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Vienna, October 2, 2025

**Belvedere 21**  
Arsenalstraße 1  
1030 Vienna

**Opening hours:**  
Tue to Sun 11 am to 6 pm,  
Thu until 9 pm  
Mon only open on holidays

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## | INDETERMINATE } < APPARATUS |

### Civa – Contemporary Immersive Virtual Art

Festival: October 2 – 4, 2025, Belvedere 21

Exhibition: October 2, 2025 – February 1, 2026

The Civa media art festival invites audiences to Belvedere 21 for a series of discussions in various formats, film screenings, workshops, and live performances taking place from October 2 to 4, 2025. At the core of the festival is exhibition, on display from October 2, 2025 to February 1, 2026, which brings together five international artistic positions that probe the aesthetic, political, and speculative dimensions of the indeterminate and nonbinary.

The Civa media art festival highlights the interplay between contemporary technologies, realities, and experiences across digital, physical, and hybrid spaces. This year's festival and exhibition, titled *|indeterminate}<apparatus|*, will focus on the realm of quanta.

Stella Rollig, Belvedere General Director: *The Civa media art festival, founded in 2021 by curator Eva Fischer and organized in cooperation with the Belvedere since 2024, has found not only a venue in Belvedere 21 but also resonance: a context in which pressing questions of our time can be negotiated through a process of speculative artmaking outside of binary categories and the logics of economic valuation. This year's edition turns its gaze to the quantum and invites us to question existing taxonomies and visualize alternative ways of seeing reality, identity, and knowledge.*

More than a century of research in quantum physics has shown that the universe is neither deterministic nor entirely comprehensible or rational. At the microscopic level, matter behaves according to principles that defy classical logic: particles can exist in multiple states simultaneously, their properties emerge through interaction, and through entanglement, they can remain connected even across light years.

Quantum research has unsettled the long-standing distinctions between subject and object, perception and matter, and Self and Other. In a world shaped by ecological crises, technological disruptions, and epistemic ruptures, these insights also find resonance in contemporary art.

Eva Fischer, Festival director and curator: *Toward the end of the International Year of Quantum Science & Technology 2025, Civa turns its attention to artistic engagement with the quantum age. The history of quantum research is international and plural, and Austria has contributed groundbreaking discoveries for over a century. With the fifth edition of Civa, we are centering this theme from an artistic perspective that asks critical questions. |indeterminate>(apparatus| brings together artistic and scientific positions that approach indeterminacy as an aesthetic, political, and speculative space. I am delighted that here in Vienna, we are bringing together many new works and premieres as well as diverse approaches and perspectives, together with a growing network of artists, scholars and scientists, and international partner institutions.*

|indeterminate>(apparatus| asks how a quantum worldview could take shape that embraces a grammar of non-binarity, allows for indeterminacy, and reconfigures the apparatuses through which reality is created. Here, indeterminacy is not viewed as a limitation of knowledge but rather as a fundamental prerequisite of reality. With an extensive interdisciplinary program of discussions, film screenings, workshops, and audiovisual live performances, the three-day Civa festival offers a resonant space that opens up a wide range of opportunities for exchange and networking.

#### **Contributors:**

Alice Bucknell, Altroy Jerome, Ayotheartist, Benjamin Orthner, Black Quantum Futurism, Blanca Pujals, Caillou, Carla Richter, Carlo Rizzo, Chino Moya, Claudia Reinprecht, Clemens Wenger, Dieter Vandoren, Djamila Grandits, Dmitry Gelfand, Dunia Sahir, Enar de Dios Rodriguez, Evelina Domnitch, Felix Lenz, Fingers of God, Florian Aigner, Ganaël Dumreicher, Georgios Katsaros, Gischt, Giulia Yoko Galbarini, Gláucia Murta, Günseli Yalcinkaya, Ivana Pilić, Ivona Brandic, Jordan Belson, Judith Schwarz, Julia Grillmayr, Karin Poljanc, Klimentina Li, Laura Welzenbach, Leon Lapa Pereira, Libby Heaney, Luis Enrique Zela-Koort, Პm., Manu Mayr, Manuel Correa, Margarete Jahrmann, Marina Otero Verzier, Mark IJzermann, Martin Reinhart, Matteo Marangoni, Matthias Ketteemann, Maximilian Prag, Mike Rijniere, Miriam Hamann, Natalie Paneng, Nelly Yaa Pinkrah, Patrick Emonts, PETRIK, Philipp Haslinger, Rasheedah Phillips, Riar Rizaldi, S()fia Braga, Seba Kayan, Somya Rathee, Sophia Bulgakova, Sora, Tania Candiani, Tanja Traxler, Thorsten Schumm, Zanshin

*The Civa media arts festival is co-organized and continually developed by Belvedere 21 and sound:frame.*

## FESTIVAL PROGRAM

### Discourse Program

The Civa Discourse Program, presented by the Vienna Business Agency, spans the entire space of the festival. Participants are invited to engage in collaborative discussions and reflections on the festival's theme, *|indeterminate)(apparatus|*. In discussions, dialogues, and workshops, Civa is carving out space for an in-depth exploration of the quantum world and bringing together artistic and scientific positions to help understand indeterminacy as an aesthetic, political, and speculative space.

