

F R E E #9 B E R L I N



Free Berlin No. 9 / Errant Bodies Press, Berlin / www.errantbodies.org / April 2021 / with contributions: Andalusía Knöll & Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui / Anna Provan / Curatorial Collective for Public Art / Michael Leung / Zsolt Miklósvölgyi & Márió Z. Nemes / Aitlin Krenak / in tribute Lesbian Herstory Archives

Front cover photo: billboard, Autonomous Center, Cologne (photo: Lily Errant). Our publications are available at ProQM, Berlin. With love and respect: Krenak Indigenous Community, Solidarity Feminism Bolivia, AZ K, Lesbian Herstory Archives. Thanks to Octavio Camargo & the crew / Free Berlin is free. Pass it on.

A project by CCPA
Curatorial Collective for Public Art

SATURDAY
11TH JULY 2020
12:00-24:00
BERLIN-KREUZBERG

27 INTERVENTIONS
RADIO PROGRAMME
PANDEMIC FILMS-
SCREENING

THIS IS AN INTERVENTION!

*A long afternoon of public pauses reversing the
post-pandemic rush to normality.*



Camp Collapse / Stories from the Future (intervention 24)

ORIGINAL OPEN CALL

Now that the curve has been flattened in the Global North, and the lockdown is slowly being lifted, governments seem all too eager to return to "business-as-usual". We cannot help but feel distressed at the prospect of going "back to normal" (at full speed). Rather than fast-forwarding, we feel an urgency to pause, and reflect on the very parameters of this "normality".

The virus left a devastating trail of casualties. But it also momentarily halted the machine of capitalism, and exposed the structural global inequality and the overall unsustainability of the system we live in. It offered a painful reminder of the manner in which this system denies access to support to those already excluded from it.

Why is there such a rush to restart this machine?

In this spirit, with no funding, acknowledging uncertainty as a commonality, we call for allies in Berlin to pause with us, and open up their private thinking to the public, in order to collectively explore the undiscovered land of the post-pandemic. Could this period be a chance to initiate vast and widespread cultural, environmental, economic, social and democratic transformations in systems and mindsets? This project is an attempt at collecting the wide range of contemplations, energies and emotions at play right now, and gives space to critical and utopian thinking in order to start rehearsing new normalities where things could work differently.

In the rush of reactivating the public space after the lockdown, we call out to you - our community, our friends and colleagues as well as other critical minds in Berlin - to contribute to the re-occupation of the public sphere. Each of us will stage, project or frame a moment in (semi-)public space. Put together, these moments will make up a sequence of pauses.

For the duration of a long afternoon in Berlin-Kreuzberg, on Saturday July 4th from 12:00 until 22:00, we will all present public interventions (within current regulations). These can be continuous or momentary, using any possible medium. We welcome artists, designers, architects, musicians, writers, performers, curators, thinkers, educators or anyone else for participation. Activation sites can be balconies, walls, windows, doors, gardens, streets, parks and public spaces in general.

