

GALERIE

Raum für zeitgenössische Kunst

WEDDING

SoS (Soft Solidarity) – Assembly

12.11. - 14.11.2020

Live-Streaming Event

from the

Betonhalle – silent green Kulturquartier

Pressemappe / Press Kit

Content

General Press Information
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Presse und Kommunikation SoS

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Galerie Wedding

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Bezirksamt Mitte von Berlin
Amt für Weiterbildung und Kultur
Fachbereich Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte

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General Press Information

Berlin, 11.11.2020

SoS (Soft Solidarity) – Assembly

We Have to Create New Forms of Solidarity.

12.–14.11.2020

Live-Streaming Event from the
Betonhalle of **silent green Kulturquartier**

With **Bini Adamczak** (writer & artist), **Ana Alenso** (artist), **Marwa Arsanios** (artist & filmmaker), **Lynhan Balatbat-Helbock** (curator, SAVVY Contemporary), **BASTA!** (Erwerbsloseninitiative Berlin), **bi'bak** (project space), **Eli Cortiñas** (artist), **Café Cralle** (women's bar collective), **Extinction Rebellion** (Florinn Barreth, environmental movement), **FAU Berlin** (Free Workers' Union Berlin), **Feministische Gesundheitsrecherchegruppe** (Julia Bonn/ Inga Zimprich, artist collective), **Lamin Fofana** (artist & musician), **Jérémy Geeraert** (social scientist & activist/ Medibüro Berlin), **Saraya Gomis** (anti-discrimination expert & board member of EOTO e.v.), **Ayşe Güleç** (writer & activist), **Natascha Sadr Haghighian** (artist), **Hände weg vom Wedding** (activist urban district initiative), **House of Tupamaras** (performance collective), **Yassin al Haj Saleh** (writer), **Julian Irlinger** (artist), **Stine Marie Jacobsen** (artist), **Katja Kajikhina** (health scientist & activist), **Anton Kats** (artist), **Gerhild Komander** (art historian), **Lisette Lagnado & María Berríos** (curators of 11th Berlin Biennale), **Klaus Lederer** (Senator for Culture and Europe in Berlin), **Ewa Majewska** (philosopher), **María do Mar Castro Varela** (political scientist), **MINCO** (musician & DJ), **Ute Müller-Tischler** (Head of Art & Culture Berlin Mitte), **Marina Naprushkina** (artist), **Arlette-Louise Ndakoze** (curator, SAVVY Contemporary), **Seebrücke** (civic movement), **DIE VIELEN** (activist not-for-profit association), **VOCES de Guatemala en Berlín** (migrants' collective Berlin), **Christopher Weickenmeier** (curator), **Sabine Weißler** (district councilor, Berlin Mitte), **YAAR e.v.** (Refugee Assistance for people from Afghanistan), **a.o.**

Moderated by **Alejandro Camacho Díaz, Paz Guevara, Carrie Hampel, Nanna Heidenreich, Zoë Claire Miller, Nastaran Tajeri-Foumani, Margarita Tsomou**

Artistic Intervention by **Rüzgâr Buşki** (Artist & Movie Director)

Visuals by **Anton Kats** (artist) for a sound journey by **MINCO**.

curated and co-moderated by

Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu, Solvej Helweg Ovesen, Kathrin Pohlmann

as part of the two-year exhibition program

Soft Solidarity of Galerie Wedding (2019-20)

Follow the [livestream](#) via **YouTube/ Galerie Wedding**

Press und Communication SoS

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SoS (Soft Solidarity) Assembly is a gathering of local artists and activists groups based on a necessity to exchange ideas, visions and the values of solidarity. From November 12 to 14, 2020, within the framework of SoS (Soft Solidarity), a social and discursive platform is to be created in the context of the two-year exhibition program of the eponymous Galerie Wedding - Space for Contemporary Art (2019-20).

The **SoS (Soft Solidarity) Assembly** serves as an opportunity to consider novel aspects to cultural and creative labour, interconnectedness, ecology and bottom-up approaches to civic and political involvement in order to frame a shared future.

The program of SoS (Soft Solidarity) - Assembly

Thursday, November 12th 2020

Embracing Weaknesses / Degrowth focuses on the dysfunctional and toxic capitalocene life and production forms. As the pandemic led to socio-economic collapses all over Berlin and internationally, to degrow and to embrace the weaknesses in our neighbourhood and own life for degrowth requires a fundamental change in awareness, values and habitus.

Friday, November 13th 2020

New Alliances / New Solidarities highlights the need for different forms of alliance among trans-disciplinary and—cultural networks, communities, NGOs. Which structural insights from the Wedding district's microcosm are applicable to the European society's macrocosm and the other way around?

Saturday, November 14th 2020

Intimacy/ Body/ Spaces raises new questions about the integrity and protection of bodies. What consequences can be drawn from the global pandemic-related "social / physical distancing"? Which spaces are now unsafe and which ones can be rendered safer physically, economically, politically or institutionally?

Complete program: [SoS \(Soft Solidarity\) Assembly](#)

Presse und Kommunikation SoS

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The hosting institution:

Galerie Wedding is located in the Wedding City Hall, has a dynamic curatorial profile and is artistically directed by Solvej Helweg Ovesen. The space and program is mainly known for its in-depth, context-specific solo projects with local artists from all over the world. Challengingly, the spaces of the municipal gallery have been temporarily converted to a social welfare office as part of the pandemic plan of the city hall. In 2020 a double use and juggle of the space has been made; mornings social department, afternoon exhibition space. This is however not sustainable, but a consequence of the membrane position of the exhibition space between local politics and the social collapse happening on the street.

