

CURRICULUM VITÆ

Maria Thrän (they/them) is a Berlin- and Seattle-based interdisciplinary artist, performer, and Ph.D. researcher in the University of Washington’s DXARTS program. Their immersive kinetic installations and performances weave mechatronics, and spatial sound synthesis, light, and video to explore rhythm, embodied memory, and more-than-human communication. By transforming exhibition spaces into responsive perceptual systems, Maria prompts audiences to reflect on their ecological entanglements—and to consider how bodies, voices, and technologies can become tools of protest and resistance.

Their research-driven practice probes ecological entanglement, technological agency, and the poetics of signal and noise through speculative modes of preservation. Maria’s work has been shown internationally in solo and group exhibitions—including Milan, Minsk, Prague, Berlin, and Frankfurt—and through residencies around the globe

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Academic education

- 2023 – 2028

University of Washington,
Ph.D Candidate at the DXARTS
Teaching position in Sounds
- 2017 – 2018

Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera/Milano IT,
Sculpture, Sound/Media
- 2011 – 2018

University of Design Offenbach am Main
Diploma/ Art:
class Experimental Spatial Concepts/ Institute
for sound research, Blum
class Electronic Arts/Media, Oppermann
class Aesthetic Philosophy, Juliane Rebentisch
- 2005 – 2009

Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main,
German Studies & Art Education

Instrumental

- 1988 – 2000

Classical piano training, Johann Sebastian Bach/
Eisenach piano school

Residences

- 2023

Residency at Villa Ruffieux, Sierre, (CH)
Aug – Nov 2023
- 2023

Artist in Residence at Marfa Open, Marfa TX, (US)
Feb-Apr 2023
- 2021

Studioresidency at „Stop Flying Stan“, Brussels (BE)
Sept – Oct 2021
- 2020

Jedna Dva Tri gallery, Petrohradska Praque, (CZE)
Oct – Dec 2020
- 2020

Dada Post, Body Occupation Berlin, (DE)
Jun – Oct 2020
- 2018

Leel Art Space, Macao, Milan, (IT)
Apr – Juni 2018

Awards, grants, funding (selection)

- 2023 -
2028

DXARTS Ph.D Scholarship
University of Washington
- 2023

Berlin, Pankow Department of Art & Culture
exhibition funding "Collective Notes" (DE)
- 2023

Global Stipend, Cultural Exchange Grant Visual
Arts, Berlin (DE)
- 2023

Rilke Foundation, Sierre, Researchstipend (CH)
- 2023

Working Stipend, Villa Ruffieux Residency, 2023
(CH)
- 2023

Musicfond working stipend 2023 (DE)
- 2022

Stiftung Kunstfonds "New start Culture", Stipend
(DE)
- 2022

GVL music research "New start Kultur2, Stipend
(DE)
- 2020

Goethe Institute Prague, special grant (DE/CZE)
- 2020

Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, film funding
directing for #mychoice (abortion rights)
Multi-media project, international with VICE (US)
- 2019

Exhibition funding "2in1" HfG Friends (DE)
- 2018

Diploma grant HfG Friends (DE)
- 2018

Material Grant Friends of the HfG (DE)
- 2017

1822 Frankfurt Sparkassen Forum,
grant & solo exhibition (DE)
- 2016

Rundgangpreis, Leons Club Frankfurt

Exhibitions & Performance selection 2016- 2025)

