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## Press release

**We would like to invite you to this year's artspring art festival, which here we present to you as succinctly as possible. Detailed information on the individual programme items can be found in the press section of our website.**

### **artspring berlin - "the myth is gone" art festival**

in the borough of Pankow  
6<sup>th</sup> May to 12<sup>th</sup> June  
Open Studios Weekend  
11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June

### **The listed individual programmes of the festival:**

1. The **artspring berlin** project
2. **Open Studios** in Pankow, Prenzlauer Berg and Weißensee on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June
3. Exhibition "**artspring** Signale 2022" at Pankow Town Hall from 6<sup>th</sup> May
4. Exhibition "**artspring** in the Kulturkapellen" from 15<sup>th</sup> May
5. Exhibition "**curatorial part de deux – artists of the working arts**" – from 6<sup>th</sup> May
6. **Festival Exhibition "artspring - the myth is gone"** at Galerie Pankow from 8<sup>th</sup> June.
7. **artspring Pop-Up Store** in the Schönhauser Allee Arcade - already running.
8. **Benefit Auction** for Ukraine on 7<sup>th</sup> May in the Pop-Up Store and online on 7<sup>th</sup> May
9. **artspring Festival Newspaper** with all information - coming soon.
10. **artspring artwalk** - art in shop windows and outdoors along Schönhauser Allee from 6<sup>th</sup> May
11. **artspringnale Film Festival** - a curated film programme, every Friday
12. **Literary programme artspring audio** - readings, this year with a focus on Ukraine, every Tuesday
13. **Kunstraum (Art Space) FUGE** - exhibitions in the shop window of the Heinrich Böll Library
14. **artspring** - what is it? Presentation of selected positions in the **podcast**
15. Presentation and expansion of the **digital artothek** for Pankow
16. The **KuRoBi4all** project in cooperation with the city library
17. Plus numerous other exhibitions and events



## **The *artspring berlin* Festival**

The ***artspring berlin Festival*** is taking place for the 6th time this year. The festival period begins on 6<sup>th</sup> May, the Open Studio Weekend takes place on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June. Numerous exhibitions and events invite you to Pankow throughout May and June. The festival will be opened on 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm during the Opening of the exhibition, "Curatorial Part de Deux".

*artspring berlin* originated in 2017 from the idea of creating a district-wide weekend of open studios to improve the visibility of artistic production, and to locate the working spaces for the interested public. After all, artists and their studios in prospering Pankow are permanently and increasingly threatened by gentrification and displacement.

Every year, more than 300 artists and cultural practitioners take part in *artspring berlin*. For the duration of one month, some unusual locations are transformed into exhibition and event settings for a diverse cultural programme. On the final weekend, the artists open their works paces to the public. This is accompanied by an extensive festival newspaper and publications on the website.

The festival includes a film and a literature programme as well as a diverse variety of exhibitions and events. Through digital formats, *artspring berlin* also opens access for interested visitors beyond the city limits. *artspring berlin* sees itself as a forum and a platform to promote the presence of artists, and to create further points of contact on an urban level. The basis for all emerging projects is the Open Call.

The festival month also comes alive with the numerous events offered by the participating artists - concerts, readings, talks, and performances. Creating opportunities for artists to invite visitors into their spaces, and to get in touch with them beyond the Open Studio Weekend.

This year the art festival's motto is: "The myth is gone". An assertion, a question, an analysis - we would like to start a conversation about it. With the artists of the greater district of Pankow, the festival partners, the public, and the public at large.

### **1. The *artspring berlin* project**

*artspring berlin* is an artists' project in the district of Pankow where it organises an annual art festival in May in the greater district of Pankow. A whole month of art actions, concerts, performances, readings, exhibitions, screenings, workshops and, above all, Open Studios. Every year *artspring* grows a bit further, initiates new ideas for the visibility of art and culture, and creates cooperation and collaborative



synergy. *artspring berlin* is supported by the EU's ERDF funding and the co-financing of the Senate. Since acquiring this support *artspring berlin* works as a year-round project office. Now, projects and exhibitions are also created throughout the year. *artspring berlin* is supported by the Studio Community Milchhof e.V.

