

MILLER-ZILLMER FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2024



MILLER-ZILLMER FOUNDATION

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Joe Dilworth
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THE FUTURE IS PRESENT

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WELCOME

2024

Would you like to stay informed about the activities and events of the Miller-Zillmer Foundation? Then subscribe to our newsletter at

<https://www.miller-zillmer.foundation/en/about>

or follow us on social media.



INTERCULTURAL HUMAN



Linocut by Oksana Demidova, 2020

WELCOME

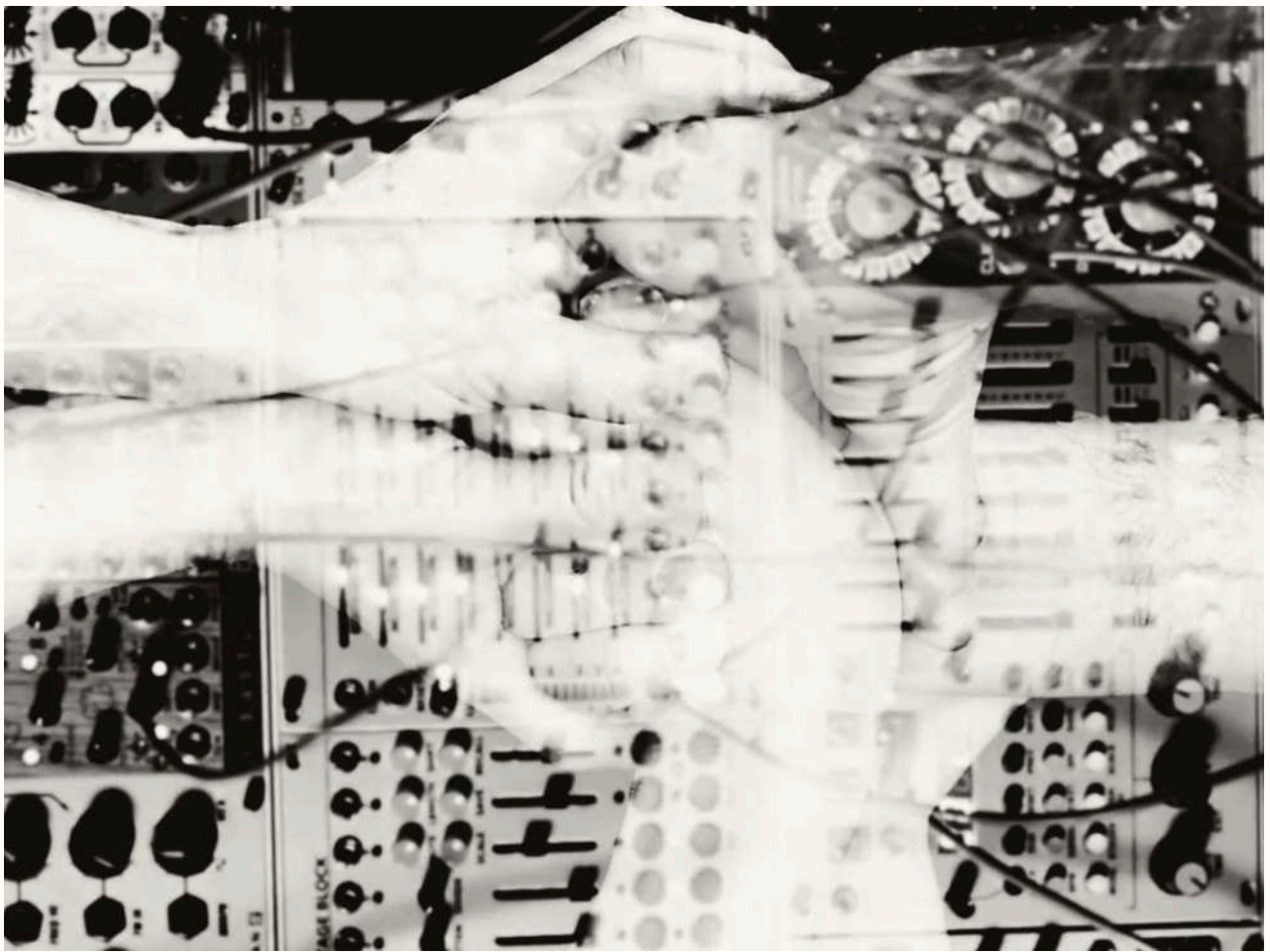
The year 2024 was a year of cohesion and solidarity, but at the same time a period in which it became increasingly challenging to position oneself in today's society. Ongoing geopolitical conflicts, tensions between major powers such as the United States, China and Russia, and the worsening of humanitarian crises have heightened uncertainty and shaped the view of global developments.

