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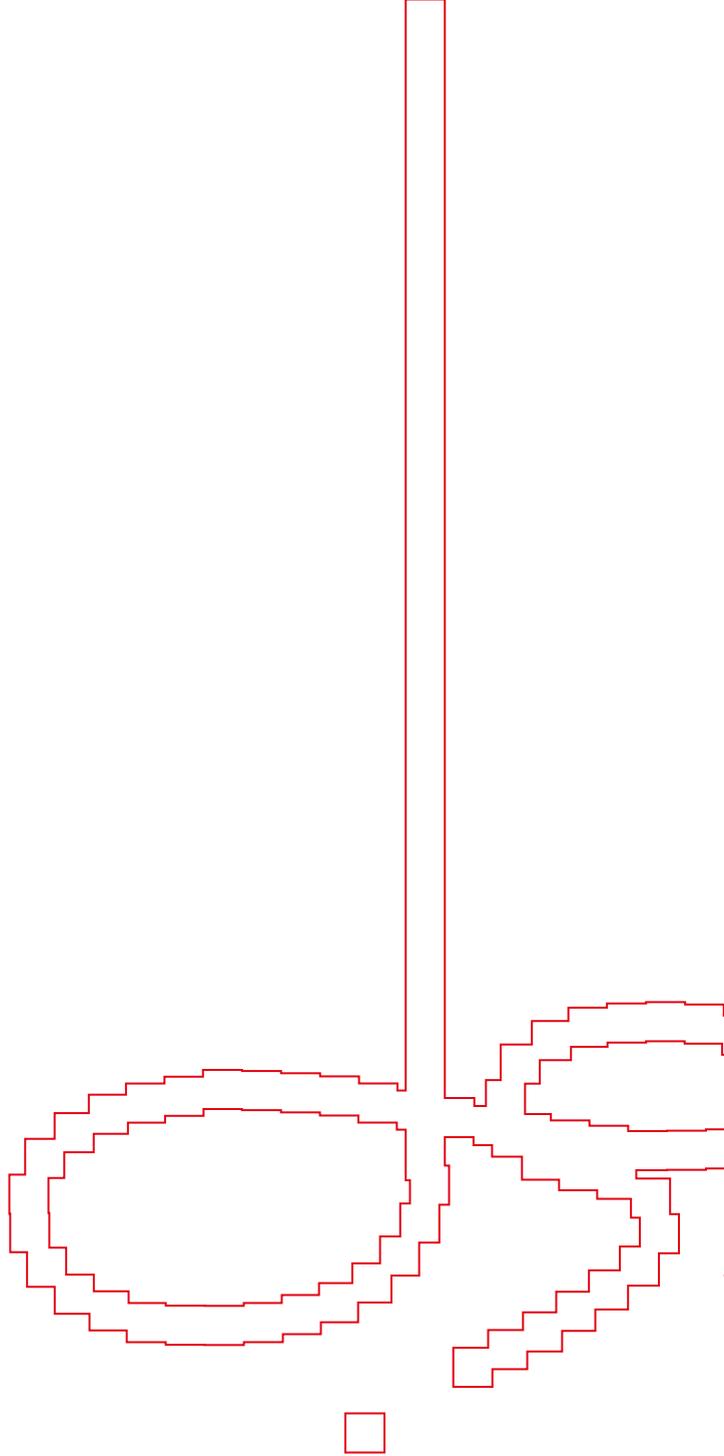
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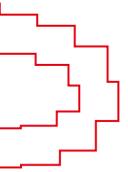
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Greetings by Barbara Klepsch

Dear reader,

Saxony is rich in art and culture. To preserve, develop and communicate culture, committed cultural associations like Klub Solitaer e.V. in Chemnitz are needed. During its eleven years of activity, it has succeeded in establishing very special spaces for cultural encounters in the Sonnenberg district. A space for idea-exchange and collaboration for cultural workers and residents from all over Chemnitz. A place where culture can be actively experienced!

With the off-theatre for performing arts „Komplex“, Klub Solitaer and Taupunkt e. V. have created a wonderfully open and experimental venue that unites contemporary theatre, dance, performance and film while enabling audience interaction. The support of up-and-coming artists from Chemnitz, the region and Europe in Galerie HINTEN broadens the perspective on current art and social issues with every exhibition.

The variety of projects by Klub Solitaer naturally also includes the use of contemporary digital media: the digital lab is a mediation space and incubator for new cultural formats, implementing exciting digital cultural moments in the urban space. Especially for people who have only limited access to new media, the digital lab is an important technology pool.

