

SELF-BIOGRAPHY

KLAUS DINGER (NIKOLAUS VAN RHEIN): "Gesamtkunstwerk", total artist, producer, composer, multi-instrumentalist, voice, words, ideas!, videos, photos, styling, artwork.

- 1946 Born aries in Scherfede/Westfalia.
- 1947 With family back to Düsseldorf (/kindergarden St. Bruno, happy childhood despite very conservative parents at the time./)
- 1952/56 Elementary school (/Volksschule an der Golzheimer Heide/)
- 1956/63 Görres Gymnasium (staatlich-humanistisch-altsprachlich). Member of a cappella choir amid bad rating in musical education.
Must leave with "Mittlere Reife" because of too free-minded "bad behaviour".
- 1963/66 Learning carpentry. Starts playing drums (learning by doing) in school band SWING COMBO, later THE NO. Tape with own songs to EMI=nothing. Also makes "noise" in free jazz unit.
- 1966/69 Studies architecture at Werkkunstschule Krefeld. Occasionally drumming with various people. Gets first guitar.
- 1969 Drops architecture 1 year before finishing.
Back in Düsseldorf starts playing drums seriously and decides to go "artist way". Touring with (mainly coverband) THE SMASH as drummer. Lives in commune – painted totally white with photographer Peter Lindbergh and other advertising/art-orientated people. Own advertising agency: CREATIVE FAMILY (existed mainly on paper). First LSD-trip. Sings and plays own song: Spastic Anna on guitar and throws cymbals across the stage in experimental/quite naked piece by Alfred Pachtl at INTIMES THEATER/Düsseldorf.
- 1970/71 Drumming KRAFTWERK 1st LP side 2. Concertsin various line-ups, starting with Ralf and Florian, ending with Florian and Michael -
TV: BEAT CLUB and OKIE DOKIE. (/Lived in Florian's room in his parents' house for several months, met Anita Heedman, a friend of Florian's sister Katharina. Anita becomes his muse (LIEBER HONIG, RHEINITA, MON AMOUR)./) Forms NEU! with Michael and produces 1st LP with Conny Plank. Also using voice, guitar, japanese banjo (NEGATIVLAND) and electronics.
- 1972 NEU! 1st LP release by METRONOME. Six or seven concerts. Some with Eberhard Kranemann and Uli Trepte. First time playing guitar with brother Thomas on drums.
- 1973 1st and so far only NEU!-single: SUPER/NEUSCHNEE. NEU!2-LP. Voice and multi-instrumental. LILAC ANGELS-LP (co-produced by Conny Plank) for planned own label. Go London with Thomas for NEU!-tour: Nothing. Meets John Peel and Mick Jagger. Gives NEU!-LP to Mrs Pete Townsend.
- 1974 Rise and fall of DINGERLAND MUSIK GMBH: Only release LILAC ANGELS. Planned releases of Fritz Müller (E. Kranemann) and Achim Duchow cancelled. Founding LA DÜSSELDORF with Thomas and Hans Lampe (Conny's assistant). Label presentation / two free concerts open air at Blauer See, Ratingen near Düsseldorf with LA DÜSSELDORF and Michael (=later NEU!75 line-up), LILAC ANGELS and FRITZ MÜLLER. TV-report in HIER UND HEUTE (WDR could not find tapes some years ago). (/1st LA DÜSSELDORF logo was made by Achim Duchow, which was later modified by Katharina (Tina) Schneider-Esleben, the girlfriend of Thomas./)
- 1974/75 Heavily bankrupt into NEU!75 LP in CONNY'SSTUDIO with Thomas and Hans drumming on side 2. Increasingly using voice/words, (HERO-)guitar, piano, keys, electro et al. Stops playing drums completely for many years. (cold winter)—
more "serious" musical, experimental and instrumental studies. Developing LA DÜSSELDORF music and image.