Historically, the surroundings of Galerie Wedding were the scene of the "Red Wedding" labor movement at the beginning of the 20th century, which was a stronghold of the KPD until the National Socialists seized power. Against the background of this history of the neighborhood, we want to meet with artists, thinkers and local grassroots organizations and initiatives to renegotiate the meaning of solidarity for us. Because we are aware we will need each other to create our futures.

All contributions are streamed freely accessible via our website, via Berlin Art Link, and on YouTube: **Livestream**

Further information and the complete program on: **www.galeriewedding.de**

The schedule is subject to potential revisions in accordance with prevailing pandemic regulations. Any updates are published continuously on our website and social media. In order to assure the highest possible level of health precautions for all participants, the production of the Assembly' livestream will take place in strict compliance with existing regulations.

Kindly supported by:

SoS (Soft Solidarity) – Assembly is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Fonds für Spartenoffene Förderung Berlin and is kindly supported by the Department of Art, Culture and History of the District Office Berlin Mitte.

Media partners: taz - die tageszeitung, Berlin Art Link

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SoS Assembly is a gathering of local artists and activist groups as well as a process-based exchange of ideas, sentiments, and values of solidarity, a virtue we consider crucial at this point in time. From **November 12th to 14th November 2020**, a social and discursive platform shall be created at **Betonhalle (silent green)** within the framework of SoS (Soft Solidarity), the eponymous two-year exhibition program at **Galerie Wedding – Space for Contemporary Art (2019-20)**.¹

Inspired by the local history of »Roter Wedding«² (Red Wedding), a worker's movement at the beginning of the 20th century, we want to get together with artists, thinkers and local grassroots organizations and initiatives. In the attempt to open up the fields of art and politics for a local exchange we want to discuss the importance of solidarity.

We choose to call it »Soft Solidarity«- a soft solidarity that would reconfigure power beyond cultural differences and authoritarian leadership. What characterizes Wedding today is a post-industrial and post-migrant population and their current needs to recap or redefine the commons in this city-part.

»If we want a change, we need new alliances. We invite you to create these coalitions now, to launch an offensive together.«

»For a new social offensive. Solidarity for all«, Interventionist Left, 2016³

Based on the eventful local history of Wedding and global historical events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Arab Spring and the Syrian War which led to intensified cycles of migration towards Germany and the EU, we raise the issue of the democratization of the term solidarity – who can show solidarity with whom, under which circumstances? Given the current pandemic, we are inviting you to collectively reflect on decelerated living, authoritarianism, social immunity and new cultural economies towards building new trans-local alliances in order to create the caring life we want to live on this planet with other beings. The inequalities and dysfunctions revealed by the pandemic will keep us on our toes for a very long time.

We want to start off in our own neighbourhood by addressing crucial questions such as: Who or what makes Wedding »red« today? What does it mean to be integrated or not in this heterogeneous district? Are we investing enough, socially and financially, in every human being who lives here without leaving anyone behind in this Covid-19 generated crisis? Which stories emerge, are told and still have to be told in this context? How do we exercise solidarity, online and/or on the streets? As the population of Berlin keeps on transforming, what do we know about the histories of other political subjectivities rooted in our local environment? Will we come closer to each other?

1 SoS (Soft Solidarity) – developed by the curatorial team Nataša Ilić and Solvej Helweg Ovesen – aims to further develop this now distinctive cultural location in Berlin and to try to connect and negotiate a variety of the most pressing problems of our present through the idea of solidarity.

2 On May 1st 1929, bloody clashes between the Social Democratic-led police and demonstrating Communists took place in Berlin's working-class districts, especially in Wedding, leaving 32 dead and 250 injured. The cause had been the ban on street demonstrations, although the KPD did not want to be deprived of the right to demonstrate on May 1st. »Roter Wedding« was a song of the workers movement and was originally performed by the Agitprop Group »Der rote Wedding«. The melody was composed by Hanns Eisler, and the text written by Erich Weinert. »Left, Left. Left - the red Wedding is marching!«, was the sound of the paroles in the 1930s. Commieball: Unofficial Anthem of the Red Front. (2018) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXI-52c611i8>.

3 Interventionistische Linke. Für eine neue soziale Offensive. (2016) <https://interventionistische-linke.org/en/beitrag/fuer-eine-neue-soziale-offensive-solidarity-for-all> (own translation).

SoS (Soft Solidarity) Assembly

We Have to Create
New Forms of Solidarity.

Text: Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu,
Solvej Helweg Ovesen,
Kathrin Pohlmann

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What does the closure of national borders in order to contain the virus mean for the future of the EU and its significance as a solidarity-based community?

The Galerie Wedding exhibition space was immediately converted into a public contact point for basic social security by the authorities of the City of Berlin due to Covid-19 measures. What are the long-term consequences of what we go through right now for the art and culture infrastructure/economy in Berlin? How can we rethink cultural, political and civil alliances in general starting from the independent scene Galerie Wedding is part of? In the end, how can we build a new social and political immune system that makes us more resilient in the face of the changes caused by the illnesses of our time?

