

Leonora Wirth
Project Funding

Annika Rekerat
Coordination and Curatorial Assistant

Elias Piesch
Communication (CAAMPI-Fellow)

Pablo Herrmann
Exhibition Setup

Janik Wetzel
Collaboration Archiving

Free admission

Andrzej Raszak
Management

Elyen Benzeon
Chief Curator for Contemporary Art / Head of Department

Karin Winkler
Exhibition Management and Infrastructure

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ART WEEK
BERLIN
ART 11-15 SEP 2024

Diffractions Transforming

Kunst Raum Mitte

When the history of a place is in continuous flux, the constants of time and space shift. They form alliances, link various forms of knowledge, and tell different stories. The voices and tones that emerge during this process are diverse and not always in tune with each other. They speak of connections, inequalities, and changes.

Diffractions 2024 stages an "interference pattern" (Karen Barad) of the various layers of time and their compositions. In contrast to reflection, diffraction, the bending of waves at an obstacle, does not reflect a concrete counterpart but instead makes the overlaps of impulses tangible. It breaks through linear and hierarchical orders, and gatherings inscribe themselves into these histories!

Against this background, the exhibiting **Transforming** recontextualizes the spatial, material, and historical relationships of the place formerly known as the *galerie weissert elegant*. Founded in East Berlin in 1987, the municipal exhibition space was renamed Kunst Raum Mitte by the Department of Art, Culture and History in 2024 to look back on the history of the gallery with new perspectives and to link it with current debates in a pluralistic urban society. **Transforming** presents contemporary artistic positions and connects them with artists and curatorial research processes, setting them in relation to one another. As the first researcher in residence, the artist Anna Zett will offer insights into her work. The knowledge that emerges is never objective and does not represent a unified history, but rather unfolds as a process of relating and connecting the past, present, and future in a partly speculative manner.

The exhibition challenges the forces of commercialization and generalization mechanisms of the present—particularly those in the Mitte district—by activating resistant and immaterial structures. It makes historical material accessible through an exhibition display developed by Martha Schwindling, including invitation cards, photos, posters, and documents. These materials reveal how the place was shaped by the move from Altmärkstrasse to Auguststrasse, as well as by the political regime of the GDR in the 1980s and the media and aesthetic conventions of that time. These historical and geopolitical components, in turn, create relationships with related contexts. By exploring deviant and invisible aspects, the exhibition opens up contemporary perspectives that question power structures, especially through implicit and everyday actions.

Agneszka Roguski & Natalie Keppler, Artistic Directors Kunst Raum Mitte

Multiple ceramic objects in the form of orchid blossoms are distributed along the walls of the Kunst Raum Mitte. Small and inconspicuous in color, they appear to individually adapt to the room's structures. The tension of the work lies in this subtle beauty: the blossoms form one another. Orchids, whose shape resembles a vase and whose name derives from the Greek word *orchis* (testicles), symbolize queerness and migration. As a dispersed assemblage, the abstract flower embodies memories that are often diffuse and shifting, thereby defying clear historical interpretation but at the same time continuing a possible future of queer stories.

Minh Duc Pham's *Miss Reminiscence* is part of a group of works on Vietnamese con- tract workers in the GDR, together with the works *Fountains of A High Mountain* and *A Sweet Dream* (2024), as well as *12 Percent - Cita an den wii* (2022/23). Pham (Schlenka, Saxony, DE) is an artist living in Berlin. He works in the field of visual and performing arts and explores the topic of identity in the context of gender, race, and class. His works have been exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts in Leipzig, the Stadtmuseum Dresden, the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn, and most recently at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin.

Minh Duc Pham, Miss Reminiscence, 2024
Ceramic, glaze | Dimensions variable

Katrin Steiger, HOT, 2023
Digital print on cotton silk satin, 318 x 642 cm

Noberto Roldan & Joaquin Roldan (Green Papaya Art Projects), Altar of the Undivided, 2024
Everyday objects, remnants from the building's past, food from the global North and South | Dimensions variable

Robert Lippok, Material Auguststrasse 21, 2024
Eight-channel sound installation, 17:20 min | Media player, loudspeaker, audio amplifier, aluminum discs, sound transducer, ceramic objects

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Commoning

29.8.24
Open Air Screening with films by Julia Charlotte Richter, Mýkolia Rídnýi, and Anna Zett

fall break 2024
Photo Comic Workshop with Dina El Kaisy Friemuth

25.10.24
Research presentation with Anna Zett

26.-27.10.24
Performances with students of the Class for Performative Arts, Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig (Isabel Lewis and Lissy Willberg)

27.10.24
Talk with Isabel Lewis, Yon Natalie Mik, and others

1.12.24
Walk with Rainer Görts

8.2.25
Talk with Clare Molloy and Susanne Sachsse

Transforming

12.9.24 6-9pm
Exhibition Opening

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12. and 14.9.24
Altar of the Undivided Performance by Green Papaya Art Projects (Noberto Roldan and Joaquin Roldan)

the room. I entered was a dream of this room., Reading Performance by Pam Viradas, with Joe Ekenhorst

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During her two-month research residency (September and October 2024) at Kunst Raum Mitte, Anna Zett will investigate forms and practices of ritual association—performative events that are formally, affectively, and physically concrete, but remain open on the level of meaning. She examines performative actions from the late period of the GDR, drawing parallels to Chinese performance art from the upheaval years of 1989/90, which is currently being received anew in China against the backdrop of advanced censorship.

Anna Zett ("Leipzig, GDR) is a Berlin-based artist. Her analytical, sensual, and narrative practice questions dominant structures of meaning and creates space for open dialog, inventive encounters, and free association. In 2018, Zett began exploring her own Eastern perspective through research in the Berlin Archive of the GDR Opposition. Zett's work is shown in self-organized spaces and institutions such as the Serpentine Gallery London, Berlinale Forum Expanded, Berlinische Galerie, Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin, Whitney Museum New York, Goethe Institut Beijing, and at Manifesta 14 in Ffrench (2022).

Research Residency: Rituelle Assoziation with Anna Zett

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With Jesse Darling, Green Papaya Art Projects (Noberto Roldan & Joaquin Roldan), Robert Lippok, Minh Duc Pham, Katrin Steiger, Pam Virada, Anna Zett (Research Residency), exhibition display by Martha Schwindling

Curated by Natalie Keppler & Agneszka Roguski

September 13, 2024 – January 5, 2025

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Auguststr. 21, 10117 Berlin
Program 2024

Kunst Raum Mitte

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www.kunstraummittle.berlin

TRANSFORMING



Program 2024

Exhibition Research Performance



TRANSFORMING