The association's members have completely internalised culture and, with the volunteer-run project „Späti“, offer a very low-threshold opportunity for contact and exchange that facilitates access to art and culture.

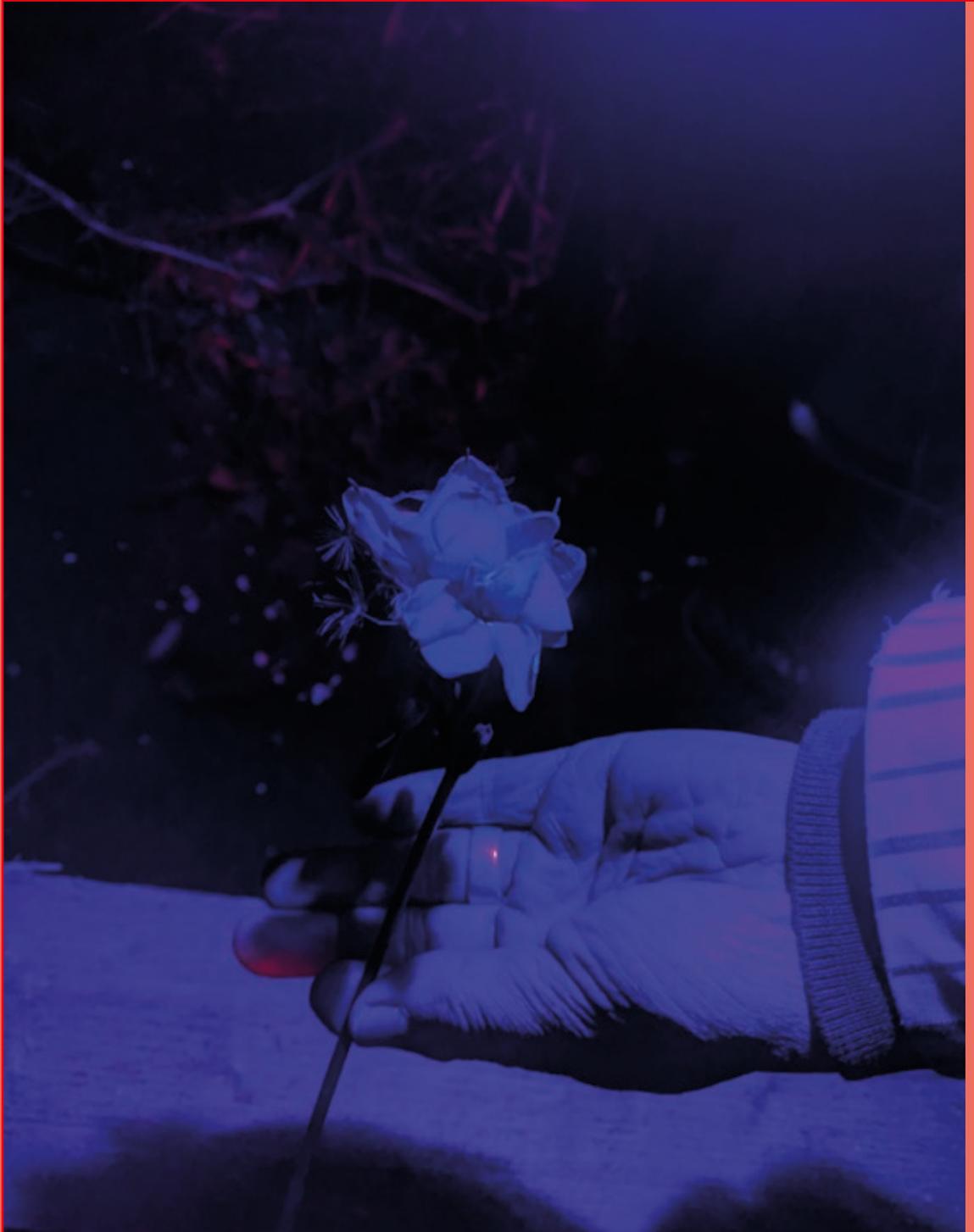
With all the above, Klub Solitaer contributes to the further growth of a lively, urban neighbourhood in the Sonnenberg district. People from different artistic fields are invited to enliven the public and semi-public space with creative ideas. Thus, points of contact are being created that will provide future-oriented perspectives on the urban space on Sonnenberg, which has been dominated by vacancies up to now, helping to determine the image of the future capital of culture.

Above all, I would like to thank the many volunteers who help realise the projects of the cultural association with a lot of energy, heart and soul. On the way to the Capital of Culture in 2025, it is fortunate for Chemnitz to have a partner with so much energy at its side. I am pleased that our house can already support the remarkable work of the association through project funding as well as concept funding from the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony.