- 1975/76 TELDEC-release of 1st LA DÜSSELDORF-LP:DÜSSELDORF co-produced by Conny in his studio with Thomas and Hans on drums. Playing all other instruments (on keyboards since then as NIKOLAUS VAN RHEIN) except bass: Harald Konietzko. Single SILVER CLOUD in various charts. Logo sprayed all over Düsseldorf streets. Own 16-track studio. 2nd LA DÜSSELDORF-LP VIVA with Hans (also

- engineer) and Thomas on drums (also voice), Harald Konietzko bass on CHA CHA 2000 and GELD, Andreas Schell (deceased 1980) piano on CHA CHA 2000.
- 1979 (Maxi-)single RHEINITA in various charts. Million-offer from EMI/Zumkeller on video. TV playbacks: PLATTENKÜCHE (VIVA) and Thomas Gottschalk (RHEINITA) (with Hiromi Sudo/Taichi).
- 1980 3rd LA DÜSSELDORF-LP: INDIVIDUELLOS and(maxi-)single DAMPFRIEMEN.
- 1981 Thomas Dinger FÜR MICH solo-LP (co-produced).
- 1982 LA DÜSSELDORF (maxi-)single and video ICH LIEBE DICH/KOKSKNÖDEL. Announced on it: 4th LA DÜSSELDORF-LP MON AMOUR. New contract with TELDEC.
- 1983 METRONOME stops production and distribution of NEU! vinyls. Building studio in Zeeland (NL) for 4th LA DÜSSELDORF-LP with Thomas and sometimes Hans. Growing inside—problems end up in court—procedures until 1997.
- 1984 Studio transport to Zeeland without Thomas and Hans (engineer). Basic recording alone with mainly Oberheim-system. Completed, mixed and co-produced with Conny in his studio and René Tinner in CAN studio. With Spinello-Rüdiger Elze (KOWALSKI), Charly Therstappen and Raoul Walton (BELFEGORE and Westernhagen) and Jaki Liebezeit (CAN).
- 1985 With unclear legal situation LA DÜSSELDORF-LP seems too risky=NÉONDIAN (solo-)LP and CD-release by TELDEC (maxi-)single MON AMOUR/AMERICA and single AMERICA/PIPI AA.
- 1985/86 Production NEU!4(“86”)in own studios after negotiations with Conny (deceased 1987) failed. No release. NÉONDIAN-video with Charly and Raoul.
- 1987 (Ex-TELDEC) EASTWEST (Jürgen Otterstein)stops production and distribution of NÉONDIAN and 3 LA DÜSSELDORF vinyls. Unauthorised release of LA DÜSSELDORF: VIVA-CD. Studio equipment back to Düsseldorf. Michael refuses offer from SKY RECORDS for NEU!4. Self-organised concert at TOR 3. Düsseldorf with Spinello-Rüdiger Elze, Klaus Immig (Unterrock), Dirk Flader, Heinz Makosch (deceased 1987) and Yvi.
- 1988 Founding and recording DIE ENGEL DES HERRN(D.E.D.H.)(THE ANGELS OF THE LORD) with Gehard Michel (STRANGER THAN PARADISE) and Klaus Immig.
- 1989 Recording and developing D.E.D.H.. Film documentary “Klaus Dinger” by Jacob Claussen (HFF MÜNCHEN)
- 1990/91 Journey through the Music industry with Gehard for D.E.D.H. first talks about NEU! CD releases with METRONOME. Michael and Conny’s widow sign “50% of nothing agreement” with METRONOME. (/Klaus opposes./) (/Heinz Dinger dies at the end of 1990./)
- 1992 Self release of die (B)ENGEL DES HERRN on LP and CD.
- 1993 Only concert (self organised) of D.E.D.H.LIVE AS HIPPIE-PUNKS at MALKASTEN/Düsseldorf. D.E.D.H. split. New NEU!-offer from METRONOME refused by Michael.
