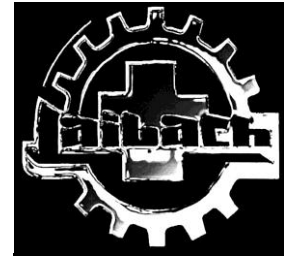




# LAIBACH

## THE NEW CULTURAL REVOLUTION



CIA is mighty proud to present you **Laibach: The New Cultural Revolution**, a series of events with the legendary Slovenian art / music group commencing with the Laibach Kunst exhibition at CIA from 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014, followed by a seminar by Laibach in association with the City University of Hong Kong on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014, and culminating with a Laibach musical performance at The Vine Centre on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014.

Laibach was formed in 1980 in **Trbovlje**, a small industrial-coal mining town in Slovenia (in the then Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia) as an experimental, industrial avant-garde, and multimedia group.

The British press declared them the "*most dangerous group in the world*". Due to their perceived ideological threat, Laibach performances still evoke fear in some parts of Europe, and they have been refused entry into the U.S. in the past. Nevertheless, they have had four major tours across the North American continent, and have long lost count of the number of tours across Europe. Since the debut of Laibach, the group has had nearly 1,000 concerts worldwide and sold over a million albums.

Between 1983 and 1987 Laibach were banned in Slovenia and former Yugoslavia and were thus operating in the underground. In 1984, the group co-founded the **NSK** (*Neue Slowenische Kunst*) guerrilla art collective inspired by Laibach – a union of several artistic groups working across different disciplines. NSK ceased to exist in 1992, after proclaiming the NSK State as a virtual State in Time, with no physical territory. There are currently fifteen thousand NSK citizens worldwide operating the NSK State.

1997 saw Laibach tours extensively across Europe and USA, concluding with an emotional concert in Belgrade, Serbia. An audience of four thousand welcomed the group's return to the former Yugoslavian capital for the first time in eight years, since before the conflict in the region started. Laibach's repertoire included songs from the **NATO** album. Despite an army of bodyguards protecting the band, a car bomb still managed to explode in front of the hotel where the group was staying. Soon after this show, Serbia started the war with Kosovo, which eventually led to the 1999 NATO bombing of Belgrade and other major Serbian cities.

One of the most significant concerts in Laibach's career was the opening event at the **European Cultural Month** in Ljubljana in May 1997. In front of the presidents of several states and a diplomatic delegation, the group performed a spectacular set with the **Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra** and a mixed choir, playing Laibach's early industrial numbers with extraordinary orchestral arrangements. The show again provoked immense controversy and some members of the audience, including the Archbishop of Slovenia, walking out of the venue.

Laibach's seminal 1987 record **Opus Dei** (Mute) has been recognised by the leading international critics as one of the 1000 all-time best albums ("1001 Albums you must hear before you die", 2005, Quintet Publishing Limited). In 2009 the influential British magazine **Classic Rock** recognised *Opus Dei* as one of the best industrial rock albums of all time. Laibach's concert in the **Trbovlje Power Station** in 1990 was proclaimed by the reputable independent music magazine **Wire** as one of the "60 most dangerous concerts of all time" in 2006, and their recent project **LAIBACHKUNSTDERFUGE** was recognised by **Artforum's Catherine Wood** as one of the best art highlights of 2009.

Laibach has significantly influenced the international art scene and music groups from diverse backgrounds and genres, including **Rammstein**, **Nine Inch Nails** and **Marilyn Manson**, to name but a few. The group has created music for fifteen theatre productions and participated in the following projects and productions: *Baptism Under Triglav* (NSK/Scipion Nasice Sisters Theatre, Cankarjev Dom), *No Fire Escape In Hell* (Michael Clark and Company), *Macbeth* (Shakespeare/Wilfried Minks, Deutsches , Hamburg), *Noordung Prayer Machine* (Noordung Cosmokinetic Cabinet, SNG Opera Ljubljana), etc. Laibach's music has also been used in some popular films (*Spiderman 1*, *Blair Witch Project*, *Iron Sky*), and in the TV series *Alias*. Laibach has also performed with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra and RTV Ljubljana Symphonic Orchestra.

Laibach has been the subject of several books, most notably the *NSK Monography*, published in 1992 by AMOK Press in USA and Graficki zavod Hrvatske (Graphic Association of Croatia) and **Alexei Monroe's** *Interrogation Machine* (MIT Press, Boston, 2005), with a preface written by the world famous Slovenian philosopher **Slavoj Žižek**.

Laibach works as a collective and lives in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The membership of the core group is anonymous, but the line-up of the group's collaborators is extensive.

So it is with pleasure and great honour that CIA is able to welcome Laibach to Hong Kong to bring us their *New Cultural Revolution*. The Laibach Kunst exhibition at CIA and the seminar in association with City University of Hong Kong are amongst our attempts to introduce Laibach's historical and cultural past and present, as well as a glimpse of what the future might hold. Together we hope these programmes will offer the audience and spectators a unique perspective that is unparalleled in the *land where the sun rises*, or perhaps a literal *end-time* experience on a scale that is verging on apocalyptic proportion. Laibach: The New Cultural Revolution will reach climax with a history-defining concert at The Vine on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014, right here before our very eyes and ears. CIA thanks you for being part of this movement and witnessing their extraordinary visit - *for those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it*.

**Laibach Kunst Exhibition at CIA**  
17<sup>th</sup> January to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Laibach Seminar at City University of Hong Kong**  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2014

**Laibach Live in concert at The Vine**  
22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014, 8pm

*Due to the current sensitive political climate and state of general paranoia, CIA wishes to clarify that we are not responsible for any political covert operation, espionage, false flag attack, assassination, drone strike, back hand heavy arm deal, massive money laundry scheme, manipulation and trafficking of human, organ harvesting, psychedelic drugs and other forms of mind control experiment on animal or human subject, torture or unlawful extradition or extraordinary rendition, or associating with secret societies such as the Freemasons, Jesuits order, Rosicrucian, Bilderbergs, The Committee of 300, Trilateral commission, Bohemian Grove, The Club of Rome, The Royal Society and definitely not the Nephilim. BTW, what are you doing down here reading this? Go back up and read about Laibach now! Before, please let us extend our deep gratitude to Professor Takuro Mizta Lippif for his kind assistance in helping to organise the seminar at City University of Hong Kong.*