

Holding Spaces Making Conditions

HOLDING SPACES, MAKING CONDITIONS: RETHINKING INFRASTRUCTURES

Infrastructures are not passive—they are performative. As funding in both cultural and academic contexts declines, the infrastructures that sustain transversal artistic practices come under increasing pressure. This event brings together artists, curators, theorists, and cultural producers to reflect on the spaces, formats, and conditions that enable—or constrain—artistic research today.

What forms allow artistic research to enter public discourse, and how do they shape modes of engagement? What tensions exist between institutional and self-organized models? How can we collectively imagine and sustain alternative infrastructures that support process-based, critical, and experimental practices—reworking them as spaces of agency, care, and collaboration?

THURSDAY, MAY 22 LABOR FÜR KUNST UND FORSCHUNG

18:00 EXHIBITION OPENING

Student projects by Amira Amzough, Evin Aydin, Antoine Barras, Anna Bendomir, Charlotte Bettinger, Helena Bleicher, Elena Blumenbach, Maika Dieterich, Helena Dietz-Röthlingshöfer, Aida Fall, Jana Fuest, Sonja Halupka, Jette Hartstack, Charlotte Emma Heyer, Jana Matilda Heyer, Emma Hiller, Lilli Hirschberger, Lina Kluge, Barbara Maczka, Elias Müller, Mareen Müller, Furkan Pinar, Mara Sandbothe, Lea Schenker, Elena Schippel, Julia Seifert, Caroline Stumm, Ann Luca Weiss, Maja Antonia Welke, Jana Wodicka and Lara Venjakob, developed in and alongside seminars of Ian Clewe, Leon Filter, Lucie Kolb, Kit Braybrooke, Karina Nimmerfall and Isabelle Sully

18:30 JANA WODICKA

Kartei des Universitären Unwohlseins
Performative reading

18:45 CHATTY CHATTY NO. 6: LABOR FÜR KUNST UND FORSCHUNG.

A student-led talk with Karina Nimmerfall, Leon Filter, and Lea Krommen on the infrastructure behind the Labor für Kunst und Forschung. Handmade refreshments by Transversal Design master students. Chatty Chatty is organised by Barbara Maczka, Maria Maddalena Lenzi, Danuka Ana Tomas, Fabian Frey-Maziarski, Vivan Atieno, Julie Jihee Seo, Klara Jeltsch & Camila Chebez

FRIDAY, MAY 23 LABOR FÜR KUNST UND FORSCHUNG

13:00 ERIC OTIENO SUMBA

Tricke-down Epistemology: Publishing as Infrastructure
Workshop (for UzK and HGK students only)

FRIDAY, MAY 23 .THEATER

13:00 ANNA BROMLEY

Für die Utopü ist es nie zu früh
(It's never too early for Utopü)
Workshop (for UzK and HGK students only)

16:00 Break

FRIDAY, MAY 23 TEMPORARY GALLERY

17:00 LISA KLOSTERKÖTTER

Exhibition tour

18:00 LUCIE KOLB / KARINA NIMMERFALL

Welcome and introduction

18:20 SABETH BUCHMANN

From “Functional Sites” to “Infrastructures for Life”
Lecture

18:40 ISABELLE SULLY

Semi-Formal: Stuck Between an Institution
and a Self-organised Place
Lecture

19:00 MATTHIAS SOHR

Bureaucracy Studies
Lecture

19:20 Break

**19:30 SABETH BUCHMANN, MATTHIAS SOHR AND
ISABELLE SULLY, MODERATED BY LILIAN HABERER**
Panel

20:30 LEON FILTER

Who is You: A Letter to the Editors
Performed Film

20:50 Drinks

SATURDAY, MAY 23 LABOR FÜR KUNST UND FORSCHUNG

10:00 WELCOME

10:15 ERIC OTIENO SUMBA

Trickle-down Epistemology, Publishing Infrastructures
and the Plausible Deniability of Distributional Flows
Lecture

10:35 KAROLIN MEUNIER

The Performance of Distribution
Response

10:45 DISCUSSION

11:15 Break

11:30 ANNA BROMLEY

Für die Utopü ist es nie zu früh
(It's never too early for Utopü)
Lecture

11:50 SWANTJE LICHTENSTEIN

way to early relatively stable
Response

12:00 DISCUSSION

12:30 LUCIE KOLB / KARINA NIMMERFALL

Closing Remarks

12:45 Lunch Break

14:00 - 17:00 GKFD ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
non-public



A cooperation of the Gesellschaft für künstlerische Forschung in Deutschland (gkfd) with the Labor für Kunst und Forschung (University of Cologne), Transversal Design MA (Basel Academy of Art and Design FHNW) and Temporary Gallery, Cologne 2025.

Concept and organisation:
Karina Nimmerfall, Lucie Kolb, Leon Filter