

Kunst im Untergrund 2016/17: Mitte in der Pampa

Accompanying program and education 2017:

Saturday, 8 April 2017

16h

Erection and toppling of the victory column at Place Internationale
(Open land near U5 Cottbusser Platz, Exit Carola-Neher-Str./Auerbacher Ring)

17.30h

Discussion "Soziales Grün – International? Garten? Ausstellung?" with Marco Clausen,
Frauke Hehl, Karin Scheel
station urbaner kulturen

Thursday, 13 April 2017, 19h

Talk ». Kunst, Nachbarschaft und Selbstermächtigung im Stadtviertel« with Margarethe
Makovec and Anton Lederer of Graz (de)
station urbaner kulturen

Saturday, 1 July 2017, 18h

Exhibition: »Ein Wenig Schnee (Bilder vom Stadtrand)« Jihad Issa, Ulrike Küschel and Edgar
Zippel
station urbaner kulturen

The international garden show IGA Berlin 2017 is currently taking place in the outskirts of the city, in Marzahn and Hellersdorf. Yet its advertising campaign uses architecture and fashion models from the city centre. The exhibition counters this attitude and shows pictures of people and roads in Berlin's periphery made by three artists who choose to look very closely at their subject matter on site (until mid-September).

Jihad Issa »Das Gesicht von Hellersdorf«, forty drawings on canvas, 2016-17. Jihad Issa originates from Aleppo and lives in Hellersdorf. Since 2016 he has been making portraits of visitors to the station urbaner kulturen where he has a studio. After the exhibition, he will give the portraits to the sitters as a gift. Jihad Issa's so-called »Portrait Studio« is funded from the Aktionsfonds »Soziale Stadt«.

Ulrike Kuschel »Ein wenig Schnee«, ten photographs, 2001.

In 2001, the artist travelled on the Berlin Underground to the last stations on each line. She took photographs of the surrounding neighbourhoods, capturing places which had remained untouched by the massive urban regeneration programs in the inner city. Her photographs show Berlin from »below«, the city's redundant and marginal places. They provide a stark contrast to the political and national symbolism so prevalent in the inner city. The incidental title »Ein wenig Schnee« (eng. a little snow) refers not only to the remnants of melting snow, but also to marginality and to an alternative way of visualising Berlin.

Edgar Zippel »The Young Europeans: Marzahn-Hellersdorf«, 23 photographs and questionnaires, 2016.

Since 2008 the artist has been photographing young people from Poland, Moldova, Rumania, Iceland, Italy, Portugal, Britain, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Germany in cooperation with the Museum Europäischer Kulturen. The photos in Germany were taken in Marzahn and Hellersdorf. He asked each person he portraited to fill out a questionnaire and answer three questions: What do you want to do? What are you looking forward to? What are you afraid of?

Sunday, 9 July 2017

15-16.30h

Walk and intervention along the IGA fence with »Netzwerk Recht auf StadtNATUR«

Meeting point: 15h, Infozentrum, Hellersdorfer Straße 159, 12619 Berlin

17-19h

Discussion evening »Right to the City? Turn fences into deck chairs!« (de)
station urbaner kulturen

By »Netzwerk Recht auf StadtNATUR« with inputs by Elisa Bertuzzo (Kunsthochschule Weißensee), Katalin Gennburg (Die Linke) and Christiane Bongartz (100% Tempelhofer Feld).

The current period of intense building activity in Berlin is happening at the expense of its green spaces. Not only is green fallow land disappearing lot for lot but also protected green land and parks are being ›squeezed‹ for more efficiency. In recent years, Berlin's Council has been handing over ownership of its parks and green land to the Grün Berlin GmbH. For citizens and environmentalists from the »Recht auf StadtNATUR« network, Grün Berlin's projects (e.g. Park am Gleisdreieck or IGA Berlin 2017) represent an understanding of green space as a tool for tourism and marketing purposes and no longer as an essential provision for residents providing cool air, noise insulation, biodiversity and recreation.

The »Recht auf StadtNATUR« network is researching the legal status of the privatisation of Berlin's green spaces and is developing alternative strategies for their usage. They are demanding a re-communalisation of public green land and bringing resident groups together with artists, politicians and universities.