I wish Klub Solitaer continued success for its projects and ideas and would like to expressly encourage it to continue working creatively for art and culture for a long time to come!

Barbara Klepsch, Saxon State Minister for Culture and Tourism





Mission

■ Trying out ideas, initiating community involvement, creating room for development; for cultural work and sustainable, participatory district development, this is Klub Solitaer e. V. 's mission - the mission of a cultural actor located in the Sonnenberg district in Chemnitz, which has been active in the quarter since 2010. With spaces for contemporary art production and exhibition, concerts, workshops and interventions in public space, in short: events that shape the city and its quarters, the association actively works to establish a progressive local cultural scene.

It is our desire to set up and grow infrastructure for upcoming and established cultural actors and creatives, while simultaneously supporting the competence- and knowledge transfer between the diverse actors from our network, thereby strengthening the existing local community with new perspectives. Similar to a greenhouse, we want to lay nurturing ground for innovative concepts and expand these through external views. Local exchange, regional collaboration, international networking - this is how we grow small cooperation into large scale collaboration. By generating public awareness and heightening the visibility of cultural happenings, we actively integrate the neighborhood into the cultural activities in our district.



Cultural Space Lokomov - www.lokomov.de



Grit Stillger

is head of the department for urban renewal in the city planning office of Chemnitz. For her, Klub Solitaer e.V. is not merely a meeting place and home of the neighborhood's cultural scene, but also stands for education and courage against right-wing extremist sentiments.

„Outside at the street's crossing, several bicycles are parked, people are chatting with each other or sitting at garden tables on the lawn, enjoying a pizza from Augusto. That's what I often notice when I drive down Clausstraße; there's still a light on in the gallery in the evening - this is where the neighborhood comes to life!“

„My association regarding Sonnenberg ten years ago: Cinderella already suspects the hazelnut, but has yet to find it. My association regarding Sonnenberg today: we are Sonnenberg, even without ball gown and prince.“



CENTRAL VENUES

- Studio & project houses
- Workshops
- Lokomov
- OFF-Theatre Komplex
- Gallery Hinten
- Gallery Glaskasten
- Späti



Creative work spaces

Studio & project houses

■ Here, we generate cultural activity which resonates within the district. In 2011, “Flying Robert” (Struwelpeter) landed with his red umbrella between the two halves of the A102 house; music from the **Lokomov** cultural space, having been opened in the same house in 2012, floats through the window art exhibitions of **Gallery Hinten**, reaching the ears of the last night owl quickly treating itself to an after-work beer at **Späti** in J42.

In 2010, we met the great demand for affordable production space for Chemnitz creatives by establishing the project house Augustusburger Straße 102 (A102), in a building that was to be demolished in the course of the urban redevelopment project “Stadtumbau Ost”. Since 2019, we have been making Jakobstraße 42 (J42) available to Chemnitz artists and cultural professionals.

For us, a project house not merely entails studio space, but also workshops, rehearsal rooms and space for collectives, areas for cultural events and exchange platforms. This kind of diversity sparks valuable synergies in the house and neighborhood alike.

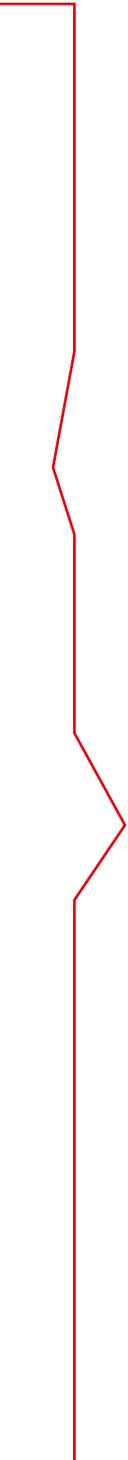
We primarily accommodate cultural workers for whom their cultural passion is their livelihood. Providing them with affordable workspace is our contribution to binding cultural actors to the city and supporting them in their work by directly integrating them into a creative network. The result is a priceless cultural buzz, which has added substantially to the quality of life on the southern Sonnenberg.

Art on the building A102 by Lysann Németh
„The arrival of Robert”, 2011



Katharina Bloch during the preparations for her exhibition at the Glaskasten Gallery





By 2021, our project- and studio houses host the artists Lysann Neméth, Uwe Mühlberg, Anatoli Budjko, Mandy Knospe, Katharina Bloch, Irimi Mavromatidou, Vivien Nowotsch, Daniel Jantsch, Martin Lucas Schulze, Bettina Hain and Carina Heidl (fine arts), the textile designers Henrike Schmitz, Babette Sperling and Theresa Kretsch, ceramics artist Manuela Hain, the theatre professionals Gabi Reinhardt, Heda Bayer, Frieda Friedemann, Tobias Eisenkrämer, the Chaostreff Chemnitz, the Band Integral, the musician Ole Reinelt, as well as the soundstudio S.O.B.E. Music.



