NIKA BAUMAN

ARTIST PORTFOLIO



Nika Bauman (b. 1992) is a Croatian flautist, transdisciplinary performer, director, improviser, chamber musician, and artistic producer based in Vienna, Austria. Equally at home in classical music, performance art, and interdisciplinary creation, her practice bridges music, movement, visual arts, theatre, and dramaturgy. She holds classical training from the Zagreb Academy of Music and a Master's degree in Contemporary Arts Practice (specialisation in transmedial performance) from the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

Nika's work is rooted in exploration, connection, and boundary-crossing: she creates platforms where sound, movement, space, and narrative interact, challenging traditional forms and inviting audiences into immersive, collaborative artistic experiences.



MUSIC

As a musician, Bauman maintains an active presence both as a solo performer and as a member of ensembles across a wide range of genres. Grounded in her training in classical and contemporary music, she has cultivated a distinct approach to free improvisation that merges flute and voice simultaneously, a technique she integrates into her compositional work and solo performances. She performs regularly with the classical–contemporary–folk chamber quartet Ensemble Illyrica, the Croatian Improvisers Orchestra, the Nawa Orchestra specializing in contemporary music of the MENA region, and the Mimika Orchestra, an ensemble rooted in concept-driven ethno-jazz. In addition to performance, Bauman collaborates with the VRUM performing arts collective as a musical dramaturg for productions aimed at young audiences, and is active as a producer and curator for several festivals, including the TAKT Festival for multidisciplinary performance, the Nawa Festival for contemporary music from North Africa and West Asia, the Milch x Honig Festival for new concert formats, and VRUMstival, a festival dedicated to contemporary dance for young audiences.

"...the standout is Nika Bauman and her self-harmonising flute solo, as she curls her way around pitches and textures I didn't know a flute could emit." - The Line of Best Fit

"...flutist Nika Bauman performs both a flute solo and vocalizations at the same time, which makes you wonder where she got the inspiration for something like that." - Ravno do Dna



Original works

Rika
Taura
Anger as Soon as Fed
There is a Pain
Ashes to Ashes

Improvisation

Duo with Iva Casian Lakoš
Solo with Mimika Orchestra
Croatian Improvisers Orchestra (CRIO)

Discography

(Auswahl)

Mimika Orchestra: Altur Mur
CRI Orchestra: In my next life I want to be a feedback
Ensemble Illyrica: Ensemble Illyrica
Mimika Orchestra: Medzotermina
Dunjaluk: Dunjaluk
Basma Jabr: Lumi
Mimika Orchestra: Zvucni Zid



Residencies

KONTEJNER, Zagreb, 2024. (CRI Orchestra)
Weissensee Klassik, Weissensee, 2026. (Synesthetic Project)
Kulturfactory, Domicella, 2026. (solo)
Centar za kulturu Ribnjak, Zagreb, 2026. (solo)

Interviews/Radio/TV

CRI Orchestra @ KONTEJNER
ORF Interview mit Nika Bauman
Improvizacije with Nika Bauman
JMI Power of Music Podcast
HRT Documentary Mimika Orchestra

"The highlight of the concert was the composition "Minotaur", mostly due to the very inspiring solo through the singing technique into the flute by Nika Bauman, which led to a kind of collective elation of the musicians and the audience alike. The music at that moment created a kind of shared atmosphere in which the audience, at least the part that came to listen to the concert, could feel like an important participant." - Glazba.hr



SYNESTHETIC PROJECT

Nika is the founder and artistic director of the Synesthetic Project, a Vienna-based interdisciplinary music theatre ensemble that integrates music, contemporary dance, performance and visual arts to explore stories of diversity, connection, empathy, and creative exchange.

Since its conception, Synesthetic Project has developed multiple original stage works and video productions directed by Nika and co-created with the artists of the ensemble, presenting performances in Austria, Germany, Croatia, and Ireland. The ensemble works as a dynamic collective of international musicians, dancers, visual and multimedia artists, adapting its formation to the needs of each project.