»Unlearning is essential in order to emphasize the degree of our implication in institutionalized imperial violence through different facets of »good« liberal citizenship designed to protect the differential principle on which citizenship is predicated: conceiving of art and museums as a sign of progress, caring for the preservation of the past by saving documents, rescuing endangered cultures, feeling compassion for and expressing the solidarity with people living in poverty as though they are dwellers of other planets, supporting reform initiatives for the victims of the regimes under which citizens are ruled, and endorsing progressive social projects aimed at »improving lives« in other places by enabling their inhabitants to benefit from seemingly advanced and transparent institutions for managing populations, debts, and cultural traditions.

Ariella Aïsha Azoulay, 2019⁴

Through SoS Assembly we would like to look at the present as a possibility for transitions and peaceful revolutions, which change habits and socio-economic systems. We hear many voices saying that they do not want to go back to the way things were before the Covid-19 crisis. Therefore, we would like to ask the participants of SoS Assembly what changes they wish to see as a result of the current pandemic. What should emerge from the experiences and developments in our every-day behaviour during this crisis – i.a. in terms of resource exhaustion, consumption and ecological awareness? What kind of new alliances do we need to create to flatten the curve of privileges? How can we help to strengthen the structures of care for the elderly, sick, homeless, refugees?

»There is no reason why one shouldn't be able to imagine Syrians, or Palestinians, or Kurds, expressing solidarity with the victims of a political or natural catastrophe in Western countries. Yet the direction of solidarity seems almost always to be the contrary; it is those in affluent, powerful, Western nations who express solidarity with troubled countries elsewhere, and the political misfortunes faced by their peoples, or certain groups of them.«

Yassin al-Haj Saleh, 2018⁵

This public chapter of the SoS (Soft Solidarity) programme is devoted to the design and criticism of collective spaces and groupings in public space as well as collective actions and shared impulses of collective memory. Our goal is to trigger a stronger network among the various participating agents such as creative locals and collectives,

4 Ariella Aïsha Azoulay. Potential History: Unlearning Imperialism (2019). London: Verso Books.

5 Yassin al-Haj Saleh. A critique of Solidarity (2018) <https://www.aljumhuriya.net/en/content/critique-solidarity>.

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new and old neighbourhoods, temporary groups and allies who come to Berlin to create a heterogeneous sense of belonging rooted in Wedding, Moabit and Mitte – but also culturally in the plurivocal local diaspora.

Text: Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu, Solvej Helweg Ovesen, Kathrin Pohlmann

Berlin, 2020

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Biographies

Curators and Co-Moderators of SoS (Soft Solidarity) Assembly

Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu is part of the SoS (Soft Solidarity) – Assembly team, visiting professor at the Graduate School at UDK, a curator, writer and educator living in Berlin. Her interests lie in the intersection of contemporary art, politics, critical and gender theory and popular culture. As a curator, she acts between exhibition making and public programming, singular languages and collective energies, material and immaterial abstractions, worldly immersions and political cosmologies.

Solvej Helweg Ovesen obtained her MA in Arts & Cultural Studies from Copenhagen University and completed the De Appel Curatorial Training Program in Amsterdam in 2003. Since 2015 she is artistic director of Galerie Wedding - Raum für Zeitgenössische Kunst in Berlin where she co-curated the exhibition series Post-Otherness Wedding (2015–16) and Unsustainable Privileges (2017–18) with Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung. 2019-20 she co-curates the programme Soft-Solidarity in Galerie Wedding with Natasa Ilic and Övül Durmuşoğlu. Ovesen is currently the curator of the interdisciplinary and electronic music stage Ambereum at the Roskilde Festival until 2021.

Kathrin Pohlmann is a production manager, activist, curator and collectively working artist. Since 2014 she is producing exhibitions at Galerie Wedding and in other places. 2003-18 she was part of the artists collective VIP, with Harry Hachmeister & Lysann Buschbeck. Besides interdisciplinary formats in the art, e.g. "die bedingungslose akademie" with author Donata Rigg, P. is involved in the activist field: In 2018 she spontaneously founded the collaboration Artists Care About Bridges (ACAB) together with artist Anne Duk Hee Jordan & curator Pauline Doutrelouingne to collect donations for the organization Seebrücke.

Artistic Intervention

Rüzgâr Buşki is an artist, director and producer from Istanbul based in Berlin.

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Thursday, 14th November**Embracing Weaknesses/ Degrowth**

focuses on the dysfunctional and toxic capitalocene life and production forms that appeared as weaknesses in our society as the pandemic led to socio-economic collapses all over Berlin and internationally. Measures of degrowth need to replace existing dogmas of expansion and growth! Degrowth is an economic and social temperament that encourages economic and productive deceleration. To degrow and to embrace the weaknesses in our neighbourhood and own life requires a fundamental change in awareness, values and habitus.

14.30

(GER/ENG)

Welcome

Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu, Ute Müller-Tischler, Solvej Helweg Ovesen, Kathrin Pohlmann

Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu is part of the SoS (Soft Solidarity) – Assembly team, visiting professor at the Graduate School at UDK, a curator, writer and educator living in Berlin. Her interests lie in the intersection of contemporary art, politics, critical and gender theory and popular culture. As a curator, she acts between exhibition making and public programming, singular languages and collective energies, material and immaterial abstractions, worldly immersions and political cosmologies.

