

Portfolio
Mandy Gehrt



her jour ney



Her Journey - Artistic Archive Project
 (consisting of handwritten texts, photographs, brochures,
 reproductions, copies, books, interviews, film material)
 ongoing 2022/23

In this artistic research project, I am investigating the stages that Hungarian Jew Dr. Zahava Szász Stessel went through after the liberation of the Buchenwald sub-camp in Markkleeberg near Leipzig in 1945, before being allowed to enter Israel. Based on trips to Budapest and Indersdorf, resulting photographs, and research material spanning from 1945 to 1947, I began compiling an artistic archive. The work is not yet complete and is intended to conclude with the final stage of Dr. Zahava Szász Stessel's journey in New York.



narrow ridge II
site-specific installation
7 objects (seating elements) of various sizes
(wood, foam, photo print on coated canvas)
,Of Pioneer Plants & Flâneuses'
interventionist project, Leipzig 2023

Vacant lots play a significant role in urban development processes and hold various potentials, whether as a future residential area, office or commercial space, or as a collectively usable open space; often, conflicting interests arise. Within the framework of an interventionist city walk in the eastern part of Leipzig, the theme was artistically negotiated.

RE*MAPPING

Eine neue Bewegung

LEIPZIG

Stadtplan

Stationen

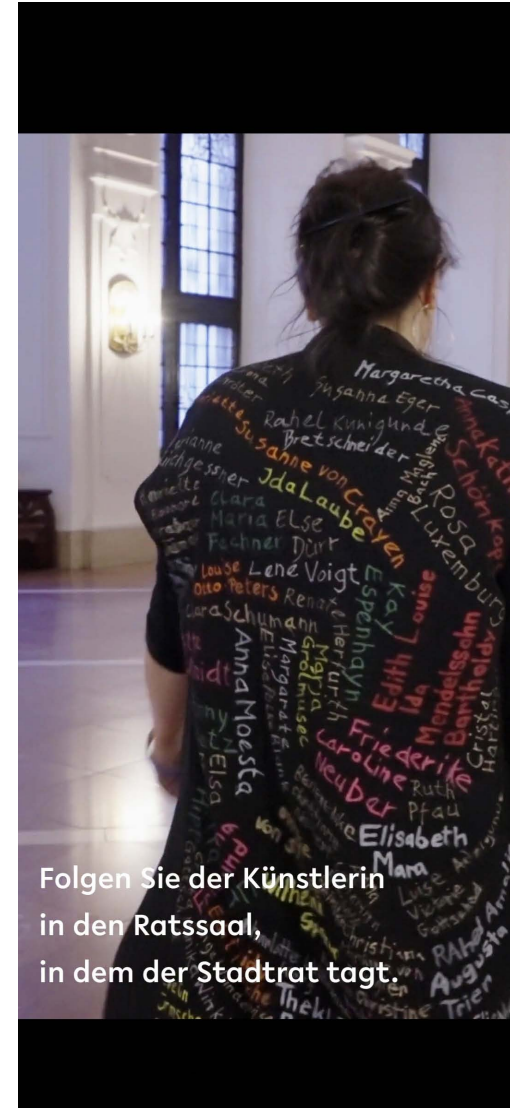
← Re*mapping



welche die Künstlerin und Stadträtin Mandy Gehrt seit 2012 verstrickt. Am 12.10.2022 erhielt Channa Gildoni als erste Frau nach 190 Jahren das Ehrenbürger:innenrecht.



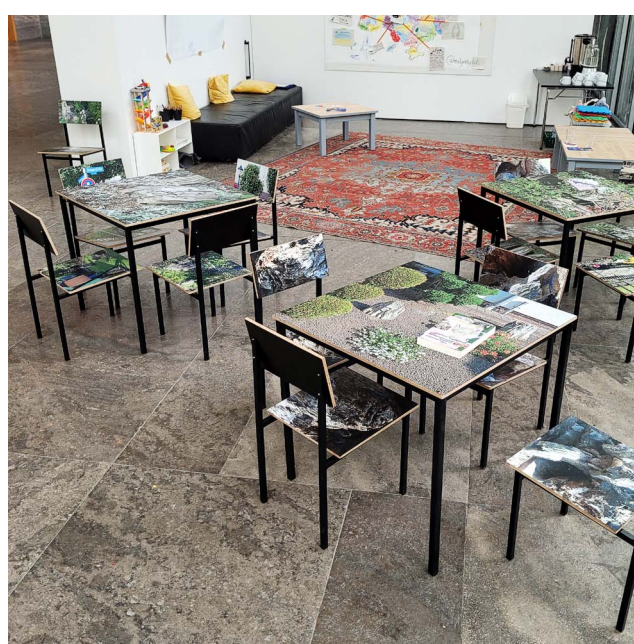
Performance/Text
Mandy Gehrt



Folgen Sie der Künstlerin
in den Ratssaal,
in dem der Stadtrat tagt.

