

KUNSTHAL AARHUS SHOWS ALTERNATIVE MUSIC HISTORY VIA AI

27 June to 2 November 2025, Gallery 1+2+3

Opening: Friday 27 June at 4:30 PM to 7 PM

A 15-metre-long graffiti wall, a giant record player, and thumping hip hop beats. This is what visitors are presented with when they visit *Aarhus is #1* - an exhibition that introduces an alternative version of the Aarhus we know.

Imagine what Aarhus' music history would look like if hip hop and grassroots movement had ruled the 80s. In *Aarhus is #1* artist Kristoffer Ørum uses artificial intelligence to transform three galleries at Kunsthall Aarhus into a fictional reality. Ørum pictures an Aarhus in which hip-hop and grassroots movement dominated the 80s music scene. Through AI-generated artworks and installations, he mixes the city's true music history with hip-hop's international street culture. The exhibition incorporates the four basic elements of hip-hop - DJ'ing, rap, breakdancing, and graffiti - and explores how history could have been different.

– With this exhibition, we raise questions like: what is our relationship with artificial intelligence? And are there limits to what we can allow ourselves to do? How can an exhibition contribute to renegotiating political positions through art and with lots of humour? And then it's about liberating creativity and giving your thoughts free rein, says chief curator Peter Ole Pedersen, Kunsthall Aarhus.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS IN THE EXHIBITION

Kristoffer Ørum (b. 1975) graduated from Goldsmiths University in London in 2004 and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2006. He is a multidisciplinary artist known for his installation works, which often revolve around questions of technology and people.

As a musical addition to the exhibition, Danish rapper Emilio Hestepis has created a soundtrack. It consists of narratives that give new perspectives on the exhibition's various themes: solidarity, creativity, identity, and freedom. Emilio Hestepis is known for combining rap music's wild and inventive language with social realism and critical qualities while giving the audience new, fun, and surprising angles on the social issues that concern us.

The exhibition is supported by:

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The exhibition also includes a collaboration with the music venues Radar and Voxhall.

Download press images here https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o-EuMmxjJJFSn3Kbnc_dPSiDTtffXOk3

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