Project and studio house A102 and Lokornov outdoor area



Martin Böhringer

■
is CEO and co-founder
of Staffbase GmbH.
For him, Sonnenberg
is still raw, unfinished
and open.

„My first moment of contact with Klub Solitaer was my first breakthrough as an entrepreneur: In 2011, as a young startup, we were among the first tenants at Augustusburger Str. 102, and we were breaking down walls there to turn the small rooms into a team office.

Back then, it was essential for us to have free space for our ideas, and that's what we got.“



Learning & Production Sites Workshops

■ In the professionally equipped **photo studio** at A102, lighting technology and infrastructure are available for all kinds of photo and film shoots.

With the establishment of the **photo lab**, legacy of the late Berlin-based photographer Michael Schmidt in J42, we are creating an alternative offer of creative techniques around analogue film development. Photographers can try their hand at black-and-white film processing and make professional prints for exhibitions.

Decentralized and flexible, the **digital lab** forms a technology pool with photo and video equipment for streaming and audio formats, as well as technical equipment for artificial reality applications, as well as digital manufacturing technology. It is a contact point, mediation space and idea hub for digital, artistic content production.

In the **printing workshop Druckstock**, under the direction of Anatoli Budjko, various printing techniques from letterpress and gravure printing to lithography can be carried out step-by-step.

With our workshops we create testing and production sites for creative and artistic processes, which highlight the potential of traditional techniques and underline the possibilities of cross-disciplinary and digital links.

■

Cultural Space

Lokomov

■ Concerts, readings, film screenings, as well as lectures, panel discussions and workshops that attract people from all over the city and the surrounding area - the broad variety of events is key for **Lokomov's** cultural program.

In the association's network, **Lokomov** is the catalyst and meeting point for the organization of new projects and initiatives, initiating cooperation with further actors on Sonnenberg and other parts of the city, fostering the neighborhood's cultural revitalization.

Lokomov defines itself as a cultural space and the neighborhood's open meeting point. With community events such as a weekly Sunday-Soup, swap markets, or a board game corner, it facilitates socio-cultural exchange in a homely atmosphere and, with its continuously growing program of events, also forms a public interface between different disciplines, is a focal point for the city's nightlife, and a place for social mixing and informal encounters.

*The **Lokomov** indoor bar area offers space for up to 100 guests. Since 2020, the cultural space has been expanded by an outdoor area with a bar and concert stage.*

■

Cultural Space in the Studio and Project House A102
www.lokomov.de



Intervention by Irimi Mavromatidou in the context of Kontakt.Los



Svenja Zimmermann

born in Karl-Marx-Stadt on Sonnenberg, is a trained horticulturist and an active member of Nachhall e. V.'s integrative seed garden. Klub Solitaer's cultural events at Lokomov and Gallery Hinten have especially caught her attention.

„Klub Solitaer is exemplary for the district's network. For instance at the concerts at Lokomov, you always see familiar faces. You can simply talk to the people who are active here.

That's how we, Nachhall e.V., could plant a field of flowers behind the cultural space - this would not have been possible otherwise. You know the people, and they know what you do, so they approach you with their ideas. It is this neighborhood spirit that makes a lot of beautiful things happen in the district.“



Performing Arts Off-Theatre Komplex

■ Contemporary theater, dance, performance, film and music joined together under one roof - the program of our OFF-theatre Komplex is as versatile as it is participatory. Founded in 2015 by Klub Solitaer as an interactive stage with professional infrastructure and operated in cooperation with Taupunkt e. V., this independent theater on the Sonnenberg is dedicated to the promotion and development of upcoming artists as well as to offering an experimental venue for international collectives and amateur groups alike. Current artistic tendencies, cross-city exchange, and professionally accompanied courses are initiated and taken up here in co-productions, residencies, guest performances, workshops, and film screenings. Be it arthouse films, Christmas fairy tales, theater festivals or intensive workshops from Japanese puppet theater to contemporary dance - we are setting alternative impulses in Chemnitz' theatre scene.

The OFF-theatre Komplex offers space for 80 spectators. In the adjacent theatre foyer, exchange formats such as theatre talks and discussions take place. While Klub Solitaer e. V. administrates the premises, Taupunkt e. V. is largely responsible for the program contents.