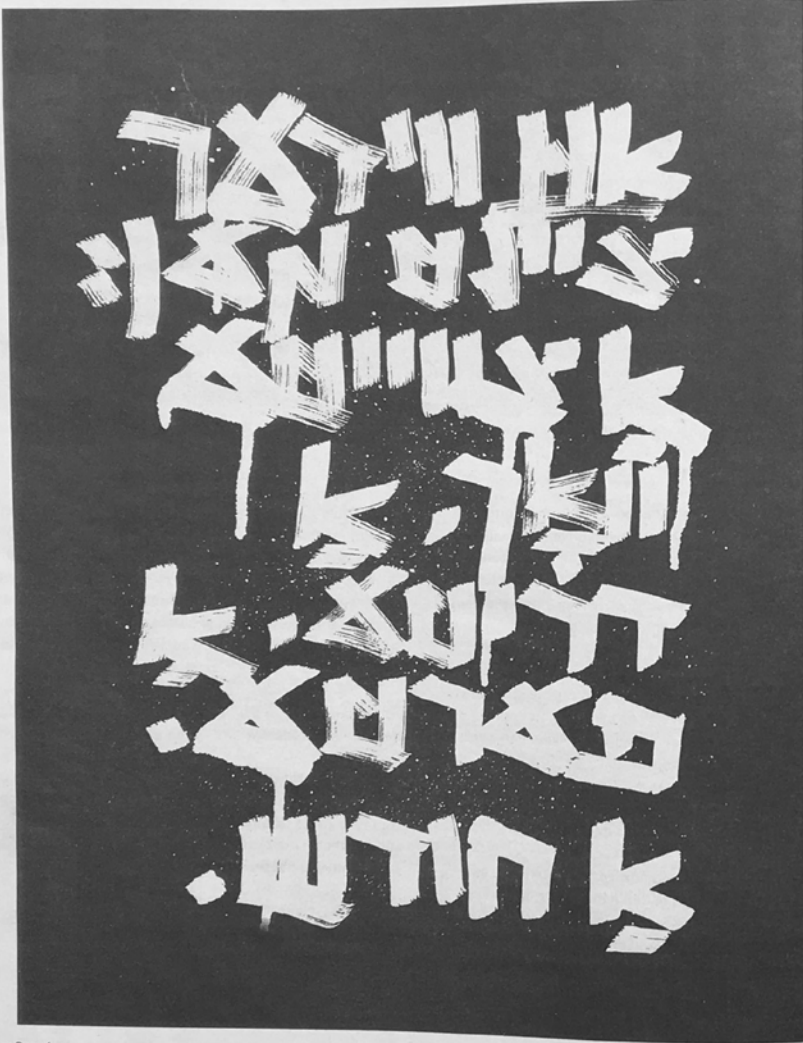
This initiative is based on an open invitation for contributions to a decentralised collective and collaborative participatory event.

Yes, this is short notice, so unfinished, fragmented and experimental contributions are welcomed - but there is a pressing necessity to go public quickly with voices that are currently unheard, and use the post-lockdown momentum. There is no time - this is why we have to pause.

José Délano, Lianne Mol & Yael Sherill
(15th of June, 2020)

beginning of poem many suns, on both sides, many twilights, twice daily, the day is a rectangular lump, seven blocks with two suns, are called a week. seven times a yellow light, a blue light, seven times, a yellow sun, a white sun, the unneeded days get counted, and again the count: a second week, a third, a fourth, a block of thirty suns: a month.

end of poem aims the same, and three with flat, papery days like whiteness, and nothing comes, how many times the sticky sprouts come up, how many times the days papery and white, with, three months of blue skies and sticky sprouts, three months of metallic yellow flowers, birds, and clothes, then three in which everything remains the same.



Day Figures / Ella Ponzivsky Bergelson

**"AND AGAIN THE COUNT:
A SECOND WEEK, A THIRD, A FOURTH,
A BLOCK OF THIRTY SUNS: A MONTH."**

translation:
Jordan Lee Schnee

"Cross Section" is a poem by Deborah Vogel (1902-1942) published in 1930 on the Yiddish poetry volume "Day Figures".



Patrick Thomas /
Mobile Agitprop Unit

THE LOCKDOWN WAS A TIME OF PAUSE, A MOMENT NOT TO RUSH BACK INTO PRODUCING, WHICH WE ARE TRAINED TO DO. WHEN WE DISCUSSED THAT IN OUR TEAM, WE REALIZED THIS WAS A GOOD POINT TO START FROM. WE DO WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN BUT WE WANT TO PUT THE EMPHASIS ON THE IDEA OF PAUSING BEFORE WE GO BACK TO "NORMALITY". WE FELT THESE VOICES WERE NOT HEARD ENOUGH. WE WANTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MOMENT.

Initiator Yael Sherill about the concept of "This is an Intervention!"

