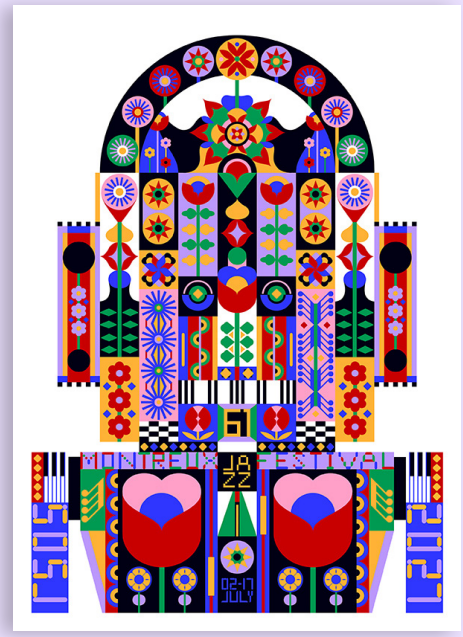
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Montreux, 4 november 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Malika Favre and Kumkum Fernando team up to create the 61st Montreux Jazz Festival poster

Ten years after her first collaboration with the Festival, Malika Favre returns, this time joining forces with Sri Lankan artist Kumkum Fernando. Blending retro-futurist aesthetics with a Flower Power spirit, the poster for the 61st edition celebrates music as a spiritual, sensual and universal experience. Following the legendary collaboration between Keith Haring and Andy Warhol in 1986, this is only the second time in the Festival's history that two artists have worked together to design its poster.



A decade ago, **Malika Favre** created one of the Montreux Jazz Festival's most beloved posters – a strikingly minimalist composition where the shapes of dancers and musical instruments intertwine in an elegant black-and-white optical illusion. It's a poster that continues to be proudly displayed in the homes of music lovers to this day. Over the years, Malika Favre has returned to Montreux several times, and had long dreamed of celebrating the tenth anniversary of her first collaboration with the Festival. The Festival then suggested an idea to her: why not follow in the footsteps of Keith Haring, who teamed up with Andy Warhol to create his second poster in 1986? For Malika Favre, one person immediately came to mind – **Kumkum Fernando**, the Sri Lankan artist known for his monumental works combining retro-futurism with South Asian patterns.

"I fell in love with the Festival from my very first visit in 2017. The poster I created for that edition is one of my favourite pieces of work to this day. I knew it would be hard to surpass, so I wanted to take the opposite approach: a vibrant, colourful creation, as maximalist as the first was minimalist. Kumkum was the perfect artist for this." — Malika Favre

Music as a universal experience

The artwork draws on different eras and influences, from ancient South Asian traditions to retro-futurism and the hippie spirit of the sixties. Malika Favre and Kumkum Fernando set out to create a timeless, almost divine figure, celebrating music as a spiritual and universal experience. Adorned with a rich tapestry of patterns blending floral motifs, folk art and sensuality, this enigmatic figure lies somewhere between a robot, an altar and a jukebox.

"Things fell into place when we noticed the similarities between the shape of certain religious altars and that of a jukebox, which share the same sense of symmetry. From there, we imagined a kind of gateway into a sacred world of music: a timeless entity, part retro-futurist robot, part mythological being, symbolising music as a joyful and universal experience."
– Kumkum Fernando

Flower Power & Summer of Love

In an array of shapes and colours, the flowers bring to mind both Montreux's lakeside promenades and the Flower Power movement of the hippie era. Malika Favre delights in weaving layers of meaning into her creations. Ten years ago, the silhouettes of her dancers revealed musical instruments through the negative space between them. This time, the floral patterns reveal lips, kisses and female faces through the negative space – symbols of love, pleasure and sensuality that are recurring themes in Malika Favre's work. This celebration of the senses, where physical and musical pleasure intertwine, brings to mind a delightful historical coincidence: the Montreux Jazz Festival was born in 1967, in the midst of the Summer of Love, which will celebrate its 60th anniversary next summer.

"I had this vision of music blossoming in Montreux, with the whole town bursting into life during the Festival. I wanted to capture that feeling of pure joy. The world is going through a strange time, and an event like Montreux is an opportunity to come together and celebrate. And then there are flowers, which, much like music, evoke sensuality, an explosion of the senses and pleasure. I love slipping slightly cheeky details into my creations, so I wanted to add this touch of feminine sensuality. When I sent Kumkum my first floral designs, he said: ' Oh yes, that's sexy!' " - Malika Favre

A bespoke vinyl cabinet

From the outset, the idea was to translate the poster's central figure into a three-dimensional object, in keeping with Kumkum's artistic practice. It has therefore been transformed into a bespoke vinyl cabinet, with a compartment for the turntable and drawers for storing records.



A creative legacy since 1967

Since its beginnings, the Montreux Jazz Festival has given Swiss and international artists carte blanche to create its official poster. In 1982, Jean Tinguely left his indelible mark with an artwork that would go on to become the Festival's instantly recognisable logo. Keith Haring followed with three different poster designs in 1983, before joining forces with Andy Warhol in 1986. David Bowie took up the challenge in 1995, followed in more recent years by Yoann Lemoine (Woodkid), Christian Marclay, Lakwena and Kévin Germanier.

The artists

MALIKA FAVRE



French artist and illustrator Malika Favre is renowned for her instantly recognisable style, which has made her one of the most distinctive artists in contemporary illustration. Born in Paris, she spent nearly twenty years in London before settling in Barcelona, where she is currently based. Her work explores the relationship between positive and negative space, combining bold colours, striking geometric forms and a mischievous use of optical illusion. Her visual language, at once minimalist and sensual, has led to collaborations with some of the world's most prestigious publications and brands, including *The New Yorker, Vogue, The New York Times* and *Penguin Books*. Alongside her creative work, she co-founded *The Bazaar*, a platform dedicated to showcasing independent designers, artists and creatives from across the globe. Her first-ever cover for *The New Yorker* was recently chosen as the front cover of the monograph charting a century of the magazine's cover art.

KUMKUM FERNANDO



Kumkum Fernando is a Sri Lankan artist whose work weaves together ancient mythology and imagined futures. Born in Sri Lanka to a father who collected antiques and curiosities, he grew up surrounded by objects, stories and traditions that continue to inspire his artistic practice. Drawing on Sri Lankan heritage, South Asian mythology and Asia's rich visual cultures, he reinterprets traditional forms through vibrant colours, geometric shapes and a futuristic aesthetic. Part ancient idols, part science-fiction characters, his sculptures inhabit a world where the sacred and the fantastical exist side by side. Kumkum is the founder of REBORN, a creative studio exploring the intersection of art, design and traditional craftsmanship through sculpture and collectible objects.

PRESS AREA
www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en/press

PRESS CONTACT
Eduardo Mendez | Press officer
e.mendez@mjf.ch | +41 21 966 45 16