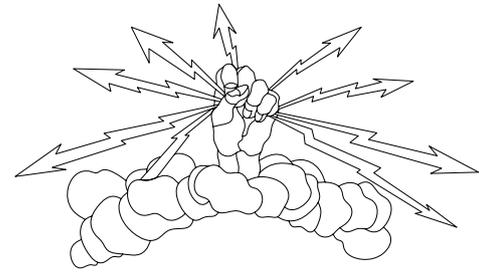


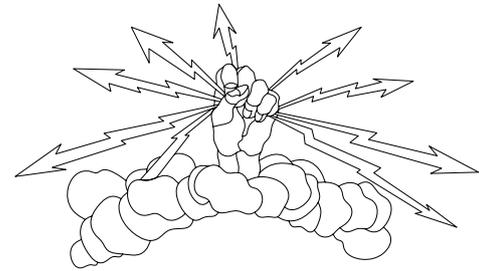
E-WERK Luckenwalde
Kunstzentrum & Kraftwerk



Peles Empire in their studio creating the Jesmonite Panels, 2020. Image courtesy of Barbara Stöver.

Press Release 28 January 2021

E-WERK Luckenwalde announces new Flag Commission and exhibition by Peles Empire for Spring 2021



The Flag Commission 2021: Peles Empire

Saturday 13 March – Friday 23 April

E-WERK Luckenwalde Turbine Hall and Entrance

E-WERK Luckenwalde is delighted to announce its first project of 2021, in the third year of programming at the world's first arts institution powered by 100% CO2 neutral energy Kunststrom. E-WERK will open in March with a new commission and exhibition by Berlin-based artists Peles Empire, a collaboration between artists Katharina Stöver and Barbara Wolff. The interdisciplinary body of work, inspired by the building's history and its recent transition, opens on 13 March 2021.



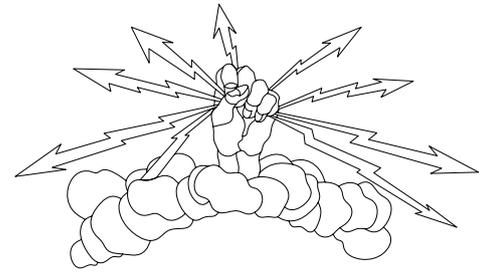
Peles Empire
at E-WERK
Luckenwalde, 2020.
Image courtesy of
Katherine Thomson.

Peles Empire have created new work for both the building's flagpoles and E-WERK's 360m2 Turbine Hall. The exhibition will be on show until 23 April 2021. The flagpole commission will remain on E-WERK's flag poles until the end of December 2021.

The artists were invited to produce work in response to the building's historic flagpoles at the entrance of E-WERK Luckenwalde. *The Flag Commission* is an annual commissioning opportunity for an artist or collective to create an outdoor installation inspired by and for display on the three historic flag poles, which stand at the building's impressive entrance that heralded the building when it functioned as a coal power station.

Peles Empire will also present a new series of large scale sculptural ceramic and jesmonite works in E-WERK's Turbine Hall. For this body of work, which connects the history and future of the power station, Peles Empire have created jesmonite panels using samples of archival coal dust from the former fossil fuel power station, which have been cast in the material entropically.

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These will be displayed alongside new large scale ceramic works, which pictorially reference early experiments with electricity from Ancient Egypt and Greece. Some of these ceramic works will be fired directly in Performance Electrics' Kunststrom wood-chip oven, which, since 2019, has provided renewable electricity to the entire building, contemporary art programme and the German National Grid. Some works will also be fired in a pit fire in E-WERK's grounds; a three day process using wood-chips to slowly and gently fire the ceramics in time for the exhibition opening. By materially combining coal and wood ash in their works and using the very process which powers E-WERK, the exhibition is a fitting homage to the transformation of E-WERK from a relic of the fossil fuel era into a contemporary ecological power station.

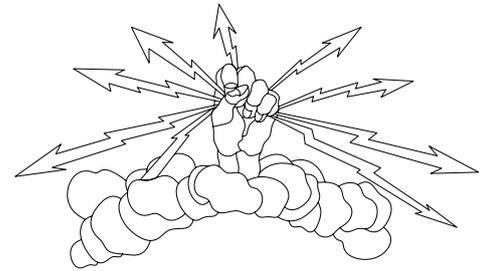


Dendera Temple, Qena Egypt, 2014: Dendera light controversially used proof that the ancient Egyptians had access to electricity in the crypt of the ancient Egyptian Goddess Hathor.

