



Press release, 28.10.25

Fall Program 2025

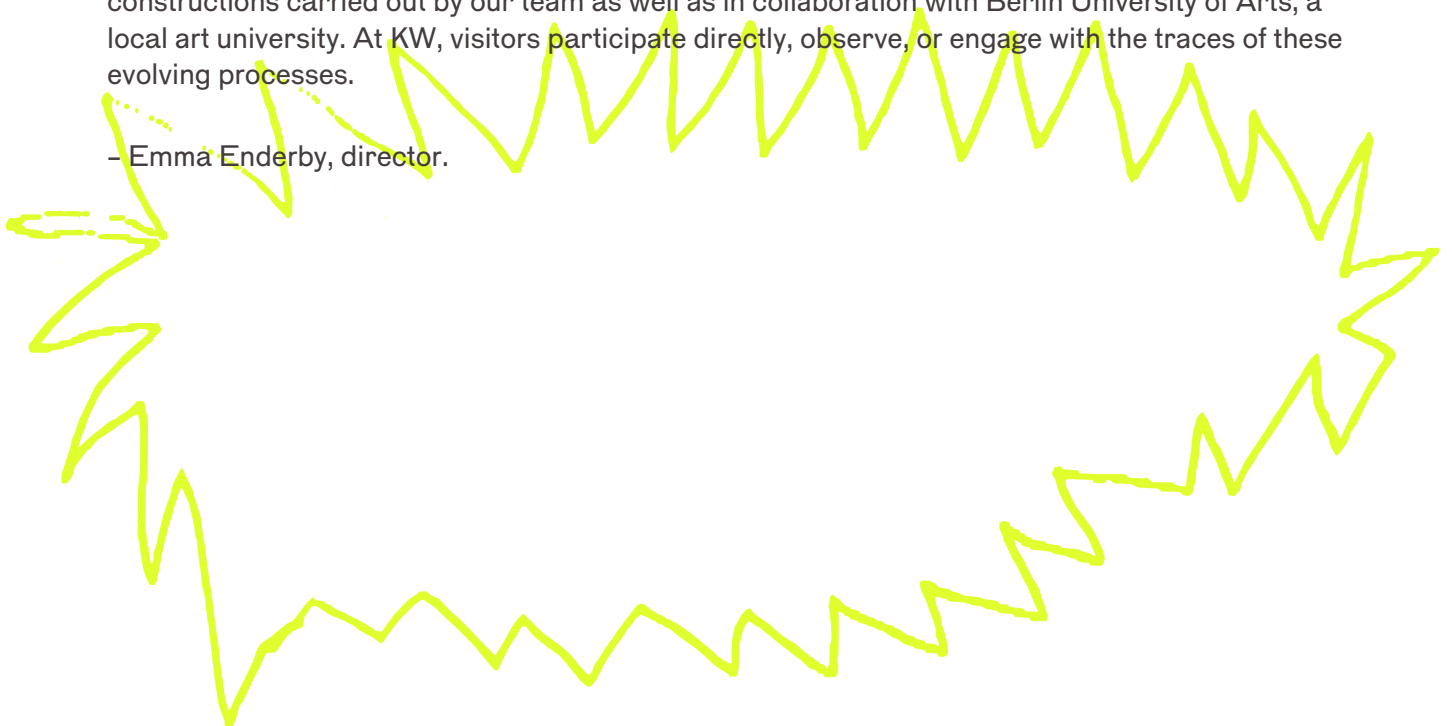
New Visual Identity & Website Relaunch

KW Institute for Contemporary Art is pleased to present its Fall Program 2025.

KW's fall program centers on **process- and research-driven practices**, with a strong emphasis on making in and with the Berlin community, whether with art handlers, students, the general public, or organized groups. The program is shaped by themes such as of **digital practices** and a **critical reexamination of art historical discourse**, alongside a continued **exploration of the body** in relation to both the making and experiencing of art.

A new, site-specific work by **Holly Herndon** and **Mat Dryhurst**, rooted in their longstanding research into Artificial Intelligence (AI) and choral traditions, focuses on the collective process of creating a new AI-generated choral piece, placing collaboration and experimentation at its center. With **Kazuko Miyamoto**, the research into an often-overlooked practice that challenged the norms of (post-)minimalism continues. This includes works developed through onsite and offsite constructions carried out by our team as well as in collaboration with Berlin University of Arts, a local art university. At KW, visitors participate directly, observe, or engage with the traces of these evolving processes.

– Emma Enderby, director.



