist available here](#)

Full program to be released
on **January 30, 2024**
on lelieuunique.com

A visual identity by Diane Severin Nguyen

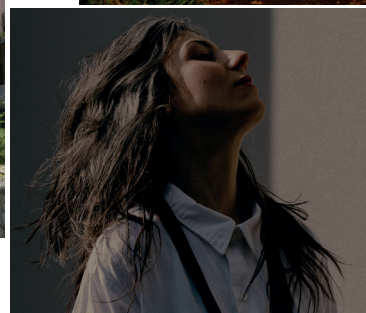
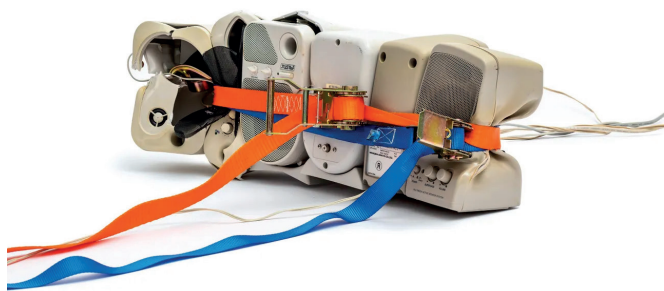
Diane Severin Nguyen's photographs invites us to immerse ourselves in the question of the meanings and significance of the material world. In ephemeral compositions, the artist combines synthetic objects (chains, textiles...) with organic substances (hair, fruit...), at times adding liquids or combustible materials. Her vibrantly coloured images can destabilise perception. This occurs both by playing with a sense of scale and by the materials that she uses taking on the appearance of torn flesh or disintegrating matter.

By playing on this evocative power of objects, Nguyen tells stories about the invisible or imperceptible fragilities of the flesh, and ways in which our bodies contaminate themselves.

Diane Severin Nguyen (born in 1990, in Carson City, California) lives and works between Los Angeles and New York. Her work has been featured in numerous exhibitions in the United States and worldwide, including exhibition at the Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (2022); the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2020); the 13th Shanghai Biennale (2020) and at the SculptureCenter in New York (2019). Her films were shown at the 57th New York Film Festival (2019) and at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (2020).



VARIATIONS



From the left to the right, and from the top to the bottom:
Faten Kanaan • Sunn O))) • Xavier Veilhan & Alexis Bertrand, "Tout l'univers" • Clément Vercelleto •
Oneohtrix Point Never • Jessica Winter • Matana Roberts • Maryanne Amacher • Cole Pulice •
Radio Hito • Ensemble Contrechamps joue Amacher • Amaro Freitas • Clarissa Connelly • Hargga •
The Separatist Party • Julia Holter • Joep Beving