

# Press Release

## Berlin, September 2, 2021

**KW Institute for Contemporary Art announces its anniversary weekend program as part of 30 Years of KW**

**KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V.**, the supporting association of KW Institute for Contemporary Art and the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, celebrates its **30th anniversary** in 2021.

The highlight of the program is the **anniversary weekend** on **September 18 and 19**, with a diverse program of events and performances created in collaboration with **The Performance Agency** and **Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum**, as well as the release of an extensive **publication** about the 30-year history of the institution.



Entrance to Kunst-Werke Berlin, Auguststraße 69, circa 1991; photographer unknown

### 37 Rooms REVISITED

In 1992, Kunst-Werke Berlin marked their second year with **37 Räume** (37 Rooms), whose opening was timed to coincide with that of documenta IX. During the exhibition, a large number of Berlin-based curators, critics and artists showed work at thirty-seven spaces (shops, apartments, galleries) along Auguststraße. In hindsight, *37 Räume* can be seen as a prototype for the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art.

As part of *30 Years of KW*, on September 18 and 19, 2021, the concept of *37 Räume* will once again be explored in the same neighborhood, guiding visitors along the Scheunenviertel to Auguststraße 69. On both days, a performance and music program will be presented here, as well as interventions by the collective Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum, which playfully explore the (archival) structures and founding processes of a contemporary art institution.

In addition to the exhibition and anniversary program, workshops and guided tours will be held on site throughout the day on September 19. **The exhibitions will be open with free admission and extended opening hours on September 18 from 11 am to 9 pm and on September 19 from 11 am to 7 pm.**

#### Saturday, September 18, 11 am–10 pm

On the first day of the anniversary weekend, Krist Gruijthuisen and Pansy will host a musical program. **Berliner Capella**, with guest singers and under the direction of **Sergi Gili Solé**, will perform choral music composed by **Colin Self** in an arrangement designed in collaboration with **Justin Wong**. Three solo string instrumentalists will, on the invitation of **Battle-ax**, perform together in a set of two concerts. A DJ Set by **Eric D. Clark** will lead into the evening, and a live concert by **Peaches & Clusterfuck** will fill up KW's courtyard.

#### Sunday, September 19, 11 am–7 pm

The Sunday offers a varied program with guided tours through the current exhibitions *Zeros and Ones* and Michael Stevenson *Disproof Dies Not Equal Disbelief*, the workshop *Bizarre buildings*, the *Game of Life* by the Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum, and a DJ set by **Chino Amobi**.

Based on the architecture of Café Bravo and other buildings, we will playfully expand and redesign familiar objects in unusual shapes. The workshop ***Bizarre buildings*** will result in small, odd fantasy buildings that will find a new home in KW's courtyard or elsewhere.

In ***Game of Life***, visitors venture through a fictitious life trajectory based on various event-cards which explore questions of identity, community, love, gender, and migration. For KW's 30th anniversary, **Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum** presents an updated version of the game, which was initially created in 2018 as part of the exhibition *A wie Jüdisch*.

#### Saturday & Sunday

Throughout the weekend, the **Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum** invites you to workshops, interactive installations, and an exhibition.

***Back to ME*** is an installation curated by Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum on the occasion of KW's 30th anniversary. The young collective invites you into an interactive space in which visitors can engage with themselves. In this exhibition, the prejudices of others can be separated from your own self-perception. The space offers an intimate atmosphere for self-reflection and can also be a place for silent communication.

Based on the **KW archive** and the first projects of the institution from the early 1990s, the Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum has developed an interactive intervention. The focus is on the photographic slide. Visitors are invited to develop and propose curatorial concepts for their own spaces, accompanied by the Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum. Guided tours, experiments, and performative workshops form the framework for an archive-and-slide workshop for all visitors.

During the anniversary weekend, **Tino Sehgal** will re-stage his work *Kiss*, which he also performed during the 4th Berlin Biennale in 2006. In Café Bravo, designed by Dan Graham, visitors can alternate between the constructed situations *Kiss* and *Instead of allowing some thing to rise up to your face dancing bruce and dan and other things*.

Moreover, visitors can experience the project **Commission Roundabout** conceived by **Albrecht Pischel** with sculptures by **Michaela Melián**, **Olu Oguibe**, **Cibelle Cavalli Bastos**, **Kris Lemsalu Malone & Kyp Malone Lemsalu**, **Raed Yassin**, **Ingo Niermann**, and **Nschotschi Haslinger**, as well as the performance *Conversation Piece II*.

