
Media information

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New sounds in Kassel: the Volkswagen Soundorchestra at the documenta fifteen

- **Free sound art workshops and performances in July and September for guests of the art exhibition**
- **Employees of Volkswagen's Kassel plant and local artists contribute to documenta**
- **Musical works are being created by using car parts and noise recordings from car manufacturing**
- **Element of partnership between Volkswagen Group and documenta fifteen**

Wolfsburg, July 11, 2022 – At documenta fifteen, visitors are welcome to choose from three one-day and two multi-day workshops where they can join the Volkswagen-Soundorchestra and the musicians Olaf Pyras, Alan Affichard and Detlef Landeck in following unconventional ways for the creation of sounds. The ensemble invites their guests to explore the art of “SoundCycling”, a musical practice based on the use of unorthodox materials and ambient noises for designing new musical works.



The Volkswagen-Soundorchestra at documenta fifteen

As part of documenta fifteen, the Volkswagen-Soundorchestra presents its work with unusual links between industrial work and performing art to an international audience. The members of the orchestra have jobs in different areas of Volkswagen's Kassel plant and meet after work to create art. Inspired and instructed by Detlef Landeck, a professional jazz musician, they have developed a unique Big Band sound which combines typical wind instruments with new sounds created by playing on car parts or by using

noise recordings from different manufacturing areas. During these creative processes, the orchestra is also supported by sound artists Wolfram Spyra and Alan Affichard as well as the drummer and composer Olaf Pyras.

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A one-day workshop with Olaf Pyras is available on July 13, 2022, multi-day workshops with the artist and the orchestra can be joined between July 18–21, 2022, and September 14–16, 2022. Further to experiencing this special music, participants will be also able to actively perform music and to develop individual new sounds. This practice can be done by using original Volkswagen car parts and the “Klangbus” (sound bus), a singular VW LT28 specially converted by the orchestra. Furthermore, the 15-strong Volkswagen-Soundorchestra can be also experienced during public performances, taking place on July 21, September 16 and September 24 at the Museum Fridericianum in Kassel. Detailed information about the workshops can be found here: www.soundorchestra.de.

Benita von Maltzahn, Head of Cultural Engagement at Volkswagen: “We are a lead partner of documenta fifteen, and we are very delighted about the direct and vivid contribution of the Volkswagen-Soundorchestra with its members that are part of the Volkswagen workforce in Baunatal. They look forward to be joined by visitors of the exhibition for engaging with industrial sounds and starting with own musical experiments.”

Volkswagen is a lead partner of documenta fifteen which is realised under the artistic direction of ruangrupa. The Jakarta-based artist group has used the principles of lumbung to develop the 15th documenta edition. In Indonesia, lumbung is used to describe a communal rice barn, but it also represents a creative and economic model characterized by collectivity, communal resource sharing and equal allocation. lumbung has been made the key concept for all forms of collaboration and for the exhibition design. It is also the joint mission of ruangrupa, the creative team, the lumbung members, the lumbung artists and all contributors on their way to shape documenta fifteen, to realize the 100-day exhibition which is still on view until September 25, 2022, and to carry its ideas into the future.

The partnership with documenta extends Volkswagen’s international engagement for culture and the arts, that focuses on strengthening artists, institutions and projects around company sites and beyond. The activities underline the commitment to enable a wide audience to engage with creative work and ideas, offering the chance to develop new perspectives for innovations and discourses.

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About the Volkswagen Group:

The Volkswagen Group, with its headquarters in Wolfsburg, is one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and the largest carmaker in Europe. Ten brands from seven European countries belong to the Group: Volkswagen Passenger Cars, Audi, SEAT, Cupra, ŠKODA, Bentley, Lamborghini, Porsche, Ducati and Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. The passenger car portfolio ranges from small cars all the way to luxury-class vehicles. Ducati offers motorcycles. In the light and heavy commercial vehicles sector, the products range from pick-ups to buses and heavy trucks. Every weekday, 672,800 employees around the globe are involved in vehicle-related services or work in other areas of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

In 2021, the total number of vehicles delivered to customers by the Group globally was 8.9 million (2020: 9.3 million). Group sales revenue in 2021 totaled EUR 250.2 billion (2020: EUR 222.9 billion). Earnings after tax in 2021 amounted to EUR 15.4 billion (2020: EUR 8.8 billion).
