

# ANTI 24.01 DIX GEL 15.02 2020 ANS

10 December 2019

## PRESS RELEASE

### **ANTIGEL TAKES OVER THE VERNETS BARRACKS!**

Pont-Rouge is over! For its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Antigél has pulled off the amazing magic trick of taking over several floors and a bunker in the **Vernets barracks** in Geneva, a *super bunker* for the *Grand Central*, quite a symbol! The dorms and sanitary facilities will be transformed into a bar while the refectory will become a dancefloor and host live performances, concerts, DJ sets, markets, artist residencies, the opening Made in Antigél show as well as meetings and discussions on culture and urban development. The venue will also include the *Panorama*, a cosy bar, and the *Diorama*, a vegetarian restaurant.

Opened in 1958, the barracks closed their doors in July after 60 years of good and loyal services. After bearing evidence to the transformation of the Pont-Rouge district over four stages from 2015 to 2019, Antigél continues to combine culture with urban planning by occupying iconic places in the city, at the crossroads between its past, present and future, and by spotlighting one specific project.

The five hectares, ideally situated a stone's throw from the Arve, will make way for 1500 housing units and many commercial premises in a few years' time. From the spring of 2020, Association pour la Reconversion Vivante des Espaces (ARVe) and Coopérative Ressources Urbaines (RU), who have been working for many years with the authorities and the builders of the new district on the transitional conversion of the barracks as well as the cultural offer for the future site, will enable each and every one to discover a building that used to be strictly reserved, by transforming it into a place of high culture and clubbing.

The iconic building 1000 and the parade ground will be the nerve centre, the heart and lungs of this anniversary event, designed in collaboration with Dreier Frenzel Sàrl Architects. By unearthing this extraordinary new space, the Festival has carried off the fantastic feat of opening up a place that was usually closed to the public, thanks to a three-week cultural event. Suffice to say that the place which used to host green and grey parades will be in for a colourful surprise with the 11 crazy nights that are programmed there!

### **AN ECLECTIC PROGRAMME**

With an exceptional venue comes an exceptional programme rustled up by our friends at **Motel Campo** in collaboration with Antigél and **Shap Shap** who will present up-and-coming artists from the Southern hemisphere in its *Africa, What's up?* programme for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running. The super bunker will also host a rap night with Colors Records as well as a voguing night with La Creole, a multidisciplinary artists' collective that promotes cultural hybridisation.

The programme also includes some awesome clubbing nights featuring the crème de la crème of the local and international electronic scene who will enliven Geneva for four week-ends! To celebrate taking possession of the new Grand Central, the Festival

will start with a bold opening night focused on the cosmic-electric Scandinavian techno of Norwegian Viking SKATEBÅRD, followed by a DJ set by the founder of Red Light Radio, ORPHEU THE WIZARD. Swiss stalwart CROWDPLEASER will kick things off with his carefully selected sound vibrations. The first week-end will also welcome prolific North Londoner RANDOMER who redefines the boundaries between house, techno and jungle with class and creativity. Ukrainian STANISLAV TOLKACHEV completes the picture with a live set that interweaves Berlin-based minimalism and the classical sounds of Detroit.

For the second week-end, we'll head towards the Mecca of techno with the iconic figures of cult Berlin club Berghain: FUNCTION and NORMAN NODGE, without forgetting leading Swiss DJ, HENDRIK VAN BOETZELAER. We'll then embark on a musical journey with the live set of Geneva's favourite artists' collective OZADYA, the epileptic beats of the British jungle meteorite SHERELLE followed by a DJ set by DJ NIGGA FOX, a representative of the African-Portuguese diaspora, well-known for his endlessly fascinating sets at the crossroads of kuduro, afro-house and Angolan deep. Another Londoner, modular synthesiser-lover ANSOME will strike hard with his raw, almost industrial and essentially British live set. The prodigy often mentioned as an inspiration PERC, the techno bigwig and boss of Perc Trax Imprint, with whom he'll share the limelight to liven up the temporary dancefloor in the barracks. We'll then fly off to Amsterdam with geek artist LEGOWELT and the signature deep house of his latest live *Gladio*. Half of the duo Dekmantel Soundsystem, THOMAS MATJOLO will spice up the night with his disco-, wave- and industrial-flavoured house. Local DJ LAXXISTE A will serve the entrée. NYST will then kick things off on the penultimate night before moving aside for the howling synths of TOMMY FOUR SEVEN, whose techno will get Antigel's festivalgoers bouncing!

