

# Kassia

SONGS OF CARE

*...on jollakamattien Perisellon  
...theaita, myrskylon  
...Hyroneni Mira ni  
...mou komeidi. Sinä olet  
...Astori! Ahelias! Lepoat  
...till'antial! Dheke  
...lakyon! Nesheless  
...to (Dykon) Kanyott  
...Tall'udinal  
...to  
...chrandow  
...dhe pallin Ti  
...to paradhisso. To to deilnon  
...ichitissa, to jhovo ekvri Amartion mou  
...krimaton sou avissou! Til eklichriar  
...psychossota. Totir mou? Mi me tin sin dhor!*







kainkollektiv

Pracownia  
Kuratoriska

## KASSIA : THE PERFORMANCE SONGS OF CARE

### A CYBORG OPERA

BY KAINKOLLEKTIV, BURAK ÖZDEMİR & MUSICA SEQUENZA, WOMEN'S MUSEUM ISTANBUL,  
PRACOWNIA KURATORSKA POLAND, RINGLOKSCHUPPEN RUHR, TAK THEATER AUFBAU  
KREUZBERG BERLIN & KAMPNAGEL HAMBURG

Byzantine composer and poet Kassia was born in Constantinople in the 9th century. She is considered to be the first female composer on the European continent. Her works played a significant role in music history, most specifically in the development of European church music. Kassia was an emancipated woman; she refused the marriage proposal of the emperor Theophilos and founded her women's monastery, where she practiced poetry, music and art with other female artists. With her self-determined and extraordinary life, Kassia appears as one of the earliest feminist figures of all time. kainkollektiv and composer Burak Özdemir, together with Ensemble Musica Sequenza, take this power woman as the starting point for their (post-)feminist opera production: KASSIA - SONGS OF CARE.

Kassia's music breaks today both cultural and geographical (sound) borders. Her original scores are now reimagined by composer and early music specialist Burak Özdemir. The work is orchestrated for voice, chamber orchestra and sound design. Berlin based early music ensemble Musica Sequenza performs on period instruments of the 9th century, including byzantine violin kamancheh, organ, percussion, flute and others. KASSIA is entirely staged and choreographed by German theater company; kainkollektiv under the direction of Mirjam Schmuck. Together with the Colombian solo soprano Diana Ramirez, the South Korean dancer Young-Won Song and the Syrian actress Amal Omran, the dazzling portrait of the artist Kassia turns into a unique mixture of music, dance, poetry and digital arts.

The project is based on Kassia's original compositions, poems and her unique biography. Her art was heavily inspired by the eastern territories of Europe, where patriarchal and national politics were in constant crisis for centuries. Today, both Poland and Turkey are on the verge of leaving the Istanbul Convention for Women's Rights in Europe. The work aims to reinterrogate Kassia's legacy as the "first feminist artist" in order to re-speak her voice on the highly sensitive socio-political issue.

kainkollektiv has previously started the 'Cyborg Operas' and KASSIA is the latest addition to the series. The project is the first collaboration between kainkollektiv and Ensemble Musica Sequenza. KASSIA is developed in collaboration with the Women's Museum Istanbul, as well as scholars, activists and artists from Germany, Poland, Turkey and other countries. Within the 2021/22 cultural season, the project will visit several cities including Berlin, Istanbul, Krakow, Warsaw, Müllheim, Hamburg, Bonn and more to be announced.

## KASSIA PERFORMANCE DATES 2021/2022

08-09 October 2021 : Ringlokschuppen Ruhr Mülheim (an der Ruhr) Germany

12-13 March 2022 : Kampnagel Hamburg Germany

27-28-29 March 2022 : Tak Theater Aufbau Kreuzberg Berlin Germany

26-27 April 2022 : Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall Istanbul Turkey

*Further dates to be announced*

In coproduction with:

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**By / with:** Meral Akkent, Burak Özdemir, Anna Majewska, Zuzanna Berendt, Wanda Künzel, Hannah Busch, Melissa Müller, Mirjam Schmuck, Fabian Lettow, Burcu Özdemir, Martina Bengert, Ingela Nilsson, and many more.

**A co-production** of kainkollektiv, Burak Özdemir & Musica Sequenza, Frauenmuseum Istanbul, Pracownia Kuratorska and the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation.

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*Kassia*

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