

Programme SOFT SOIL I/III:

BESTANDSAUFNAHME

There's no such thing as a city for all (yet)

neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst
Oranienstraße 25, 10999 Berlin

Friday, 14 February 2020, 19:00

Lecture »Racism on the housing market and the question of ›Stadt für alle‹ by Emsal Kılıç (de/en)

The sociologist Emsal Kılıç arrived in 1975 as part of a migrant worker family to Germany and has lived in Berlin since. Her diploma thesis »Discrimination of Migrants on the Housing Market – A Study in Berlin« (2008–2009) attracted attention Germany-wide. Since then, a number of studies have been carried out on the topic and have supported Kılıç's conclusions, most recently a representative survey from the Federal Anti-Discrimination Office, »Racist Discrimination on the Housing Market«. Emsal Kılıç's lecture, which opens SOFT SOIL, will discuss how the city is partitioned and divided out. What communities live where, and what can be done to prevent discrimination on the housing market?

Saturday, 15 February 2020, 14:00

Workshops (run concurrently)

1) »Who the fuck is Pears? Oder: Wem gehört eigentlich mein Haus?« with the Kollektiv Syndikat (de)

Syndikat is a collectively self-organised neighbourhood bar that has existed in Neukölln's Schillerkiez since 1985. In the summer of 2018, Syndikat received an eviction notice, and supporters began the search for the actual figure behind the Luxembourg letterbox company to which the building at Weisestraße 56 belongs – at least on paper. They encountered not only a vast network of dozens of shell companies, but also the beneficiary of the entire construct: Pears Global, until that point a still-undiscovered but major player on the Berlin real estate market.

After creating an overview of the problematic nature of constructs such as Pears Global, Syndikat's research methods will be applied to demonstrate how renters can carry out research on their own building owners.

2) »Rassismus und Ausschluss in Alltagsstrukturen« with Corasol and Solidarity City Berlin (fr/de)

Corasol is a group of people with and without residency status, with and without refugee and migrant experience, which since 2009 fights against racism and white domination in society through structural-political work and mutual support. Solidarity City Berlin exists as a coalition since late 2015, and works towards securing equal participation in the city of Berlin for all people – regardless of their residency status. The coalition works above all in the area of healthcare and access to schools, from which people without residency are de facto almost completely excluded.

The workshop consists of inputs from both groups, and examines the question of the relationship between structural racism and access to living spaces, but also to public spaces. What forms of support exist in order to counteract racist violence and other forms of repression? How might forms of exclusion be reversed?

3) »Stadt für alle – Lause für Alle!« with Lause Lebte e.V. (de)

The occupants of Lausitzer Straße 10 and 11 are a housing community that has grown together over decades, consisting of political and artistic initiatives, NGOs, hand-workers, families and flat-shares. In light of the question of a »Stadt für alle«, Lause stands as an

exemplary example for Berlin's heterogeneity. In 2016, it became apparent that the building was to be sold by Tækker Group for 20 million Euro – representing a 800% increase to the price Tækker Group paid for the property under a Linke-SPD Berlin regime in 2007. Since then, the renters have been defending themselves against their eviction. Kreuzberg is not for sale!

In the workshop, representatives from Lause Lebt e.V. share their experiences and strategies for a »Stadt für Alle«. The first part of the workshop concentrates on political asymmetries, following the question of how internal conflicts can be constructively carried out, and how basic-democratic organising functions. This is followed by a participatory artistic contribution: What are your experiences and ideas? How can we make the Lause – and the city – our own?

In conclusion: Discussion

19:00

Film Program »Menschen im Experiment« with Florian Wüst (de/en)

Social housing, high rents, provisory kindergartens – what was already the norm in 1970 in Berlin's Märkisches Viertel, points towards a broader societal problem: large-scale urban renewal not only affords ruling power relations visibility, but also secures these relations materially.

Through short films and film excerpts, a discussion will take place on historical and present instances of capitalist urban planning, alternative living models, and shared spaces:

»Zur Wohnungsfrage« by Hans Stürm & Nina Stürm (1972, de), »Street 66« by Ayo Akingbade (2018, en), Excerpts from »Der Stoff, aus dem die Träume sind« by Lotte Schreiber & Michael Rieper (2019, de/en)

Sunday, 16 February 2020, 16:00–19:00

Open discussion »Self-organised spaces in the neoliberal city« moderated by Kunstblock and beyond (de/en)

»Freiräume« (»free spaces«) tend to be self-organised spaces: from leftist autonomous spaces, to non-commercial and non-institutional art spaces, urban gardens and caravan parks, to clubs and queer-feminist spaces—and include spaces where PoC groups gather and activists representing migrant perspectives meet.

Such free spaces are currently under a great deal of pressure due to urban upgrading and gentrification. Precisely due to their plurality, groups working within and using different types of free spaces in Berlin very rarely come together. Yet it may be necessary to build stronger networks and coalitions in light of the current urban crisis—but also for other reasons, above all due to the rise of rightwing extremism—work that is currently being done by, among others, #keinhausweniger.

What characterises free spaces, and how might those active in them come together? Who feels welcome in which space, and who not? To what extent should free spaces be protected? How might they be defended, secured, or indeed (again) multiplied?

Moderated by Kunstblock and beyond—a group of artists and cultural workers who position themselves against forced urban displacements—this open exchange is about coming together to discuss the question »What are free spaces?« from various perspectives.

Working in the sense of a practice of solidarity, lines of communication and mutual understanding might be strengthened, in order to work against neoliberalism's divisive effects.