Finally, Antigel will welcome massive Hamburg-based DJ and producer HELENA HAUFF, whose acid house/industrial sets have been setting dancefloors ablaze all over the world. To close the curtain on this extraordinary 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we'll say goodbye with a red record on a white night with the dreamlike, ethereal and organic house music of the pearl of Japan, POWDER, a resident of Berlin's famous Cocktail d'Amore nights, who will perform in Switzerland for the first time in her career. Same country but from a different generation, multitalented 54-year old kamikaze SOICHI TERADA will set Grand Central on fire with his live set. Motel Campo resident AUDREY DANZA will open this closing night.

## AFRICA, WHAT'S UP?

Antigel will celebrate a double anniversary in 2020, since this also marks the 5<sup>th</sup> iteration of *Africa, What's up?* And lengthy stories are exactly what **SHAP SHAP** seeks to tell. This particular story began at Bamako's BAM Festival and TIDIANI N'DIAYE. For this carte blanche, the choreographer has created a solo that outlines his life story and takes the audience on a journey through the streets of Mopti, Bamako and Geneva. N'DIAYE has also invited two up-and-coming artists from Central Africa. At TU-Théâtre de l'Usine on 31 January, Cameroonian AGATHE DIOKAM will present *Energie*, a dance piece that transcends life's complexities thanks to flashes of hip-hop, contemporary and traditional African dance. In *XXL*, on 1 February, Gabonese KAÏSHA ESSIANE will address the issue of her "non-compliant body" as she calls it, as well as the gaze of others on the body of an out-of-the-ordinary dancer.

We'll then focus on South Africa's up-and-coming artists in collaboration with CUSS for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running. On 1 February SHAP SHAP will invite festivalgoers to get down to Grand Central with DESIRE, who initially performed with FELA GUCCI from the cultural movement FAKA, which combines various media to transcribe the

experience of black queers living in the *cis-hetero-topia* of post-colonial Africa, with Nigerian-born London-based singer and producer KLEIN, who loves nothing as much as pop collages that mix R&B with experimental electro, Joburg-based and gqom champion DJ CANDII, SASSY QUEEN, Durban native, half of DIRTY PARAFFIN and intergalactic instrument manufacturer DOKTA SPIZEE, and finally, the young DJ GRIFFIT VIGO, another gqom graduate and sound arsonist. In addition, the Swiss Coalition for Cultural Diversity will present the results of their investigation into visa issues in the cultural sector. This will be followed by a public discussion on international relations.

## **FORUM: NEW TERRITORIES OF CULTURE – MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

A day to discover, discuss and exchange ideas on cultural and urban planning practices on 4 February at Grand Central.

For its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Antigél has teamed up with design office [urbaplan](#) to foster reflection on the evolution of living conditions and social cohesion. In our changing cities and societies, public consultation, participation and cultural outreach are all vectors of social cohesion, enabling everyone to become actors in the transition. This first event addresses the role of culture in its capacity to support, anticipate and trigger the development of areas together with the people who live there. Gathered together for a day, participants will have the opportunity to interact with a panel of Swiss as well as international personalities specialised in cultural outreach, governance, project funding and cultural policies, event-related urban planning and land development.

Full details, programme and ticket office at [www.antigel.ch](http://www.antigel.ch)

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