

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

(SELF-)BIOGRAPHY

- 1946 Born Aries in Scherfede/Westfalia. Mother is Renate Dinger (Miszewski) and Father is Heinz Dinger, both families are from Düsseldorf. (/Klaus was born while the family flew from the war-torn city./)
- 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/) Brother Thomas Dinger is born in 1952.
- 1956/63 Görres Gymnasium (staatlich-humanistisch-altsprachlich). Member of a cappella choir amid bad rating in musical education. Must leave school with “Mittlere Reife” because of too free-minded “bad behaviour”.
- 1963/66 Learning carpentry (/preparation to study architecture/). 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 (/studying/) 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. Concerts in various line-ups, starting with Ralf and Florian, ending with Florian and Michael - TV: BEAT CLUB and OKIE DOKIE. (/lived in Florian’s room at his parents’ house for several months, met Anita, a friend of Florian’s sister Katharina. Anita becomes his muse for the songs 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. (/Produce/) LILAC ANGELS-LP (co-produced by Conny Plank) for planned own label. Go London with Thomas for (/arranging/) **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. (/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’S STUDIO 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 as an 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 own studio in Zeeland (NL) to record 4th **LA DÜSSELDORF** LP with Thomas and sometimes Hans. Growing inside—problems end up in court - (/litigation goes/) 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 Terstappen and Raoul Walton (BELFEGORE and Westernhagen) and Jaki Liebezeit (CAN).
- 1985 With unclear legal situation (/to name an album/) **LA DÜSSELDORF** - LP seems too risky = Klaus Dinger + Rheinitta Bella Düsseldorf NÉONDIAN (solo-)LP and CD-release by TELDEC (maxi-)single MON AMOUR/ AMERICA and single AMERICA/PIPI AA.
- 1985/86 Production of **NEU!**4("86") in own studios after negotiations with Conny (deceased 1987) failed. No release. AMERICA (/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, and Heinz Makosch (deceased 1987).
- 1988 Founding and recording **DIE ENGEL DES HERRN (D.E.D.H.)**(THE ANGELS OF THE LORD) with Gerhard 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 Gerhard 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./) (/at the end of 1990 Heinz Dinger dies at the age of 74./)
- 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 Lilienthal 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) (/Klaus 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): FETTLBER, 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 "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. Midsummer festival 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. (/Klaus initiates/) **NEU!**-video-shootings with Miki, Vicky, Andreas, Thomas, Nakao, Christian and Dietmar (HOBBYPOP MUSEUM) without any result. 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 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, fail. Media-campaign quite ridiculous, unbalanced and falsified especially in U.S. and U.K.: based on unauthorised “product-info”... this is not **NEU!**. (/July 04. 2001 ends this self-biography/)
- 2002 Thomas Dinger dies after long illness (from Alcohol) at the age of 49. **NEU!**-classics CD releases 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 RIMIX in Düsseldorf. Mix with Kazu. Nakao develops lyrics for the song UDON (Music based **LA DÜSSELDORF/DÜSSELDORF**).
- 2003 **JAPANDORF** develop songs, recording, mixing for the album Japandorf in Zeeland with Kazu, Miki, Nakao and Satoshi. Herbert sings on GELD for the album VIVA RIMIX. 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 and Satoshi for the presentation of the albums VIVA RIMIX and Japandorf, without any results.
- 2004 WARNER/EASTWEST wins 3 **LA DÜSSELDORF** classics’ CD-rights after 7 years court dispute (Beschluss Bundesgerichtshof). Launch **LA-DUESSELDORF.DE** website with Miki. **NEU!** meeting to talk over new **NEU!** album with Herbert in London, visit MAYFAIR STUDIO, Klaus’ proposal to record new album immediately was rejected by Michael. Another **NEU!** meeting in Hamburg with Herbert, ends without any results.
- 2005 Mixing VIVA RIMIX and Japandorf in Düsseldorf. Meet Herbert for presentation of GELD FEAT. HERBERT GRÖNEMEYER on VIVA RIMIX 2010 (the album renamed) without any result. The talk over new **NEU!** album stops because Klaus does not settle the debt to Michael immediately. Financial problems/debts grow. Move out and clear half of the Lilienthal studio space in Düsseldorf.
- 2006 CD re-release of MON AMOUR (ex-NÉONDIAN) from WARNER Music Germany, bonus track is GELD 2006 FEAT. HERBERT GRÖNEMEYER (INTERNET WARM-UP VERSION). No agreement reached over the contract for the bonus track, soon WARNER stops the distribution of MON AMOUR. **JAPANDORF** practice and record songs for the possible tour of the album Japandorf at sub-tle. Studio on Mintropstraße Düsseldorf with Kazu, Miki, Nakao and Satoshi.
- 2007 Move Kazu’s digital/analogue Studio to Zeeland to finalise the albums. Record new songs for the album Japandorf , a.o. IMMERMANNSTRASSE, KITTELBACH SYMPHONY, UDON. Overdub, mix VIVA RIMIX 2010, 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 March 21, at full moon on Good Friday, Klaus suddenly passes away in Zeeland, dies of heart attack. Miki is appointed by Klaus to take care of his legacy. Kazu and Miki continue the production to finish the albums in Zeeland. Kazu and Satoshi complete their album sub-tle., released from ONPA, the liner note by Klaus.
- 2009/10 Move studio back to Düsseldorf, Kazu and Miki overdub, mix and finalise last 3 albums

