



## Press Release

### International Climate Cultures Festival in Berlin: “Planet writes back!”

From November 27 through 29, 2021, the international Climate Cultures Festival “Planet writes back!” will take place in Berlin. Over the course of three days, participants from a variety of different climate regions, cultural disciplines, and traditions of knowledge will gather to discuss the facts and fictions of the climate crisis. Literature and debate await the live audience of the Volksbühne’s Red Salon, and a film program and photo exhibition in the adjacent BABYLON. The cultural festival is organized, curated, and implemented by CLIMATE CULTURES network berlin e.V. in cooperation with Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz and BABYLON.

“Life on our planet is in jeopardy due to ongoing global warming. But a globally effective climate policy is nowhere in sight. In order to collectively shape the future, we are in need of more than the expert knowledge of science and politics”, insists Martin Zähringer, artistic director of the festival, and adds “we must take a closer look at how local climate cultures, each with their own methods and traditions, are facing the challenge of climate change. We aim to bring this local climate knowledge and the resulting cultural perspectives on the climate crisis to the forefront with “Planet writes back!”, and to provide a platform for actors from around the world to work together to make a greater impact on the climate debate.”

More than 40 participants from Greenland, Canada, the USA, Great Britain, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, and China will come together in Berlin to address 3 main topics on 13 interdisciplinary panels and via the screening of 6 films. The first festival day will center on the Arctic climate region. Among the day’s speakers are Greenlandic politician and author Aqqaluk Lyngé, Canadian writer Catherine Bush and performance artist Jessie Kleeman. British cultural geographer Mike Hulme, authors Ulrike Draesner and Esther Kinsky (winner of the German Prize for Nature Writing 2020) and sociologist Harald Welzer will also participate. Day 2 is dedicated to so-called CO2 culture, with a focus on petrocultures and oil modernity. The program includes, in addition to other works and participants, Lukas Bärfuss’s drama “Öl” (“Oil”), the Berliner collective Beauty of Oil, and films by Werner Herzog and Rachel Boynton. Climate fiction and science fiction will be addressed on the third day by, among others, the group Kapsel, the members of which have dedicated themselves to fantastic stories from China, and the US science fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson.

The film series custom-curated by Ivalo Frank and Nicholas Parsons as well as the photo exhibition curated by Yuma Carpenter-New round out the extensive festival program.

The events will be held in English and German with simultaneous translation.

*“Planet writes back!” is sponsored by the Berliner Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa.*

Detailed information can be found at [www.planet-festival.de](http://www.planet-festival.de). The full festival program will be available there in early November.

*Berlin, 05. Oktober 2021*

## Background information on the CLIMATE CULTURES network berlin e.V.

CLIMATE CULTURES network berlin e.V. is an association for culture and climate action and a young forum working at the intersection of art and literature, science, and politics under the motto "Connecting Climate Cultures!" After the Climate Fiction Festival in December 2020, "Planet writes back!" is the network's second international project. The sequel to the Climate Cultures Festival, planned for 2022, will shift its focus to Australia and the Caribbean. The CCnetwork berlin also organizes and curates smaller cultural events for houses of literature, schools, conferences, theatres. The founders come from the fields of literature, criticism and media work and are open to people with good ideas.

Detailed information can be found at: [www.climate-cultures-network.com](http://www.climate-cultures-network.com).



Senatsverwaltung  
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