Honorary Citizens
Performance, Film 3:24 min
(entangled council documents, vest with prominent Leipzig figures)
2022/23

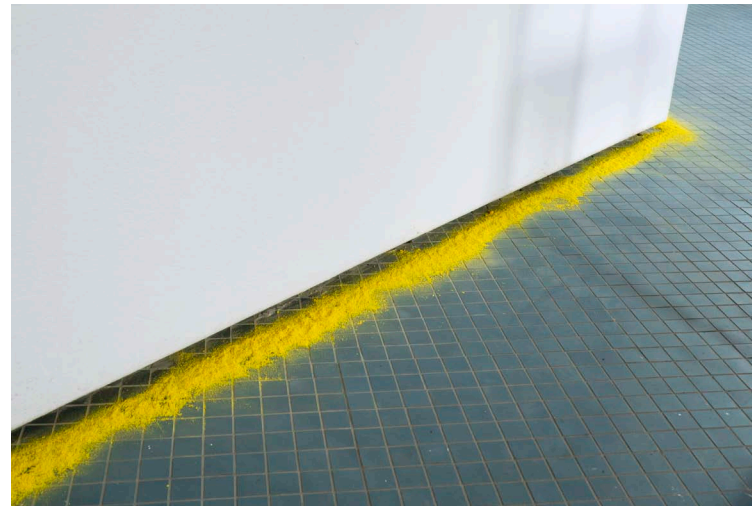
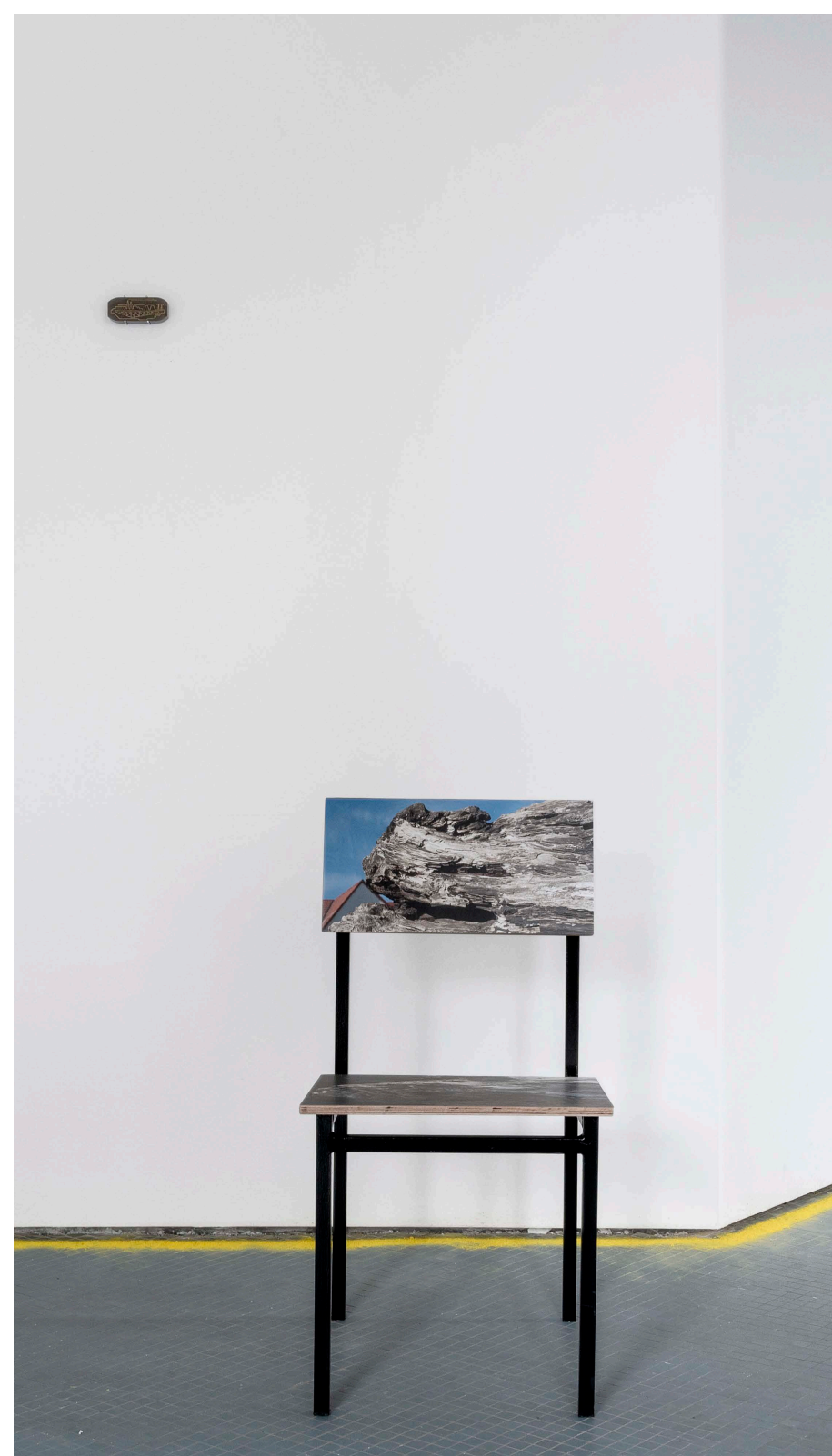
As part of the project ‚A New Movement: Re*mapping Leipzig‘—a web-based app that invites multimedia artistic exploration of the history and present of the Leipzig women’s movement—the artist designed the station ‚Leipzig’s Honorary Citizens‘ at the New City Hall Leipzig.