Upcoming

Nov 2025	Desire of being MANY kinetic sound sculpture and Audiopiece -- Solaris BERLIN	April - May 2024	Geh'n Wir mal Rüber Radiokunst: Deutschlandfunk Neue Kurzstrecke 142 (Mehrfach ausgestrahlt)	Apr 2023	Yes, You Say That All The Time, Video/ Audio-installation (S), Gallery: Marfa Open, Marfa TX (US)
Sept 2025	AEOLIAN RADIO Maria Thrän and Samuel Hertz -- streamed at Wavefarm	May 2024	Collective Notes Sound installation with Sam Hertz 8 channel Audio, GroupshowUNCANNY GARDEN, Greenhouse UW Seattle (US)	Sep 2022	Geh'n Wir mal Rüber , radio play/ Slowart Festival, Griedel Butzbach (DE)
Sept 2025	Live signals, live bodies (in conversation) Live antenna, voice synthesis drone - noise performance Collaboration with Afroditi Psarra	May 2024	Hi, You’ve Reached The Mailbox of Maria. Resonant Futures: A Night of Experimental Music, Gallery 1412, Seattle (US) Live Performance solo, Piano & live syntheses	Jul 2022	Geh'n Wir mal Rüber over their radio play/ Soletti, Weimar (DE)
Sept 2025	AEOLIAN TREE-- Kinetic live antenna Soundinstallation & Performance SPAM Media Festival, Groupshow Gorgetown Steamplant, Seattle	May 2024	Hi, You’ve Reached The Mailbox of Maria. Radio Noise Collective – City Statics Chapel Performance Space at the Good Shepherd Center, Seattle (US) Live Performance solo, Piano & live syntheses	May 2022	Release short documentary abortion rights international comparison, direction Germany VICE (DE/US)
June 2025	AEOLIAN RADIO -- Stegie Radio Transmission Ecologies Ep.39 feat. Maria Thrän and Samuel Hertz-- recorded with live antenna at the Onassis Foundation NYC	Feb 2024	Memories Of The Woods Kunst Am Bau for Berlin Spandau Presentation of the shortlisted nominations Curation: Kira Dell & Laura Seidel	Apr 2021	Untitled Sound piece/ Performance online (DE)
April 2025	AEOLIAN Pendulum-- kinetic antenna soundsculpture DXARTS Gallery	Aug 2023	Silence and Noise: Rilke & Politics (CH) Cooperation Rilke Foundation Switzerland	Feb 2021	(On)e Distance, (G) MINK Festival (BRL)
Dec 2024	Me Neither by Maria Thrän and Ashley Minestrina at METHOD Gallery live Performance	Aug 2023	Geh'n Wir mal Rüber Installation Audio & Video, Group show ROUND TRIP - FLUIDUM Berlin Milan (G), Vapore d'Estate: Fabbrica del Vapore and Viafarini Mailand, (IT)	Nov 2020	(On)e Distance, (S) Jedna Dva Tri Gallery Petrohradska Residency, Prague (CZE)
Nov 2024	Fictions in Fugue _ Perfromance Meany Concert Hall, collaborative performance University of Washington, Seattle (US)	May 2023	Collective Notes performative sound and video installation; cooperation project with sound artist Samuel Hertz, Gallery 9K, Berlin (DE)	Oct 2020	We all Gonna Die, but it's time to sing a song (G) Dada Post Art Space, Incubator Collective, Berlin (DE)
Sep 2024	Uncertainty as Sounds of Resistance Live Performance, Piano & live syntheses SPAM Media Festival, solo performance			Feb 2019	2in1, Kornhäuschen, Analog Film installatio Aschaffenburg (G) (DE)
Sep 2024	Uncertainty as Sounds of Resistance Kinetic Sculpture Installation SPAM Media Festival, Groupshow Gorgetown Steamplant, Seattle (US)			Nov 2018	Codex1001 graduation class Blum/ Oppermann, University of Design Offenbach am Main (G) (DE)
				May 2018	Everthing Gonna Be Alright (S) Macao, Milan (IT)
				Aug 2017	MAYBE TOO LATE Frankfurt Savings Banks Forum, Frankfurt am Main (S) (DE)
				Jul 2016	Immateriality of Oscillation 2.0 (G) Offenbach (DE)

Artist Talks & Lectures & Conferences

- 2025

4S Conference Society for Social Studies
Pannel: Technomagic, presentation
AEOLIAN TREE, Seattle (US)
- 2025

Workshop Collective Voices
in collaberation with Samuel Hertz
Sound, at the HfG 1 week for students. (DE)
- 2025