Social inequalities and questions of justice remain urgent issues.

Amidst these challenges, we have supported each other, advanced social projects together and stood up for one another. This review highlights the significant moments that focused on community and support, reminding us how important it is to find direction together. We look forward with confidence to the positive changes we have achieved together and to the opportunities that the coming year holds for a strong community.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for your continued support and valuable assistance, which enables us to continue our work with motivation.

DIÁNE ZILLMER
CEO



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*‘The only limit to our realisation
tomorrow is our doubt and
hesitation today.’*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

WHO WE ARE

The Miller-Zillmer Foundation was established in 2019 by Daniel Miller and Diáne Zillmer with the aim of supporting and connecting people from all social and cultural backgrounds in the artistic and social fields through auditory, visual and audiovisual projects on an international level. One of the founders' main concerns is the connection between artistic ambitions and socio-cultural needs. Daniel Miller, founder of the legendary music label Mute Records Ltd., has been dedicated to promoting and publishing artists for over forty years, combining this with his passion for modular synthesizers. Diáne Zillmer, who has been working in the arts and education for more than twenty years, focuses on projects with a social and artistic approach. Her visionary focus is on education and cultural exchange, always in connection with audio-visual art and social science research. Our international network brings together artists and cultural professionals, socially engaged people and visionaries. Our board consists of Andreas Schneider (SchneidersLaden GmbH), Joe Dilworth (Bildband Berlin UG), our founders Diáne Zillmer and Daniel Miller, and our guest board member Tina Funk (Concord Music).

MOTIVATION

Education and culture drive our society forward. Global modernity opens up digital content and enables worldwide communication.

This represents an opportunity for social networking and for changing entrenched structures. Audio and visual productions connect and integrate artistic ambitions and socio-cultural needs. The focus of our work is on initiating processes for communicating music and art. The aim is to promote appreciation of cultural heritage, to reach new audiences and, above all, to motivate young people to embrace cultural diversity and create spaces for encounter and reflection on social developments. The communication of art, culture and education is a key task for the future. We are open to innovative projects that question the significance of art and music in the form of audio-visual and cultural content for today's world.

All based on two key concerns:

EDUCATION AND SOCIO-CULTURE

Our projects exploit the potential of sound and visual art to draw attention to social and socio-political issues and support the individual development of children and young people. The integrative nature of projects is particularly important to us in order to reach and connect people from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds.

CULTURE AND ART COLLECTION

Our collection of modular synthesizers and other sound generators, cameras and audio-visual works will also be made available to the public in the future. We consider the preservation of works of art and contemporary instruments and content across generations to be an important testimony to our times.