Ute Müller-Tischler studied and received her doctorate at the Humboldt University of Berlin in the field of Art studies and aesthetics. Until 2002 she was the curator and artistic director of Galerie im Parkhaus Berlin and at the Kunst- und Medienzentrum. Together with Gerrit Gohlke she directed the Brandenburg Art Association Potsdam (2005 - 2007). From 2002 to 2012 she was the head of the cultural office in Berlin Lichtenberg and today she heads the Department of Art, Culture and History in Berlin-Mitte.

She is a member of the art advisory committee of the Senator for Culture and Europe.

Solvej Helweg Ovesen obtained her MA in Arts & Cultural Studies from Copenhagen University and completed the De Appel Curatorial Training Program in Amsterdam in 2003. Since 2015 she is artistic director of Galerie Wedding - Raum für Zeitgenössische Kunst in Berlin where she co-curated the exhibition series Post-Otherness Wedding (2015–16) and Unsustainable Privileges (2017–18) with Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung. 2019-20 she co-curates the programme Soft-Solidarity in Galerie Wedding with Natasa Ilic and Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu. Ovesen is currently the curator of the interdisciplinary and electronic music stage Ambereum at the Roskilde Festival until 2021.

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15.00 – 15.45

(GER)

Lecture

The Red Wedding

Gerhild Komander

Rote Wedding wrote one of the most famous chapters in Berlin history. The history of Red Wedding begins as early as the 19th century and covers the entire area of Wedding that was built up at that time: the SPD's voter potential lived there.

Gerhild H. M. Komander, art historian and historian, works as a scientific author, publicist, lecturer and tour guide. Her publications currently focus on Berlin art history, history and topography, and the history of women. As an expert for Berlin and Brandenburg, she organizes topographical, women's history and architectural history city tours.

16.00 – 16.45

(GER)

Lecture

Or Solidarity

Bini Adamczak

The real atmosphere of solidarity in life is not the togetherness of I and you, which is the home of most ethics and moral theories, but the threesomeness, fourfold, multiplicity of a more extravagant context.

Bini Adamczak (Berlin) works as a philosopher and artist. Most recently she published “Der schönste Tag im Leben des Alexander Berkman. Vom möglichen Gelingen der Russischen Revolution” (2017, “The Most Beautiful Day in Alexander Berkman’s Life. On the Possible Success of the Russian Revolution”) in the edition assemblage and “Beziehungsweise Revolution. 1917, 1968 und kommende” (2017, “Or Rather Revolution. 1917, 1968 and coming”) in the edition suhrkamp.

17.00 – 17.45

(ENG)

Lecture

Convention of Women Farmers and Ecological Feminists**Marwa Arsanios**

Taking the convention that happened in June 2019 in the context of the Warsaw Biennial as a starting point, I would like to question the potential and limits of setting up such a project in an art context. How to maintain alliances and what to do beyond knowledge exchange and transmission?

Marwa Arsanios is an artist, filmmaker and researcher. She is currently completing her phd in practice at the Akademie der Bildenden Kunst in Vienna, and is a tutor at the Dutch Art Institute. She is one of the co-founders of 98weeks research project in Beirut (2007-2017)

18.00 - 18.45

(ENG)

Lecture

keeping oneself knotted**Natascha Sadr Haghghian**

Elizabeth Povinelli refers to collectivity as a knot and she points at the straining forces that decapacitate ones ability to keep oneself knotted. How to knot, how to keep oneself knotted -to think and form self-organized collectivity- is a central question of this talk. Taking artistis practice as a point of departure it asks: What are the straining forces that untie the knots and why are certain spaces better in maintaining forms of collectivity?

Natascha Sadr Haghghian (*1967 in Zurich) studied stage and costume design at the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin from 1989 to 1995 with Dieter Schnebel (music theater, Fluxus) and Maria Vedder (electronic stage design and video), among others. Since 2002 she has been working with various Berlin video artists, composers and sound artists and has also developed a series of solo performances. Sadr Haghghian received scholarships in Basel (2003) and at NADINE - Center for Performance and New Media in Brussels (2004). Her works have been shown in Berlin, Hanover, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Paris, Brussels, Rome and Buenos Aires.

Moderation

Nanna Heidenreich

Nanna Heidenreich is a professor and independent curator. Curently she is teaching Transcultural Studies at the University of Applied Art in Vienna. Most

recently she curated "Hotspots. Migration and the Sea" for the Academy of the Arts of the World in Cologne (2019). Until 2017 she was curator for the Berlinale program Forum Expanded and between 2015 and 2017 she has worked with the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (hkw) in Berlin on projects on the nation state, migration and the politics of listening. She has published widely on migration, visual culture, postcolonial media theory, art and activism, queer theory.

18.45 - 19.30

BREAK

19.30 – 20.45

(GER)

Panel

How to bridge the Distances: Strategies of Solidarity in Times of Need

Ana Alenso, Eli Cortiñas, VOCES de Guatemala en Berlín

Moderation

Paz Guevara

Ana Alenso's artistic work in the fields of sculpture, photography, installation, sound and video aims to show the global ecological, social and economic risks and consequences of extractivist practices. Through the use of industrial materials, her work identifies critical states - situations of precariousness and tension - in a poetic register.

