

Portfolio Lena Fließbach

Curator, writer and mentor with a focus on ecological and social issues as well as interdisciplinary exhibitions and event formats

MATTER OF FLUX Festival

Women/ FLINTA* in Art, Science and Technology
Art Laboratory Berlin, June 2023



India Mansour, Gülşah Mursaloğlu, Cammack Lindsey, Sybille Neumeyer, Lena Fließbach, Cansu Tekin, LEAKY CYCLES SOIL EATERS – A Geophagy Ritual; reading group, Photos: ALB

The 4-day festival MATTER OF FLUX presented a rich and varied program from and for women/ FLINTA* in art, science and technology with panel discussions, lecture performances, numerous workshops, reading groups and other activities, including artist studio and lab visits. The festival has been generously supported by Kunstfonds' program Neustart Kultur and is in cooperation with FEMeeting. The multifaceted formats and events of the festival program are based on the rich outcome of several preparatory meetings at Art Laboratory Berlin earlier in 2023. More than 40 international Berlin-based women/ FLINTA* – artists, scholars from sciences and humanities and cultural producers in art, science and technology from both the Global North and the Global South – have been invited to collectively develop various CLUSTER groups and activities for the festival. The festival, acting as an interactive platform, welcomed other international or Berlin-based women/ FLINTA* in the fields of art, science and technology to join, exchange and create synergies.

With contributions by artists, cultural producers and scholars from sciences and humanities: Alanna Lynch, Alice Cannava, Anne Hölck, Annika Haas, Asian Feminist Studio for Art and Research (AFSAR), Aslı Dinç, Baldeep Kaur, Cansu Tekin, Cammack Lindsey, Charmaine Poh, Chiara Garbellotto, Constanza Piña Pardo, Eva-Fiore Kovacovsky, Flo Razoux, Gülşah Mursaloğlu, Han Wen Zhang, India Mansour, Jacky Hess, Jemma Woolmore, Käthe Wenzel, Kristina Stallvik, Lena Fließbach, Lena Johanna Reisner, Lisa Bell Weisdorf, Lucy Powell, Lyndsey Walsh, Marianna Szczygielska, Margherita Pevere, Mooni Perry, Nayeli Vega, Nicol Rivera Aro, Nicola Maria Hochkeppel, pamela varela, Park Hye-in, Petja Ivanova, Sarah Hermanutz, Selen Solak, Sina Ribak, Susanne Schmitt, Susanne Jaschko, Sybille Neumeyer, Theresa Schubert, WhiteFeather Hunter, Yan Lin.

Zero Waste – Art and Knowledge

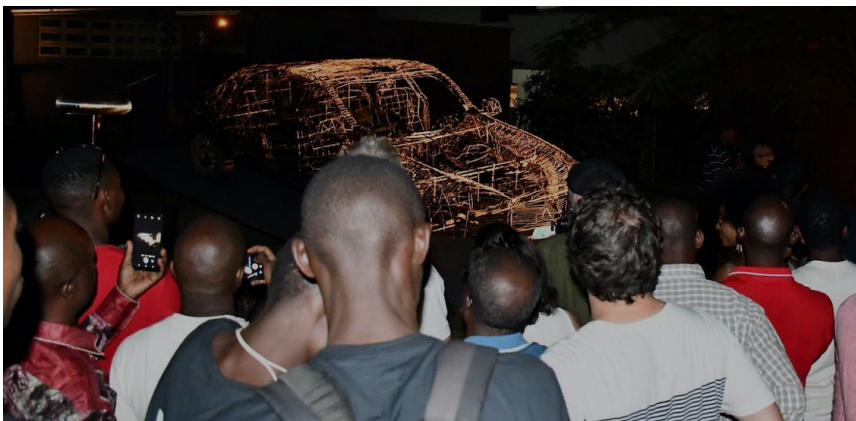
Discourse series at Urania Berlin, 2022

Curated and moderated by Hannah Beck-Mannagetta and Lena Fließbach

The series Zero Waste - Art and Knowledge shows the different facets of ecological sustainability and urban coexistence of plants, animals and people. Whether in architecture, fashion, culinary arts, mobility, gardens or cultural practice: what are the challenges of a future-oriented city? What can artistic perspectives illustrate, what can they make tangible and understandable that pure data and facts cannot convey to us? The invited experts will present their work in a dialogue. In each event, an artistic work will be presented and discussed with the audience. *Zero Waste - Art and Knowledge* combines experiences from science, art and the sustainability movement to create a space for innovative discussions independent of disciplines and to take action together.

Green Energy: Consumption, Justice & Access

September 29, 2022, 7.30pm



© Marjolijn Dijkman

After a short screening of a video documentation, we spoke about the performative installation “Charging Tesla Crash, A Speculation”, a collaboration by **Jean Katambayi, Sammy Baloji, Daddy Tshikaya, and Marjolijn Dijkman**. The work returns to Nikola Tesla’s utopian ideas about making wireless energy accessible to everyone around the globe. In the discussion, we reflected on the sustainability aspects of energy transition paths and on today’s global inequalities. **Grace Mbungu**, Head of Climate Change Program at the Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI) in Berlin, spoke about the politics and governance of the global energy transition, opportunities for renewable energy development, and gender justice. Together with **Natalia Realpe Carrillo**, a specialist in green inclusive finance and Fellow (Alumni) at IASS, we discussed the role of digitisation to ensure energy justice and access to energy in rural areas.

Sustainable Building & Circular Economy in Architecture

Zero Waste – Art and Knowledge

October 26, 2022, 7.30pm



© MY-CO-X, Photo: Wolfgang Günzel

We talked about visions of building with fungi with biotechnologist and fungal researcher, professor of microbiology at the TU Berlin and artist **Prof. Dr. Vera Meyer**. Using objects she has brought with her, the biotechnologist, microbiologist and artist demonstrated the fascinating properties of the local tinder fungus and explains how art offers the opportunity to test out new solutions. Currently, the walk-in wooden mushroom sculpture "My-Co Space", which she co-developed, can be experienced in the central library of the TU Berlin. In addition to her traditional work as an architect at Sauerbruch Hutton Berlin, **Julia Blasius** also works there as a quality manager in the area of sustainability and will talk about the aesthetics and opportunities of reuse in architecture. **Samira Jama Aden** is an architect, consultant and design researcher at the Helmholtz Centre Berlin in the field of photovoltaics as well as a lecturer at the University of Kassel. At the interface of architecture, design and new technologies, she is researching individual solutions for integrating solar cells into new and existing architecture in the Design Research department.

Silent Spring

Exhibition with interdisciplinary event programme, 2022

Galerie im Körnerpark, Berlin

Curated by Lena Fließbach

Artists: Betty Böhm, Selket Chlupka, Dana Engfer, Catherine Rose Evans, Kathrin Ganser, Carla Mercedes Hihn, Stefan Klein, Claire Laude, Josèfa Ntjam, Robert Zhao Renhui, Sarah Straßmann, Attilio Tono



Photo: Nihad Nino Pusija

The Earth bears traces of humans everywhere: melting glaciers, dwindling biodiversity. They not only shape landscapes, but also create artificial worlds and intelligences. But with all their knowledge, humans can neither fully comprehend nature and its complex regulatory mechanisms, nor control or predict the future. Together with guest artists, the Berlin-based artist group *pilote contemporary* explores the ambiguity that characterizes the relationship between humans and their environment. On the one hand, humans change and destroy the world, appropriate it and intervene in natural processes in the long term; but at the same time, their own finitude and dependence are revealed. The title “Silent Spring” refers to the 1962 book by biologist Rachel Carson, which is considered a key trigger of the 20th century Western environmental movement. The exhibition questions the Western assumption of human and nature as two separate entities, instead focusing on the manifold connections. Presumed hierarchies are questioned, interrelations are highlighted, and humans are positioned as part of larger processes.

Zero Waste

Exhibition with accompanying programme, Museum of Fine Arts Leipzig (MdbK), 2020

Curated by Hannah Beck-Mannagetta and Lena Fließbach

Realized by the German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt)

Artists: Irwan Ahmett & Tita Salina, Michel de Broin, Nadine Fecht, Vibha Galhotra, Tue Greenfort, Andreas Greiner, Swaantje Güntzel, Eliana Heredia, Bianca Kennedy & The Swan Collective, Wolf von Kries, Christoph Medicus, Klara Meinhardt, Alexander Oelofse, Kadija de Paula & Chico Togni, Dani Ploeger, Mika Rottenberg, Erik Sturm und Raul Walch.

Waste is everywhere: in the Great Pacific garbage patch, as fine particular matter in the air, or as microplastics in the food chain. The group exhibition *Zero Waste* showcases international positions in contemporary art that point out the urgency to save resources, consume less, and live more sustainably. In diverse installations, videos, sculptural works, and photographs the artists investigate the global consequences of plastic packaging, tire abrasion, toxic chemicals, and the overproduction of consumer goods. By means of self-imposed climate-friendly rules, the project also questioned the CO2 footprint of this exhibition. *Zero Waste* avoided material-intensive installations, transport and travel over long distances for short stays and cooperated with local actors.



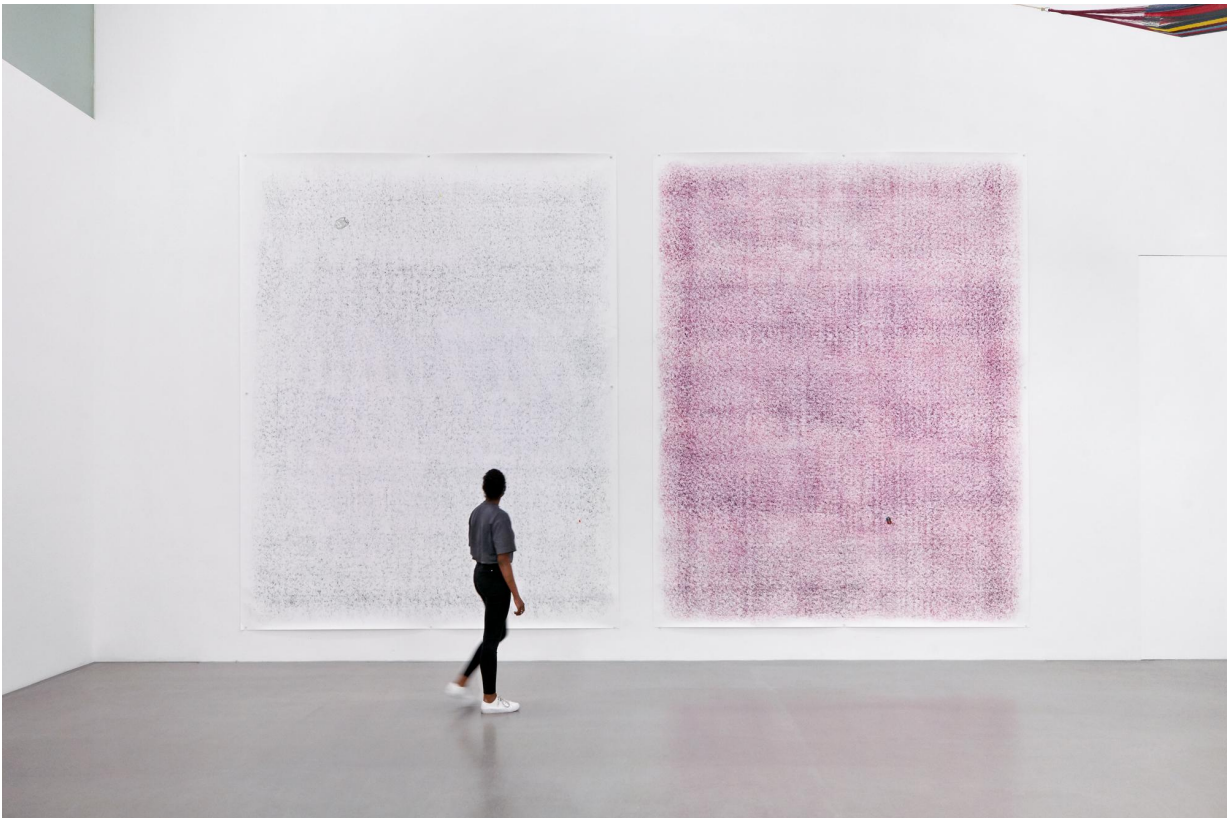
Vibha Galhotra, Breath by Breath, 2016-17, Inszenierte Fotografie, Digitaldruck auf Archivpapier, Foto: Rajesh Kumar, © Vibha Galhotra

Tickets sold at the MdbK June to November 2020: **36,118 visitors**

Press: ARD Nachtmagazin, tagesschau, titel thesen temperamente, 3sat Kulturzeit. Interviews at MDR Kultur, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, hr2-Kultur Radio Hessen and Radio Bremen Zwei. Articles in der Freitag - Die Wochenzeitung, Schrot&Korn, monopol Magazin für Kunst und Leben, EIKON - Internationale Zeitschrift für Photographie und Medienkunst, der Leipziger Zeitung, der Leipziger Volkszeitung and various blogs, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Interview-series gallerytalk.net, Podcast Subtext & Discourse



Installation views Zero Waste, Museum of Fine Arts (MdbK) Leipzig, 2020, Photos: Roman Häbler



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Zero Waste Accompanying programme

An extensive programme of events with activists and scientists is part of the exhibition. A guided tour format with experts from different fields, performances and a film screening with an artist talk complemented the exhibition. Listening tours, DIY workshops and a repair café were realised in cooperation with local partners with the kind support of the Fonds Soziokultur.

Zero Waste Kitchen with dumplings and herbs

July 18, 2020, Garden of GfZK Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst



Photos: Julius-Christian Schreiner

Together with the participants, we processed leftover bread from the Backstein bakery into fine dumplings. The Brazilian-Canadian artist duo Chico Togni and Kadija de Paula talked to us about the Zero Waste exhibition. Part of their installation was a mobile kitchen, which the artists built with and for the community garden ANNALINDE in Leipzig. On 18 July, this was activated and inaugurated with timeless Zero Waste recipes using local herbs and precious leftovers. Parallel to the zero waste kitchen, a guided herb tour with wild herb expert Maxi Pöttrich started in the nearby park: The participants got to know fresh herbs and used them to make a herbal dumpling side dish.

Walk the Talks as Podcasts

Zero Waste Accompanying program

Due to hygiene regulations in the context of the Corona pandemic, only 5 people were able to participate in guided formats at the museum. Therefore, we recorded all four "Walk the Talks" and make them available as MdbK [talk] podcast episodes. The creation of these additional digital formats, which were not originally planned, makes it possible to communicate the discussion of the exhibition's themes and content to a larger audience in the long term.

MdbK [talk]



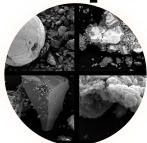
ZERO WASTE
Plankton statt Plastik

Walk the Talk Podcast #1

Plankton statt Plastik: Vom Meeresmüll bis zum Gift in der Nahrungskette

https://soundcloud.com/mdbktalk/zerowaste_planktonstattplastik

MdbK [talk]



ZERO WASTE
Unsichtbarer Müll

Walk the Talk Podcast #2

Unsichtbarer Müll: Feinstaub, Reststoffe und Entsorgung

https://soundcloud.com/mdbktalk/zerowaste_unsichtbarermuell

MdbK [talk]



ZERO WASTE
Nachhaltigkeit

Walk the Talk #3

Herausforderung Nachhaltigkeit: Konsumverhalten, Recycling Kreislaufwirtschaft

https://soundcloud.com/mdbktalk/zerowaste_herausforderungnachhaltigkeit

MdbK [talk]



ZERO WASTE
Call for the Future

Walk the Talk #4

A Call for the Future? Zero Waste in Everyday Life, Politics, at the Cultural Industry

https://soundcloud.com/mdbktalk/zerowaste_callforthefuture

MdbK [insight]

"For MdbK [insight] #9 we visit the exhibition ZERO WASTE. Titled "Cost of living in a Plastic World", the current episode takes an intersectional look at climate change and conscious consumerism. Sithara Weeratunga, research associate for diversity and director of MdbK [in transit], talks to Imeh Ituen, international climate policy officer at the University of Hamburg." Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT-7wTN7NdY>

Unfinished Glossary

Visitor Room and Accompanying Programme

for the exhibition Hello World. Revision of a Collection, 2018

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart – Berlin

Curated by Daniela Bystron, Lena Fließbach und Susanne Weiß



Foto: Annika Büssemeier

Border, Echo, Ghosts, Influence, Language, Me, Networks, Power, Trade, Values and Waves: these eleven concepts make up the Unfinished Glossary, which forms a thematic grid with various vantage points from which to explore the thirteen chapters of the exhibition. It comprises of statements by more than thirty international artists, academics and practitioners, who provide at least two different takes on each of the concepts listed above. This polyphony, amounting as it does to a plurality of descriptions for these terms – which are quite complex but at the same time deeply rooted in our everyday lives – expands on and questions the allegedly objective perspective represented by traditional museums and classic glossaries. The differences in the biographical and geographical backgrounds of the select authors are relevant for their individual perspectives. The Unfinished Glossary is designed as a space for reflection and outreach activities, where visitors get a chance not only to read up on the different descriptions of the key concepts, but to contribute their own statements as well. Furthermore, the terms provide a structure for the exhibition's accompanying programme, which features film screenings, workshops, talks, guided tours and interventions. Of special interest is the exploration of global relations involving collection histories; the reception of art; the production of knowledge, perspectives and categorisations; and, above all, questions concerning the structure and limits of collections and exhibitions.

Speaker und mentor

Consultancy, panels and conferences (selection)



Photo: Nihad Nino Pusija

2023

Lecture at the event "Art, Climate and Energy", Thematic Network Meeting for Members of the Association of Visual Artists, Berlin, DE

Lecture and Talk "Photography and sustainability", with Susanne Kriemann, FOTOTREFF, Berlin, DE

2022

Lecture "Zero Waste - Ideas for a sustainable exhibition business" at the conference of the municipal galleries Berlin Creating without exhaustion - sustainability in the art and culture business.

Panel "Gallery Climate Coalition Berlin: Climate Action in the Art World", Berlin

Lecture and discussion "Exhibiting sustainability - ways to a climate neutral museum practice", International Week of Semiotics, Centre for Cultural Semiotics, University of Potsdam, online

2021

Lecture and fishbowl discussion "With digitality to a culture of sustainability", Forum Kreativpotentiale in cooperation with the Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft, Leipzig

2020

Lecture "Zero Waste in the Art and Culture Sector", Wissenschaftsforum AG Nachhaltigkeit, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, online

Lecture and discussion " The Zero Waste exhibition as an example of best practice", internal museum event, Museum Sinclair-Haus, Bad Homburg, online

Panel " Exhibiting sustainably", temporary bauhaus-archiv, Berlin

In Your Face

Olympiazentrum Kiel Schilksee and Berlin Photo Week, public space, 2021

Consultation and concept: Lena Fließbach



Photo: Henriette Pogoda

Are we humans ready to look ourselves in the eye? - This is the question addressed in Ocean. Now!'s exhibition. With the portrait series "#INYOURFACE - 50 beaches, 50 faces", OceanNow! brings the problem of microplastics into the public eye. In doing so, it links the fields of art and politics. In collaboration with the Olympic Centre Kiel Schilksee, Ocean. Now! is showing 56 photo portraits based on the artwork Microplastics II by the renowned artist Swaantje Güntzel. It shows a photo portrait of the artist with a symbolic beauty mask made of microplastic particles and a bleeding nose. With the series In Your Face, Ocean. Now! - in collaboration with portrait photographers Saskia Uppenkamp and Tomaso Baldessarini - replicated this work on well-known faces. Over a period of three months, dedicated volunteers collected the microplastic from beaches around the world. After delays due to the pandemic, the series, which achieved a media reach of 8 million since 2019 and appeared as a discussion piece in a textbook, is now on view for the first time in a physical exhibition. Visitors are invited to take a 3D self-portrait digitally using an Instagram filter and post it on social media with a call for a progressive ban on microplastics in cosmetics.

Publications (selection)

Katalysator für Veränderung. Welche Rolle spielen künstlerische Werke und der Kulturbetrieb beim Thema Nachhaltigkeit?, in: Die Kunst, Beilage Capital, Juni 2022, S. 28-29.

Anthropogene Atmosphäre, in: Celestial Artefacts von Maximilian Rödel, Dr. Cantz'sche Verlagsgesellschaft Mbh & Co. KG, 2022, S. 20-22.

Perfide schön. Zeitgenössische Kunst kann ein Katalysator für gesellschaftliche Veränderungen sein, in: Herder Korrespondenz Spezial, Oktober 2020, S. 63-64.

Hunderte Schritte in einem Bild, Euan Williams' fotografische Serie „collapse“, in: Ausst. Kat. zur Ausstellung „Multiple Images“, Kunstverein Centre Bagatelle, 2019, S. 4-6.

Ein Balance-Akt, Künstlermonografie Christian Philipp Müller, in: KUENSTLER, Kritisches Lexikon der Gegenwartskunst, Ausgabe 121, Heft 27, 1. Quartal 2018, S. 2-10.

Heimat zwischen Plattenbauten, Spätis und Kakteen, in: Ausst. Kat. Heimspiel Lichtenberg, rk-Galerie für zeitgenössische Kunst Ratskeller Berlin-Lichtenberg, Frauenmuseum Berlin, 2018, S. 4-5.

Zwischen Bedrohung und Idylle. Die Malerei von Matthias Moravek, Künstlerportät, in: Kunst & Material, Jan./Feb. 2018, S. 4-12.

Von Bildern und Displays, in: Ausst. Kat. Salon der Gegenwart, Hamburg, Oktober 2016, S. 8-9.

Fragmente, Vehikel und Gedankengebilde. Konstruktive Ansätze junger Künstler im post-digitalen Zeitalter“, in: Kunst & Konstrukt, Ausst. Kat. Kunstpreis der Leinemann-Stiftung für Bildung und Kunst, Freundeskreis der UDK Berlin Karl-Hofer-Gesellschaft, Juni 2015, S. 10-15.

Ameisen auf dem Mond. William Kentridges animierte Zeichnungen, in: K+U "Filmisch Zeichnen", Heft 393.394, 2015, Friedrich Verlag in Zusammenarbeit mit Klett, Juni 2015, S. 69-71.

Der Schatz im Pappkarton, erschienen in: Serendipity. Finden ohne Suchen, Ausgabe 1, Sommer 2012.