

OFFENBACH AM MAIN
PUBLIC ART IN SIX LOCATIONS
AUGUST 19TH UNTIL OCTOBER 16TH 2016

HIDDEN VIEW



From August 19th to October 16th, 2016, the exhibition 'Hidden View' will present twelve international artists who with site-specific works will direct the view consciously towards both the hidden and inconspicuous aspects of the urban space of the City of Offenbach am Main. Installations, sculptures, and performances in six selected locations in the public space will reflect the transitory change in urbanism and will specifically sharpen the view of the city's quiet features. 'Hidden View' is organized by the Amt für Kultur- und Sportmanagement (Office for Culture and Sports Management) of the City of Offenbach am Main and is part of the special theme 'Transit' of the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain in cooperation with the KulturRegion FrankfurtRheinMain.

The exhibition 'Hidden View' will focus on the idea of the urban space as a living organism. Invisible in the moment of viewing, socio-economic changes in addition to other things, are only perceived through the familiar view of the city from the vantage point of time. Concurrently, such gradual changes may be obliterated from people's consciousness or otherwise obscured, yet are nevertheless retained in the form of a sort of unconscious urban memory. The apparent banality of public spaces lacking visible landmarks, anchored in the collective consciousness solely by virtue of their acute functional and historical relevance, may often reveal their special features only through painstaking research. 'Hidden View' plays with the aspect of temporality as an important durational record of the perception of the city. Both the visual and the contextual meaning of locations and spaces are subject to a continuous transformative process during which the known transforms into the unfamiliar while the new develops into the familiar.

The unknown in the familiar is the point of departure for the art project 'Hidden View'.

Twelve Artists. Twelve Perspectives

This raising of awareness is reached through intensive artistic disputes that reveal the unnoticed facets of a familiar location. With so-called in situ works, in which the invited artists develop a work that is made for the specific location, they may either react to the everyday conditions or expose individual deposits of forgotten occurrences and stories.

Thus the art collective **Geheimagentur** together with the 'Agentur für Zeitverschwendung' (Agency for Wasting Time) encourages citizens to waste their – precious – time using the ephemeral character of time as the basis for their humorous and critical view of social change. While artist **Jochem Hendricks** who lives in Frankfurt will open a time window on Offenbach as a former industrial and production location with his installation at times commenting ironically, **Julia Bünnagel's** black glass panels created in perfectly precise high gloss aesthetics will function as poetical mirrors in which nature and clouds will be reflected. Here the implicit reference of a gate to another world and as a baroque symbol of eternity combine subtly with the actual surroundings for which they were developed. Under the watchful eyes of the citizens of Offenbach, Irish artist **Katie Holten** will develop a 'hiking trail' that connects all six locations and at the same time opens new paths into the city. Departing from the matches in her research of *#OffenbachAmMain*, which will consist mainly of selfies from which Holten has extracted the eyes that will serve as drawn signposts through the city being a site-specific continuation of her conceptual employment of the relationship between man and nature. The works of all invited artists, including **Marc Aschenbrenner, Luka Fineisen, Gereon Krebber, Jana Müller, Fabrizio Prevedello, Thomas Rentmeister, Elsa Tomkowiak** and **Michael Zheng**, have been specifically developed for the exhibition '**Hidden View**' and will be on view only during the duration of the exhibition. The exhibits in the exterior space will be complemented by individual performative and conceptual interventions as part of the extensive supporting program.

Locations

The route which takes approximately two and a half hours to traverse, will surprise by the inclusion of a former **place of execution** known locally as Rabenstein (Raven Stone, a term that used to be common for sites where executions were conducted), on the walled site of which stood a gallows that was visible from afar, the last execution having taken place there in 1812. Formerly, the location's surroundings because of their natural conditions received the name *In the Swamps* and at the beginning of the nineteenth century were still located in front of Offenbach's city gates. Today, this part of the Senefelder quarter belongs to the inner city core and is now a children's playground with a slide and jungle gym, etc. Nothing remains to indicate the site's former purpose. The tour that can be individually created, leads to the only unchanged border with the neighboring city Frankfurt, which had already been integrated during the time of the Franks. The remains of this historical trace situated in a geological depression overgrown with weeds and therefore almost invisible, exists in the form of a square reddish **Grenzstein** (boundary stone) and has changed in the common awareness from the historical state borderline to the tariff limit of the local public transportation system.

Immediately adjacent is the **Dreieichpark** (Three Oaks Park) once known as the Border Park the emergence of which dates back to the 2nd *Hessian State Trade Exhibition* in 1879. After the exhibition had been physically dismantled it became the first public park of the city of Offenbach. Two landmarked architectural concrete experiments the brutalist beauty of which show a surprising timely aesthetic are reminiscent of it. At the Plaza of the 8th of May, better known as the **Vorplatz des Deutschen Ledermuseums** (Forecourt of the German Leather Museum) time segments differing by name are revealed. While the adjacent building at the times of National Socialism (nowadays known as the IHK Building) is not anymore recognizable as a former Gestapo jail, the contiguous museum, whose core structure was originally built as a warehouse for the near trade fair, still refers to the long history of Offenbach's city- and image-defining leather industry. The **Alter Friedhof** (Old Cemetery) constitutes a further stage of the exhibition route. Within the cemetery grounds the old wetlands landscape, which originally characterized what is now the present day urban space, has been preserved. The name Offenbach derives from the word *Ouenbach*, a term that once embodied the character of the landscape and its original flora. With an avenue of plane trees protected as a historical monument on the 'Gottesacker' (God's Acre) this location refers to the man-made changes and landscape-architectural specificities of its original nature. There are a multitude of individual stories attached to these park-like grounds designed in 1832. One concerns a Jewish burial ground which had to be partially relocated to make way for the laying of railroad tracks. The exhibition tour ends with the **Wilhelmsplatz** as probably Offenbach's most famous location. Underneath the paving stones of today's market place are located the remains of the former cemetery, which is believed to date from c.1700.

Artists

Marc Aschenbrenner, Julia Bünnagel, Luka Fineisen, Geheimagentur, Jochem Hendricks, Katie Holten, Gereon Krebber, Jana Müller, Fabrizio Prevedello, Thomas Rentmeister, Elsa Tomkowiak, Michael Zheng.

Curators

Britt Baumann + Nadia Ismail

Dates

Press Tour: August 16, 2016, 11:30 a.m., Markthaus am Wilhelmsplatz,
Bieberer Str. 9, 63065 Offenbach am Main

Opening: August 19, 2016, 7 p.m., Markthaus am Wilhelmsplatz,
Bieberer Str. 9, 63065 Offenbach am Main

Duration of the exhibition: August 20 – October 16, 2016

Free admission

Route and supporting program see: Hiddenview.de

Press Contact, p.p.

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