Eli Cortiñas is a video artist of Cuban descent, born in the Canary Islands. Her work has been exhibited in numerous institutions such as Museum Ludwig, Kunsthalle Budapest, SCHIRN Kunsthalle, SAVVY Contemporary, Museum Marta Herford, Kunstraum Innsbruck, Centre Georges Pompidou, Museum of Modern Art Moscow, CAC Vilnius, Kunstmuseum Bonn and Pinakothek der Moderne et al. Her artistic practice can be located within the appropriation tradition, using already existing cinema to de- and reconstruct identities as well as narratives according to feminist and anti hegemonic discourses.

VOCES de Guatemala en Berlín is a political collective of migrants from Guatemala living in Berlin. With conversations and political-artistic actions, we try to weave connections between struggles here and there. Our path towards a migrant civil society is accompanied by various activists whose endeavours we support.

Paz Guevara is a curator, researcher and author. She works at Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin on the long-term project "Kanon-Fragen" that questions dominant cultural narratives, where she curated exhibitions and conferences, and contributed to the exhibition "Past Disquiet" with research on South American artists and museums involved in the solidarity movement.

21.00 – 21.30

(ESP/DE)

In conversation with

House of Tupamaras

Moderation

Alejandro Camacho Díaz

We are an interdisciplinary collective dedicated to the practice, circulation, and management of Ballroom and Voguing culture in Colombia. We generate safe spaces of encounter for the free development of the body and the genre. Taking elements of the dance, the performance and the visual arts, we develop scenic pieces that are interrogated by the differences or similarities between the contemporary art and the spectacle, we transit by conventional scenes and non habitual spaces in the circulation of the alive arts.

The queer video journalist **Alejandro Camacho Díaz** runs the blog THE PINK POST. His investigations focuses on the repoliticization of the LGBTIQ+ community. His work is defined as anti-capitalist, anti-colonialist, trans-feminist, environmentalist and queer political. He regularly collaborates with the organisations Enough is Enough! and Love Lasers in the creation of multimedia content such as video interviews and social media campaigns.

Live Translation

Wayra Schübel**21.30 – 22.00**

Performance

No Borders For My Hottie Hips**House of Tupamaras****(Jona Tamara, Honey Vergony, Pussy Diva)**

Support networks among artists in times of crisis. Diverse traveling bodies spread fag energy by stimulating bio-power through movement. Proposing encounters and bodily experiences with inhabitants of different territories and thus conspiring between migrants and international allies to provoke ruptures in patriarchal structures and destabilize ideological apparatuses of homogenization. Our languages of movement are Voguing Merengue, Decolonizing Pereo and Experimental Dance.

Friday, 13th November**NEW ALLIANCES/ NEW SOLIDARITIES**

talks about the need of transdisciplinary and transcultural networks, communities, NGOs, and thus revived alliances in times of system change. Artists, audiences, activists and cultural practitioners working collectively will come together to acquaint, locate needs for collaborative organization and possibility to form new alliances. Which structural insights from the microcosm of the district of Wedding are applicable to the macrocosm of European society and the other way around? Which notions of diversity and integration need to be deconstructed in order to recompose them - and how can we support each other in the future, taking the meeting as a starting point? Who can solidize with whom?

12.00 – 13.30

(GER)

Panel

Solidarity is our Practice**Strategies of Self-organisation and Solidarity in Wedding**

BASTA!, Cralle Kollektiv, FAU Berlin, Hände weg vom Wedding, YAAR e.v.

Moderation

Carrie Hampel, Kathrin Pohlmann

A moderated exchange with local initiatives & self-organized collectives from Berlin Wedding about the continuous struggle against exploitation, exclusion and discrimination within existing and (not only due to the pandemic) worsening social inequalities and structures. How can and must we organize heterogeneous solidarity networks and practices in order to bring about social change together through the targeted empowerment of marginalized subjects and groups and to overcome and/or even abolish patriarchal, capitalist and discriminatory structures.

Who are we?

We are the unemployment initiative **Basta!** We are a group of people with low income. We advise and accompany ourselves in case of problems with public offices. Solidarity is our practice. Together we strive to eliminate inequalities.

The women* pub collective '**Café Cralle**' in Wedding emerged from the Women's Movement and was founded in 1977 and is organized in collective self-administration. It is an explicitly political place for networking, relaxation and celebration. Love, liquor and revolution!

The Freie Arbeiterinnen- und Arbeiter-Union (FAU) Berlin is a basic trade union. A central component of its self-image is solidarity. The FAU relies on the quick mobilization of its members and thus contradicts - in a practical way - the logic of capitalist competition.

Hände weg vom Wedding ("Hands off Wedding") is a left-wing neighbourhood group in the north of Berlin. Since 2012 we have been organizing against the sell-out of Wedding and other social grievances in our neighborhood. Currently we are working on the following topics: exorbitant rents, feminism, labor struggles and anti-fascism.

YAAR e.V. is an association of friends, who have been involved in helping refugees from Afghanistan on a voluntary basis since 2012, and since 2016 through grants. Yaar is Persian and has many meanings. In various cultures and languages, from today's Turkey to the Indian subcontinent, the term is used as a synonym for a special and kind person.

Carrie Hampel is a journalist, writer and interdisciplinary artist. In 2017-18 Carrie conducted extensive statistical research and vox-populi interviews in Wedding, revealing high levels of felt solidarity and the common experience of statistically evident socio-economic disadvantage.

14.00 – 14.45

(ENG)

Lecture

Weak resistance as soft solidarity. A feminist view.