FOUNDATION PURPOSES

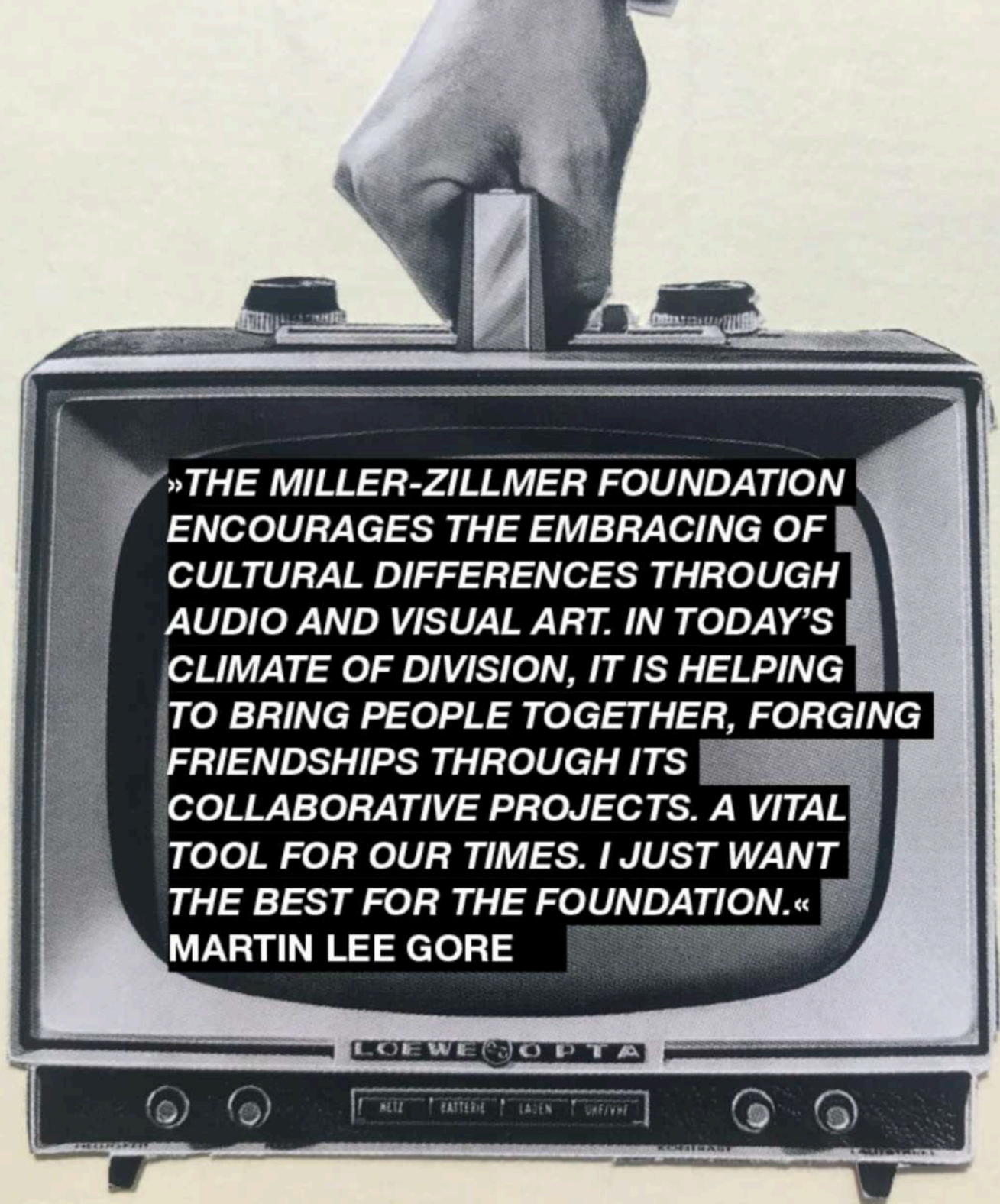
In accordance with its statutes, the foundation promotes the following charitable purposes:

- Science and research
- Art and culture
- Education, public and vocational training, including student assistance
- International understanding in all areas of culture and the concept of intercultural understanding

.

Find our complete statutes here:

Miller-Zillmer Foundation/Statutes



**AUDIO-VISUAL
SOCIO-CULTURAL**



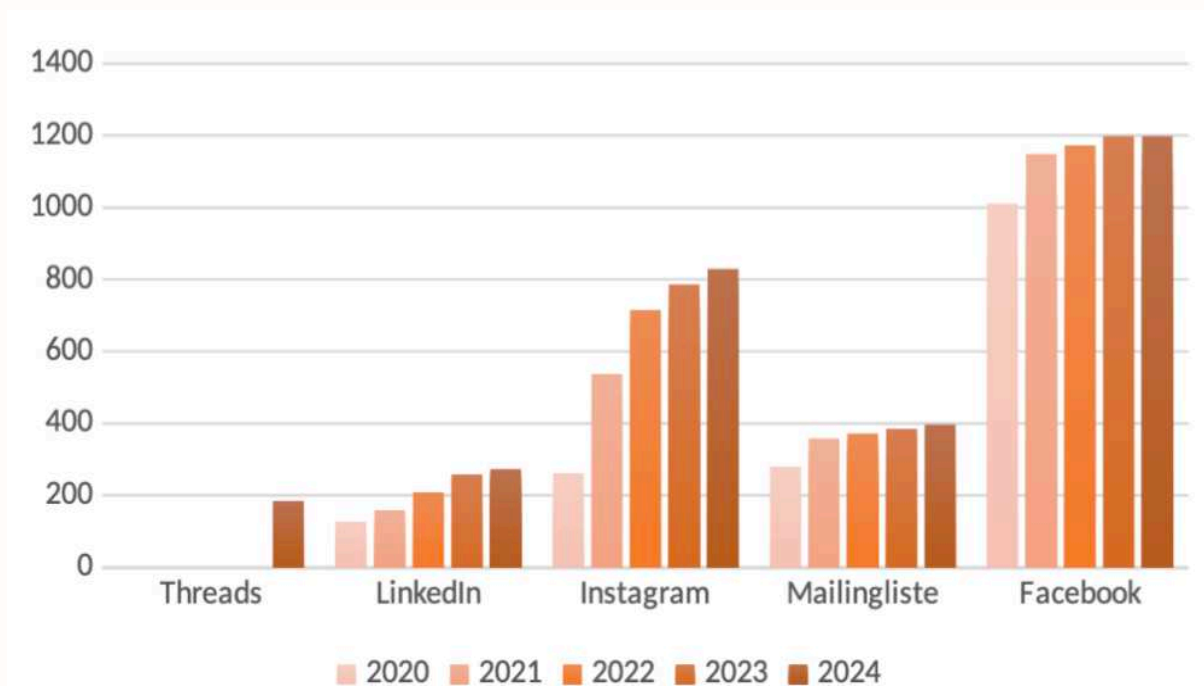
INTERCULTURAL
HUMANLETTER NO.03

DEVELOPMENT

We are now in our fifth year since the foundation was established and have developed and implemented a wide range of means and methods to achieve the foundation's goals.

Communication & Network

In addition to participating in various panels, we share the content of the foundation's work via our website, the foundation newsletter and currently five social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Vimeo, Threads). The development of the foundation's audience can be tracked through usage statistics and shows the steadily growing public interest in our work. This has enabled us to expand the reach of our target audience, gain new cooperation partners and facilitate funding for new projects.



In line with our foundation's objectives, we have developed various funding concepts since our inception, such as the pilot project for working grants for artists following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, Artists At Home Residency. In addition, the digital foundation newsletter has been transformed into a limited-edition print magazine, the Humanletter, which serves both public relations purposes and the promotion of established and emerging artists. The selection of projects for funding has promoted international cooperation between artists from different disciplines. Since our foundation, we have provided conceptual and financial support to 21 projects. The Modular Synthesizer Project and the Humanletter are ongoing projects of the foundation. New and important collaborations have been added, such as with the artist collective MeshWorks on the E.A.S.T. project. More information on these initiatives and projects can be found below.





PROJECTS 2024

MODULAR SYNTHESIZER ENSEMBLE

The Modular Synthesizer Ensemble returned to Superbooth in Berlin in 2024 to introduce students to modular synthesis. It was impressive to see how quickly and enthusiastically the young participants learned to make music within the ensemble. Project leader Gammon and the workshop participants had only a few hours to get to know modular synthesis for the first time and develop their own compositions. It became clear that, despite or perhaps because of the challenge of approaching unfamiliar instruments, interest in this special project is growing steadily. The workshops took place on three consecutive days, each with a school class from Berlin and Brandenburg. After the workshops, they presented an impressive performance that deeply moved both the audience and the participants. The growing interest of the participants' teachers and parents is also increasingly noticeable.

