

Art in the Underground 2024/25: flexen, flirren, fantasieren – mapping the queer city opens on 28 June



Design: Shortnotice Studio

Art in the Underground 2024/25

flexen, flirren, fantasieren – mapping the queer city

June–September 2025

Opening: 28 June 2025, 5 pm, Bülowstraße subway station

Locations: Nollendorfplatz, Bülowstraße und Schönhauser Allee subway stations (U2)

This year, nGbK once again presents the results of the biannual art competition *Art in the Underground*, this time under the title *flexen, flirren, fantasieren – mapping the queer city*. Five art projects bring performances and billboards to stations along the U2 subway line (Nollendorfplatz, Bülowstraße, Schönhauser Allee). An accompanying online magazine combines artistic content with historical and sociopolitical analysis.

In the main, the cities of Western Europe were designed by white, upper-class, cis men. And although town planning in Eastern Europe took a different turn, its structures were still largely patriarchal. But cities and their inhabitants are complex and diverse. People have different needs and strategies for their use of public space. With this in mind, *flexen, flirren, fantasieren* develops strategies for the use of public space by women, people of color, queer and diasporic people, workers, children, senior citizens and people with disabilities.

The selected works will be shown from June through September 2025 above and below ground at the subway stations **Nollendorfplatz**, **Bülowsstraße** and **Schönhauser Allee** along the U2 line. Works on platform billboards will be activated by regular performances. For the opening on June 28, **Franziska Pierwoss & Siska** will revive the vibrant legacy of the Turkish Bazaar at Bülowsstraße subway station with a live concert. In July **Lola von der Gracht** and **Adrian Marie Blount** will activate their works at all three stations. And in September, works by **Ipek Burçak** and **Nadin Reschke** will be on show at Bülowsstraße and Schönhauser Allee.

This year's edition of Art in the Underground is the first to be accompanied by an online magazine that brings together different perspectives, addressing urban space in a range of ways. The magazine features new and existing texts, videos, and audio works, inviting a succession of artists, writers, and activists to share their viewpoints over the duration of the project. This artistic content will be joined by historical and sociopolitical analyses that underline the intersectional character of the project. The magazine links historical perspectives from East and West Berlin with current issues—especially in the context of the three subway stations along the U2 subway line, which was interrupted during the period when Berlin was a divided city.

Artists: Adrian Marie Blount, Ipek Burçak, Lola von der Gracht, Franziska Pierwoss & Siska, Nadin Reschke

Online magazine with content by: Sara Ahmed, Gürsoy Doğtaş, Mia Göhring, Audre Lorde, Paul B. Preciado, Poligonal, Anh Trieu et al.

Program of events curated by: Marenka Krasomil, Sandra Teitge and Franziska Zahl with Bella Bram and Leticia Oehlgardt

nGBK work group: Yeşim Duman, Lorena Juan, Marenka Krasomil, Sandra Teitge, Franziska Zahl

Current **press images** are available [here](#).

For interview requests please email presse@ngbk.de

Summer program

Soundtrax for a Bazaar

Franziska Pierwoss & Siska

Platform billboards: 6 June–7 July

Bülowsstraße subway station

Concert

28 June, 5–10 pm

Soundtrax for a Bazaar, also known as \$on'ny Music, revives the vibrant legacy of the Turkish Bazaar at Bülowsstraße subway station, a multicultural hub from 1978 to 1991. When the U2 subway line was interrupted due to the division of Berlin, the bazaar emerged on the disused platforms, housing jewelers, bridal boutiques, music cassette stores, and tearooms – a lively meeting point for Berlin's Turkish community. At the heart of the bazaar was the *Gazino*, a venue where musicians tested their talents and visitors gathered for unforgettable nights of live music.

Inspired by this history, the project works with contemporary underground artists who embody Schöneberg's evolving soundscape. Large-format billboards in the station and limited edition cassettes pay tribute to the music tape culture of this period; a free live concert transforms the area beneath the station into a communal celebration. Right opposite the German headquarters of Sony Music, the project addresses the commercialization of music, while reclaiming public space to revive the social and artistic energy that once defined Bülowsstraße as a cultural landmark.

We Are Everywhere

Lola von der Gracht

Platform billboards and floor graphics: 8 July–7 August

Bülowsstrasse and Schönhauser Allee subway stations

Performances:

12 July, 2–5 pm

13 July, 2–5 pm

16 July, 5–8 pm

Bülowsstraße subway station

The project *We Are Everywhere* aims to create visibility and appreciation for the past and present of transgender people in Germany and, simultaneously, to address the challenges they face in public space. It brings to life the history of transgender people between 1899 and 1969 by linking historical figures with real transgender people living in Berlin today. *We Are Everywhere* combines artistic billboards, floor graphics, and performances in the subway station.

Basics of Care

Adrian Marie Blount

Platform billboards: 27 June–31 July

Nollendorfplatz subway station

Performances:

6 July, 5 pm

13 July, 5 pm

26 July, 3 pm

28 July, 1 pm

Through a visual collage made from repurposed images, Blount's billboard encourages those who are on their daily commutes to engage in the recentering of black queer love, softness, and care. It aims to promote the act of fantasizing or imaginary building while existing in spaces that are structurally inaccessible or violent to those with intersecting identities.

Throughout July, subtle durational live activations of love and care between two or more dark-skinned black queer bodies will take place at the Nollendorfplatz subway station. Rather than being conceived of as a spectacle, the work shows that in spite of the politics that seeks to wipe them out, in spite of the worldwide destructive hate of white supremacy, in spite of the propaganda that spreads false narratives promoting their removal, Black people do not disappear, knowing how to love and care for each other.

Further program details are available [here](#).

About Art in the Underground

Originally called "Kunst statt Werbung" (Art Instead of Advertising), the competition was first held in East Berlin in 1958, with entrants asked to submit posters for peace. The works were shown on platform billboards at Alexanderplatz subway station. Whereas many East German institutions were dissolved or renamed after 1989, this competition survived in its original form. Since the early 1990s, neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst (nGbK) has been realizing projects in cooperation with Berlin's Senate Office for Culture under the title "Art in the Underground" with artworks in or near subway stations.

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