Exhibition 31.10.25–18.01.26

Opening 30.10.25

Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst

Starmirror

KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, and the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf partner to realize a major exhibition and live program with artists and technologists Holly Herndon and Mat Dryhurst.

The exhibition is one out of eleven selected projects, that the German Federal Cultural Foundation (Kulturstiftung des Bundes) supports through its new program 'Art & AI – Fonds for Artistic Projects on AI and society'.

KW Institute for Contemporary Art

31.10.25–18.01.26

Opening: Thu, 30.10.25

Curators: Emma Enderby, Liberty Adrien

Assistant Curator: Linda Franken

K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen

27.06.26–11.10.26

Opening: Fri, 26.06.26

Curator: Agnieszka Skolimowska



Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst, *Starmirror*, 2025. Public Diffusion Image with *Starmirror*-Design by Patricia Klein. Courtesy KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin and Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf © Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst.

“Angels appear as what you fear, devils appear as what you desire.”
– Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst

Starmirror proposes a scenario in which artificial intelligence (AI) models coordinate humans to generate intelligence for collective benefit. Created by Berlin-based artists **Holly Herndon** (b. 1980, US) and **Mat Dryhurst** (b. 1984, UK), the work extends their long-standing practice at the intersection of art, music, machine learning, and experimental forms of organization. Their projects often propose new digital infrastructures, approaching protocols themselves as a medium—structures that can rehearse new arrangements between humans and AI.

Herndon & Dryhurst have worked with voices and machines for two decades. Since 2016, they have pioneered work with AI choirs, such as Herndon’s album *PROTO* (2019), which featured “Spawn,” an AI vocal model trained through live community sessions to explore collective singing with machine learning. *Starmirror* continues and expands this trajectory, transforming KW Institute for Contemporary Art’s exhibition hall into a training ground for collaborative production between humans and AI.

In collaboration with the design and architecture studio sub, the artists have created an immersive sound installation that draws on recordings from earlier collective singing projects while simultaneously providing a live environment for new work at KW. At its center is a new songbook generated by a model trained on *Ordo Virtutum* (1151)—a morality play in which a soul must choose between good and evil. The play is by Hildegard von Bingen (1098–1179), the German Benedictine abbess and polymath. As the artists explain, “We took inspiration from Hildegard von Bingen, who channeled visions from the divine to propose a new harmony between humans and the cosmos. We see analogies between her celestial hierarchy and the stack of influential protocols that determine our culture.”

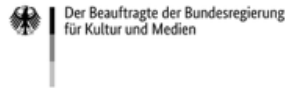
On several Sundays throughout the exhibition, participants are invited to join a live process of AI training as the KW hall transforms into a recording studio where choirs, an ensemble, and visitors contribute their voices in call-and-response sessions. These recordings will form the basis of a public choral dataset which will be used to train a Berlin AI choir to debut at the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf.

Before entering the hall, visitors encounter *Arboretum*, centered on *Public Diffusion*, a foundation image model created by the artists trained entirely on public domain data. If Hildegard von Bingen was concerned with angelic orders, Herndon and Dryhurst are concerned with the hierarchies of technical protocols and their invisible role in shaping the world around us. Together, these elements form a public AI protocol, where human and nonhuman agents contribute to a shared context. The exhibition addresses a critical gap in the public perception of AI, offering a direct, participatory experience with the human contributions that define it. AI is us, in aggregate, with emergent properties. The artists challenge the fear that an AI-integrated future will reduce us to passive consumers of endless automation, proposing “agentic social mediation not social media.”

The exhibition design is conceived by the architectural office sub.

The exhibition is a collaboration between KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin and the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, where the second part of the exhibition project will be shown from 27 June – 11 October 2026.

Funded by the *Art & AI* program of the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation). Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation) is funded by the Beauftragter der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (German Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media).



In collaboration with the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf

Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen

With thanks to d&b audiotechnik with Soundscape

The development of Choral AI presented at *Starmirror* builds on *The Call* (2024–25), an R&D and exhibition partnership between Serpentine Arts Technologies, Holly Herndon, and Mat Dryhurst.

Holly Herndon is a fellow at the Berlin Artistic Research Program 2024/25.

Media partners



Yorck
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RAUSGEGANGEN

Press Contact

Head of Communication and Marketing

Anna Falck-Ytter

Tel. +49 30 243459-134

press@kw-berlin.de

KW Institute for Contemporary Art

Auguststraße 69

10117 Berlin

www.kw-berlin.de

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Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt	BERLIN	
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Titles and exhibition dates are subject to change.