Ewa Majewska

The soft solidarity can perhaps be seen as a version of what I earlier called „weak resistance“. Refusing easy associations with the hegemonic, heroic versions of political solidarity, its softness emphasizes the other versions of agency, those focusing on the everyday, common, caring and shared by many.

Dr Ewa Majewska – is a feminist philosopher and activist, living in Warsaw, lecturer at the Art Academy in Szczecin. She was a visiting fellow at the University of California, Berkeley; ICI Berlin and IWM in Vienna. She published four books and some 50 articles and essays, in journals, magazines and collected volumes, including: e-flux, Third Text, Journal of Utopian Studies

15.00 – 15.45

(ENG)

Lecture

Politicized and Depoliticized Solidarity

Yassin Al Haj Saleh

We are in a global crisis, one of loss of direction. Our problems, environmental degradation, pandemics, the Islamic Question and many others, are global and we are not dealing with them as such. A global society is the right response to the

situation. Solidarity can be a power for imagining new society/societies. We need a critique of the present forms of solidarity for us to develop new ones.

Yassin Al Haj Saleh was a political prisoner between 1980 and 1996 for being a member in a communist party opposing the regime of Hafez Assad. A journalist, writing in newspapers and magazines in the Arab World (never in Syria). The author of 7 books in Arabic, whose topics are: Syria, Jail, contemporary Islam, culture and intellectuals, the Syrian revolution.

15.45 - 17.00

BREAK

17.00

(GER)

Introduction

Sabine Weifler

Sabine Weifler studied political science and art history in Heidelberg and Berlin. In 1991 she became the Head of the Steglitz Art Office and from 2001 to 2011 Head of the Culture and Library Office in the district of Steglitz-Zehlendorf. Since 2011 she is the district councillor for further education, culture, environment and Nature conservation, and since 2016 also for streets and green spaces in the Mitte district office of Berlin.

17.15 – 18.45

(GER)

Panel

From System Relevance to System Criticism: Artistic Solidarities

Lynhan Balatbat-Helbock, bi'bak, Klaus Lederer, Marina Naprushkina, Solvej Helweg Ovesen, Christopher Weickenmeier

Moderation

Zoë Claire Miller

What are we doing to mitigate the long-term consequences of the Corona crisis for cultural workers? Currently, shopping malls and commercial art galleries are allowed to stay open, but museums and municipal galleries are not - why not the other way around? What could a bottom-up plan of the different exhibition spaces in Berlin and Wedding look like? And what could a cultural policy plan for the immediate future of the visual arts in Berlin look like? How could the city and initiatives like the SoS Assembly continue to work together to develop near future-oriented and system-critical visions - beyond the pandemic? How do we establish/maintain art as systemically relevant and how do we preserve the basic right to freedom of speech and art?

Lynhan Balatbat-Helbock is a curator and researcher at SAVVY Contemporary where she is part of the participatory archive project Colonial Neighbours. She received her MA in Postcolonial Cultures and Global Policy at Goldsmiths University of London. In her work within the permanent collection of SAVVY Contemporary she looks for colonial traces that are manifested in our present.

bi'bak (Turkish: Look) is a project space based in Berlin-Wedding, focusing on transnational narratives, migration, global mobility and its aesthetic dimensions. bi'bak's interdisciplinary program operates at the interface of art, science and community and includes film screenings and exhibitions, workshops as well as musical and culinary excursions.

Klaus Lederer (Senator for Culture and Europe): I have one of the best jobs Berlin has to offer. And I mean it! We are fighting for cultural spaces and diversity, for more offers especially for younger people, and easier access for everyone to all forms of art and culture. We stand for minimum social standards - before, on and behind the stages, the galleries and studios, because art is work.

Marina Naprushkina (born in Minsk, Belarus) works mostly outside institutional spaces, in collaboration with communities and activist organizations. In 2007 Naprushkina founded the Office for Antipropaganda - a platform for artistic and activist activities dealing with the topic of political propaganda. In 2013 she initiated Neue Nachbarschaft/Moabit in Berlin.

Christopher Weickenmeier is the artistic director of Klosterruine Berlin. He has collaborated with i.a. Ariel Efraim Ashbel, Beth Collar, Natalie Czech, Johanna Hedva, Catalina Insignares, Magdalena M. Los, Raimundas Malašauskas, Luzie Meyer, Mårten Spangberg, Anna M. Szaflarski, Sung Tieu, Else Tunemyr and Mirjam Thomann. He is currently interested in negative affects, messy performance and weak exhibitions.

Zoë Claire Miller lives and works in Berlin as an artist and organizer. She founded the Society for Matriarchal World Domination in 2019, co-founded the Berlin Art Prize in 2013, and has been a spokesperson for the bbk berlin (professional association of visual artists) since 2016. She was nominated for the Hans Purrmann prize in 2020, and regularly exhibits in Germany and abroad.

18.45 - 19.15

BREAK

19.15 – 19.45

Presentation

(GER)

The Parliaments Of Many

Philine Rinnert, Raul Walch/ DIE VIELEN

Die VIELEN is an alliance of artists and art institutions that is committed to an open, diverse society, to artistic freedom and against right-wing agitation. Their new campaign for the 2021 elections raises the question of the future of democracy: with an election for those who are not allowed to vote.

