



Installation GHOSTS (GESPENSTER) by Roland Boden in the KORN art space

Since February 2021, artspring has a new art space in the Heinrich Böll Library's shop window that can be viewed at any time: this year it will be curated by Dirk Teschner and will feature the exhibition series NEULAND – Wandel, Abriss, Neubesinnung (NEULAND – Change, Demolition, Reconsideration).

The second exhibition in the KORN Kunstraum, GESPENSTER (GHOSTS) by Roland Boden opens on Thursday 15 April 2021, 6pm.

KORN Kunstraum – in the shop window of the Heinrich-Böll-Bibliothek
Greifswalder Straße 87, 10409 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg
A project by *artspring berlin*, curated by Dirk Teschner

GESPENSTER (GHOSTS) – an exhibition by Roland Boden

15 April - 23 May 2021

Exhibition begins: 15 April 2021, 6 p.m. outdoors

Admission free

Press contact: Kerstin Karge, presse@artspring.berlin, 0163.3959215

Preview:

03 June - 01 August 2021 | Astrid Busch

and 3 further exhibition interventions until 02 January 2022

The respective exhibition in the shop window can be visited 24 hours a day.

All events in the series planned for 2021 are free of charge.

Realised in cooperation by *artspring berlin* and the Heinrich-Böll-Bibliothek.

The exhibition series NEULAND is supported by the Bezirksamt Pankow von Berlin.

Detailed information:

1. GESPENSTER (GHOSTS) – exhibition by Roland Boden, Presse release
2. NEULAND – Wandel, Abriss, Neubesinnung (NEULAND – Change, Demolition, Reconsideration), Presse release
3. KORN
4. The curator 2021
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1. GESPENSTER (GHOSTS) – exhibition by Roland Boden

it is a misconception that the dead are dead

In the second exhibition, artist Roland Boden references the monumental Thälmann memorial located not far from the exhibition site in Ernst Thälmann Park.

An oversized bust of Ernst Thälmann was erected in the middle of the high-rise residential complex, which was first completed in 1987; in an unbroken continuation of the hero worship of the workers' leader who was murdered in the Buchenwald concentration camp in 1945. To this day, opinions on this figure are divided - some ignore Thälmann's personal sacrifice, others deny that as a KPD chairman loyal to Stalin he was still pushing forward the disastrous policy of fighting the Social Democrats when the need for an alliance of the workers' parties against Hitler had long since become clear in the final days of the Weimar Republic. In a cruel twist of history, many of his comrades-in-arms, most of them no less loyal to Stalin than he, fell into the mills of the "Great Terror" of the 1930s after emigrating to the Soviet Union – denounced, arrested, tried in show trials, deported to the GULAG camps or immediately "liquidated." Few were spared, and yet after 1945 those who returned were tirelessly and selflessly active in implementing the dreamed-of social reform according to Stalinist standards in eastern Germany.

The installation "GESPENSTER" shows a curtain flanking a slightly distorted photo of the Thälmann monument's current state. The curtain is hung with a grid of small clay busts that are somewhat reminiscent of Mexican death cult masks. Lined up as if on a string of pearls, the grotesque heads are a reference to the German communists and left-wing liberals who were murdered in Soviet exile in the 1930s. A sentence by Heiner Müller comments on the installation: "... *it is a misconception that the dead are dead.*"

Roland Boden works with painting, tectonic questions and fictional research. He has received numerous scholarships, including the 1998 Ohio Arts Council, Cleveland / USA, the 2002 IASKA Perth / Australia scholarship, the 2003 German Academy Villa Massimo Rome annual scholarship, a 2004 working residency in Buenos Aires / Argentina, the 2009 Bonn Art Fund Foundation scholarship, the 2020 Falkenrot Prize Berlin, the 2020 Berlin Senate Research Scholarship and is represented in numerous exhibitions at home and abroad.

2. NEULAND – Wandel, Abriss, Neubesinnung (NEULAND – Change, Demolition, Reconsideration)

German unification took place over thirty years ago – it is still a vivid memory for many, but no longer present. Not only the time before, but also the first years of the profound upheaval in the new "East Germany" have become removed from life, attitudes, moods and become archaeological layers of the collective unconscious. Here lie the forgotten imprints of vanished experiences, crises, ruptures and struggles over the return of market relations, the transformation of legal relations, the demolition of social institutions, the closure of industrial plants and the reconstruction of entire urban landscapes of the East.

The speed and depth of the transformation eliminated not only the obsolete but also the serviceable, and has produced not only productive renewal but also strangely old-fashioned replacements - not least in housing and urban development. Well-known examples are the Palace of the Republic, which will be replaced by a copy of a Hohenzollern palace; the Ahornblatt, replaced by faceless architecture designed for investors; and the careful restoration of many rented apartment blocks facades in the style of the Wilhelmine Empire.

At the same time, there is growing interest in parts of GDR architecture and its design.

In the exhibition series NEULAND, artists will engage with the "GDR modernity" in architecture and design and its supporting collective dreams, utopias and deceptions in installations, collages and photographs and present their view of the ongoing process of "gentrification" and its urban spatial consequences.

3. KORN

The name of the art space KORN (grain) refers both to the architect Roland Korn and to the name of the residential quarter in which the Heinrich-Böll-Bibliothek is located. Korn designed numerous representative buildings in East Berlin, e.g. the Staatsratsgebäude, the Hotel Stadt Berlin, the Berlin Marzahn housing estate and the development of the Mühlenviertel quarter in Prenzlauer Berg.

“Korn” (grain) also signifies a seed from which little plants shoot out: as art does now – in an unusual urban quarter.

4. The curator 2021

Dirk Teschner is a curator and publicist. He has been co-operating with the exhibition space HAMMERSCHMIDT + GLADIGAU in Erfurt since 2014. He has organised the exhibition series KUNST GEGEN RECHTS for four years and is active in the initiative DIE VIELEN.

5. *artspring berlin*

Every year in May, *artspring berlin* organises an art festival in the greater Pankow district – a whole month of art actions, concerts, performances, readings, exhibitions, screenings, workshops and, above all, open studios. *artspring* grows a little further every year, initiates new ideas for the visibility of art and culture and creates co-operations and synergy effects.

www.artspring.berlin

6. The Heinrich-Böll-Bibliothek

is a classical library for people of all ages, regardless of status and origin, is the district central library of Pankow. In addition to readings and exhibitions, it organises concerts, under the direction of Tim Schumann, and participated in the Fête de la Musique.

artspring berlin 2021

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