For the **Conversation Piece II**, **The Performance Agency** brings back the 'Hameau de la Reine', the magnified skirt of Marie-Antoinette, in a new outfit designed by **Celeste Burlina**. The ballgown functions as a pavilion for private encounters to take place under the skirt, in the comfort and intimacy of the boudoir. Visitors are invited to meet and hold one-on-one conversations with a series of guests that have been involved with the institution and its histories.

Appointments for conversation slots can be made on [The Performance Agency's website](#) starting on the 1st of September. Walk-ins are welcome!

In reference to the *Salon Kartenrecht*, the members of the **KW Installation Team** show their artistic works in the exhibition 9:9:2. The artist group *Kartenrecht* was founded in the early 2000s by KW Installation Team members, who presented their own exhibitions in a small room on the 3rd floor of KW, called the "Salon". The room has been closed due to fire protection and renovation work. The exhibition 9:9:2, which will take place during the anniversary weekend in KW's front house and at Studio 8 (Grüntaler Str. 8, 13357 Berlin), revives the idea of the *Salon Kartenrecht*.

### 30 Years of KW: Commissions

As part of *30 Years of KW*, three works have been commissioned, and are there for the listening, seeing, feeling and smelling: *Rosa* (2002/2021) by **Susan Philipsz**, *Deutschland wird deutscher* (1993/2021) by **Katharina Sieverding** and *KWOPE\_2021* (2021) by **Sissel Tolaas**.

Above the entrance of KW's courtyard is a trumpet-shaped loudspeaker, which intermittently broadcasts a song titled *Rosa*. The song is a hymn commemorating the German revolutionaries Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, which is often chanted at political demonstrations.

Katharina Sieverding's billboard campaign *Deutschland wird deutscher* was first on view 1993 in Berlin. After the campaign's ban from its initial exhibition in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg, the cultural scene of Berlin seized the opportunity to display Sieverding's work. On the occasion of KW's 30th anniversary, a re-installation of *Deutschland wird deutscher* was on view from April to May 2021 on billboards across Berlin as well as in KW's entranceway.

On the occasion of KW's 30th anniversary, Sissel Tolaas developed an edition of soaps carefully created from recorded and replicated smell molecules she has collected from the building of KW in Auguststraße 69, a former margarine factory.

## Publication

Released on occasion of the anniversary, the first comprehensive **publication about the KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V.** is the fruit of KW fellow **Jenny Dirksen**'s extensive research into the organization's history. It presents selections from the sizable archive of KW and the Berlin Biennale and unfurls a polyphonic institutional history on 496 pages, with essays by Klaus Biesenbach, Jenny Dirksen, Susanne von Falkenhausen, and Jan Verwoert, and a detailed timeline with short texts by Eva Scharrer, an exhibition list, photographs, posters, invitation cards, press responses, and recollections of contemporary observers, friends and associates from three decades.

The publication ***KW, a history***, edited by Klaus Biesenbach, Jenny Dirksen, Krist Gruijthuisen and Gabriele Horn and published by [DISTANZ](#), was made possible as part of the anniversary program of Kunst-Werke e. V. by the support of Volkswagen AG, Ólafur Elíasson, Julia Stoschek, Marina Kellen French Foundation, wissensART, and KW Freunde.

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The **launch of the publication** will take place in the spaces of the publishing house DISTANZ (Hallesches Ufer 78, 10963 Berlin) on **September 16, at 6 pm**. Due to the limited capacity, we kindly ask you to register until September 14 at [info@distanz.de](mailto:info@distanz.de).

For up-to-date information about the **anniversary weekend**, please visit our [website](#). The full 30-year anniversary program can be found [here](#).

We would like to point out that due to the current situation, our premises have limited capacity and ask for your understanding that therefore **no pre-registrations and reservations can be accepted**. For all events, visitors are asked to proof their vaccination status, show a current test, or a proof of recovery upon entry (3G-Regelung). For contact tracking, please use the Luca or Corona-Warn app. We apologize in advance for any waiting times.

**Press Contact**

Natanja v. Stosch  
Tel. +49 30 243459 41  
press@kw-berlin.de

**KW Institute for Contemporary Art**

Auguststraße 69  
10117 Berlin  
www.kw-berlin.de

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The program of the Anniversary Weekend as part of *30 Years of KW* is developed in collaboration with The Performance Agency and Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum. Jugendgremium Schattenmuseum is organised by sideviews e. V. and supported by the PwC-Stiftung. The Performance Agency would like to thank the Kemmler Foundation.



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Titles and dates are subject to change.

In the interest of everyone's safety, we kindly ask you to inform yourselves about the current COVID-19 hygiene measures and precautions when visiting our exhibitions and events.

As of: September 2, 2021