The flags will abstractedly combine Peles Empire's pictorial reference points, using imagery from Ancient Egypt, E-WERK's archive of engineering blueprints and photography from the pit firing to form a large scale outdoor textile commission.

The exhibition has been curated by Helen Turner (Artistic Director and Chief Curator, E-WERK Luckenwalde) and Adriana Tranca (Assistant Curator, E-WERK Luckenwalde)

ENDS



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About Peles Empire

Peles Empire live and work in Berlin, Germany and take their name from Peleş Castle, a summer residence built for King Carol I at the end of the 19th Century in Romania's Carpathian Mountains. In their work, Peles Empire explore the potential of simulacra, copies, originals and reproduction - shifting processes to abstract perspectives. Their work has recently been shown at the Künstlerhaus Graz, Art Encounters Biennial (Timișoara) Art Encounters Biennial (Timișoara), Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (Modern One), Edinburgh, Kunstverein Hannover and Skulptur Projekte Münster.
www.pelesempire.com

About E-WERK Luckenwalde

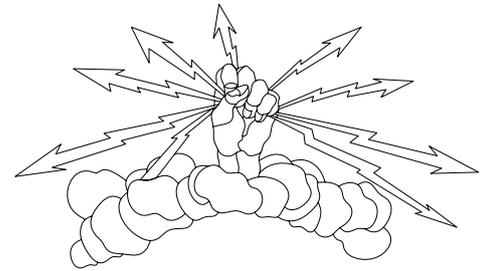
E-WERK Luckenwalde is located in a former coal power station built in 1913, ceasing production in 1989 after the fall of the Berlin wall. Located 30 minutes south of Berlin, E-WERK Luckenwalde is jointly directed by Pablo Wendel and Helen Turner. In 2017, the art collective [Performance Electrics gGmbH](#) led by Pablo Wendel acquired the former brown-coal power station with the vision to reanimate it as a sustainable Kunststrom (art power) Kraftwerk and to both feed power back to the national grid as well as function as a large scale contemporary art centre. As part of POWER NIGHT in 2019, Performance Electrics gGmbH formally switched the power of the former factory back on.

About the Annual Flag Commission

As an outdoor commission, the flags will be on view to the public as they walk, drive or cycle through the city of Luckenwalde until December 2021. The inaugural E-WERK Luckenwalde Flag Commission was created by artist Lucy Joyce.

Bring the Sun to Luckenwalde and save the date for Spring in Brandenburg!

On May 1 2021, E-WERK Luckenwalde will [present Sun & Sea](#), the Golden Lion Award Winning opera-performance that represented Lithuania at the 58th Venice Biennale 2019, by Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė and Lina Lapelytė. *Sun & Sea* will be presented in the spectacular disused Bauhaus Swimming Pool adjacent to E-WERK and powered entirely by 100% CO2 neutral electricity, Kunststrom. A crowdfunder will launch to support this programme with a wonderful range of rewards. Arts supporters will be able to make a donation in exchange for a beach towel, tote bag and t-shirt designed by Goda Budvytyte and 'Made by MUKU', from the 2019 Venice Biennale or EW merchandise designed by Studio Lorenz Klingebiel in collaboration with London-based workwear label, Universal Works. E-WERK supporters will also have the chance to donate in exchange for the opportunity to host their event in EW's iconic Turbine Hall. All donations will go towards the production of *Sun & Sea*, including the sand and deckchairs.