Philine Rinnert studied stage design at UDK Berlin and Theatre Academy of St Petersburg. She is working as a freelance stage designer and artist for different directors and international theatres. Beside her theatre work she is realizing site specific projects and installations. She was cofunder of the initiative DIE VIELEN.

Raul Walch is a visual artist living and working in Berlin. He studied Sculpture at Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weißensee and in Olafur Eliasson's class at UDK Berlin. He has exhibited internationally. Walch is a board member of the initiative DIE VIELEN e.V. and the Berlin artists' association, bbk.

20.00 – 22.00

Listening Session

A sound journey by **MINCO**

with Visuals by **Anton Kats**

MINCO IS NOT WHAT I AM, MINCO IS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS!

MINCO's music is characterized by percussive energy and dynamic grooves. MINCO's enthusiasm generates an overwhelming infectious jollity in her sets. Hearing and seeing MINCO perform is a unique experience, resembling a danceable voyage into the inner self, accompanied by a strong, soulful sensation.

MINCO is an international DJ from Berlin. MINCO's taste and choices are influenced by the legacy of her African roots. Her sets emerge through the relationship between the spontaneous inner child and technically precise and seasoned musician. Her eclectic taste and House Music sets "with a twist" has made her an in-demand act touring across Europe, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East.

Saturday, 14th November**INTIMACY/ BODY/ SPACES**

raises new questions about the integrity and protection of bodies. What consequences and insights can be drawn from the global pandemic-related "social / physical distancing"? What spaces are now unsafe and which ones are safer physically, economically, politically or institutionally? This program aims to grasp and raise awareness of the body in the political and public sphere as well as to map the zones of its neglect. Can we accept the unsafety of life in general and create more safety and intimacy for each other at the same time?

11.00 – 12.30

(GER)

Guided city tour, max. 20 persons, RSVP

Meeting point in front of the concrete hall in silent green

The Wedding: From Village to City District**Gerhild Komander**In the end: **Meeting with Julian Irlinger** in front of the **Galerie Wedding****13.00 – 14.30**

(GER)

Guided city tour, max. 20 persons, RSVP

Meeting point in front of Galerie Wedding

The Wedding: From Village to City District**Gerhild Komander**At the beginning: Meeting with **Marina Naprushkina** in front of**Galerie Wedding**

Around the year 1200, the village of Wedding - and later the estate - was situated between Panke and Müllerstraße. Garden colonies emerged around Plantagenstraße. With Berlin's mechanical engineering industry, Wedding developed into a large city with dense development: in 1925, it received the city hall on Leopoldplatz.

Throughout **Julian Irlinger's** practice, he negotiates institutions and the politics of the image as they relate to the writing of history and artistic production. He researches and presents materials, investigating their economic and social value. His work was shown in Germany and abroad

13.00 – 13.45

(GER)

Lecture

Mostly questions - Shared [outer] space[s], understanding and appreciation**Saraya Gomis****Saraya Gomis**, learns and teaches and is a member of EOTO e.V.**14.00 – 14.45**

(GER)

Lecture

Solidarity and Polemics. The art to disagree**María do Mar Castro Varela**

Today, we no longer understand how important it is to study practices that channel differences. We, who believe in a more just world and are working for an epistemological change, should perhaps think about possibilities of a well-tempered dispute and enable people to present their arguments without despising the 'other'.

María do Mar Castro Varela is a professor of Pedagogy and Social Work in Berlin and holds a degree in Psychology and Pedagogy and a Ph.D. in Political Science. Her research interests lie in Postcolonial Theory, Gender and Queer Studies, Critical Migration Studies, Critical (Adult-)Education and Trauma Studies.

15.00 – 15.45

(GER)

Lecture

Ayse Gülec

Moderation

Margarita Tsomou

Prof. Dr. Margarita Tsomou is an author, dramaturge, curator and professor in Berlin. She co-publishes the pop-feminist Missy Magazine, is curator of Theory and Discourse at "HAU Hebbel am Ufer" in Berlin and Professor of Contemporary Theater at "Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences." Recent curatorial works "Burning Futures: On ecologies of existence" at HAU; the "Apatride Society, Parliament of Bodies", Documenta 14.

15.45 - 17.00**BREAK**

17.00 – 18.15

(GER)

Panel

On Being Excluded**On EXCLUSION and the Call for Solidarity****Dr. Jérémy Geeraert, Katja Kajikhina, Arlette-Louise Ndakoze,
Seebrücke**

Moderation

Nastaran Tajeri Foumani

What does it mean to be excluded from supply and health care systems? Where are the connections between structural discrimination/racism and illness/death? Why do so-called "open" and democratic societies criminalize sea rescuers and refugees? Which resistant strategies are developing despite or because of the crisis/s? Do we need new concepts of solidarity and protest that move beyond white discourses and hegemonic knowledge structures of the so-called "global North"? How can the singularity of the body/subject and its vulnerability become the object of new forms of knowledge beyond the rhetoric of a class society that relies on exclusion? What do we need to stop deadly social structures and policies?

Dr. Jérémy Geeraert is a social scientist at the Institute for European Ethnology at Humboldt University. His research focuses on access to health care, migration and the health system. In addition to his scientific activities, he has been active at Medibüro Berlin since 2017.

Katja Kajikhina is a scientist in the Department of Social Determinants of Health at the Robert Koch-Institute. She holds a doctorate in biomedical basic research, study of public health with a focus on epidemiology, health systems and global health. She conducts research on migration, discrimination and health, is active in various contexts in the field of anti-racism and works as translator and language mediator.