■

Exhibition Space **Gallery Hinten**

■ **Galerie Hinten** emerged from the art and culture festival "Begehungen". Since 2011, it has been supporting young artists from all over Europe, providing them with an independent, non-commercial project space for the exhibition of contemporary art in Chemnitz. Painting, drawing, photography, installation, sculpture - diverse forms of visual art from different genres are presented here to old-established Sonnenberg residents, tourists and newcomers alike.

■

Gallery Glaskasten

■ Opened in 2019, **Galerie Glaskasten** is an exhibition space for contemporary prints. A recurring event in its premises is the release of the Chemnitz Graphic Calendar, which is produced annually in limited edition by artists from our network. With the symbolic price of 365 euros, a new generation of art lovers is addressed and new collectors are gained for locally created artworks.

■

Exhibition view from Katrin Caldararu at Gallery Hinten
www.galeriehinten.de





Participatory meeting place

Späti

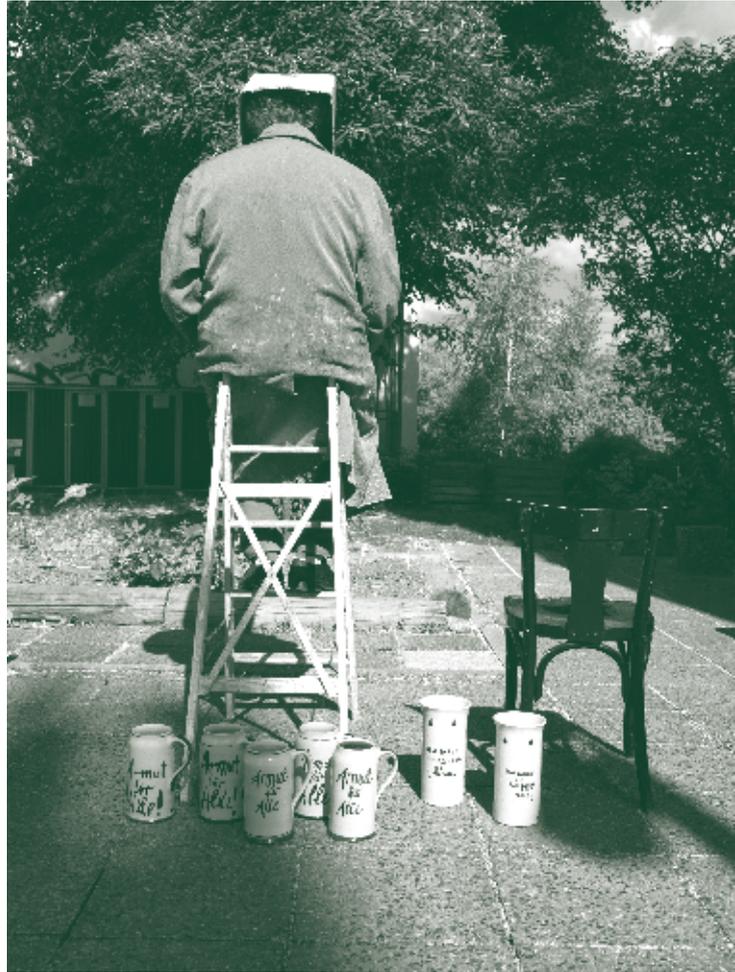
■ Kiosk, stand-up café, drinking hall, corner shop, in short: **Späti** - all of these terms represent a place where people meet. Different people who otherwise often have nothing to do with each other. At the Späti, they all get their money's worth: drinks and supplies for immediate use, tobacco and sweets. And not to forget: the opportunity for a short detour while roaming the Sonnenberg streets.

Our **Späti** is above all a space for exchange and participation - from the product range to events and projects that are realized here by motivated volunteers. It is a collectively decorated space, a space for creative ways of coming into contact with each other, which creates an attractive meeting point for loose gatherings in informal surroundings.

*Created in 2018 as an artistic intervention in the Dialogfelder residency project, the **Späti** has been operated permanently since 2020, following the initiative of students by a team of volunteers.*

■

Performance by Osmar Osten in the context of Kontakt.los



Sebastian Schilling

born in Karl-Marx-Stadt, is a former member of the Sonnenberg district council and was a church musician at St. Markus Church in Chemnitz from 2006 to August 2021. For him, Klub Solitaer is an impulse generator and cultural catalyst in the district.

„Klub Solitaer is a vital player in Sonnenberg's (sub)cultural scene. By combining artistic initiative and real estate potential, it opens up spaces for individual creation.