- : VIVA RIMIX 2010 (so far unreleased), pre-JAPANDORF and Japandorf. Miki starts **KLAUS DINGER ARCHIVE**. **NEU!** Vinyl Boxset released from GRÖNLAND and Miki consults together with Michael, Walter and GRÖNLAND the content and design. First official **NEU!** merchandise (www.neu2010.com). Miki launches **Klaus Dinger channel** on YouTube with interviews and video archives. Move out of Lilienthal studio/ Düsseldorf. Kazu moves back to Japan.
- 2011 Miki digitises 16 track tapes with Bodo Staiger (RHEINKLANG STUDIO).
- 2012 The exhibition at Slowboy records Düsseldorf and the photo book "IHR KÖNNT MICH MAL AM ARSCH LECKEN" published by Miki Yui + Slowboy, supported by Kulturstadt / Stadtgeschichte Düsseldorf
- 2013 Release of the album **Klaus Dinger & JAPANDORF** Japandorf from GRÖNLAND. Miki starts klausdinger.com
- 2015 The exhibition at Antiquariat Querido Düsseldorf "69".
- 2016 Renate Dinger dies at the age of 93.
- 2017 Release of the album **pre-JAPANDORF**, 2000! from Grönland.
- 2018 Carhartt WIP x **NEU!** limited edition merchandise. Re-issue **NEU!** 7 inch single SUPER/NEUSCHNEE by GRÖNLAND.
- 2019 Documentary film "The heart is a drum" by Jacob Frössen shown on Swedish TV, screening at Way out West Festival Doc'n Roll Festival London. An edited version of the film "Urvater des Techno" on air on ARTE.
- 2020 "The heart is a drum" screening at International Film Festival Rotterdam and FIPA DOC Festival in Biarritz. Miki consults the limited edition merchandise by Viva Strange Boutique Tokyo x Klaus Dinger Archive
- 2022 50th anniversary of 1st **NEU!** album. Release of **NEU! 50!** Boxset from GRÖNLAND. Miki digitises stereo tapes of **Klaus Dinger Archive** with the help from Detlef Funder and Kai Blankenberg. The exhibition "Dingerland" at Antiquariat Rönnells in Stockholm.
- 2023 The exhibition "Dingerland" at Filmwerkstatt Düsseldorf, with the documentary film "The heart is a drum" German premiere. Miki digitises video tapes with the help from Filmwerkstatt, Restaurationszentrum Düsseldorf, Rolf Neddermann (Timecode) and Harald Tucht.

Biography until 2002 written by Klaus Dinger, edited (/Lines between /) and the biography after 2002 is written by Miki Yui / Klaus Dinger Archive.