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## 2. Open Studios in Pankow, Prenzlauer Berg and Weißensee

The open studio weekend is the heart and finale of the *artspring* festival - this year 330 artists open their studio doors. Among them are the big studio houses and the small backyard studios. A complete list of artists, including descriptions and images, can be found in the festival newspaper and on our website.

## 3. The Exhibition "artspring signals 2022" at Pankow Town Hall from 6<sup>th</sup> May

During *artspring berlin*, the exhibition floor in Pankow's Town Hall will show a photography exhibition of works by Pankow artists and with yourself. The photographs were taken in the caretaker's house at the St. Marien/ St. Nicolai Cemetery during the second year of the pandemic, 2021. *artspring* invited the artists to place their works in the building for a moment. This brief moment of "being on display" was photographically documented. For the exhibition in the Town Hall Gallery, we are showing a selection of the posted photographs, and of course the QR Code, through which you can view the full exhibition - via your smartphone and exclusively on site.

## 4. Curatorial Part de Deux – Artists of the working arts from 6<sup>th</sup> May (launch of the festival)

Artist workshops are not new. Nowadays, artists are trained at universities and colleges - not only in technology, but above all in creativity and independence. The financial situation now leads to the fact that independent artists work for independent artists. One's own thoughts, handwriting, love of materials, studio time, etc. are pushed aside in order to carry out the thoughts and ideas of someone else. The exhibition aims to explore this link and show the diversity and networks that lie dormant in the great artists' studios, such as those of Alicja Kwade, Katharina Grosse, Olafur Eliasson or Tomás Saraceno.

The exhibition opens this year's *artspring* festival: May 6, 7 p.m. Gewölbekeller, Gewerbehof KönigStadt, Entrance: Straßburger Str. 53



#### 5. Exhibition "*artspring* in the Cultural Chapel" from 15<sup>th</sup> May

The caretaker's house in the St. Nicolai and St. Marien cemetery is a gem, the likes of which no longer exist in Berlin and in Pankow. The house with the impressive address, Prenzlauer Allee 1 is as centrally located as it is morbidly enchanted. For three weeks it will be filled with site-specific installations by artists from the district of Pankow.

#### 6. The Festival Exhibition "*artspring* - the myth is gone" at Galerie Pankow

The exhibition at Galerie Pankow is this year's festival exhibition. Showing works by the artists participating in *artspring* and produced in cooperation with Galerie Pankow, the exhibition will display approximately 80 positions on and made of paper tracing the theme.

Opening on 8<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm with a welcome address by Dominique Krössin, District Councillor for Further Education, Sport and Culture.

Duration until 18 June.

#### 7. *artspring* Pop-Up Store in the Schönhauser Allee Arcade - already running

From February to May 2022 *artspring berlin* will occupy shop 57 on the 1st floor of the Schönhauser Allee Arcade. After a series of artistic interventions, it will become the festival office in May.

#### 8. Benefit Auction for Ukraine in the Pop-Up Store and online on 7<sup>th</sup> May

*artspring Berlin* would like to help support the humanitarian aid for people from and in Ukraine, provided by "Aktion Deutschland Hilft" as part of a fundraising campaign. Therefore, an art auction is taking place at the *artspring* Pop-Up Store in the Schönhauser Allee Arcade. The artists from Pankow have donated 110 works, which will be available for purchase online on our website for a month. All works not sold by then will be auctioned live on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The Schönhauser Allee Arcade and participating stores will add 10% to every donation made. Exhibition of the works, at the *artspring* Pop-Up Store from 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2 to 7pm. The auction of the works will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm.

#### 9. *artspring* Festival Newspaper with all information – coming soon.

The heart of the festival! On 80 pages all participants and events will be presented and the *artspring* projects will be described in detail. The newspaper will be available at central locations in the city district and can also be viewed online.



