Kris Davis is a critically acclaimed pianist and composer described by The New York Times as a beacon for “deciding where to hear jazz on a given night.” Since 2003, Davis has released 23 recordings as a leader or co-leader. She has collaborated with Terri Lyne Carrington, John Zorn, Craig Taborn, Ingrid Laubrock, Tyshawn Sorey, Tom Rainey, Eric Revis, Stephan Crump and Eric McPherson, among others. In 2019, her album “Diatom Ribbons” was named jazz album of the year by both the New York Times and the NPR Music Jazz Critics Poll. She was also named a 2021 Doris Duke Artist alongside Wayne Shorter and Danilo Perez, 2020 Pianist of the Year by DownBeat magazine, and 2021 Pianist and Composer of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association. In 2016, Davis launched Pyroclastic Records to support artists whose expression expands beyond the commercial sphere. She subsequently formed a nonprofit organization to support the label’s work. In addition, Davis is the Associate Program Director of Creative Development at the Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice. Davis is a Steinway Artist.

When Kris Davis was looking for an image to represent her composition process, the "floating between micro and macro", she found it in the organic shape of diatoms. These incredibly complex, small scale structures which are so beautiful when viewed from above: diatom ribbons. Davis' perfect little rhythmic motifs are just the beginning: they serve as anchors for her fellow musicians, allowing them to drift while at the same time always staying grounded. They let the music flow, store up their energy. The musical backgrounds of Diatom Ribbons: currently one of the most subtle pianists, THE legendary drummer/singer/producer, the diva of the double bass and an exciting young hip hop sound artist explore their common spaces for a tribute project. Kris Davis, Terri Lyne Carrington, Esperanza Spalding and Val Jeanty play for the unforgettable Geri Allen. This collaboration inspired Kris Davis to intensively examine the various influences on her compositional language and to write more specifically for this formation. And the result is indeed organic. A pulse of bizarre samples in endless loops and free-rhythmical, inspired solo parts are layered on top of each other. Above all this, floats the calm of Kris Davis' piano, which probably comes from giving her notes the same importance as she does to pauses. The special atmosphere soon attracted like-minded people, and as a result Davis was able to assemble an intimidating line-up for the recently released album. In addition to Carrington, Spalding and Jeanty, Tony Malaby, Ches Smith, Trevor Dunn, Marc Ribot and Nels Cline also perform on it. For the European tour, Davis reduced the line up to its essentials, which on the one hand benefits the micro-facetted structure of this music and on the other hand its live effect. (Sandra Hupfauf)