The »Recht auf StadtNATUR« is a collaboration of various Berlin initiatives who are committed to keeping urban green land in public ownership. Representatives of the initiatives Bürgerinitiative Kienberg-Wuhletal, Bürgerinitiative Fennpfuhl Paul-Zobel-Straße 10 gegen Innenhofverdichtung, Gemeingut in Bürger_innen Hand, Interkulturelle Gärten Berlin, Initiative für den Kiezerhalt Quartier Nördliche Bergmannstraße, 100% Tempelhofer Feld, of the political party Die Linke and of the art project The Middle in Nowhere among others are involved.

Katalin Gennburg (MdA, Die LINKE): The urban researcher and politician will speak about »The Paradox of the Border«. As early as 1988, the french philosopher and sociologist Michel De Certeau defined »The Paradox of the Border« in his book »The Practice of Everyday«: „the theoretical and practical problem of the border is: who owns it?“ With reference to the fence around the international garden show IGA Berlin 2017 and De Certeau's texts, Gennburg will open an inspiring, spacially theoretical debate on the right to „freedom without fences“ in public space.

Christiane Bongartz (Initiative 100% Tempelhofer Feld (Thf)): In 2012, the Berlin Council suddenly decided to move the international garden show IGA Berlin 2017 from its planned location on Tempelhofer Feld to Gärten der Welt and the Kienberg hill in Marzahn-Hellersdorf. This decision further encouraged the 100% Tempelhofer Feld initiative in their resistance to any building on the Feld – not because they agreed with the move to Marzahn-Hellersdorf but because it affirmed their efforts to transform a former airport into a natural landscape, a document of flight history and a recreation ground for the dense neighbouring boroughs and, in doing so, to prevent false speculation with common land. Christiane Bongartz, one of the first initiators of 100% Thf will explain from her perspective how the IGA Berlin 2017 left the ›middle‹ for the ›middle of nowhere‹

Elisa T. Bertuzzo (MA Raumstrategien, Weißensee Kunsthochschule Berlin): Almost 50 years ago, the French philosopher Henri Lefebvre wrote a book that has become almost world famous: »Right to the City« (1968). Today it is referred to not only by activists but also by governments and city administrations. The question arises as to how a Right to the City granted from ›above‹, for example as an obligation to participate, can change deeper social inequalities. Of more interest is Lefebvre's theory in the book that if a centre always presupposes a

periphery, it is firstly the dialectical, tense relationship between these places which can motivate people to radically change social transfers and hierarchies. In her input »Right to the City = Right to the Centre?«, the urban researcher Elisa T. Bertuzzo will discuss how this theory can be applied to the ›centerless‹ and yet ›multi-centered‹ Berlin of today.

Sunday, 15 October 2017, 15-18h

Cricket Festival at Place Internationale

with LaLoka Hellersdorf Cricket vs. The Rest of Berlin and international food

Since May 2017 refugees from Pakistan and Afghanistan have been playing cricket at Place Internationale and have set up an open training session for the neighbourhood in collaboration with AG Kunst im Untergrund. In doing so, they have created an informal Recreation Ground, something new to Germany but found in many other countries. Recreation Grounds are large, freely accessible grass areas for recreation and sport maintained by municipalities and have their origins in Victorian Great Britain's commitment to the human right to health and nature in towns and cities. Cricket is played informally on Recreation Grounds world wide.

There were 50 cricket clubs in Berlin until 1937 when the National Socialist regime's policy of enforced conformity was applied to sports and cricket was forbidden by the NSDAP. Thanks to the influence of refugees, the sport is experiencing a revival in Germany today and in 2017 the national team qualified for the World League.

Thursday, 9 November 2017, 19-20.30h

Reading (In German): various books about the "peaceful revolution" (1989) by Lutz W.R. Reineke

station urbaner kulturen

Friday, 24 November 2017, 19-20.30h

Presentation (In German) "Studio Experimentelles Design" (HFBK Hamburg) with Jesko Fezer and students

Wednesday, 29 November 2017

18.30h

Film »MIETREBELLEN – Widerstand gegen den Ausverkauf der Stadt« (German), 78 min., 2014, by Gertrud Schulte Westenberg & Matthias Coers and afterwards talk with Matthias Coers, Mckinley Black and others

station urbaner kulturen

20.30h

Concert with singer and songwriter Mckinley Black (USA)

station urbaner kulturen