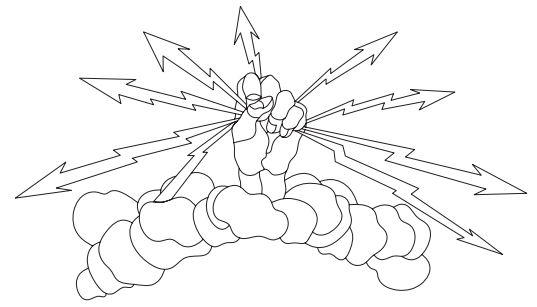
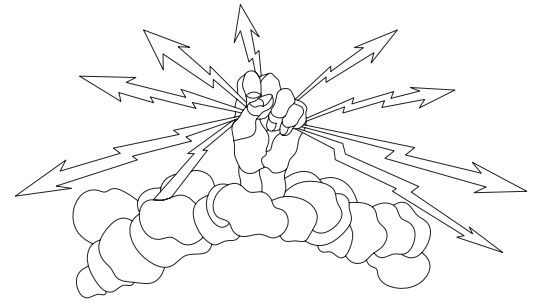


**E-WERK Luckenwalde**  
Opening 14th September 2019



**1913 coal power station south of Berlin to go back on grid  
and re-open as contemporary art centre  
in September 2019**



## **Power station goes back on grid**

A listed former coal power-plant will open as a sustainable power station and contemporary art centre on 14 September 2019. As a functional sculpture E-WERK Luckenwalde will combine art and energy under one roof into a 'Gesamtkunstwerk', supplying art-powered energy to the national grid and presenting a dynamic contemporary art programme of commissions, exhibitions, projects and events.

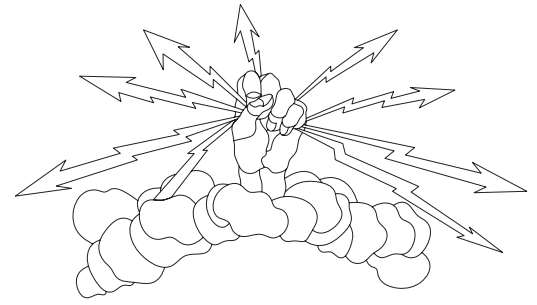
Located 30 minutes south of Berlin, the historical E-WERK Luckenwalde spans over 10,000 metres squared and four floors; each tailored to the energy and art programme. The contemporary art centre occupies the first floor with a 350 metres squared Turbine Hall and three multipurpose exhibition spaces. The Ground Floor is the main site for energy and artistic production with several fully equipped workshops including a metal and wood-workshop. As Berlin rent prices continue to rise, much needed affordable artist studios occupy the third and fourth floor of E-WERK Luckenwalde.

## **Energy Production in Luckenwalde**

Built in 1913, E-WERK Luckenwalde was one of the first power stations to produce and supply coal-based energy to the region of Brandenburg. After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, the East German power station was forced to close. In 2017, art collective Performance Electrics gGmbH acquired the former brown-coal power station with the vision to reanimate it as a sustainable power station – its largest and most ambitious project to date. At the end of 2018, amidst a climate of unprecedented environmental concern, Germany closed down its last hard coal mine yet remains the largest producer of brown coal. Almost one year later, the former brown coal station in Luckenwalde will reopen as a sustainable power station feeding innovative art-powered electricity into the national grid; thus bridging the gap between industrial heritage and innovative technology. 'Kunststrom' will directly power the building, contemporary art programme and local community; fostering the transition to a circular economy.

"After discussing environmental concerns for many years, now is the time to take action and so it is with great pleasure that we are taking a step towards concrete change by reopening E-WERK Luckenwalde. We seek to reach beyond the contemporary art world by feeding art-powered electricity into the grid; fusing function with metaphor by connecting electricity with art. After all energy is the purest metaphor for art there is!"

Artistic Director Pablo Wendel, 2019



## **Cultural Revival in Brandenburg**

Hosting ambitious exhibitions by international artists, and providing a space for established and emergent practices, E-WERK Luckenwalde seeks to contribute to the cultural revival of Brandenburg. With over 150 listed buildings in Luckenwalde including the world-famous 1921 Erich Mendelsohn Hutfabrik and 1928 Hans Hertlein Bauhaus Stadtbad, the city is a marvel of 20th century architecture waiting to be re-animated. As the first contemporary art institution to open in Luckenwalde, E-WERK is helping to drive the structural change of Brandenburg. Working alongside the inhabitants of Luckenwalde, from the veteran power station employees, to the city's politicians, E-WERK Luckenwalde will cultivate a sense of shared space, and thus shared opportunity. E-WERK Luckenwalde will be an active, cultural institution open to all.

