

ART IN SPACE AND TIME Lecture

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Chair of Art in Space and Time

Stefano-Franscini-Platz 5, HIL F 47, ETH Hönggerberg



Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian, astronaut training suit for «Doppelgänger3» (2024). Photo: Nick Ballón

Dr. Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian

Thinking in Action: An Open Conversation on Radical Imagination and Experimental Practices

Introduction by Martin Hartung

Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian, Ph.D., is an artist, filmmaker, and cultural activist whose practice spans over fifteen years of building radical creative projects and «impossible productions» at the intersection of outer-space exploration, music, film, nightlife, technology, and social change. She is the founder and director of the International Space Orchestra, the world's first orchestra of NASA space scientists and astronauts, as well as the founder of the tuition-free, pluralistic and transnational University of the Underground, with headquarters in Amsterdam and London. In this open conversation, Nelly will share behind-the-scenes insights into how her work has come into being—from early graduation experiments to collaborations with institutions such as the United Nations, as well as musicians including The Avalanches, Kid Cudi, and Massive Attack, and activists like Pussy Riot. She will reflect on the complexities of challenging the status quo, rethinking modes of working, and sustaining an experimental practice that places accessibility at its core, while exploring how plurality, queer thinking, and collective public events can ignite radical imagination—extending even into the quantum realm.

Join us for a Tavolata by Nicolas Rolle after the talk.

