

SOFT SOIL

Event series

I 14 – 16 February 2020

II August 2020

III November 2020

SOFT SOIL is a discursive format with a mobile platform returning to the nGbK in three ›blocks‹ of events, which take place in-between exhibitions. SOFT SOIL describes the ambivalence of the sandy ground Berlin is built on: both the attrition of urban structures through privatisation and speculation, and the malleability of urban space through everyday practices and resistance. The format addresses colonial continuities, and questions relating to the neoliberal transformation of the city since 1990. Additionally, it critically examines the relationship between space and gender relations. Initiatives, researchers, artists and all interested are invited to enter into exchange through discussions, screenings and workshops — in the spirit of solidarity in practice. What ideals shape the production of so-called public space, and what might ›Stadt für alle‹ (›city for all‹) mean?

I/III BESTANDSAUFNAHME

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

14 – 16 February 2020

The extent of urban displacements and the social urgency of the housing question have reached a new climax. Now more than ever, Berlin's cityscape is characterised by new forms of resistance and alliances. Slogans such as ›Stadt für alle‹ (›A City for All‹) und ›Wir bleiben alle‹ (›We're All Staying‹) are part of the fight against neoliberal urban developments that exacerbate marginalisation. Public space is, however, from the outset marked by mechanisms of exclusion. Colonial continuities are present in urban structures, in official processes of memorialisation, but also through racial profiling. PoC (People of Colour) and people with migrant experience have for some time called for urban struggles and the ›Right to the City‹ to be considered from an anticolonial perspective, fundamentally questioning who exactly the ›Stadt für alle‹ is for, and to what extent pre-existing power relations limit activist work. At the same time, networks are forming that seek to overcome capitalist segregation in urban space through solidarity in practice. They produce new forms of urban knowledge and claim their own in-between spaces, whether as a temporary expression of being together, or in the form of permanent structures. Accompanying all this is the question of how art might position itself to work against the ›artwashing‹ of gentrification.

Friday, 14 Februar 2020

19:00

Start: Welcome (de/en*)

Lecture (de*)

»Racism on the housing market and the question of ›Stadt für alle« by Emsal Kılıç

Saturday, 15 Februar 2020

14:00-17:00

Workshops (run concurrently)

Start: Welcome, In conclusion: Discussion

Please register until February 5: softsoil_ngbk@protonmail.com

- »Who the fuck is Pears? Oder: Wem gehört eigentlich mein Haus?« (de*)
with

Kollektiv Syndikat (self-organised local bar)

Topics: »letterbox« companies / the financialisation of housing / research

- »Rassismus und Ausschluss in Alltagsstrukturen« (fr/de)
with Corasol (initiative against racism and for solidarity with refugees) and Solidarity City Berlin (network for the accessibility of public services for all, regardless of residential status)
Topics: structural racism / access to (living) space / strategies of support

- »Stadt für alle – Lause für alle!« (de*)
with Lause Lebt e.V. (Neighbourhood initiative Lausitzer Straße 10 & 11 in Berlin)
Topics: strategies for building a »Stadt für alle« / internal conflicts / grassroots democratic organising

19:00

Film Program with Florian Wüst

»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 Februar 2020

16:00–19:00

Open discussion (de/en*)

»Self-organised spaces in the neoliberal city« moderated by Kunstblock and beyond (network of artists and cultural workers engaged in the struggle against gentrification)

* Whisper translation available upon request

All events take place in the nGbK exhibition space and are free of charge. Further details at: www.ngbk.de

The event blocks II & III for this series take place in August and November 2020.

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