**Miners Rest
Installation**

**(12 GDR steel tube chairs, 3 GDR steel tube tables, foil print)
Installation and action at ‚Kunst am Markt‘ in Kitzscher, 2021
Installation in the ‚Open Space‘ of the MdbK Leipzig 2021/22**

As part of ‚Kunst am Markt,‘ the former canteen chairs and tables served as a display and seating, thus being reintroduced to a renewed social use in a cultural context.



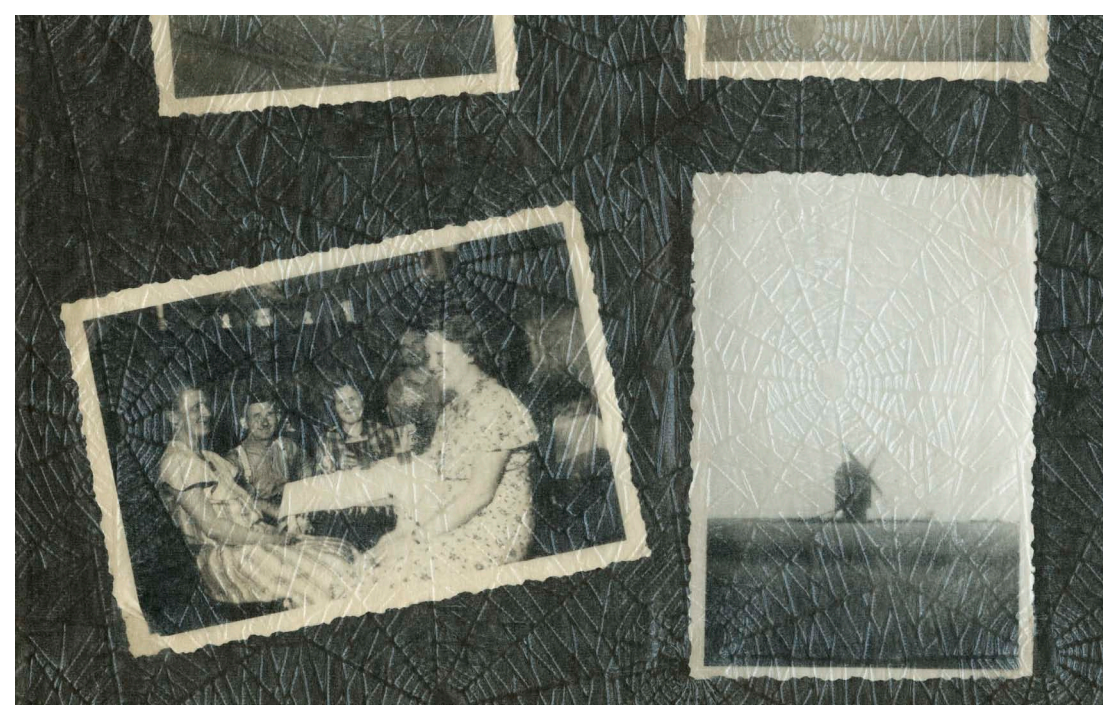
**Miners Rest
Installation**
(12 GDR steel tube chairs, foil print, briquette, color powder)
,AB_RAUM,' D21, Leipzig 2021

In this work, Mandy Gehrt engages with the history of the Leipzig region shaped by open-pit mining and deindustrialization. In Kitzscher, she searched for traces of this history. What she found were lovingly arranged relics (including fossilized wood) in allotment gardens and front yards, as well as vivid memories of snow colored by coal dust and sulfur. Fragments of these images and impressions were transferred onto GDR steel tube chairs and tables, which were used as seating for events and in canteens during the GDR era.