- 1994 First contact from KEN MATSUTANI/CAPTAIN TRIP RECORDS (CTR) Tokyo and from KREIDLER Düsseldorf. Start court case against METRONOME over CD rights after refusing new offer. NEU! bootlegs appear worldwide.
- 1995 Japan CD-releases (CTR) of D.E.D.H. LIVE AS HIPPIE-PUNKS, NÉONDIAN, NEU!4 (without Michael’s consent). Session and recordings with a.o. Kreidler in Düsseldorf studio. Stop of unauthorised VIVA-LA DÜSSELDORF-CD-release by EASTWEST.
- 1996 NEU!72 live CD-release by CTR without Michael’s consent. First LA!NEU?-CD (also produced in Düsseldorf): DÜSSELDORF by CTR with Andreas Reihse and Thomas Klein (KREIDLER), Viktoria (Vicky) Wehrmeister (SUPERBILK), Klaus Immig (D.E.D.H.), Dirk Flader and Konstantin Wienstroer (HIPPIEPUNKS).Fundamental court decision (OLG DÜSSELDORF) against METRONOME (Polygram) (/won/): CD rights of contracts from before 1979 (as NEU! and LA DÜSSELDORF) must be re-negotiated. Quite spectacular LA!NEU?-concerts in Tokyo and Osaka (with Andreas, Thomas K., Vicky, Dirk, Konstantin, Markus Hoffman and Rembrandt Lensink. Offer for NEU!-concerts in Japan refused by Michael. Artwork-exhibition: LA D. AT THE DOUANE at ABERHART-NORTH-GALLERY/Auckland/NZ.
- 1997 CTR-CD-releases of 3 LA DÜSSELDORF classics re-unite Dinger brothers=end LA DÜSSELDORF internal wars. Unauthorised LA DÜSSELDORF-CD-releases by EASTWEST end in Hamburg courts (still no final decision) (/WARNER/EASTWEST won in 2004./) CTR and EASTWEST both stop distribution—LA DÜSSELDORF only available as CD-bootlegs—like NEU!. NEU! offer from

- MOTOR-MUSIC/Tim Renner and invitation to N.Y. from Peter Koepke/POLYGRAM U.S. refused by Michael. CTR-release of LA!NEU?: ZEELAND-CD. Produced in Zeeland and Düsseldorf studios with Vicky, Andreas, Rembrandt and Renate Dinger (75). CTR-release of LA!NEU? REMBRANDT (co-produced). Dr. Ralf Gawlista installs DINGERLAND website.
- 1998 CTR-2 CD release of LA!NEU? CHA CHA 2000—LA!NEU? LIVE IN TOKYO 1996 VOL. 1. CTR-CD-twin release of LA!NEU?: GOLDREGEN, produced in Düsseldorf and Zeeland with Vicky, Thomas and Renate Dinger, Rembrandt. YEAR OF THE TIGER, produced in Düsseldorf and Arnhem (NL) with Rembrandt, Vicky and “Spinello”. First contact with Masaki Nakao, a Japanese artist living in Düsseldorf since 1989. So far only LA!NEU? concert in Germany at KUNSTHALLE DÜSSELDORF with Renate, Vicky, “spinello” and Rembrandt. CTR-CD-release of LA!NEU? DIE WITH DIGNITY (Bochum based project around Ralf Gawlista): consulting. Production in Düsseldorf and CTR-CD-release of LA!NEU? BLUE POINT UNDERGROUND (Wuppertal-based project consisting of Eberhard Kranemann, Caroline Keufen and Oliver Blum). Negotiations with Daniel Miller/MUTE in Conny’s studio and in Düsseldorf over NEU! fail: Offer not good enough. CTR-CD-release of 1-A-DÜSSELDORF (Thomas Dinger and Nils Kristiansen): FETTLEBER. Consulting.