About Performance Electrics gGmbH & Kunststrom

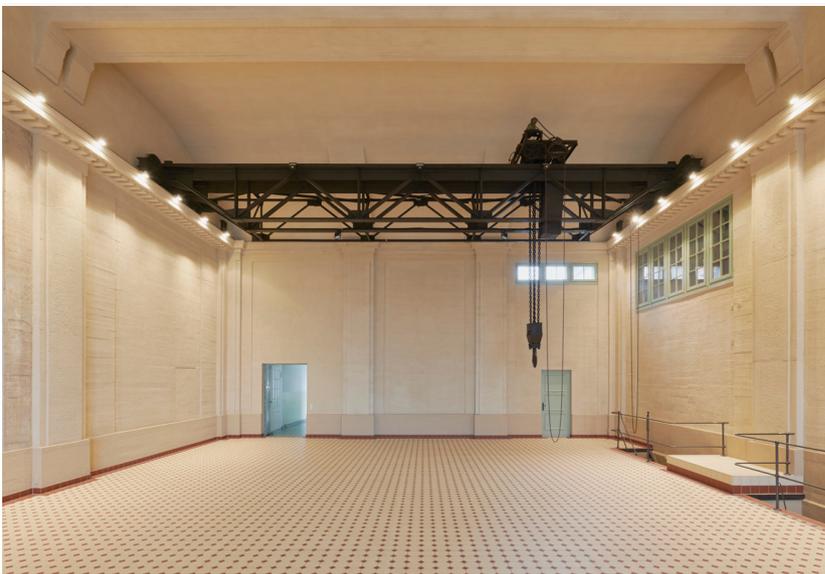
Founded by German artist Pablo Wendel in 2012, Performance Electrics gGmbH is a not-for-profit art project and Kunststrom energy provider. As the only energy provider worldwide to produce and supply Kunststrom; an original type of renewable energy generated through contemporary art, Performance Electrics has a client network of museums, institutions and private households. Performance Electrics reinvests 100% of its profit into culture and Kunststrom technology.

About Adriana Tranca

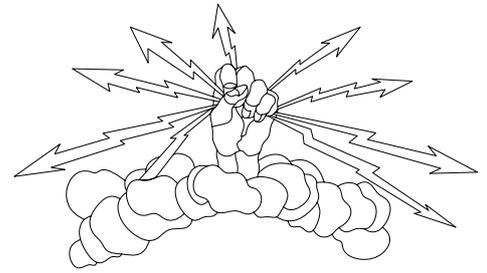
Adriana is a curator, researcher and writer who completed a BA in Linguistics and another in Art History at University of Bucharest (Romania) and an MFA in Curating at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has participated in the “Posthuman Convergences” Intensive course led by Prof. Dr. Rosi Braidotti. Adriana has organised or contributed to organising shows in Bucharest, London and Bilbao.

About Helen Turner

Helen is co-Artistic Director and Curator of E-WERK Luckenwalde. She completed a BA in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Arts and holds an MA in Psychosocial Studies from Birkbeck University with Slavoj Žižek. Helen was previously the Chief Curator at Cass Sculpture Foundation and has worked for Artangel, Kinman Ltd and her own curatorial platform AGENCY AGENCY.



EW Turbine Hall,
2019. Image courtesy
of Ben Westoby



COVID Visitor Information

E-WERK is following the latest guidelines to protect our staff and visitors. We hope that it will be possible to welcome you from 13 March without strict measures in place, however with a vast space available to us, we are certain that we will be able to minimise any close contact between people. As demonstrated by our reopening last September, we will undertake frequent sanitisation of high use areas.

We ask that all visitors to E-WERK follow any instructions given on their arrival, and are mindful not to break any restrictions set by local or national government. If you are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19, or are aware that you have been exposed to the virus, please do not visit and we look forward to welcoming you at a later date.

Visitor Information

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14943 Luckenwalde
Germany

T: +49 3371 4061780

E: info@kunststrom.com

W: www.kunststrom.com

How to get to us

E-WERK Luckenwalde encourages sustainable transport methods to visit.

By train

The nearest train station is Luckenwalde. Direct trains are departing from Berlin Südkreuz (35 minutes), Potsdamer Platz (40 minutes) or Berlin Hbf (50 minutes). E-WERK Luckenwalde is a 10 minute walk from the station.

By bike

Cycling takes three hours and 20 minutes from Alexanderplatz Berlin, riding through the beautiful Nuthe-Nieplitz Nature Park in Brandenburg. If you come by electric bike you can refuel for free with Kunststrom electricity via *Super Kunststrom* at E-WERK.

By car

One hour and 10 minutes from Berlin city centre. If you drive by electric car you can also refuel for free with Kunststrom!