I'm not just German; I'm an East German woman!
Installation
(Reproductions, textile print,
furniture fragments, steel tube)
Kultur Leioa, Bilbao, Spain, March 2020

The work explores visual representations and propagated gender roles of women in East Germany from the 1960s to the 1980s and their influence on the self-perception of women and gender relations today.



**Heirlooms II
Installation**
(5 GDR bedside cabinets, steel tube, archival prints, yarn, 1 ton of gravel)
Westpol A.I.R Space, 2019

The work presents intimate glimpses of the lives of unknown families during World War II. These are pages from photo albums where the war was almost completely omitted. The elevated bedside cabinets, with parts of the embroidered photo album pages visible in their drawers, stand in a gravel bed of 10 x 10 meters. The area is based on the dimensions and characteristics of a ‚Löschteich‘ (extinguishing pond), the last disappeared listed original architecture of the external camp of the Buchenwald concentration camp in Markkleeberg. The work refers to various mechanisms of displacement and the disappearance of history(-ies) in both personal and public spaces.



Meyerland
Installation
consisting of three tables, three lamps,
photographs (archival prints), sound (interviews), brochure

Presented during ,Houstonweek' in the city center of Leipzig, 2018



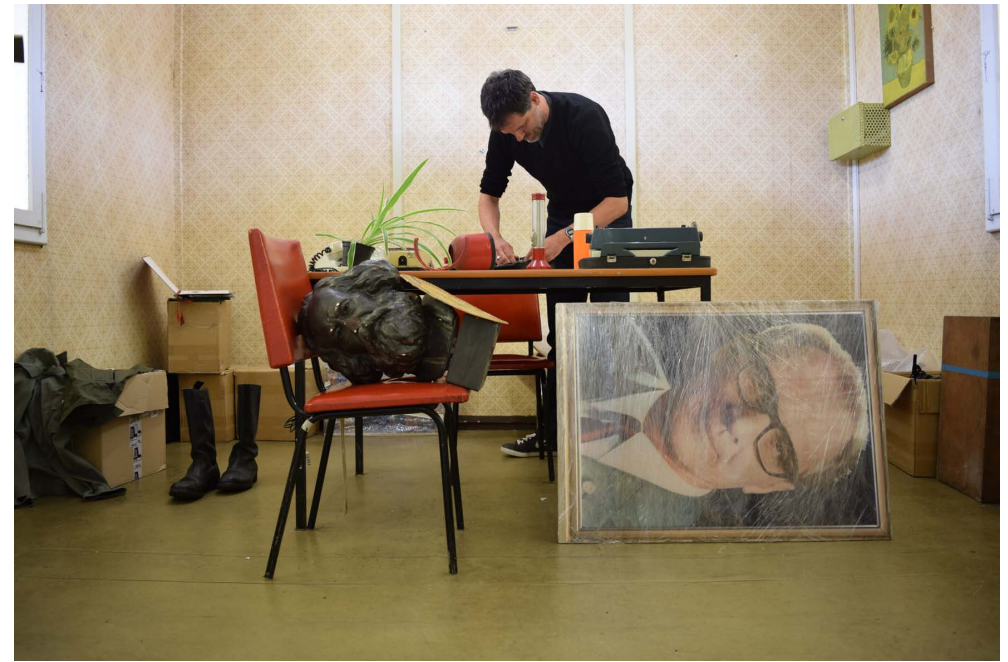
Meyerland
Photographs (archival prints)
Part of the installation

Meyerland is a 6000-hectare neighborhood in Houston, named after the Meyer family, who purchased this land in the southwest of the city in 1885. Today, Meyerland is the center of the Jewish community in Houston. The installation showcases a selection of the artist's research findings on the Jewish history and present-day Jewish life in Houston. Intuitively following the traces and clues she encountered during her on-site stay, she collected and documented them, creating a work in the form of an artistic archive. The installation was displayed in public space in Leipzig, between Thomaskirche and Commerzbank, overlooking the synagogue memorial on Gottschedstraße.



narrow ridge
Performance and spatial installation
(4 archival prints (1.00m x 1.80m), wood, city council documents, 240 booklets)
LINDENOW 13, 2017
Mandy Gehrt & Jessica Arseneau

The starting point of the work was the closure of an antiquarian bookstore in Leipzig. The small shop was of great value to the residents of the Lindenau district and was indeed identity-forming. With large-format photographs of the interior in the cleared state, wood from the former bookshelves, and excerpts from the last book found on-site, an expansive installation was created for LINDENOW 13. Its elements were gradually tipped further during the exhibition period by stacking sawn wood pieces (wrapped in city council documents). The work addresses current urban development processes characterized by gentrification and displacement in some neighborhoods.