THE INTERVENTIONS RELATE TO WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW, AND COME UP WITH IDEAS AND APPROACHES TO WHAT COULD HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE, WHEN THIS PANDEMIC ACTUALLY ENDS. HOW COULD WE CHANGE THE WAY WE ARE LIVING? CRITICAL MOMENTS ARE OF COURSE AT THE SAME TIME OPPORTUNITIES. SO WHY NOT GRAB THAT OPPORTUNITY AND TRY TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS.

Initiator José Délano about the concept of "This is an Intervention!"



Patrick Thomas /
Mobile Agitprop Unit

Quotes and excerpts from conversations that were held as part of the discursive programme in collaboration with Judith Wajsbgrus from Cashmere Radio. Find the full podcast on www.cashmereradio.com.

Marco Montiel-Soto /
Digging for a structure #43
(intervention 4)



WHAT IS THE CORE OF ART? AND WHAT IS PUBLIC ABOUT PUBLIC ART? IT IS FOR THE PUBLIC, FOR THE COMMONS. AND ESPECIALLY IN THIS TIME, IT IS A WAY TO OVERCOME ISOLATION. HOW CAN WE BE TOGETHER WITHOUT PHYSICALLY BEING IN ONE PLACE? OF COURSE, I AM ABSOLUTELY FOR PAYING ARTISTS GOOD FEES, BUT SOMETIMES IT IS NECESSARY TO GO ON ADVENTURES DRIVEN BY SOLIDARITY, BY GENEROSITY, BY A NEED.

Curator Joanna Warsza about the concept of "Die Balkone"
(Prenzlauer Berg, April 2020)



© Susann Ziefinski

"Our experience as a result of the pandemic is a privileged one. While in Berlin we debate reopening clubs, others must debate means of survival." **Joaquin Brandan / We know that we had a rather privileged quarantine. What are we going to do about it?** (intervention 15)



© Pablo Ferralis

"During lockdown, as we were spending our time inside, what were our escape windows? Where do we get a bit of fresh air? It can be an actual window, but it can also be a metaphorical window. I was talking to my grandma, or listening to music that brought me "outside". For "This is an Intervention!" I was sketching pictures of people's physical or conceptual escape windows, giving the audience a free souvenir of quarantine. The act of sketching requires you to sit and look, and not be in a rush. The pause button is pressed while sketching." **Pablo Cabrera Ferralis / Escape windows from Quarantine: Souvenirs 4 free** (intervention 9)



© Susann Ziefinski

Initiator **José Délano** in conversation with **Marco Clausen**
(Prinzessingärten)

J: When we look into the question of what comes after the pandemic, nature, ecology and small-scale gardening could hopefully play an important role. What role could that be? And are we ready to give a more important role to nature?

M: We live in this kind of mental twist. It's not that we don't know. We know but we don't act on it. And everybody knows that. We still think it's about gaining consciousness, knowledge, scientific facts. But actually we all know about the climate crisis, about biodiversity loss. Politicians have been discussing these topics for decades, yet nothing is happening. So now during the pandemic, what we should be asking ourselves is: What started it, and what can we do about it?

