

## A Rhizomatic Network to Performance Arts

By [Michael Baas](#)

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### [Exhibitions](#)

*Srinagar Biennale Basel builds bridges between Performance Art from Switzerland and India / House for electronic arts Basel as a knot.*

Anyone who wants to place something on the market, in other words sell, needs handy formulations. This also applies to the cultural scene - especially when it comes to premieres such as the Srinagar Biennale Basel, an offshoot of the Srinagar Biennale international. This deals with global politically and socially relevant issues and sees itself as "a time and space spanning, rhizomatic process with 19 nodes in different cities and countries," it says in a statement. Rhizome is actually a term from botany and refers to root-like braids that continue to grow on the tips - asparagus, for example. In Philosophy and Cultural studies, the French post-structuralists led by Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari are associated with the term. The duo established it in the 70s as a symbol of a modern model of explanation of the world and knowledge transfer.

The Swiss node (Basel) of this rhizomatic network, which is also funded by the Christoph Merian Foundation, is dedicated to Performance Art in March and April. Curated by Janine Schmutz and Parvez Imam, it is based on an intensive collaboration between eight performance artists from Switzerland and India. They were selected through two committees in Switzerland and India. All eight represent a variety of artistic possibilities and styles and are encouraged to work with minimal material or the body. Among the Swiss artists, is also Irene Maag (born 1972), who lives in Reinach and Basel. In 2017 she performed "Grenzgang" - a sculpture made of pressed bales and cloths, in the group exhibition "How to blur lines" - at the Augst Power Plant in the region. Other participants are the Zurich-based artist and dancer Dorothea Rust (born 1955), Pascal Lampert (born 1972) and Lilian Frei (born 1968). The contributions of the Indian side come from Inder Salim (born 1958) and Manmeet Devgun (born 1974) who work in Delhi, Anupam Saikia (born 1987) and Sajan Mani (born 1982) who currently lives between Kochi and Berlin.

The Basel node of the rhizome flows into two peaks, fruits or 'Episodes', as the organizers call it. The first explores virtual space as a performance platform from mid-March. It shows performances that are taking place simultaneously at HeK (House of Electronic Arts Basel) and at Swissnex India in Bangalore that are being transmitted digitally. The second episode in the beginning of April brings the participants to Basel in real and bodily form, culminating in a Performance Arts Festival and a program in the Ausstellungssaal Klingental (*Exhibition Hall Klingental*). There will be workshops, podium discussions - among others with Muda Mathis of the women's band *La Reine Procheine*, the co-director of the Cultural Department of Basel Katrin Grögel -, an exhibition of Video and Multimedia works, including that of Fazil NC and Shawn Sebastian. The panel discussions focus on the potential of performance art and its relevance in today's art scene.

**Srinagar Biennale Basel:** March and April, various locations with the House of Electronic Arts as the hub for Episode 1. Performance Arts Festival in public space, program in the Exhibition Hall Klingental Basel (April 12 to 15).

Details and further information on the program can also be found at:  
<http://www.srinagarbiennalebasel.org>

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*Translated in English from the original article in Deutsch:*

**Ein Wurzelgeflecht zur Performance-Kunst**

Von [Michael Baas](#)

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[Ausstellungen](#)

<http://www.badische-zeitung.de/ausstellungen/ein-wurzelgeflecht-zur-performance-kunst--149654111.html>