Rearranging History / Zollraum Marienborn
Site-specific installation and instructions
Memorial Site of German Division Marienborn, 2017

In the former customs area of the memorial site, Mandy Gehrt presented a constantly changing arrangement. For this, the artist formulated instructions for the staff of the memorial site. They were to change the arrangement according to their preferences during the exhibition period, becoming designers themselves. Paradoxically, this was not done with the archival material of the memorial site but with the images and flea market objects reproduced by the artist, which only resembled those items in the memorial site's storage. With the work, the artist points to the construction and manipulability of history.



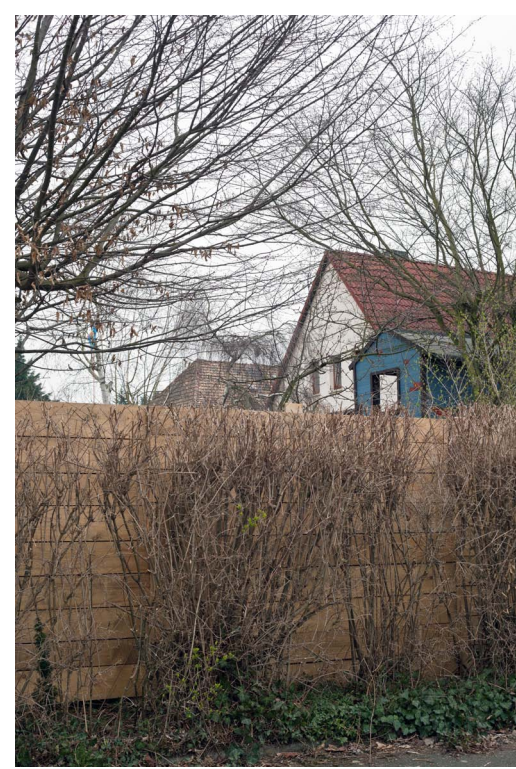
Rearranging History / Bildarchiv Marienborn
Site-specific installation, reproductions
Memorial Site of German Division Marienborn, 2017

The installation in the exhibition space provided insight into the art collection of the former border facility. The reproductions, depicting an idealized image of soldiers and border guards, were rearranged by the artist. The ideologically charged slogans from historical posters such as 'Secure borders, secure peace' thus pointed to current debates.



Mandy Gehrt

Heirlooms
23 photographs, two handwritten pages of text
Halle 14 - Center for Contemporary Arts, Leipzig, 2017



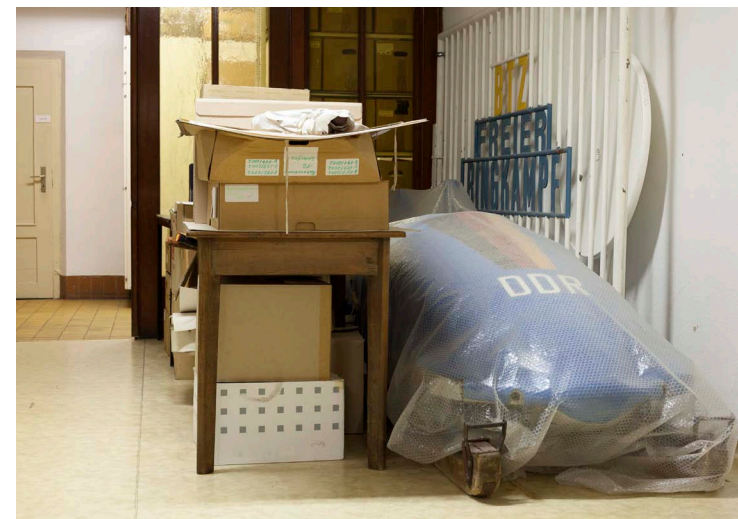
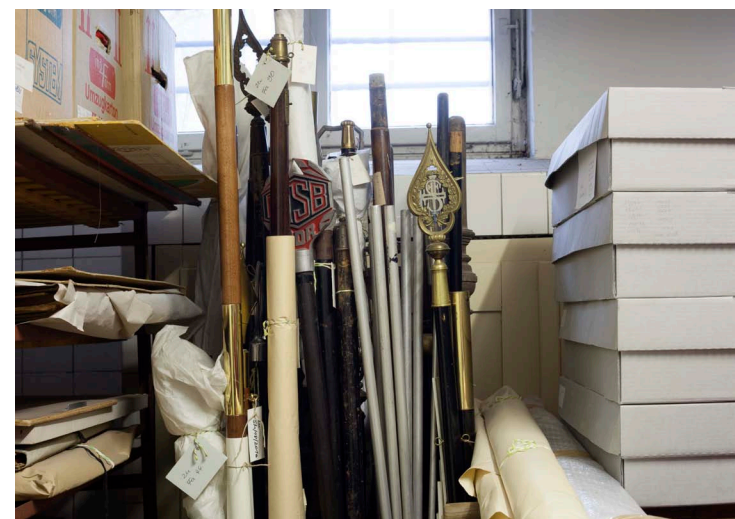
Heirlooms
28 photographs
Brochure, edition of 100
Gallery of Contemporary Art Leipzig, 2015

