

# Sky Deep – Reclaim The Beats Festival Mix

Von **Kristoffer Cornils** - 3. Oktober 2017

Photo: Alexa Vachon (Sky Deep)

There is hardly a shortage of festivals in Berlin, but only a few that consciously focus on otherwise marginalised artists. With **Reclaim The Beats** however, the DJ and Revelle Sky Dietrich alias Sky Deep brought together a diverse roster of artists for live performances, workshops, movie screenings and DJ sets last year. The festival's 2017 edition will take place between October 5 and 14 in venues like Gretchen, Werkstatt der Kulturen or Burg Schöneberg. The festival focuses on what Dietrich calls „Music Restoration“, the lost or hidden histories of genres and subcultures. Before she takes the decks herself along other artists such as Bodycode, Portable and Jenifa Mayanja, Sky Deep blends the distinctive voices on the Reclaim The Beats line-up in one soul-touching mix.

---

## What was the original idea behind Reclaim The Beats?

The idea of this festival was motivated by my desire to reconnect the people of color and the Black community to their history in music. I personally find that the more I learn about my history, whether it's in my immediate family or my ancestry, I feel more excited, inspired and empowered.

empowered to pursue things in life that relate to some of those things. Knowing my history makes things accessible to me that I hadn't thought of before. I wanted to remind everyone the origins of several music genres and help them see that it is still for them. I also help music lovers and the media industry to give more access to modern POC/queer artists and their terms.

**This year's motto is *Music Restoration*. What does that mean?**

Well I like to think of House – Techno – Rock and various genres as ancient, precious history. Sometimes history is lost or hidden. Then many years later when explorers find it, they create a story around the artifacts they find. They also try to restore the item to its original quality. For the context of Reclaim the Beats 2017, we are continuing to uncover that came from places like ours but have become heavily gentrified over time.

**Apart from yourself, DJs like Bodycode and Jenifa Mayanja will perform, hold workshops or participate in talks. What were your criteria when booking for Reclaim The Beats?**

For the music program, I was looking for artists from different regions and backgrounds who consider themselves as people of color *or* queer. Not exclusively one or the other. I could probably write an essay about all the artists but ultimately, I listened to lots of music from artists who I felt have a great sound and individual style. Musically, I wanted to cover a wide spectrum of styles but I wanted to make sure the acts complimented each other and worked well in a line-up together so we could have a flowing night. Booking Kiddy Smile was a no-brainer because I wanted to pay homage to his modern work and to pay homage to the ballroom scene. My first experience with the ballroom scene was through attending a mini-ball in New York City back in the early 2000's. I have had the great opportunity to meet people in that scene from New York and from Paris. The ballroom scene was always and still is important with its own special sound and connection to house music. This year I wanted to book a combination of artists with a long track record of producing great music. I loved the sound of Bodycode and was so excited when things worked out to have him headline our closing night. I also booked local acts and upcoming artists because I aim to support the growth of their careers. For the workshop program, I brought in Shanti Suki Osman to curate the workshop program. I have worked with her in the past and we have great communication. In general we talked about offering a program that offers interactive discussion spaces which tackle relevant topics as queer and POC in Germany. We are providing a space for discussion and discovery.

**You've put together an exclusive mix in anticipation of the festival. Did you h**

**specific concept for it in mind?**

This mix was super fun to put together. The sounds of the artists work really fluidly so  
My concept was to find a common groove or a traveling vibe to move between each o  
inspire. It was like telling a story between past and future. There are a lot of different  
vocals in this mix but I still wouldn't say that it's totally vocal driven because the groo  
these artists are so powerful. For example, Mandel Turner has amazing vocals. So doe  
Mayanja, Bodycode and Aérea Negrot *but* they work so in sync with the other sounds.  
hear it *all* as musical instruments. These artists touch my soul.

**Last but not least: What do you anticipate to be your personal festival highlig**

WoW. This is a hard one to answer but I would have to say Opening night has my hea  
with excitement. I'm looking forward to hearing words from Lakuti and honoring her b  
start our stellar music program. And I'm also especially excited about seeing the dou  
with Aérea Negrot and RENU at Werkstatt Der Kulturen. Also Be Steadwell from NYC i  
amazing performer not to be missed. She plays on the 14th OCT with As//IS.

Stream: Sky Deep – Reclaim The Beats Festival Mix

01. CUBOP – Fear Elementum
02. Odete de Pilar – No Porao (DJ Grace Kelly Remix)
03. This Frozen Lake feat. Kinoo (Bodycode Remix)
04. Jenifa Mayanja – Channel Through the Roots
05. Underverse feat. Mandel Turner (Adam Port Mix)
06. Kiddy Smile – Let A B\_tch Know (Original\_Mix)
07. Bodycode – Body To Body feat Lerato (Original\_Mix)
08. Mandel Turner & Steph Le Bellec – Stay close (Main) [unreleased]
09. Aerea Negrot – Planta Baja (Original Mix)
10. Sky Deep – Authenticity
11. PHROND – T17029 (Unreleased)
12. RENU – Boys



presented by



Groove presents: **Reclaim The Beats Festival 2017**

October 5 to 14

Line-up: Lakuti, Yuko Asanuma, Reveller Crew, Sky Deep, Bodycode, Jenifa Mayanja &

Tickets: festival pass 42€, single events from 12€

different venues

Berlin

**Kristoffer Cornils**