- 1999 CTR-twin-CD-release of LA!NEU? LIVE IN TOKYO VOL. 2 (2 CD’s) and LA!NEU?: BLUE (LA DÜSSELDORF 5)—unreleased recordings from 1984-86 with Yvi, “spinello”, Charly and Raoul. Produced in Zeeland and Düsseldorf. CTR-CD-release of 1-A-DÜSSELDORF: KÖNIGREICH BILK consulting. Nakao opens up future-JAPANDORF in Düsseldorf. Midsummerfestival in and around Zeeland studios with tents. LA!NEU? recordings with Vicky, Andreas, Renate, Thomas, Nakao, BLUE POINT UNDERGROUND, DIE WITH DIGNITY, Risa, Jo Maassen (THE NO), Konstantin and Dutch friends. Nakao introduces Kazu (Kazuyuki Onouchi), who wants to “go music” after studying traditional Japanese painting. (His professor and art critics: Noi Sawaragi of TAMA-ART UNIVERSITY/Tokyo advised him: “if go music—go Düsseldorf!”) first contact with Herbert Grönemeyer over NEU! and LA DÜSSELDORF-titles on his POP 2000-compilation: NEU!: HALLOGALLO AND HERO. LA DÜSSELDORF: 7 mins Grönemeyer-edit of CHA CHA 2000.
- 2000 Start remix of CHA CHA 2000 while developing Kazu’s digital studio in Düsseldorf. Record Mihoko Ogaki, Herbert Grönemeyer on CHA CHA 2000 in Düsseldorf. Many recording sessions in Zeeland and Düsseldorf for new LA DÜSSELDORF/JAPANDORF with Kazu, Nakao, Vicky, Caroline, Maki Umehara, Konstantin, Keisuke Matsuura, Thomas, Andreas, Thea Djordjadze, Miki Yui, Mayumi Nakamura. NEU! sign contract with Herbert Grönemeyer for GRÖNLAND/EMI over CD and vinyl releases. Slow, difficult campaign start. NEU!-single experiments by Kazu. NEU!-video-shootings with Miki, Vicky, Andreas, Thomas, Nakao, Christian and Dietmar (HOBBYPOP MUSEUM). CTR-CD-release of 3rd 1-A-DÜSSELDORF: D.J.F. (DEUTSCH-JAPANISCHE FREUNDSCHAFT) consultant.
- 2001 Final NEU!-CD’s remaster session at METROPOLIS/London with Tim Young, NEU!, Herbert, Andreas, Kazu. Artwork remix at PENTAGON/Berlin with Walter Schönauer (operator) and Kazu. NEU!-classics releases as CD’s and vinyls in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and U.K. by GRÖNLAND/EMI. U.S. releases by ASTRALWERKS. Media-campaign (quite split). Planning 3-CD-box with DVD and book, NEU!-single-release and NEU! video clip started but failed. Digital/analogue studio development with Kazu in Düsseldorf. Overdubs and mixing JAPANDORF, CHA CHA 2001 remix. Recording session in Zeeland and Düsseldorf. CTR-2CD-release of LA!NEU? LIVE AT KUNSTHALLE DÜSSELDORF. CTR-CD-release of 4th 1-A-DÜSSELDORF: LIVE (with Vicky) consultant. Connect Kazu and Miki to finalise new Miki Yui-CD: MAGINA in Düsseldorf. Planning: CD-releases of LA DÜSSELDORF JAPANDORF and CHA CHA 2001-remix, LA DÜSSELDORF/JAPANDORF tour in Japan 2002. Media-campaign quite ridiculous, unbalanced and falsified especially in U.S. and U.K.: based on unauthorised “product-info”... this is not NEU!(on 4. July 2001 (/end of this self-biography/))
- 2002 Thomas Dinger dies after long illness at the age of 49. NEU!-classics releases as CD’s in Japan by P-VINE. Shin Mizoguchi introduces Satoshi Okamoto (Keyboard), Sessions in Zeeland. Record with Satoshi, Nakao, Renate and Miki for the album VIVA Remix in Düsseldorf mix

- with Kazu. Nakao develops lyrics for the song UDON (Music based LA DÜSSELDORF/DÜSSELDORF)
- 2003 Develops songs, recording, mixing the album JAPANDORF in Zeeland with Kazu, Miki, Nakao and Satoshi. Herbert sings on GELD for the album VIVA REMIX. Kazu and Satoshi start own project SUB-TLE. Visit GRÖNLAND (Réne Renner) and MUTE (Daniel Miller) in London and AOL TIME WARNER/EASTWEST (Bernd Dopp) and publisher SCHACHT in Hamburg with Kazu, Miki, Satoshi for the presentation of VIVA REMIX and JAPANDORF.
