

LIVE AV PERFORMANCE

CBM 8032 AV

Robert Henke (DE)

Fri 29 September 2023

@ Tramway

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Drawing together the worlds of art and engineering, the ultra-modern and the techno-historical, **Robert Henke's** new work uses five Commodore computers first released in 1980 and reanimates the now prehistoric-seeming visuals that were cutting-edge four decades ago: blocky polygons, scrolling waves and screeds of glowing green-on-black text. While these visuals, and the computers' processing power, seem relics of a bygone age to us, Henke gleefully works within and against these enforced technical limitations, coaxing forth new forms on giant screens to showcase these machines' startlingly dynamic capabilities. From clunky programming languages emerge endlessly varied visuals, while **Henke's** bristling live soundtrack likewise brings together the analogue and the digital, collapsing forty-plus years of technological innovation into one mind-expanding audiovisual display.

What inspired you to create this work?

"When artists began to explore computers as medium in the 1950's, technology was limited and the resulting minimalism in expression was a necessity. Half a century later, nothing is impossible anymore and reduction is the only way to navigate through the nearly infinite choices technology offers to artists. Working with simple yet rather unexplored tools enforces a radical, decisive aesthetic and leads to unique and personal results off the main roads of contemporary high tech art creation." **Robert Henke**

Produced by Studio Robert Henke 2016 - 2023 with contributions and technical assistance **by Ralf Suckow, Sebastian Wolf, Anna Tskhovrebov, Mihály Podobni, Michael Sollinger** and others.

Robert Henke: concept, musical and visual composition, performance, hardware development, system architecture, graphics- and sound routines

Sebastian Wolf: Technical planning, technical assistance

Mihály Podobni: Operations, logistics, transport

Duration: 60 minutes + 10 minutes introduction by the artist

Kindly supported by the Goethe Institut, Glasgow.

Robert Henke is a digital artist.

His music is inspired both by radical club culture and contemporary music, and his project *Monolake* became one of the key icons of a new electronic music scene that emerged in Berlin after the fall of the Wall.

His audiovisual work includes algorithmically generated images, laser installations, and the artistic exploration of early personal computer hardware.

Robert Henke is one of the main creators of Ableton Live, a software which since 2001 completely redefined the performance practice of electronic music. He held teaching positions at the Berlin University of the Arts, the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA) at Stanford University, and the Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (IRCAM) in Paris.

His installations, performances and concerts have been presented at Tate Modern in London, Centre Pompidou in Paris, Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome, Le Lieu Unique in Nantes, PS-1 in New York, MUDAM in Luxembourg, MAK in Vienna, Palazzo Grassi in Venice, the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin, STRP Biennale in Eindhoven, and at countless festivals including Unsound, CTM, MUTEK, Sonar, New Forms Festival.

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