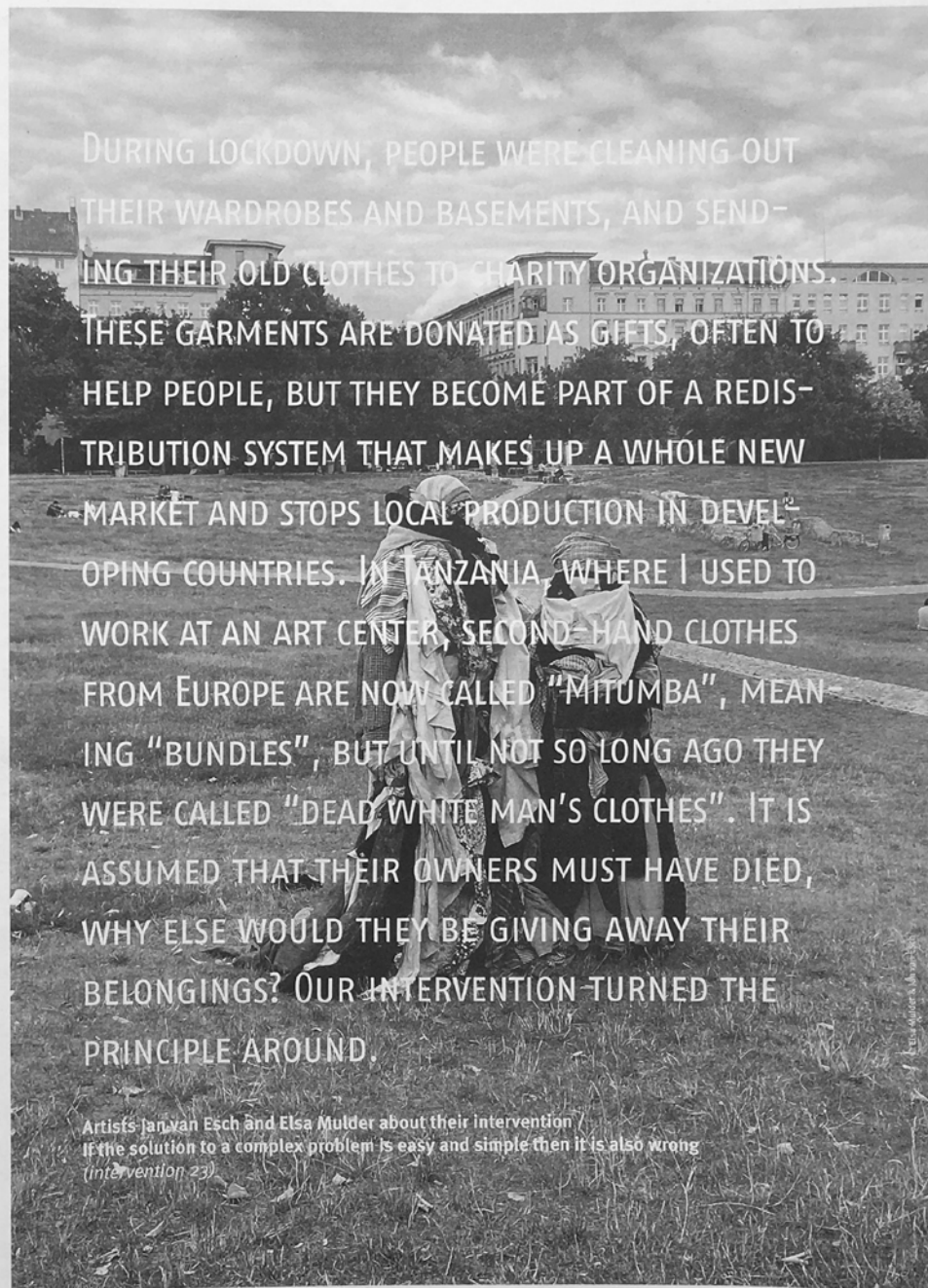
J: What role do you think an urban gardening project could have for generating change?

M: Change is actually easy. We could do it by doing nothing. Working less, consuming less, getting rid of cars. The pandemic showed us how great it is if we have only 10% of car traffic. It isn't so complicated, and nothing is really stopping us. It is not a crisis of civilization, it is not a crisis of humankind. The crisis is that very few people are benefitting a lot from things being like they are, but most of us don't.



© Susann Ziefinski

Plastique Fantastique / iSphere (intervention 22)



DURING LOCKDOWN, PEOPLE WERE CLEANING OUT THEIR WARDROBES AND BASEMENTS, AND SENDING THEIR OLD CLOTHES TO CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS. THESE GARMENTS ARE DONATED AS GIFTS, OFTEN TO HELP PEOPLE, BUT THEY BECOME PART OF A REDISTRIBUTION SYSTEM THAT MAKES UP A WHOLE NEW MARKET AND STOPS LOCAL PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN TANZANIA, WHERE I USED TO WORK AT AN ART CENTER, SECOND-HAND CLOTHES FROM EUROPE ARE NOW CALLED "MITUMBA", MEANING "BUNDLES", BUT UNTIL NOT SO LONG AGO THEY WERE CALLED "DEAD WHITE MAN'S CLOTHES". IT IS ASSUMED THAT THEIR OWNERS MUST HAVE DIED, WHY ELSE WOULD THEY BE GIVING AWAY THEIR BELONGINGS? OUR INTERVENTION TURNED THE PRINCIPLE AROUND.