In the photographs in the brochure and in the two-row photo work, the two sides of Eqipagenweg in Markkleeberg are juxtaposed. While on one side (top row) there are single-family houses, some of which were built before 1933, on the other side (bottom row) you can see the site of the former satellite camp of the Buchenwald concentration camp in Markkleeberg. Today, the area is built over and privately owned; however, the numerous barracks give a glimpse of the history of the site. Two texts describe mutual observation situations (by the residents of the houses and the concentration camp prisoners) that emerged during intensive research into the satellite camp in eyewitness accounts.



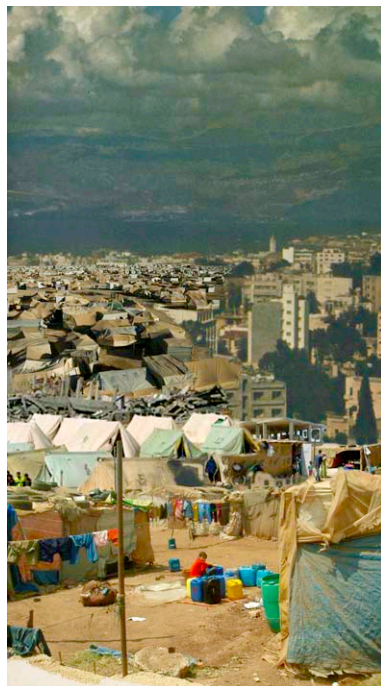
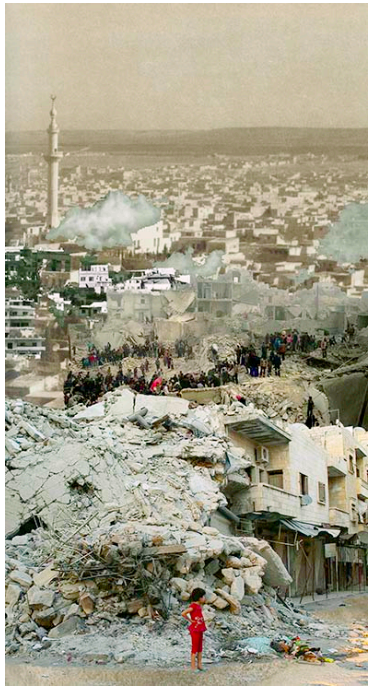
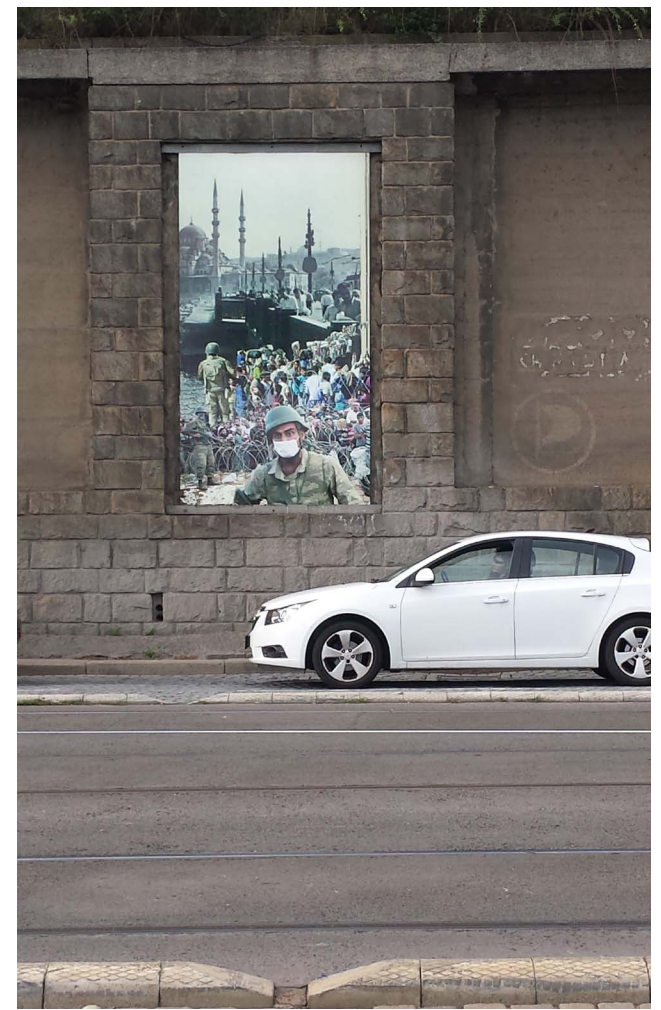
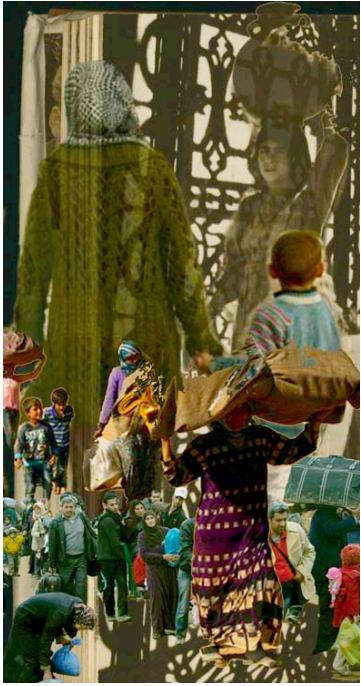
Heirlooms
mobile archive, installation
Gallery of Contemporary Art Leipzig, 2015