### Guided Tours

The "Civa Ambassador Groups" lie at the heart of the *|indeterminate)(apparatus|* exhibition's mediation. Representatives of different professions and fields serve as ambassadors, guiding visitors through the exhibition from their personal perspectives. The format builds on experiences from the festival's previous iterations and creates space for ambassadors and communities to experience the festival according to their specific themes and interests. First come, first served.

Ambassadors: Carla Richter and Laura Welzenbach

### Screenings

From Thursday to Saturday, along with discussions and lectures, film screenings will be taking place that are accompanied by dialogues and live performances.

### Live Performances

Following the discussions and films, Civa invites you to DJ sets or audiovisual live performances in the Blickle Cinema and the Belvedere 21 event space on every night of the festival.

You will find the complete festival program online at [civa.at](http://civa.at).

### Partners

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FWF Österreichischer  
Wissenschaftsfonds



## EXHIBITION

October 2, 2025 to February 1, 2026 at Belvedere 21

*|indeterminate⟩⟨apparatus|* brings together artistic approaches that view the indeterminate as an aesthetic, political, and speculative realm. The artists engage with quantum concepts through poetic gestures, multi-layered embodied experiences, and playful abstraction. They explore the infrastructures of emerging quantum technologies and experiment with their creative potential. In doing so, they shed light on the frequently overlooked ecological and social implications that these technologies present while also negotiating their possibilities and inherent ambivalences.

The exhibition title *|indeterminate⟩⟨apparatus|* draws on the bra-ket notation, a formalism used in quantum mechanics to describe states and their transformations. "Indeterminate" refers to an unmeasured quantum system—a state of potentiality where nothing has been established yet. "Apparatus" refers not only to the measuring instrument but also to the complex constellation of the observer, the observed, and the conditions of their encounter. This apparatus extends beyond the laboratory to encompass the structures that define what qualifies as knowable and visible—institutions, bodies, discourses, and power relations.

### BLACK QUANTUM FUTURISM (BQF)

#### *Write No History, 2021*

Three-channel video (color, sound, 15 min.), Courtesy Black Quantum Futurism

#### *CP Timeline, 2021*

Vinyl, Courtesy Black Quantum Futurism

*Write No History* draws on found and archived photographs, documents, and other materials of the so-called Temporal Disruptors. This ancient secret association of Black scientists, healers, and writers travels through time and has developed a communication network that combines Afrodiasporic concepts of space-time with principles from quantum physics.

In the film, places function as ritual meeting points and "portals" that connect the past, present, and future—for example, the Hatfield House in Philadelphia, which was moved to a different location. In collective rites of burial and reopening, the Temporal Disruptors employ "quantum time capsules." These speculative, temporal technologies contain tools, maps, clocks, and codes that serve to pass on knowledge to any point in the past or future. The capsules disrupt colonized timelines, safeguarding Black communities and activating a continuous circulation of communication, warning, and healing.

### ALICE BUCKNELL

#### *Small Void, 2025*

Video game (color, sound, infinite duration) Sound by Magda Drozd, Courtesy Alice Bucknell

*Small Void* is a game for two players developed by Alice Bucknell in collaboration with theoretical physicists at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Bucknell examined phenomena such as black holes and quantum entanglement. The digital world draws on the ecosystems of lichens

found on the grounds of the research center. These fascinating symbiotic beings of algae and fungi form many bodies in one, calling into question the idea of individuality.

The mechanics of the game embody the principle of entanglement. Through a shifting soundscape and haptic vibrations, the two players can sense each other and influence their mutual progress. *Small Void* is also conceived as a queer dating simulation—a "quantum love story"—to experience the frictions and expansions of identity and by means of connectedness gain access to the indeterminacy of the universe.

#### LIBBY HEANEY

##### *Q is for Climate (?), 2023/2025*

Single-channel video (color, sound, 7:38 min.), vinyl, dirt, resin, pigment, wood, Courtesy Libby Heaney

In *Q is for Climate (?)*, Libby Heaney takes a critical look at the exploitative structures of fossil energy and our electrified present. Based on academic research and interviews, the installation contrasts images of polluted water, toxic clouds, and black sludge with lush forest landscapes. The destroyed environment symbolizes the consequences of lithium mining and is a warning that technology companies are responsible for the progressing climate collapse. A tentacled creature roams through this scene and embodies both the "monstrosity of humankind" and nonhuman methods of perceiving and understanding the world.

The images and sound were created by the artist using the interconnected logic of the quantum computer to layer thirty-two videos. By superposing images, the work offers a way out of a destructive path and asks if quantum thinking can align technology with planetary care.