I particularly like to think back to the art walks Klub Solitaer organized in between the lockdowns. They were a great possibility to re-experience the district; they were public and low-threshold. I really enjoy it when everyone, from families with children to cyclists can be part of such happenings, including the other older lady coming along the way, spontaneously watching.“



CENTRAL PROJECTS

- Dialogfelder
- Theme weeks
- Hang zur Kultur
- Out of the Box
- Private. Collectors. Room.
- Funken Academy



Art in public space

Dialogfelder

■ What is missing in the neighborhood? How can the neighborhood's artistic and decentralized potential as well as that of its citizens be tapped, the public space be revitalized and tested and the neighborhood culturally impacted? In a predominantly negatively reputed metropolitan area, the **Dialogfelder** seek to break through the existing visual and emotional barrier to the neighborhood, creating occasional interventions along the Zietenstraße as reasons to stroll and pause. With art in public space, we create a field of friction for discussions on urbanity, living spaces and collaborative processes in everyday urban life.

To this end, we invite six artists from different fields of work over a period of six months. In three sub-projects they investigate the southern Sonnenberg in a residency context; they live in the district and explore it by artistic means under an annually changing theme. Chemnitz creatives accompany each project duo throughout the entire period and document their joint experiences, thus stimulating an intensive exchange beyond the boundaries of city and genre.

*In 2021, the **Dialogfelder** project was implemented for the fourth time. In 2018, the project counted five double residencies, thanks to funding granted by the German Federal Cultural Foundation.*

■

Performance by Anna Till in the context of her Dialogfelder residency
www.dialogfelder.de



Performance by Daniela Lehmann in the context of Dialogfelder



Karola Köpferl

is a social pedagogue and manages the neighborhood garden Zietenaugust. She was a candidate für B90/Die Grünen for the German Bundestag. For her, Klub Solitaer e.V. is one of the district's most important players.

„What Klub Solitaer’s projects entail, has sometimes less to do with art in itself and more with the discovery of new spaces. For me, it was the Dialogfelder, which triggered new thoughts. I met entirely different people, as Klub Solitaer’s projects reach a very broad variety of people.

There are projects which are also incredibly practical, such as the typewriter at Lokomov (“Write against the machine”) - here, people with different ideas come together from various disciplines and collaborate in a research process. And then there is the festival “Hang zur Kultur” - there is a lot of Klub Solitaer to be found there, too.”



Solitaer encompassing **Theme weeks**

■ With a cross-institutional theme-related program, with different formats such as readings, performances, discussions, exhibitions or plays, we dedicate ourselves annually to a topic relevant to (a part of) the city, instigating neighborhood discourse.

Love vs Money (2018)

On Sonnenberg, people are earning their living with sex work. This happens openly, unobserved, voluntarily, under duress, under inhumane as well as self-determined circumstances. Partly difficult to recognize, partly conspicuously advertised with LED hearts and „round the clock availability“ in windows, numerous apartment brothels are located here. As part of the Chemnitz 875th anniversary celebration, Klub Solitaer e. V. and Taupunkt e. V. explored a topic that is often ignored by the public. Using artistic and informative means, we approached the topic of sex work in the neighborhood.

Dream on! (2021)

Everybody has dreams that he or she wants to realize and everybody dreams. To enter a discourse about these dreams, to jointly work with artistic methods on their realization or to use them as a source of creativity and utopian thinking was the goal of our 14-day program realized in 2021. Using interactive and neighborhood-related formats, we explored dreams in the district and introduced outside perspectives, opening up a debating space for small, practical dreams as well as lofty ideas.

■

Neighbourhood festival

Hang zur Kultur

■ We interact and network inside and with the district - this is reflected in our active involvement in **Hang zur Kultur**, the annual evening of open doors on Sonnenberg.

Potato-printing and vernissages, pizza baking, open studios, children's theater and church concerts - the variety of offers and the people who gather in backyards and in front of workshops are what distinguish this cultural district festival. With concerts, exhibitions and studio tours, Klub Solitaer makes the work of its studio artists accessible to the public. In a network of independent actors such as the nightclub Nikola Tesla, the cultural pub Kaffeersatz, the seed garden, the neighborhood gardening project Zietenaugust and many others, we contribute to a colorful and interconnected district.

Since the festival's establishment in the context of the museum night 2017, Klub Solitaer is an active contributor of Hang zur Kultur.

■

Revitalisation of Zietenstraße through cultural events in the district
www.hangzurkultur.de



Hanging out at Lokomov and Club Nikola Testa during Museum Night



Lysann Németh

lives and works as a visual artist in Chemnitz. She was a curator at the Begehungen festival, co-operator of Gallery Hinten and member of the Institute for True Art. For her, Klub Solitaer e. V. is a place of interaction.