The installation „Erbstücke“ is an artistic archival project about the time of National Socialism in Markkleeberg. The installation consists of archive furniture, deconstructed forms of memorial sites, sound, video, photographs, and booklets. In this project, the artist explores and documents the history and memories of the National Socialist era, particularly in relation to Markkleeberg. The use of archive furniture and memorial site forms alludes to historical documentation and the handling of memories. Sound, video, and photographs are likely employed as additional elements to present and reflect on various aspects of history. The installation serves as an artistic engagement with the past and as a means to encourage visitors to grapple with historical themes.



o.T. (Sportmuseum)
25 archival prints

The photo series „o.T. (Sportmuseum)“ provides a glimpse into the collection of the Sports Museum, referenced on the website of the City History Museum. However, there is no actual Sports Museum; instead, the collection is located in a basement on the grounds of the Olympic training center and has limited accessibility. The photo series captures glimpses of the temporary state of the collection in a densely packed space, depicting a dynamic environment undergoing continuous changes through the handling of materials.



Tausend und zwei Nächte
7 Plakate (2 x 4 Meter)
digitale Fotocollagen
artwall Gallery Prag, 2015

The work, designed for public space in Prague, consists of seven digital collages. The starting point was photographs from travel reports by two Czechoslovak travel journalists who, in the 50s and 60s, traveled through Asia and Africa in futuristic Tatra vehicles. Their route included Syria and resembled the path that people fleeing Syria took to Europe in 2015. In selected reportage photographs from countries neighboring Syria, current images from the internet were collaged.