Artists **Jan van Esch** and **Elsa Mulder** about their intervention
If the solution to a complex problem is easy and simple then it is also wrong
(intervention 23)

© Jan van Esch & Elsa Mulder



© Lucila Guichon

3. Lucila Guichon / Leicy Valenzuela / Franco Toledo / Inti Gallardo / Aleksandra Gajda, "ALTAR BERLIN: Station Intervention"



© Julia Kwaka

10. Jasmina Al-Qaisi, "Work Less Radio"

"THIS PROJECT FELT LIKE AN AMAZINGLY WELL-PAID JOB WITHOUT CURRENCY."



© Julia Kwaka

1. Paula Anguita / Juan Almarza, "Stairway to Heaven"



© Alejandra Ruddoff

14. Alejandra Ruddoff, "Illusion"

"This is an Intervention!" was a spontaneous initiative that was realized without any funding, thanks to the passionate efforts of the participating artists, team, volunteers, and photographers.



© Simon Hassler

17. Patrick Thomas, "Mobile Agitprop Unit"
16. Gabriel Vallecillo Márquez, "Gargantúa: guerrilla projection magazine"



© Artman Alejandro

Initiator José Délano in conversation with artist Raul Walch about "This is an Intervention!"

"MAYBE THE CURRENCY WAS TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING."



© Cristian Perez

1. Paula Anguita / Juan Almarza, "Stairway to Heaven"
2. Christoph Rothmeier, "The 1984 Step"
3. Lucila Guichon / Leicy Valenzuela / Franco Toledo / Inti Gallardo / Aleksandra Gajda, "ALTAR BERLIN: Station Intervention"
4. Marco Montiel-Soto, "Digging for a structure #43"
5. Pink Valley Performance Kollektiv, "Experiment with Radical Empathy"
6. Lacy Barry, "A Living Planet Does Not Need Your Money"
7. Ailin Formia / Jonny Sabandija, "Coverage area"
8. Néstor Barbitta / Marcela Sacán, "We, the places"
9. Pablo Cabrera Ferralis, "Escape windows from Quarantine: Souvenirs 4 free"
10. Jasmina Al-Qaisi, "Work Less Radio"
11. TRANSSTRUKTURA, "DOM_séparée with Friends"
12. Ella Ponizovsky Bergelson, "Tagfiguren / Day Figures"
13. Iuan-Pedro Guemberena Fabra, 100 Unbekannte
14. Alejandra Ruddoff, "Illusion"
15. Joaquín Brandán, "We know that we had a rather privileged quarantine. What are we going to do about it?"
16. Gabriel Vallecillo Márquez, "Gargantúa: guerrilla projection magazine"
17. Patrick Thomas, "Mobile Agitprop Unit"
18. Topsy Qu'et, "Double check"
19. Petr Dlouhý, "Shared Environment #remote connectivity"
20. Stef Lenk, "Only Love Letters"
21. Álvaro Bezanilla, "Open Workshop: Back to the Origin"
22. Plastique Fantastique, "ISphere"
23. Jan van Esch / Elsa Mulder, "If the solution to a complex problem is easy and simple then it is also wrong"
24. Camp Collapse, "Stories from the Future"
25. Nicolás Lartaun, "Within"
26. Gabriel Hensche, "Almost Heaven"



© Ailin Formia & Jonny Sabandija

7. Ailin Formia / Jonny Sabandija, "Coverage area"

"This is an Intervention!" is conceptualized as a continuous format and platform for intervention in the public sphere. For info about future endeavors, keep an eye on our websites:

www.thisisanintervention.info
www.ccpart.info