„A characteristic moment in the Klub Solitaer network was the Museum Night (2017).

Back then, the studio houses were open for public access for the first time, and there was also an exhibition at Zietenstraße.

Us artists presented our works there, the Chaostreff did a soldering workshop, the Komplex showed a theatre play, but also the St. Markus Church and other actors from Sonnenberg participated. There was pizza-baking for children and the atmosphere of the whole Museum-Night transformed the Sonnenberg.

This had an incredibly positive effect on the district and eventually led to the establishment of Hang zur Kultur. It was a lot of work, but it also generated an incredible amount of energy.”

Out of the Box Exhibition in the Lokomov windows,
curated by IP Group and MC Krell



European Art Exchange Out of the Box

■ Entering European dialogue with Gallery HINT-EN: to this end, we instigated the project „Out of the Box“. Curators and OFF-spaces from geographically opposite regions provide us with Euro-boxes containing artistic positions on the theme of „backroom conversations“, which we juxtapose in Gallery HINT-EN. Through vernissage by exhibition-bot, we spark a direct digital dialogue between European curators and locals. The backroom conversation is turned into a conversation with the neighborhood.

In 2021, the project could be realized for the first time with the support of Kreativ Transfer and in cooperation with the collective IP Group (Wroclaw, PL) and the curator MC Krell (Euregio Maas-Rhein).

■

Artistic intervention

Private. Collectors. Room.

■ Art in exchange for stories: For more than 100 days, a former flower store became a temporary gallery for neighborly art mediation. At first glance a classic white cube gallery with changing exhibitions, low-threshold conversation and transparency in presentation and interaction characterized the gallery's everyday dealings. 53 artistic works changed hands here, mediated by the acting gallerists, artists Marie Donike (l.) and Johannes Specks (r.) as well as intern Emma Dietrich (m.).

The currency was the individual story, the personal conversation between visitor and gallerist. The artworks can now be found in allotment arbors, children's rooms and kiosks throughout the district and the city. The transfer to the new owner was documented with a photographic portrait.

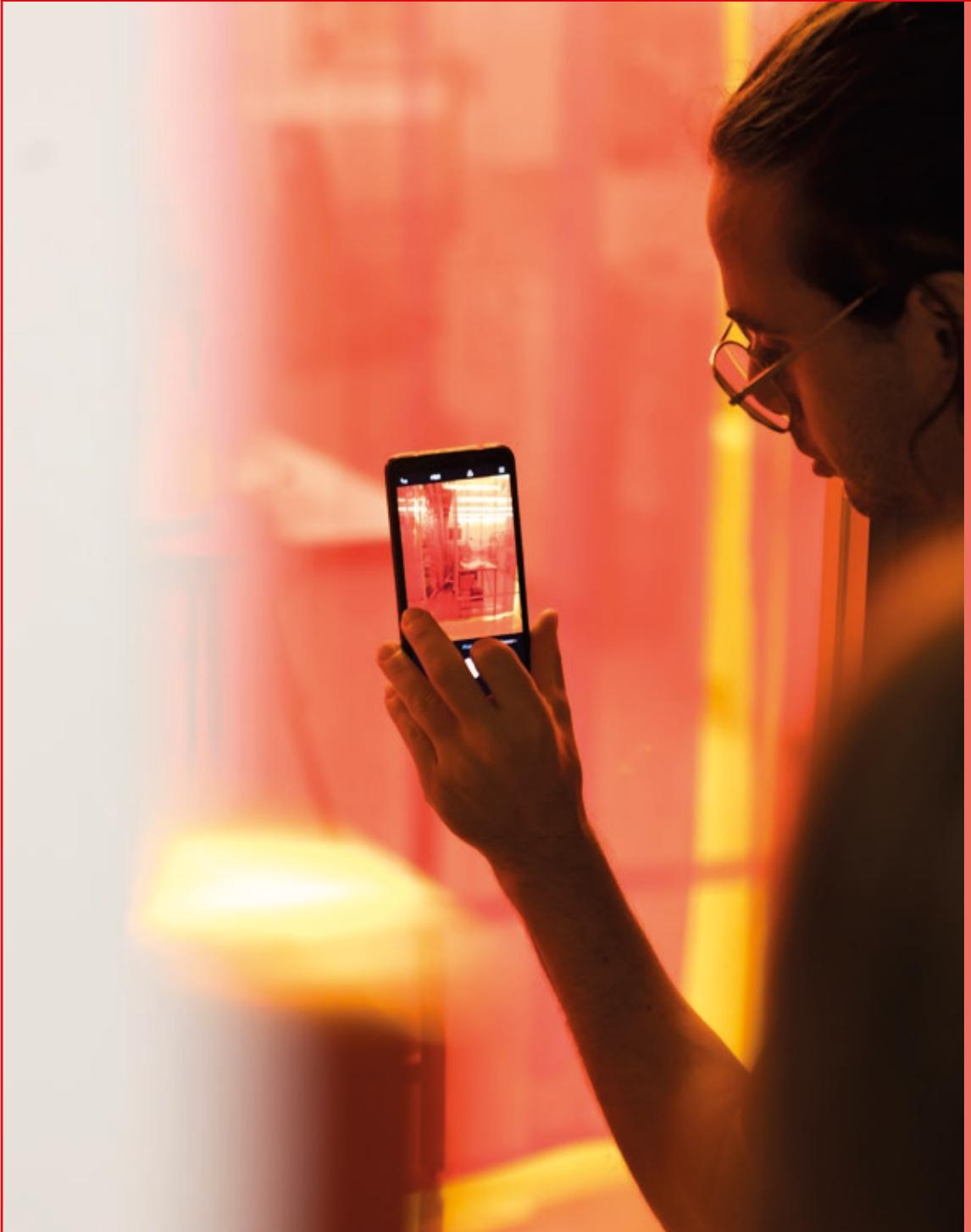
Their stories, as well as the gallery conversations, were documented, archived and presented in a final exhibition together with the portraits. Through this process of participation, the **Private. Collectors. Room.** communicated emotional rather than material values to its visitors and initiated a direct and open discourse about art, market and values.