- 2004 WARNER/EASTWEST wins 3 LA DÜSSELDORF classics' CD-rights after 7 years court dispute (Beschluss Bundesgerichtshof). Starts LA-DUESSELDORF.DE website with Miki. NEU! meeting to talk over new NEU! album in London, visit MAYFAIR STUDIO, KLAUS' idea to record immediately was rejected by Michael. Another NEU! meeting in Hamburg, ends without results.
- 2005 Mixing VIVA RIMIX 2010 and JAPANDORF in Düsseldorf. Meet Herbert for presentation of GELD FEAT. HERBERT GRÖNEMEYER from VIVA RIMIX 2010. The talk over new NEU! album stops because of Klaus' debt to Michael. Financial problems/debts grow. Move out and clear half of the studio space in Düsseldorf.
- 2006 CD re-release of 4th LA DÜSSELDORF: MON AMOUR (ex-NÉONDIAN) from WARNER, bonus track GELD 2006 FEAT. HERBERT GRÖNEMEYER (INTERNET WARM-UP VERSION). No agreement reached over the contract of the bonus track, soon WARNER stops the distribution of MON AMOUR. Practice and record songs for the possible tour of the album JAPANDORF at SUBTLE. Studio on Mintropstraße/Düsseldorf with Kazu, Miki, Nakao, Satoshi.
- 2007 Move Kazu's digital/analogue Studio to Zeeland to finalise the albums. Record new songs for the album JAPANDORF, a.o. IMMERMANNSTRASSE, KITTELBAACH SYMPHONY, UDON. Overdub, mix VIVA REMIX, JAPANDORF with Kazu, Miki, Nakao, Satoshi.
- 2008 February to March record new songs CARNIVAL, UNTITLED, CHA CHA 2008 for the album JAPANDORF in Zeeland with Kazu, Miki. Klaus writes lyrics and sings CARNIVAL. On 21. March, at full moon/Good Friday, Klaus suddenly passes away in Zeeland, dies of heart attack. Miki becomes heiress of Klaus Dinger. Kazu, Miki continue the production to finish the albums in Zeeland. Kazu, Satoshi complete album SUBTLE., released from ONPA, liner note by Klaus.
- 2009/10 Move studio back to Düsseldorf, Kazu, Miki overdub, mix and finalise last 3 albums of LA DÜSSELDORF: VIVA RIMIX 2010, PRE-JAPANDORF, JAPANDORF. Miki starts to digitise KLAUS DINGER ARCHIVE. NEU! Vinyl Boxset released from Grönland and first official NEU! merchandise (www.neu2010.com): Miki consults the content and design. Miki launches Klaus Dinger channel on YouTube with interviews and video archives. Move out of Lilienthal studio/Düsseldorf. Kazu moves his studio back to Japan.
- 2011 Miki digitalises 16 track tapes with Bodo Staiger (RHEINKLANG STUDIO).
- 2012 Klaus Dinger Exhibition at Slowboy Düsseldorf, publishing of photobook "IHR KÖNNT MICH MAL AM ARSCH LECKEN". Photobook presentation at Other Music NYC

(/ Lines between /) and the biography after 2002 are added by Miki Yui