

PRESS RELEASE**12 March 2025****2–6 April 2025, 7 pm****Tickets 16/8 Euro: humboldtforum.org/orbit-a-war-series*****Orbit – A War Series. Space Oratorio for AI voice clones,
3D-audio and electronics from Brigitta Muntendorf*
in cooperation with the Staatsoper Unter den Linden**

Brigitta Muntendorf (*1982) is one of the most influential composers of her generation. As a reference to New York artist Nancy Spero, she has created *Orbit – A War Series*, an immersive 3D sound theatre: light effects, electronic sounds, voices, and soundscapes from more than 40 speakers surround the audience like an extraterrestrial organism. They become transmitters of wars and power struggles that have been waged against the female body for millennia. Premiered at the Venice Biennale in 2023, the work will be presented on April 2 at the Humboldt Forum in cooperation with the Staatsoper Unter den Linden. Additionally, Brigitta Muntendorf's music theatre production MELENCOLIA will open the MaerzMusik 2025 festival on March 21 at the Haus der Berliner Festspiele, also in cooperation with the Staatsoper Unter den Linden.

ORBIT – A War Series is a commissioned work for the 2023 Venice Biennale, developed by composer Brigitta Muntendorf together with Moritz Lobeck in collaboration with d&b audio and the Ukrainian voice cloning company Respeecher. Artificial intelligence, sound synthesis, and deep learning technologies create digital voices and singing. These voices appear as physical objects in space—shifting in different constellations and speeds—shaping a listening experience that appeals to our inner imagery.

The title references The War Series (1966–70) by New York artist Nancy Spero. Deeply moved by the Vietnam War, Spero explored the female body as a site of power and violence in her series of 150 photos. Muntendorf takes up this theme and transforms it into a multidimensional sound experience of unsettling relevance.

In a 3D audio space, disembodied voices circle the audience, intensifying powerful testimonies of wars and power struggles that have been waged against the female body for millennia. Immortal warriors raise their voices in a technoid choir—both sensual and political—proclaiming an opera of the future.

The texts are based on interviews, reports, and documentaries from Afghanistan, Iran, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Poland, and the United States, as well as historical accounts from World War II in Asia (comfort women). A central role is played by war correspondent Christina Lamb, who directly addresses the audience in a prologue.

ORBIT – A War Series is a production of La Biennale di Venezia and ECHO Factory, with the kind support of the Kunststiftung NRW, the Goethe-Institut, and the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation.

Brigitta Muntendorf

Brigitta Muntendorf works across disciplines in instrumental, orchestral, and choral settings, developing new concepts of Radical Listening and Environmental Storytelling while exploring 3D audio and AI voice cloning through artistic research. She has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation Sponsorship Award and the German Music Authors' Award. In 2023, her Trilogy for Two Pianos was honoured with the German Record Critics' Award. Since 2018, she has been a Professor of Composition at the Cologne University of Music and Dance. From 2026, she will take over as Artistic Director of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen in Hanover.

Moritz Lobeck

Moritz Lobeck, after holding positions at the Staatsoper Stuttgart and the Wiener Festwochen, currently directs the Dresdner Tage der zeitgenössischen Musik and the Music and Media Arts programme at HELLERAU. In 2022, he initiated the HYBRID Biennale festival, along with numerous international projects and collaborations, including partnerships with the Biennale di Venezia, IRCAM Paris, ZKM Karlsruhe, and Ars Electronica. Since 2020, he has worked regularly with Brigitta Muntendorf. Together, they have conceived innovative concert and opera projects such as Covered Culture, MELENCOLIA, and Orbit – A War Series.

Detailed information and Tickets: humboldtforum.org/orbit-a-war-series

Press images: humboldtforum.org/presse

PRESS CONTACTS

Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss

Michael Mathis, Spokesperson

+49 30 265 950-525, michael.mathis@humboldtforum.org

Andrea Brandis, Press Officer

+49 30 265 950-237, andrea.brandis@humboldtforum.org

Hendrik von Boxberg, Project PR

+49 177 7379207, presse@von-boxberg.de

Staatsoper Unter den Linden

Carolin Bitzer, Spokesperson

+49 30 20 35 44 81

c.bitzer@staatsoper-berlin.de