The project was implemented in 2020 as part of the international exhibition for art in public space GEGENWARTEN | PRESENCES and received funding from the Liebelt Foundation Hamburg.

■

The temporary gallery team in front of Private. Collectors. Room.
www.privatecollectorsroom.de





Artistic research

Funken Academy

■ In the **Funken Academy**, artists, high-tech institutes and research facilities come together to experiment in the field between arts and technology.

Invited by Klub Solitaer, artists develop research questions in research residencies at high-tech institutes, to be implemented as courses for young artists and creatives. In collaboration with the participating institutes, new tools and methods combining artistic and technological research practices are developed and tried out.

The aim of the **Funken Academy** is to perpetuate the knowledge transfer between art and technology in Chemnitz and to accompany Chemnitz' development from Ruß-Chams (local dialect, meaning "Soot-Chemnitz") to the equally formative and at the same time much less visible high technology location the city is currently turning into. Furthermore, we create an environment for cross-innovation and a space for transdisciplinary discourse, in which the societal changes accompanying digitalization and automation are investigated by applying a poetic and aesthetic focus, enabling artists of all disciplines to make them visible, audible, tangible and perceptible for a broad audience.

■

Board member

Mandy Knospe

■ Born in 1979 and raised in Karl-Marx-Stadt / Chemnitz, Mandy Knospe studied communication design in Dessau.

After organizing the art and culture festival Begehungen for several years, she co-founded Klub Solitaer e. V. in 2010. As well as being responsible for project development, curation as well as space- and media design, she has been an honorary board member since 2014.

She worked on the Chemnitz' Cultural Strategy 2030 as a theme group leader and as a programme councillor for the successful application for the European Capital of Culture 2025. Since 2021, she is a member of the advisory board for visual arts of the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony.

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Board member

Robert Verch

■ Born in 1985 and raised in Berlin, Robert Verch moved to Weimar to study visual communication at the Bauhaus University. Following his diploma in 2013, he worked as a freelance artist for several years. During exhibitions and projects, he came into contact with Klub Solitaer and its network.

After moving to Chemnitz in 2016, he focused on cultural management in the area of urban and social development. Since 2018, he has been an honorary board member of Klub Solitaer e. V. and since 2021 he has been working full-time for the association in networking, public relations and curation.

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Project coordination

Ulrike Brantl

53

■ Born in Jena in 1995, Ulrike Brantl grew up at the foot of the Thuringian Forest and followed her Bachelor's degree in Nuremberg, Barcelona and Bodø with a Master's in Culture and Management in the Saxon border town Görlitz.

From 2017 to 2020, she volunteered in various visual and performing arts projects. After graduating in 2019, she was active in the independent theatre scene in Weimar and Erfurt. Working for Klub Solitaer e.V. drew her to Chemnitz, where she has been responsible for the association's project coordination and fundraising since March 2020.

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Ulrike Brantl, Mandy Knospe, Robert Verch

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