

Press release – Programme announcement

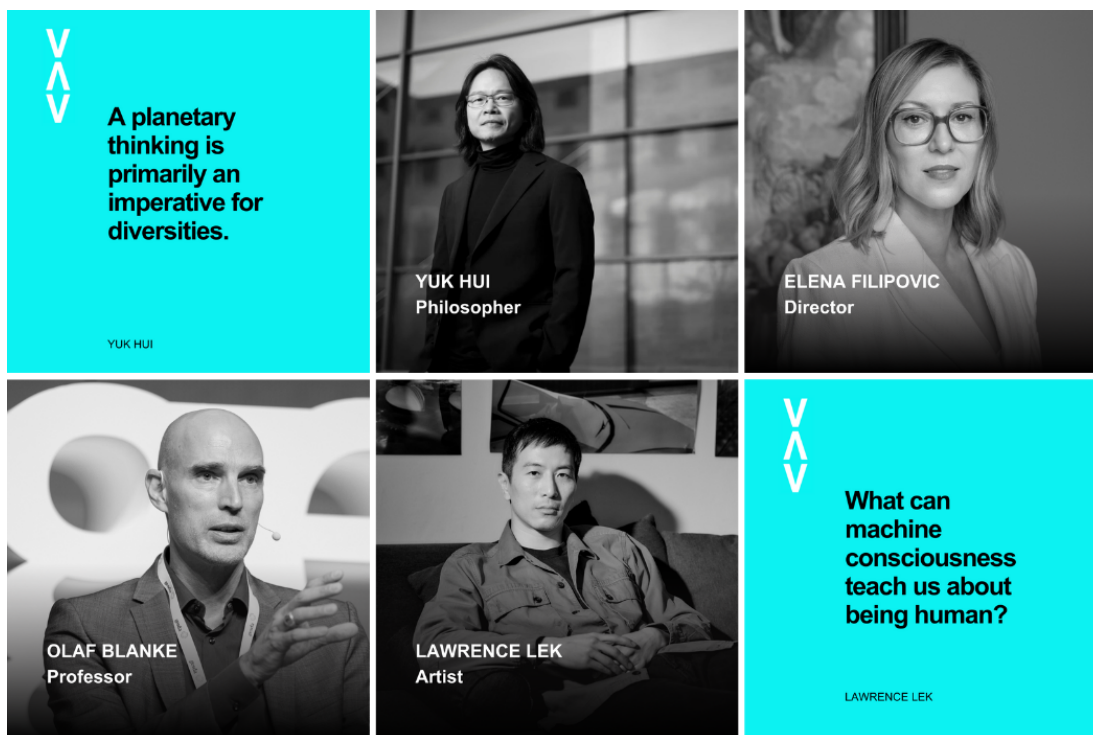
Verbier, Switzerland, 18 February 2025 – The Verbier Art Summit is thrilled to unveil new speaker announcements and the full programme for its 2025 edition on **4 & 5 April** in Verbier, Switzerland, and online via the virtual Summit:

QUARTER LIFE CRISIS Art in a World on the Brink

As the world undergoes geopolitical realignments, rapid technological shifts, and evolving notions of identity, the 2025 Summit will examine how art can foster cultural resilience and deeper understanding. In collaboration with **Philip Tinari**, director of the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art in China, the 2025 Summit invited a group of artists and thinkers to explore how to respond to the transformations that created the **Quarter Life Crisis** of the 21st century. Tinari reflects, “The global community becomes both interconnected and fragmented, while visible, articulated identities expand and intersect, reshaping spaces and discourses, but also atomising us ever further.”

Talks programme

The Summit is delighted to announce that four more remarkable voices will be joining its Talks programme: the contemporary artist **Lawrence Lek**, director of the Kunstmuseum Basel **Elena Filipovic**, leading philosopher **Yuk Hui** and professor **Olaf Blanke**. These distinguished speakers will join the already announced stellar line-up, including renowned artists **Dana Awartani**, **Cao Fei**, **Claudia Comte**, **Zanele Muholi** and **Wang Tuo**, the New Yorker writer **Kyle Chayka** and curator **Clémentine Deliss**, promising an unforgettable weekend of art dialogue and discovery.