As a philosopher, fiction writer, and curator, **Arlette-Louise Ndakoze** researches on pan-African sciences and their forms of mediation. She focuses on the connection between text and sound, in the broader sense the one between spiritual-immaterial and physical-material spheres - those spaces of possibility in the making. She is a member of SAVVY Contemporary.

Seebrücke is an international movement, supported by several civil society alliances and people. We declare our solidarity with people who are forced to flee their homes. From German and European policy makers, we demand the

establishment of safe routes for refugees, to stop the criminalisation of sea rescue and to receive them in a humane way whilst respecting their rights.

Nastaran Tajeri-Foumani is ex-social worker, activist, musician, moderator and lecturer*researcher. N. works in the field of anti racism and anti discriminatory practice. N. moderates for Berlinale Panorama Section and is programming and curating for the Xposed International QUEER Film Festival.

18.30 – 20.00

(ENG)

Panel

Re-Generation: How do we care?

Berlin Biennale (Lisette Lagnado, María Berríos), Extinction Rebellion, Feminist Health Care Research Group, Stine Marie Jacobsen

Moderation

Solvej Helweg Ovesen

What could be the long term traumas of the pandemic experience for those who are socio-economically vulnerable or belong to risk groups? How do we learn to share vulnerability and interdependency among each other?

“The crack begins within” was the title of the 11th Berlin Biennale, which just ended: But is it possible to heal together across borders? If yes, how? What can the various roles of art biennials and organizations like Extinction Rebellion and Feminist Healthcare Research Group be? What can be an ethic of participation when working with outreach and vulnerable groups, f.e. artists? And is this ethic translatable to how we care and share solidarity with someone else? We all talk about care these days, but do we actually know how to care in a diverse city?

Lisette Lagnado is an art critic and holds a PhD in Philosophy from the University of São Paulo. She worked as editor of the magazines “Arte em São Paulo” in the 1980s, “trópico” (2001-2010) and “marcelina” (2008-2012). She is currently one of the four curators of the 11th Berlin Biennial (2020).

María Berríos is a sociologist, writer, independent curator, and cofounder of the Chilean editorial collective vaticanochico. Her work traverses art, culture, and politics with a special interest in the collective experiments of the “Third World” movement and their exhibition formats in the 1960s and 70s. She teaches and lectures regularly and has published extensively in Latin America and beyond.

Florinn Bareth is rebelling against ecological collapse and climate crisis with Extinction Rebellion since spring 2019. Extinction Rebellion is a decentralised, international and politically non-partisan movement using non-violent direct

action and civil disobedience to persuade governments to act justly on the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Florinn originally has a background in film, art and the humanities before switching to work for (so-called) sustainability and in Corporate Social Responsibility in 2012. In 2015 she founded an online magazine for a conscious lifestyle, but soon realized it needed more radical action in the fight against accelerating climate change. During week days Florinn is responsible for Community & Concept Development at bUm Berlin, a solidarity based coworking and event-space for the socially committed civil society, nonprofit organizations, volunteer engagement and activism.

As an artistic research project, the **Feminist Health Care Research Group** (Inga Kalee Zimprich/Julia Bonn) founded in 2015, creates installations, workshops, and zines, with the aim to create space to share vulnerability, and to build an accessible resource of self-empowering, emancipatory approaches to healthcare. www.feministische-recherchegruppe.org

Stine Marie Jacobsen is a conceptual artist working to decode violence and law both individually and collectively through participatory means. She lives and works in Copenhagen and Berlin, graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts with an MFA in 2009 and a BFA from CalArts, the California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles, USA in 2007.

20.30 – 22.00

Musicperformance

Fugitive Dreams

Lamin Fonfana

Fugitive Dreams is part of an ongoing project that amplifies notions of connectedness in a nonlinear and multidimensional timescape. The work is around black noise, and music not merely about music, but music as a tool to explore ideas, possibilities, or rather portals to possibilities and ways of seeing.

Lamin Fofana is an artist and musician currently located in Berlin. His music contrasts the reality of our world with what's beyond, and explores questions of movement, migration, alienation and belonging.

Artistic Intervention

How I realised that the agony and the bliss both belong to the universe as I was transitioning interspecies to save myself from the misery of the humankind.

120x200, Woodcut and Silkscreen print on Paper, 3 edition

Rüzgâr Buşki is an artist, director and producer from Istanbul based in Berlin.

Thanks to all participants, speakers, artists, organisations, musicians for making this assembly an assembly. To all technical, camera and video operators, production assistants and colleagues from Galerie Wedding, our graphic designer and translator/ editor and the team of silent green for making this possible in times of crisis. To all our friends, family and everyone who show their loyalty, interest and solidarity even in the unavoidable online sphere. To the Senate Department for Culture and Europe for giving us the funds and the District Office Berlin Mitte for the support to realise this important exchange of ideas and think about the future together.

SoS (Soft Solidarity) - Assembly is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Funds Spartenoffene Förderung Berlin and kindly supported by the department for Art, Culture and History of Bezirksamt Mitte von Berlin.

GALERIE

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Event Location

Betonhalle - silent green
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WEDDING

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Galerie Wedding

Space for Contemporary Art

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Culture, Environment Nature, Streets
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WEDDING