Artisttalk Art Academy HfG Offenbach am Main
Electronic Media "Sounds"
Collective Notes, with Samuel Hertz (DE)
- 2023

Artist Talk ArtAcademy EDHEA Schwitterland
Soundclass "Cultures sonores et sound studies"
Professor Christophe Fellay (Ch)
- 2023

Artist Talk Villa Ruffieux Residency,
Artist in Residency, in collaberation for with the
Rainer Maria Rilke Foundation (CH)
- 2023

Artist Talk Collective Notes: Maria Thraen &
Samuel Hertz, Talk with Rebecca John,
art historian, curator and researcher (DE)
- 2023

Artist Talk Collective Notes: Maria Thraen &
Samuel Hertz, Opening Exhibtion Talk with
Kirsten Reese, Neun Kelche Berlin (DE)
- 2023

Artist Talk at Gallery Marfa Open,
residency about the work " Yes, You Say That All
The Time", Marfa, (US)
- 2022

Sound workshop Art Academy Prague,
New Media Class, Prof. Svoboda (CZE)
- 2021

Artist Talk Art as in-between,
Art Academy Munich (DE)
- 2020

Artist Talk, Goethe Institute Prague (CZE/DE)
on the occasion of the solo exhibition (CZE)

- 2020

Artist Talk, Art Academy Prague, on the occasion
of the solo show (CZE),
Class of Prof. Svoboda (CZE)
- 2019

Artist Talk at the Art Academy Mainz,
Class Prof. Adrian Williams (DE)
- 2019

Artist Talk, Kornhäusschen Aschaffenburg, (DE)
- 2018

Artist Talk on the occasion of the solo exhibition,
Macau Milan (IT)
- 2017

Artist Talk on the occasion of the solo exhibition,
Frankfurter Sparkassen (DE)
- 2017

Assistant Soundworkshop “Sound installation”

HfG Offenbach am Main,
Class Heiner Blum & Werner Lorke (DE)
Frankfurter Sparkassen (DE)
- 2017

Assistant Soundworkshop “Sound installation”

HfG Offenbach am Main,
Class Heiner Blum & Werner Lorke (DE)

- Presse (Auswahl)
- Kunst als Dazwischen - Akademie München Talk**
- MINK Festival Belarus**
- Geothe Insitut Prag**
- ON(e) Distance - Jedna Dva Tri Galerie Petrohradská...**
- Prag (CZE)**
- DADA post Berlin**
- Kornhäuschen Aschaffenburg**
- Mayn Echo- Artikel**
- Museen in Bayern Online Magazine**
- Diplomagazine HfG**
- *MAYBE TOO LATE - Vinyl Platte & Katalog**
- Schirn Mag**
- Künstlerhilfe Frankfurt**

Publications (selection)

"Collective Notes" Exhibition Magazine
Neun Kelche, Berlin, 2023

"ON(e) Distance" exhibition magazine, ed. Gallery Jedna
Dva Tri/ Goethe-Institut, Prague, 2020 (CZE)

"HfG Diploma Magazine", final classes, Published by the
University of Design 2019 (DE)

"Everything gonna be alright", exhibition magazine, Ed.Leel,
Milan 2018 (IT)

"MAYBE TOO LATE" catalog and vinyl to Solo exhibition
Sparkassen Forum, published in Frankfurter Sparkassen
Forum. Frankfurt am Main, 2017 (DE)

"Exhibition Magazine Festival of Talents", Frankfurt Art As-
sociation, ed. Association for the Promotion of Art
Rhein-Main e.V., 2016 (DE)

"The Evacuation of the Theater" by Akira Takayama, a Res-
cue plan for the Rhine-Main area, Ed. Hayashi,
Tatsuki Lehmann, Hans-Thies Pees, 2014 (DE/JP)

Workexperience

2023 - 2027 Ph.D. Researcher, Artist, Teaching Assistant
University of Washington – DXARTS
(Digital Arts & Experimental Media)

- Conducting interdisciplinary artistic research at the inter-
section of sound, performace, mechatronics, and ecolog-
ical technologies, with a focus on posthumanism, care
ethics, and non-human communication.
- Designing and developing large-scale interactive instal-
lations that explore rhythm, memory, and environmental
sensing—bridging art, science, and critical theory.
- Teaching assistant for undergraduate courses in sound
synthesis, digital media, and mechatronics; mentoring
emerging artists and supporting curriculum design.
- Published and presented research through exhibitions,
symposia, and conference; awarded fellowships and fund-
ing for experimental practice-based inquiry.