### 10. **artspring Art Walk** - art in shop windows and outdoors along Schönhauser Allee starting 6<sup>th</sup> May

The district becomes a gallery! During May and June, artworks and interventions will be visible in an uncomplicated and outdoor way amongst the urban space. Specifically, through the presence of individual artists work displayed in a variety shop windows along Schönhauser Allee and on foot in the neighbouring districts. The outdoor areas of the Colosseum, the Schönhauser Allee Arcade and the Bornholm I and II allotment gardens will also be used. The result is an art walk that can be experienced alone or as a guided tour. QR codes at the locations provide links to the individual artists and relevant information about the festival.

### 11. **artspringnale Film Festival** - a curated film programme, every Friday

Every year the *artspringnale*, the film programme of *artspring berlin* presents different artistic positions of the district's film and video makers and proposes them for discussion. The submissions and the programmes curated from the selection paint a picture of a fragmented, delicate and fragile present. With a total of four screenings, the *artspringnale* operates precisely within this tension. The opening on 13<sup>th</sup> May looks at the current war in Ukraine and asks questions about the 'before' and the potential 'after'. Further screenings will follow on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June. All screenings will be followed by live talks with the filmmakers.

### 12. **Literary programme artspring audio** - readings, this year with a focus on Ukraine, every Tuesday

This year's *artspring* readings also focus on authors from Ukraine and will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> June. Readers include: Ganna Gnedkova, Gad Kaynar-Kissinger, Erez Majerantz, Lea Streisand and David Wagner, delivered in the open air in front of the theatre under the roof.

### 13. **Kunstraum (Art Space) FUGE** - exhibitions in the shop window of the Heinrich Böll Library

Since March, the shop window with the new name Kunstraum FUGE has been showing the four-part exhibition series "Bewegte Bilder" (Moving Pictures) under the curatorial direction of Vanessa Cardui. The shop window of Kunstraum FUGE becomes a cinema, a hub, a picture carousel of the city of Berlin. Here hang images that simply cannot stand still, that dance out of line, turn upside down and lean quite far out of the window - images that set us in motion. Whether cinematic works, moving sculptures, animations or installations, here you can see an entirety that keeps moving.



#### 14. **artspring - what's the point?** Presentation of selected positions in the podcast

Alex Wittner has lived in Prenzlauer Berg and Weißensee for 11 years and unsurprisingly attends the artspring art festival. Yet he has two disadvantages that do not exactly make it easier for him to see, understand, enjoy, and review art. Firstly, he has a visual impairment and secondly, he has no idea about art. And it is precisely these shortcomings that he is trying to turn into an advantage. In the *artspring* podcast, the art layman asks selected artists directly what they have created, how they did it, and why. This provides new and unexpected insights into the local world of images, films, texts and installations.

#### 15. Presentation and expansion of the **digital artothek** for Pankow

In cooperation with *artspring*, a group of visual artists from the Milchhof e.V. studio community have developed a contemporary art sharing concept to make the diverse art production in the district more visible. The artothek berlin is organised by artists and acts as an art-to-go art mediation and cross-media platform. Formed by establishing an uncomplicated personal contact between users and artists to borrow artworks. The website will officially launch with a presentation on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

#### 16. **The KuRoBi4all project** in cooperation with the city library

Under the project title Art/ Robotics/ Library for All - KuRoBi4all for short, the Pankow public library, the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR) and the artists' network, *artspring berlin* are exploring the potential that robotics can offer in libraries. Together with the library's users the aim is to create a robot that fulfils a meaningful function for libraries and whose design incorporates artistic aspects. For the development of the prototype, the *artspring* network has awarded art grants to Janne Höltermann and Friedrich Weber Goizel. The awarded pair are developing the prototype together with computer scientists from the University of Applied Sciences. A lecture series complements the project.

... Plus, numerous other exhibitions and events.

artspring berlin