Works: synestheticproject.com
Trailer: Synesthetic Project Ensemble



ARACHNE (2024)

ARACHNE is a music theatre piece inspired by female connectedness as well as by traditions and rituals surrounding womanhood. Based on the ancient story of Arachne —the masterful weaver who was punished for defying authority and transformed into a spider—the performers interweave music, movement, and installation (a spiderweb made of wool that envelops both the performers and the audience) into an imaginary celebration that honors femininity, sisterhood, connection, and transformation. The piece has been performed in its solo, trio and quartet renditions at the Musiktheatertage Wien 2025, TAKT Festival 2025, CAP Festival 2025 and Into the Open Festival Berlin 2024 and is scheduled to be performed in Austria and Croatia in 2026.











ONCE UPON A TIME (2023/2026)

ONCE UPON A TIME was comissioned by the MilchxHonig Festival in Wiener Neustadt in 2024 and was designed to be an immersive, site-specific piece which allows the audience to experience the multidisciplinary performance from a new perspective. Inspired by Austrian and German fairytales and myths, the piece invites the audience on a part-magical, part-psychodelic journey with a group of storytellers guiding the audience through scenes whose mythical origins are only alluded to, leaving space for individual imagination. In 2026, the piece was remade for a young audience and a blackbox setting for a performance in MuTh produced by Jeunesse Österreich.









THREADS OF TOMORROW (2025)

Designed for TAKT Festival 2025, Threads of Tomorrow is dedicated to the idea of sustainability - the artistic recycling of forms, materials, and sounds. Music, fashion, and movement merge into a vibrant collage where the past is reborn. In collaboration with the up/recycling fashion and costume designors SALICULA and Anna Asamer, the multi-instrumentalist Brian Lawlor and dancers Maartje Pasman, Mirjam Plank and Simone Lorenzo Benini, this reimagined fashion show becomes a dance of sustainability, a ritual of recycling. The upcycled costumes become part of the choreography — they breathe, move, and change shape. The evening tells a story of renewal, cycles, and creative rebirth — a poetic reminder that everything continues to live on, and nothing is ever truly lost.











BEASTS (2024)

Beasts is a collaboration of the ensemble with the artist Noa Geras. The piece deals with the themes of identity and tribalism through a combination of music, dance, performance and visual art.
Artist Noa Geras, with her series of works ‘Beasts’ of the same theme, problematizes the relationship between humans, animals and nature. Her Beasts emerge from the uncanny valley, where that which is different causes discomfort and fear. She reflects on a life torn between multiple identities, and how these differences are reflected in a collective "misunderstanding".
Through music and movement, musician and director Nika Bauman explores the antithesis of "humanity" and "bestiality" and the desire for the connection/separation of man and his wild nature.









IMMORTAL BELOVED (2023)

Immortal Beloved is a piece inspired by the music and letters of Ludwig van Beethoven. A pianist, an actor and a dancer represent three parts of a single human being: the spirit, the mind and the heart. Lead by an ethereal character of destiny, the three pieces of one take the audience on a journey through the dark night of the soul of an unhappy man. Going through rage, self-righteousness, agression and despair, the protagonist slowly finds a way to make peace with himself and take first steps on the path towards joy.











DISFIGURED NIGHT(2023)

“Disfigured Night” is conceived as a prequel to the famous poem by Richard Dehmel and composition by Arnold Schoenberg, inspired by his own love story with his wife Ida Dehmel. While “Transfigured Night” tells the story of two lovers who find each other through forgiveness and understanding, “Disfigured Night” takes a step back to a night before the transfiguration and looks at the protagonist. How could she have put herself in such an unforgivable and unworthy position – unmarried and pregnant? Could she have chosen it by choice? And what will she do now, finally in love and yet fearful of abandonment and shame? Guided by the poems of Richard Dehmel, the music of Bahar Royaee, Richard Strauss, Lili Boulanger, Leo Brouwer and André Jolivet, as well as a newly commissioned work “Morana” by Mak Murtić, the Synesthetic Project ensemble tells the story of the struggle for one’s life, rights and independence – the story of a dark night and a courageous woman.









PREVIOUS WORKS (2019 – 2023)

Landscapes and Dances (2019)
Itinerant (2021)
Decameron 2.0 (2022)
LUX (2022)
Le Chat Noir (2023)