London-based Malaysian Chinese artist **Lawrence Lek**, named one of Time's 100 most influential people in AI, unites filmmaking, video games, and electronic soundscapes in a singular cinematic universe. Known for advancing the concept of *Sinofuturism*, his immersive installations explore spiritual and existential themes through the lens of science fiction. Similarly pushing the boundaries of artistic discourse, the esteemed director of Kunstmuseum Basel, **Elena Filipovic**, is an American curator and scholar whose work is dedicated to rethinking curatorial practices and fostering critical engagement with contemporary art. Her exhibitions emphasise experimental and thought-provoking approaches, often spotlighting emerging and underrepresented artists. Expanding this exploration of technology, aesthetics, and human perception, Hong Kong philosopher **Yuk Hui**, currently based in the Netherlands, interrogates the evolving relationship between digital culture and contemporary life. His work critically examines how computation, artificial intelligence, and globalisation shape modernity, urging a re-evaluation of technology's influence on knowledge production. Similarly bridging art and science, the Swiss-German physician and neurologist **Olaf Blanke** of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), extends these inquiries into the realm of cognition and embodiment. His pioneering research integrates robotics and virtual reality to study human consciousness. Blanke will be in conversation with Nicolas Henchoz, the founding director of the research center EPFL+ECAL Lab.

4 April Talks

- 9.30-9.35: Welcome – **Anneliek Sijbrandij**, founder Verbier Art Summit
9.40-10.00: Introduction – **Philip Tinari**, director UCCA Center for Contemporary Art
10.05-10.25: **WANG TUO**, artist
10.30-10.50: **YUK HUI**, philosopher
10.50-11.10: *Break*
11.10-11.30: **DANA AWARTANI**, artist
11.35-11.55: **CLÉMENTINE DELISS**, curator
12.00-12.20: **LAWRENCE LEK**, artist
12.25-12.55: Q&A panel
12.55-13.00: Closing remarks – **Philip Tinari**, director UCCA Center for Contemporary Art

5 April Talks

- 14.30-14.35: Welcome – **Anneliek Sijbrandij**, founder Verbier Art Summit
14.40-14.50: Introduction – **Philip Tinari**, director UCCA Center for Contemporary Art
14.55-15.15: **KYLE CHAYKA**, writer The New Yorker
15.20-15.40: **CLAUDIA COMTE**, artist
15.45-16.05: **OLAF BLANKE**, professor EPFL, with **Nicolas Henchoz**, EPFL+ECAL Lab
16.05-16.25: *Break*
16.25-16.45: **ELENA FILIPOVIC**, director Kunstmuseum Basel
16.50-17.10: **CAO FEI**, artist
17.15-17.45: Q&A panel with **ZANELE MUHOLI**, artist
17.45-18.00: Closing Summit – **Philip Tinari**, director UCCA Center for Contemporary Art



2025 Summit programme: where global meets local

The 2025 Verbier Art Summit offers a unique space to explore, question, and respond to today's profound shifts. Spanning over two days, the Summit fosters exchange through a carefully curated programme of **Talks, Cultural events and Debates**, each offering a different perspective on the evolving role of art in society. Together, these programmes ensure that the Summit remains both globally connected as well as locally rooted.

Sitting at the heart of the Summit, the **Talks programme** features 20-minute presentations from leading voices in contemporary art, philosophy, and technology. Open and free to all, both **in-person in Verbier** and via livestream on the **virtual Summit platform**, these Talks create a global platform for critical artistic and intellectual discourse.

Extending beyond the talks, the **Cultural programme** activates locations across Verbier with exhibitions, film, and interactive art experiences. Further to the already announced activities by the EPFL+ECAL Lab, the Verbier 3-D Foundation and the Verbier Festival, this year's programme will include ***Illuminations of Verbier***, an exhibition showcasing 9 local artists. The local children are also engaged with art through the ***Square Word Calligraphy*** project set-up by the UCCA together with the Chinese artist **Xu Bing**. In the local cinema, films of the latest **Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement** by the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève will be shown. All art and culture lovers can conclude the weekend by connecting at an **art and concert** evening at Le KOTI in Le Châble.

For those seeking deeper engagement, the **Debates** offer the opportunity to join the speakers and honoured guests in an extended two-day debating programme. Designed to spark innovative ideas and inspire action, these debates foster meaningful discussions and lasting connections. To express interest in joining the Member programme this year, contact: info@verbierartsummit.org.

Registration

Registration for the 2025 Summit Talks is open, welcoming those with a love for art, innovation, and culture to participate in its free two-day programme. Additionally, registration for participation in one or more free activities of the Cultural Programme is now also open. To register please visit: verbierartsummit.org/2025-registration.

About the Summit

The Summit is a non-profit platform that fosters collaboration, pushing boundaries to create new visions in a world on the brink of significant change. To inspire people globally, the Summit will be live-streamed via the virtual Summit platform, and key conversations will be documented in a publication designed by Irma Boom, available through Koenig Books.

For more details on the 2025 Summit, please visit verbierartsummit.org or follow us on Instagram, X, LinkedIn and Facebook using [#verbierartsummit](https://www.instagram.com/verbierartsummit).

For press inquiries or any further questions, please contact:

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