The Modular Synthesizer Ensemble is a collaborative music project that offers people with no previous musical knowledge the opportunity to make music together as a group. The participants actively and independently shape the process of creating electronic sounds with analogue modular synthesizers – from sound development to the final composition. They experiment, improvise and compose. The result is the simultaneous invention and performance of electronic music.

The goal is to play together as an ensemble. The resulting sound material is used to develop a composition, which is rehearsed and performed live or recorded. The project we support at Superbooth Berlin aims in particular to promote the next generations. Children and young people can take part in these workshops without any prior knowledge and learn to make music together within an ensemble. The result is a rich and sensual group dynamic process.



Project manager Gammon with his mobile synthesizer studio



"Not only did my son get involved in electronic music production through a workshop, but he also performed with synthesizers for the first time in his life.

He said he never expected to be able to play on such a big stage, and that's really thanks to the amazing Gammon, who initiated this project. He's a great musician and, in my eyes, an incredibly empathetic, forward-thinking pioneer of contemporary cultural education.

New people require new instruments – a big thank you to the @modular.synthesizer.ensemble and the children of the new era.

May there be opportunity.

L O V E 💖 Haoui"

[Feedback on the project]

E.A.S.T. - EAST AFRICAN SOUL TRAIN

Our funded project E.A.S.T. - East African Soul Train by the artist collective OFF/TRACK unfortunately could not be realised in 2024 as we did not receive the total funding for the project. Massive cuts in the arts and culture sector, as well as humanitarian crises, have affected almost all areas of funding in the cultural and educational sector. Nevertheless, we are not discouraged and have worked together to redesign the project and plan to implement it in spring 2025.

EAST is a creative, artistic project on (East Africa's) historic railways that brings together artists, cultural practitioners and academics from various disciplines and regions.

To date, EAST has brought together over 170 creative people from across the region, India, Europe and North America in three project rounds. Emerging and established artists and initiators from the cultural sector were invited on this journey to facilitate interdisciplinary exchange, learn from each other and develop synergies.

Within the new format planned for 2025, the project participants will embark on a joint project on India's historic railway tracks. EASTgoesSOUTH!

You can find more information about the OFF/TRACK artist collective and their work here:

<https://www.off-track.xyz/east>



This year, the foundation once again provided conceptual and financial support to CLB Berlin for its diverse programme. CLB is an exhibition space for contemporary art, cultural studies, urbanism and digital culture. It presents a varied programme of exhibitions, performances, film screenings, readings, lectures and discussion panels. This year, projects such as the sound art project by singuhr e.V. on Alvin Lucier's 'Extended Spaces - Resonant Bodies' and the three-day poster campaign ARTISTS AGAINST THE BOMB, an exhibition of posters calling for global nuclear disarmament, were supported. The works are moving, provocative and inspiring, challenging viewers to reflect on the role of nuclear weapons in our world and to commit to a more peaceful future.

The exhibition encompasses a variety of visual languages that reflect the multifaceted nature of the threat posed by nuclear weapons. Each poster was designed by a different artist, and the collection includes both historical and newly commissioned works. These works document the cultural history of the global disarmament movement and showcase the diversity of artistic expression through which artists emphasise the need for a ban on nuclear weapons.



"Artist against the Bomb" © CLB Berlin



Alvin Lucier "Extended Spaces - Resonant Bodies" © CLB Berlin



In times of increasing social division, growing restrictions on freedom of expression and political controversy, it is essential to protect and actively reflect on the value of freedom of expression. These developments not only pose a challenge to the formation of individual opinions, but also influence democratic culture as a whole. For this reason, we have teamed up with Simon Bonney (Crime and the City Solution) to launch a project based on the personal experiences and perspectives of people working in the arts, culture and journalism. The aim is to shed light on the background to these developments, highlight the many different ways of expressing opinions and discuss the potential consequences for society. The project aims to highlight the importance of freedom of expression for a vibrant democracy, the risks and opportunities arising from the current situation, and how individual positions can contribute to an open, respectful and constructive social dialogue. It also addresses questions about the responsibility of the media, the role of art and culture, and society as a whole. Through the exchange of personal experiences and reflection on the background, ways will be identified to strengthen and defend freedom of expression. The aim is to contribute to a more conscious and tolerant society in which different opinions are seen as enriching. This project therefore aims not only to inform, but also to inspire people to actively defend the values of our democracy and to promote dialogue between different social groups.

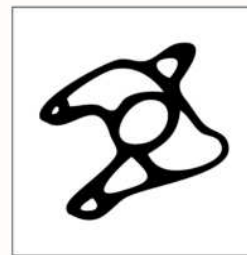
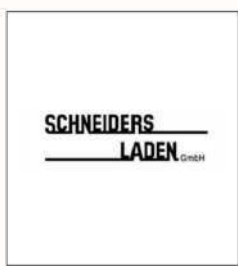
Due to its research phase and the interviews to be conducted at various locations, this project is timely and is scheduled to be presented in 2025.

Partners

To date, all of our projects have been realised exclusively through the dedicated support of our network, which consists of individuals, companies and organisations. This support has been both conceptual and financial, and has been invaluable to us. Without the trust, creative ideas, resources and generous financial assistance of our partners, much of what we have achieved would not have been possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has accompanied us on this journey. Your support motivates us to continue realising our shared visions for innovative solutions through creative projects.

A big thank you to everyone – you are the foundation of our success! Together, we can achieve great results.



>>> AITOR ETXEBARRIA, COMPOSER - ALEX4 DISTRIBUTION GMBH - ANDREAS SCHNEIDER, SUPERBOOTH BERLIN GMBH - ANDY BELL,
ARTIST/ERASURE - CHRISTINE JESUITER - COLD WAR NIGHT LIFE - DANIEL MILLER, MUTE ARTISTS LTD. - DIANE ZILLMER, ARTIST, EXECUTIVE -
DUNCAN CAMERON, FINANCIAL DIRECTOR - ERIK GILBERT, CURATOR - FRED DE JONG, BUSINESS AFFAIRS - GARETH JONES, ARTIST/PRODUCER -
HENRY REINKE, ARTIST - JOE DILWORTH, BILDBAND BERLIN UG - KARL O'CONNOR, ARTIST/DJ - KENNY GATES, PIAS LTD. - LULU NORMAN, WRITER -
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MORVAN BOURY, EXECUTIVE - MUTE SONG LTD. - NICOLAS BOUGAÏEFF, MUSIC PRODUCER - OLIVER GRETSCHER, ARTIST/DESIGNER - PAOLO
ALDERIGI BIGAZZI, PRODUCER/PUBLISHER - SCHNEIDERSLADEN GMBH - SIMON HELM, PRODUCER - STEFAN BETKE, ARTIST/POLE - SUZANA
GOSTIMIROVIĆ, EXECUTIVE - TINA FUNK, EXECUTIVE - VINCE CLARK, ARTIST/ERASURE <<<<<<<<<<



OUTLOOK TO 2025

Planning for the future is a difficult task in these turbulent and rapidly changing times. Nevertheless, or perhaps precisely because of this, it is important that the promotion of education, art and culture does not fall by the wayside.

Art, in particular, has always addressed social issues, questioned them and, in the best case, allowed us to see things from a different, forward-looking perspective. We continue to need your support in this endeavour. Every donation, large or small, helps us to pursue our work and goals.

In 2025, we will continue our funded project, the Modular Synthesizer Ensemble, at the Superbooth in Berlin. We are also looking forward to the realisation of the EASTgoesSouth project planned for spring in India. The Humanletter, which has been further developed conceptually, is to be published in 2025 with an exciting project. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with our partners and to future new projects.

We are preparing ourselves for a year of new challenges, changes and further developments, and hope to develop new perspectives for democratic coexistence together.

We would like to thank you very much for your trust and support.

The Miller-Zillmer Foundation

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