In 2025, all roads lead to Braga

The programme for the first three months includes names such as Kim Gordon, Kathryn Joseph, Tiago Rodrigues, Kara-Lis Coverdale, among many other shows, participatory actions and exhibitions.

*On 25 January, at the inauguration of the Portuguese Capital of Culture, Mariza, Dino d'Santiago, iolanda and various artistic collectives from Braga will put on a unique show.*

Braga 25 Portuguese Capital of Culture officially opens on the 25th of January, but it starts to reveal itself a week earlier. On the 18th of January, ‘Object Of Projection’ opens, **the first exhibition in Portugal by Kim Gordon**, co-founder of the New York band Sonic Youth. This is a retrospective of the artist's work over the last decade, with special emphasis on her growing series of performative video installations. It is on show until 5 April at gnration.

‘Object Of Projection‘ is a proposal from Cinex, Braga 25’s expanded cinema programming line, which is another highlight of the event's 1st quarter. On March 15th (Theatro Circo), **Kathryn Joseph** presents live the result of a commission from the Portuguese Capital of Culture: the composition and interpretation of a soundtrack for the timeless German cinema classic **‘Faust’, by F.W. Murnau**.

Also in January, starting on the 29th, the **Square festival** departs from Braga to involve the other municipalities of the Urban Quadrilateral (Barcelos, Guimarães, Vila Nova de Famalicão) in a programme that crosses the region's music scenes with emerging artists from Portugal and the countries on the Atlantic coast, with the aim of cementing the creation and export potential of the independent music sector.

At the end of March (29th), another Braga 25 exhibition will open. **Contra-Quiosque** spreads across different parts of the city, revisiting and rehabilitating five disused kiosks, which will be transformed into exhibition spaces. There, the results of the artist residencies that **Emilia Rigová, Hilda de Paulo, Maria Trabulo, Marta Machado and Miguel Teodoro** are carrying out in Braga will be shown alongside private collections and institutional archives from communities that are less represented in the city's history.

Travelling on Braga Urban Transport buses could be a surprise in 2025. The **Trajetos Comunicantes** programme has designed artistic sound installations specifically for these vehicles, which will circulate throughout the Braga municipality from the end of March. The first proposals of the year include works by the radio art collective Mobile Radio (UK), the Brazilian experimental music duo Guache and students from the University of Minho.

As part of the Supracasa creative support programme, **‘O Duelo e Outras Histórias’** (The Duel and Other Stories), a show by **Joana Providência** and Teatro do Bolhão for children and young people (14th and 15th of March) and **‘Hide to Seek’** (22nd of March), a new creation by choreographer **Júlio Cerdeira**, will be presented in the first quarter of Braga 25. Both shows take place at Theatro Circo.

Also in March (15th to 28th), the Tibães Monastery will host a special edition of the **Braga em Risco illustration** festival, which this year, in honour of the Portuguese Capital of Culture, combines drawing with stories, tales and legends.

Braga receives the title of Portuguese Capital of Culture on 25 January, at a ceremony that will take place at Theatro Circo (11:00). At the end of this formal moment, **‘Quimera’** will be premiered, a show that unites the visions of choreographers **Filipa Francisco and Deeogo Oliveira**, playwright **Regina Guimarães** and director **John Romão**. The piece offers a hypnotic experience that combines folkloric groups from Braga with breakdance.

Two other Braga 25 commissions will be presented that day. At 5pm, the **Grupo de Cantares de Mulheres do Minho & the Conservatório de Música Calouste Gulbenkian de Braga** meet; at 6.30pm, Canadian composer **Kara-Lis Coverdale** presents the result of an artistic residency at the pipe organ of the Basílica dos Congregados, where she will combine her reverence for this instrument with the sonic explorations that are more typical of the territory of electronic music, which is also her own.

The Braga 25 Opening Programme runs throughout January 25, anticipating the diversity of artistic proposals that will be presented throughout the year. The opening day culminates with a large multidisciplinary show on Avenida Central (21:00) featuring **Mariza, Dino d'Santiago, iolanda and various artistic collectives from Braga**.

Braga 25's agenda for the first quarter also includes shows from the regular programme of Theatro Circo and gnration, which had already been announced at the end of the year. Tiago Rodrigues (No Yogurt For The Dead, with performances on the 27th and 28th of February), Panda Bear (21st of March) and Mário Laginha (21st of February) will perform at Theatro Circo, celebrating the legacy of Carlos Paredes.

The gnration will also be marking the centenary of the master of Portuguese guitar with a concert featuring Six Organs Of Admittance and Norberto Lobo (14th of February). Griot 3000 (22nd of February) and Tashi Wada (1st of March) will also play at the Braga venue.

The Braga 25 Portuguese Capital of Culture programme is the result of a collaboration between the Municipality of Braga and Faz Cultura - Empresa Municipal de Cultura de Braga. Many of the projects around which the event's programme is structured are the result of the application process for European Capital of Culture 2027, to which is added the reinforced programming of the city's main cultural venues, Theatro Circo and gnration, as well as the different initiatives promoted and supported by the Municipality of Braga throughout the year.

The entire 1st quarter programme can be found at Braga25.pt.