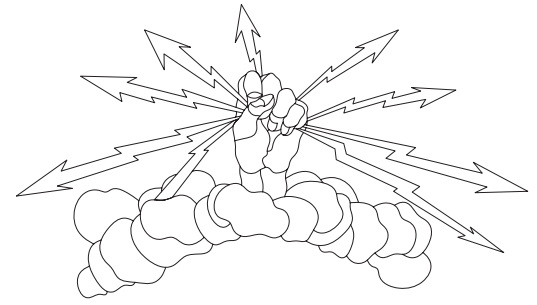


EW turbine hall,  
courtesy of  
Ben Westoby

## **Contemporary Art at E-WERK Luckenwalde**

The contemporary art programme has been curated to canvas a diverse range of exhibition-making; from new architectural commissions to historical presentations, performative events and interdisciplinary long-term research projects. The programme responds to the building's history, future and exhibition spaces, which range from white neutral gallery spaces, to a Turbine Hall and functional engine room. The programme is curated by joint Artistic Director Helen Turner, previously Chief Curator at Cass Sculpture Foundation (UK) where she produced commissions with emerging and established artists including Olaf Breuning, Jesse Wine, Tamara Henderson and Jake and Dinos Chapman.

In September 2019, E-WERK Luckenwalde will go back on the grid and open its doors as a cultural institution offering an exciting contemporary art programme. In the year of the Bauhaus centenary the entire building and neighbouring Bauhaus public swimming pool will be animated on the opening day. The full programme spanning September 2019 to March 2020 will be published in June 2019.



## **Block Universe in partnership with E-WERK Luckenwalde presents POWER NIGHT**

Today, E-WERK Luckenwalde is delighted to announce the confirmed international partnership with Block Universe, London's leading international performance festival and commissioning body to create POWER NIGHT. Curated by Block Universe, POWER NIGHT will premiere at E-WERK on 14 September 2019 during Berlin Art Week, and feature 10 performances, including new commissions by Nina Beier, Rowdy SS, Fernanda Muñoz-Newsome and Performance Electrics gGmbH. POWER NIGHT will bring together architecture with cutting-edge performance art at the cross-section of contemporary art, dance and music, commissioning site-specific live works.

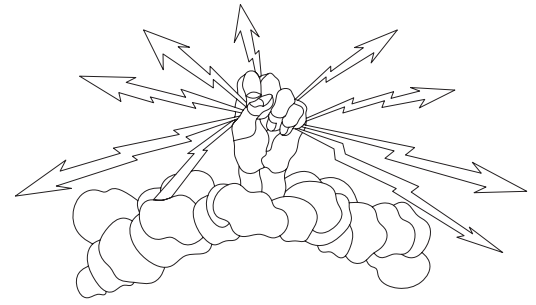


Rowdy SS,  
*Balance*,  
Palais de Tokyo,  
2018. © Ayak Lux

## **About Block Universe**

Block Universe was founded in 2015 as an annual festival that brings together a new wave of cutting-edge performance art. The festival fosters the career of artists working with performance by supporting them in the creation, production and realisation of newly commissioned work at the cross-section of visual arts, dance and music. The festival highlights interdisciplinary, performance-based practices and encourages institutions to rethink how they engage with performance art for the long-term. Over the past four editions, Block Universe has produced over 50 productions, supported 25 new commissions and brought 11 international premieres to London. As part of Block Universe 2019, several productions will also tour regionally to partners including Wysing Arts Centre in Cambridgeshire, The Baltic in Gateshead and The Box, Plymouth, and internationally.

As the festival celebrates its fifth anniversary Block Universe is expanding to continental Europe for the first time, presenting its largest and most diverse festival to date. Block Universe 2019 includes a special event during the 58th Venice Biennale; a festival taking place across major venues in London from 18 May to 2 June 2019 and finally in Germany at E-WERK Luckenwalde. Block Universe was founded by Louise O'Kelly and is now run by an all female team including Louise O'Kelly, Katharina Worf, Tatjana Damm and Xica Aires. For more information about Block Universe 2019 please visit [www.blockuniverse.co.uk](http://www.blockuniverse.co.uk).



## About Performance Electrics

Founded by German artist Pablo Wendel, Performance Electrics gGmbH is a not-for-profit art project and Kunststrom energy provider. As the only energy provider worldwide to produce and supply art-powered electricity Performance Electrics has a client network of museums, institutions and private households. Performance Electrics reinvests 100% of its profit into culture and Kunststrom technology. Pablo Wendel is also the joint Artistic Director of E-WERK Luckenwalde and has exhibited internationally, notably at the ICA, London (UK); KunstMuseum, Stuttgart (Germany) and Rockbund Art Museum (China). For more information about Performance Electrics, please visit [www.performance-electrics.com](http://www.performance-electrics.com).

## For media requests please contact:

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High resolution photography is available on request

Follow and tag @ewerk\_luckenwalde on Instagram and @ewerkluckenwalde on facebook

#EWERKluckenwalde [www.kunststrom.com](http://www.kunststrom.com)

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Train: The nearest train station is Luckenwalde. Direct trains are departing from Berlin Südkreuz (30 minutes), Potsdamer Platz (40 mins) or Berlin Hbf (50 mins). E-WERK Luckenwalde is a 10 minute walk from the station.

Partners and sponsors:

Gefördert durch:

