

## MARKUS GUENTNER

vita - short

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### englisch

Markus Guentner, born in 1981 in Regensburg, began his musical journey at the age of 13, when he started creating his first mixes on turntables and a mixing console. Just a year later, he began his DJ career in Regensburg's clubs. At 19, he released his first tracks, which gained attention, particularly the "REGENSBURG EP" from 2000 on KOMPAKT, which featured a re-arranged bell recording from the St. Wolfgang Church. Shortly after, he released his debut album "IN MOLL." Numerous contributions followed on the POP AMBIENT series.

In the 2000s, Guentner became a regular DJ worldwide and worked with labels such as Ware, Warner, and Sending Orbs. In 2002, his cover of the Talk Talk classic "Such a Shame" entered the German Dance Charts. He was also part of the "Hildegard Knef - Reform Session" in 2002.

Guentner's music blends various genres and attracted fans such as Sven Väth and the Pet Shop Boys. His track "Express Yourself" was used in the 2015 film *Equals*, which won the "Best Soundtrack" award.

Since 2001, Guentner has also been working on film soundtracks, producing music for short films and projects like the ZDF show *KAVKA*. In 2005, he collaborated with Ivo Watts Russell (4AD) on a rework album for "The Hope Blister" and was involved in the art project "Flashbox." Additionally, in 2006, he co-founded the music collective *SUBLIME e.V.* in Regensburg.

In the 2010s, Guentner's musical style shifted further toward ambient and neo-classical music. Together with Heiko Badje, he founded the atmospheric project *Stareaway* and released another solo album, *SHADOWS OF THE CITY (Moodgadget)*, in 2014. He also worked on music projects for various exhibitions and films. During this time, Guentner began performing more frequently as a live act worldwide (*Substrata/Seattle, Enter./Ibiza, UpToDate/Bialystok*, among others).

His music evolved further with albums such as *THEIA* (2015) and *EMPIRE* (2018), which featured collaborations with artists like Rafael Anton Irisarri, Julia Kent, *bvdub*, and Tom Moth. His 2020 album *GRADIENT SPIRITS* was created as a live improvisation during the pandemic, and his 2021 release *EXTROPY* explored humanity's development through technology, concluding the triptych of his works.

Guentner is known for his consistency in the music scene. In 2023, his solo album *ONDA* was released, along with a collaboration with Joachim Spieth on the album *OVERLAY*. In 2024, he released the album *KONTRAPUNKT*, the 50th release from the label *A STRANGELY ISOLATED PLACE*, which is entirely made up of collaborations (including Abul Mogard, Hollie Kenniff, Arovane, and more).

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"Guentner's debut album is an impressive work of atmospheric electronica, and *In Moll* threads another feather into Kompakt's cap." *IN MOLL Pitchfork* 8.3/10

"Kompakt's ambient pop wunderkind follows the exquisite *In Moll* with more subliminal notes and hyper-sustained synth chords." 1981 *Pitchfork* 7.8/10

"You'd be wise to strap yourself in before undertaking this rather harrowing final journey." *THEIA Textura*

"There's no sign of compromise on *Empire*, no resorting to volume manipulation to evoke scale and majesty, no cheap fade outs or reliance on lengthy stretches of glacially-slowly progressing loops to artificially extend its presence. And damn it is hard to believe that *Empire* is just shy of sixty minutes long! Where in the universe does the time go?" *EMPIRE igloo magazine*

"The beauty and anguish of life, and Guentner manages to encapsulate the drama through a document of iron-grey sonics that are the finest he has given us yet." *ONDA sun13*

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