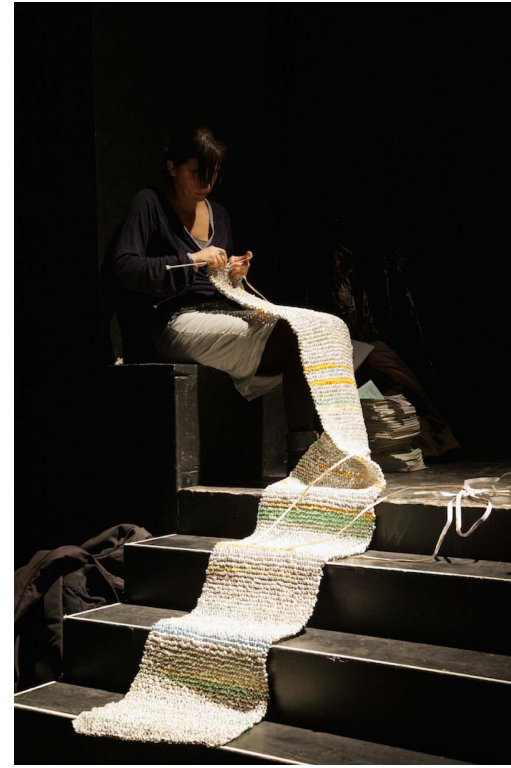


Tausend und zwei Nächte
40 Slides
Project Space BÜKÜ, Leipzig, 2016



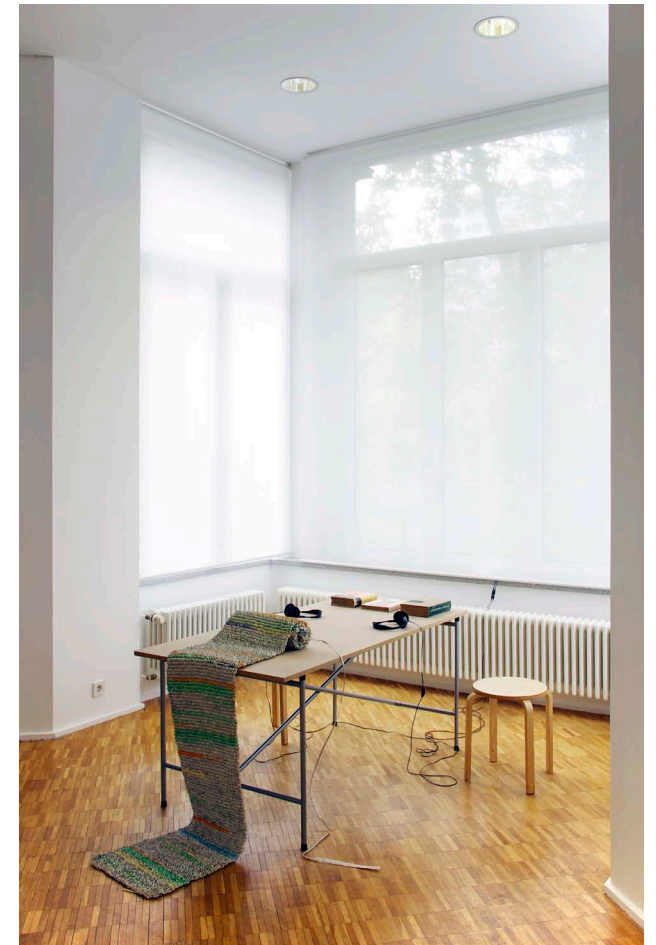
Fragments of Home
Six-part wall image (1.51 × 1.23 m)
archive print of mobile phone photos
BÜKÜ Project Space, Leipzig, 2016

The arrangement is one of three large-format wall images that show greatly enlarged sections of mobile phone photographs. The images are snapshots taken by refugees of their homes or living environments using their mobile phones or sent by friends and relatives. The selection of images was done collaboratively with the refugees.

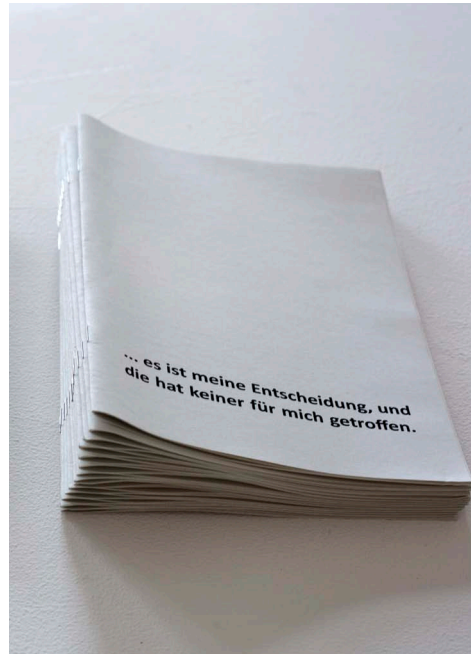


abarbeiten
knitted city council documents,
Performance, ongoing since 2012

As a politically engaged artist and cultural producer, Mandy Gehrt has been knitting decision documents from the Leipzig City Council since 2012, connecting her political and artistic activities through a manual technique predominantly associated with women. As a woman and artist, she thus doubly processes the political material with a considerable additional effort.



„abarbeiten“ und „zwischen vierzehn und achtzehn“
Installation View: Gallery for Contemporary Art Leipzig, 2013



zwischen vierzehn und achtzehn
80 slides, interview: 50 min, 3 books, 10 brochures

The work is an attempt to approach the portrayal of women and ideas about the role of women in the GDR, using examples from illustrations in guidebooks for girls, through selected reproductions, texts, and interviews.