#### NATALIE PANENG

##### ☁️★°\*\*°°. *Iridescent Philosophy Quantifying System* °\*\*°°★☁️, 2025

Multichannel installation, an assemblage of digital screens, circuit boards, PLA 3D printed artifacts, digital cords, looping video, looping eight-bit text, lenticular print on dibond, Courtesy Natalie Paneng

The multimedia installation ☁️★°\*\*°°. *Iridescent Philosophy*

*Quantifying System* °\*\*°°★☁️ by Natalie Paneng is an invitation to playful searching, seeing, and perceiving—because the insights of quantum physics often evade our immediate imagination. The work reflects on how the process of observation does not reveal an objective, absolute reality: Every observation is just one moment within a constantly transforming continuum. This complexity is made tangible by means of special visualizations.

Drawing on the phenomenon of iridescent interference, in which light waves overlap and create stronger or weaker colors, the digitally generated texts and images here continuously mix and reform. What appears constant in each pixel, in every letter and symbol, and in every excerpt dissolves into an astonishment that remains.

MIKE RIJNIERSE

*Quantum Mirror, 2024*

Stainless steel, wood, Courtesy Mike Rijnierse

With the object *Quantum Mirror*, Mike Rijnierse evokes the principle of superposition, in which a system is described as a realm of possible states until it is measured. This principle is also illustrated by the well-known thought experiment of *Schrödinger's cat* that the artist transforms into a visual experience: Two people position themselves around the two-sided mirror perforated in an algorithmic pattern. One half reflects each participant's own image, while the other reveals the face of the person opposite, resulting in a shifting image of their faces.

The reflective surface suggests that fleeting moment in which all of the possibilities exist at the same time—until interaction causes the superposition to collapse. With every movement, the fused mirror image changes—an intimate and disorienting experience of the indeterminate, relational nature of quantum states.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF THE ARTISTS

### **Black Quantum Futurism (BQF)**

Based in Philadelphia

The collective BQF was founded in 2014 by Camae Ayewa and Rasheedah Phillips as an interdisciplinary creative practice. The texts, films, and performances draw on diverse sources such as quantum physics and Afrodiasporic cultural traditions. BQF uses the artistic manipulation of space and time to create speculative futures in a practice of world making.

### **Alice Bucknell**

Based in Los Angeles

At the intersection of game development and speculative fiction, Alice Bucknell's practice as an artist and writer addresses themes from architecture, ecology, and magic as well as nonhuman and machine intelligence. Bucknell's filmic universes and game worlds aim to explore the limits of scientific knowledge.

### **Libby Heaney**

Based in London

As an artist with a working-class background and a PhD in quantum information science, Libby Heaney was one of the first artists to work with quantum computing as an artistic medium from 2019 onward. In her dreamlike aesthetic, she grapples with nonbinary concepts and the nonlinear temporalities of quantum physics, calling into question capitalism's appropriation of technology.

### **Natalie Paneng**

Based in Johannesburg

By combining "digital magic" and theater, transmedia artist Natalie Paneng creates surreal, performative narratives in which she appears herself. Her works provide access to inner dream worlds and digital spaces of the imagination.

### **Mike Rijniere**

Based in Den Haag

Artist, curator, and inventor Mike Rijniere makes it possible to experience light and sound with the senses in architectonic settings by translating elementary phenomena into immersive works. The development of his installations, projects, and light designs is based on meticulous studies of the interaction of light, pigments, and the retina.

## CATALOGUE



**Civa – Contemporary Immersive Virtual Art**  
**|indeterminate>(apparatus|**

Editors: Stella Rollig, Eva Fischer

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Leon Lapa Pereira, Rasheedah Phillips, Ana Prendes,  
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## PRESS IMAGES

Scan the following QR code to go directly to the press images—here you will find free images of the exhibits, artist portraits and exhibition views to download for press use.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Title	Civa – Contemporary Immersive Virtual Art.  indeterminate)(apparatus
Artists (exhibition)	Black Quantum Futurism Alice Bucknell Libby Heaney Natalie Paneng Mike Rijnierse
Festival director and curator	Eva Fischer
Assistant curator	Anna Ewa Dyrko
Co-curator and advisor	Ana Prendes (Arts at CERN)
Co-curators	Leon Lapa Pereira, Yannik Güldner (iii – instrument inventors initiative)
Exhibition design	Gerald Moser
Graphic design (exhibition)	Manuel Radde, Philipp Doringen
3D-Design and Animation	Enrico Zago
Duration	Festival: October 2 – 4, 2025 Exhibition: October 2, 2025 – February 1, 2026
Venue	Belvedere 21 Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening hours	Tuesday to Sunday 11 am to 6 pm Evening opening: Thursday 11 am to 9 pm Mondays only open on public holidays
Tickets	Admission to the exhibition and all Civa festival events is free from October 2–4, 2025.
Web	civa.at belvedere.at

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**You will find the complete festival program at [civa.at](https://civa.at).**

**For more information on the exhibition and high-resolution press photos please visit [belvedere.at/en/press](https://belvedere.at/en/press).**