

## Press release

### KGB Art Week opens the autumn art season

**Berlin Municipal Galleries presents the eighth annual KGB Art Week with a varied program highlighting the diversity of Berlin's art scene. Exhibitions, performances, workshops, artist talks, concerts, bicycle tours, walks, and many other opportunities to experience Berlin's vibrant creative areas are happening throughout the city from September 3 – 12 2021.**

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At the heart of KGB Art Week are the **exhibitions and accompanying events in 33 galleries** where more than 250 artists will be showing works from a spectrum of disciplines including painting, graphic art, photography, sculpture, video, installations, as well as sound and performance art. The after-effects and changes wreaked by the pandemic form the focus of artistic research and debate in a number of the exhibitions. "New Normal. Normality and Artistic Work. Tendencies – Processes – Strategies," a group exhibition at Kommunale Galerie Berlin (Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf), for example, features reflections on the effects of the current shifts in artistic practice. At Galerie Wedding – Contemporary Art Space, Isabel Lewis' installation, "A Movement Research Center" and a performance series titled "Movement Research | Testplatz Wedding" explore the transformations of movement and body perception in connection with social and urban changes. Anike Joyce Sadiq and Konstanze Schmitt's "Liebe und Erschöpfung" ("Love and Exhaustion") exhibition at Galerie im Turm (Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg) deals with the consequences of the pandemic for work and love. Other exhibitions focus on themes such as origin and identity. The close historical and current lines of connection between Turkey and Germany are examined in "Bosphorus Studio – Tarabya Cultural Academy 10 Year Anniversary Festival" at Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien. In "Koloniale Fragmente ("Colonial Fragments") at ZAK Centre for Contemporary Art (Spandau), queer visual and performance artist Martin von Ostrowski investigates historical photographs of German colonialism and questions an image culture that facilitated the transmission of colonial culture well into the twentieth century.

**Ten exhibitions open** at Berlin municipal galleries during KGB Art Week. At Schloss Biesdorf (Marzahn-Hellersdorf), for example, "WERTERAUSCHEN" ("Value Exchange"), which deals with the concept of value as an economic, social, and technological construction, opens on September 5. Ecological and social structures play a central role in the transnational and intermedial exhibition dialogue between artists and collectives from Iran, Iraq, and Turkey in "Sandstorm – And Then There Was Dust" at the Galerie im Körnerpark (Neukölln), opening September 3. The exhibition "Hiersein, Being Here, הןאכ תויהל" presents seven contemporary perspectives on German-Jewish urban life, in which individual and critical views of family, place of origin, identity, and Jewish and German history are thematised (from September 5 at Kommunale Galerie Berlin, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf). From September 3, "Dear Käthe" features works by two photo artists, Claudia Balsters and Hannah Goldstein, who deal with the biographies and

works of prominent artists and produce stand-alone photographic works with a sense of conscious appropriation that transforms the ideas of others into the present. (Galerie im Tempelhof Museum).

The supporting program accompanying KGB Art Week complements amazing art experiences with a variety of event formats. One highlight is **KGB Tours**, visitors can ride along with the bike tour between September 3 – 5 or join in on foot on September 4. There are eight bike tour routes through almost all Berlin districts, each taking in between three and five exhibitions. The exhibition visits include guided tours during which gallery directors, curators, and artists present current exhibitions and introduce the program focus. This year, additional walking tours are on offer. Five different walks through Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, Lichtenberg, Mitte, Pankow, and Spandau offer an impression of the neighbourhood and provide a condensed dive into the art activities of the area.

A completely new addition this year is **KGB Young**, 14 workshops aimed at children and young people. Each day, young people can try their hand at art activities including photography, watercolour painting, drawing comics, or sensory art.

The **KGB Theme Evening** on September 8 continues an event series called “Culture in Nervous Times” and is dedicated to the topic of discrimination. With the title “Discrimination-critical artwork in the Berlin’s municipal galleries?” experts, municipal gallery representatives, and art and culture producers discuss questions of inclusion and exclusion in the “art operating system.” The event, held at Gemeinschaftshaus Gropiusstadt, will be livestreamed at [www.kgberlin.net](http://www.kgberlin.net).

**KGB Sounds** is the finale that concludes KGB Art Week on September 12. Three artist bands and an intergalactic duo on wheels perform open-air concerts at various locations. Enjoy the jazz, Afro, and Balkan influenced sounds of getHIGHfiona, the special listening experience with the concept pep offered by Berlin band Kuhratohr, and the combination of nature and animal sounds with rock, pop, and noise. Duo BUBUBUBUBUBU create, play, and transmit universal sounds and music that flow from the heart.

A detailed KGB Art Week 2021 program is available at <http://www.kgberlin.net/>

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