

klubkatarakt

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klub katarakt 2024 is cancelled

Despite last year's positive results, the two artistic directors Jan Feddersen and Robert Engelbrecht had to decide to cancel **klub katarakt 2024**. The main reason they cite is the almost 25% drop in funding from Hamburg's Ministry of Culture and Media.

klub katarakt is of course not an isolated case; other festivals of experimental contemporary music in Hamburg have also received significantly less support (*papiripar Festival*) or were no longer funded at all (*Festival für immaterielle Kunst*). In the end, the *blurred edges* festival alone was able to operate with the same amount as before (€ 55,000) and organized over 60 concerts over 17 days in June 2023.

In the case of **klub katarakt**, again a lower five-figure amount is now missing, and inflation and rising hotel prices have not even been sufficiently factored in. In addition, the 2023 festival was more exhausting than ever before. That may have to do with the post-pandemic situation on the one hand, but it's definitely due to the overall precarious situation on the other. „At this point in time, we as artistic co-directors with a very small team feel the need to take a break, rethink and consider how things could continue,“ says Robert Engelbrecht.

At least, **klub katarakt** – together with *blurred edges*, *papiripar* and the *Festival für Immaterielle Kunst* – is in talks with the Ministry to develop better funding structures for the future.

Jan Feddersen: „At the moment, besides ourselves, we see the entire experimental music scene in Hamburg, its freedom and plurality, in danger and we very much hope that

something will change here in the short term. Because under the current conditions, we as **klub katarakt** are no longer able to do our job at a rate that is well below 50% of the current minimum wage. We thank all our sponsors, the artists and last but not least our audience for their support. We definitely plan to do the festival again in 2025 and would be happy to welcome our audience then at Kampnagel.“

The **klub katarakt** festival took place this year for the 18th time in a row. Since 2005, the festival has presented experimental music beyond strictly academic contexts: thematically as well as socially open, unusual and avant-garde in its elaboration. **klub katarakt** sees itself as a festival that not only aims to an audience of specialists for current experimental music, but also and especially reaches out to all interested people without specific expertise. In addition to the local scene, the festival has also presented international artists, many of them for the first time in Hamburg. An offer that was accepted year after year by a steadily growing heterogeneous audience of all ages.

Robert Engelbrecht and Jan Feddersen

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