2019 - 2023 Independent Artist-Researcher
(Studio-Based Practice) Berlin

- Developed a series of internationally exhibited,
grant-funded research-based artworks engaging themes
such as speculative ecologies, networked embodiment,
and ritual technologies.
- Engaged in sustained artistic research through residen-
cies, transdisciplinary collaborations, and archival explo-
ration, roducing both material installations and theoretical
writings.
- Projects shown at leading venues, festivals, and academic
platforms; frequently invited to present artist talks, con-
tribute to publications, and lead workshops on artistic
methodologies.
- Integrated academic rigor into creative practice through
self-initiated fieldwork, practice-based research meth-
odologies, and critical engagement with contemporary
theory.

**2019 - 2022 Media Researcher, Content Strategist, and
Director , VICE Media (Freelance)**

- Created politically-driven digital content and cultural
reportage based on audience research and platform ana-
lytics.
- Developed and directed video essays, interviews, and ed-
itorial segments focusing on social justice, environmental
issues, and youth culture.
- Researched and wrote on complex political topics for Gen
Z and millennial audiences, translating critical themes
into accessible media formats.
- Functioned as both creative and analytical lead, synthe-
sizing content strategy with journalistic inquiry and visual
storytell

**2019 - 2020 Senior Producer & Creative Development
Lead VICE Media**

- Oversaw the full lifecycle of editorial and branded con-
tent, including research, ideation, scripting, production,
and post-production.
- Led multidisciplinary teams, managed budgets and time-
lines, and coordinated internal and external stakeholders.
- Played a key role in shaping narratives around social
movements and contemporary politics, grounded in re-
search-based insights and impact analysis.

2017 - 2019 Freelance Project Manager/ i.O
Interdisciplinary Objects Frankfurt am Main.

- Collaborated with prominent artists (e.g., Laurie Ander-
son, Brian Eno) to research, develop, and fabricate tech-
nologically ambitious works.
- Specialized in sound, light, and interactive media installa-
tions, supporting conceptual development through tech-
nical research and prototyping.

- Provided curatorial support and interpretive materials based on the artists’ research goals and methods.
- Contributed to advancing experimental media practices by enabling artists to realize complex concepts through precision fabrication and systems integration.

**2016 Research Assistant to Prof. Werner Lorke
HfG Offenbach & Associated Studiopractices,
sound art, and curatorial methodologies.**

- Contributed to grant writing, academic writing, and exhibition production.
- Gained formative experience in research-led artistic development and higher education contexts.

2016 - 2012 Artist, Producer, and Cultural Organizer

- Worked on artistic and research-driven projects across installation, performance, and digital media.
- Managed arts festivals and led collaborative public programming efforts, blending curatorial work with community engagement.
- Contributed to interdisciplinary knowledge production through project documentation, reflective writing, and methodological development.

2005 - 2016 Art Educator and Social Arts Researcher

- Led community-based workshops exploring the role of art in resisting systemic injustice and fostering collective knowledge.
- Developed participatory methods and pedagogical frameworks that have informed later artistic research on care, co-voicing, and memory.
- Documented and analyzed outcomes for funders and stakeholders, integrating qualitative methods and arts-based research strategies.

2006 – 2011 Substitute Teacher (Secondary Education)

- Taught multiple subjects and designed curricula as part of initial career in education.
- Developed foundational teaching experience and pedagogical approaches that continue to inform academic and artistic mentorship.