



From 2022, the Stadtgalerie will focus on the study of climate justice and ecological balance from a cultural perspective. How is a cross-species survival of the planet still possible and designable now? Alongside individual sustainability strategies, we seek to chart a climate-active path rather than a climate-neutral one. As a place of critical confidence, we explore more equitable transformation in and through the cultural sector.

Art educator Saskia Riedel developed the concept together with all participants\* and launched the exhibition project in local schools in spring 2022. Both school classes were invited to visit the exhibitions running at the time in the Stadtgalerie in order to closely examine the art, the exhibition spaces and the location Stadtgalerie. The pupils\* got into conversation about art through the works.

Saskia Riedel is a freelance art educator and audio producer. Her work focuses on the participation of children, young people and adults in museums. With her audio guide *audio*, she makes the voices of visitors\* audible and enables exhibitions through different perspectives on art and culture.

"I am interested in the ideas and themes that people can bring to a museum. Through this, I want to create lasting connections between art and viewers." —Saskia Riedel

*For Our House is on Fire*, Saskia Riedel realised an *arcs audio work* together with the participating students\*. You can listen to it via our QR code and find out what motivated the young curators\* to make their selection, as well as thoughts on the individual works and the curatorial process within the classes.

The group exhibition *Our House is on Fire* is curated by children and young adults. It combines multifaceted artistic positions that deal with aspects of the climate crisis.

The titular work *Our House is on Fire* by Icy and Sot deals with a speech by climate activist Greta Thunberg.

As a place of critical confidence, the Stadtgalerie has been working towards a desirable future since April 2021. This includes sustainable and more equitable development in and through the cultural sector. In this project, children and young adults participate in decisions from the very beginning and have a self-effective role in shaping the city of Saarbrücken and its institutions.

With art mediator Saskia Riedel the young curators\* from a fourth and eighth grade playfully worked with topics about art like: How do I describe an artwork to someone? How would I, as a curator\*, choose a particular piece? Both classes have selected three works each.

The participating artists\* include: Fiona Arenz, Barbara Herold and Florian Huth, Felix Dreesen and Stephan Thierbach, Icy and Sot and Eric Schwarz.

The project is a cooperation of the Kulturamt of the city of Saarbrücken, represented by the Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken and Schulkultur, initiated by Katharina Ritter, M.A., with the Grundschnle Wallenbaum and the Schule im Rastbachtal, as well as art mediator Saskia Riedel.

The young curators\* are:

Students of Grundschnle Wallenbaum: Biyan, Daniel, Dara, Emrhan, Elyaf, Farah, Hasret, Jaqueline, Jerome, Liana, Lionel, Mahder, Manuela, Maria, Mohammad, Sarota, Shada, Shawn, Shaza, Yaris, Zoey (and teacher Caroline Marx)

Students of Schule im Rastbachtal: Adlie, Angelina, Céline, Delina, Denisa, Diana, Ecem, Elizabeth, Hasret, Hevin, Karim, Karolina, Kimberly, Leis, Mary-Jane, Michael, Michelle, Nihada, Serwa, Simanur, Sophie, Tala (and teacher Anne Schoenen)

# OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE

curated by children and young adults

21.10.2022 —  
15.01.2023

EN

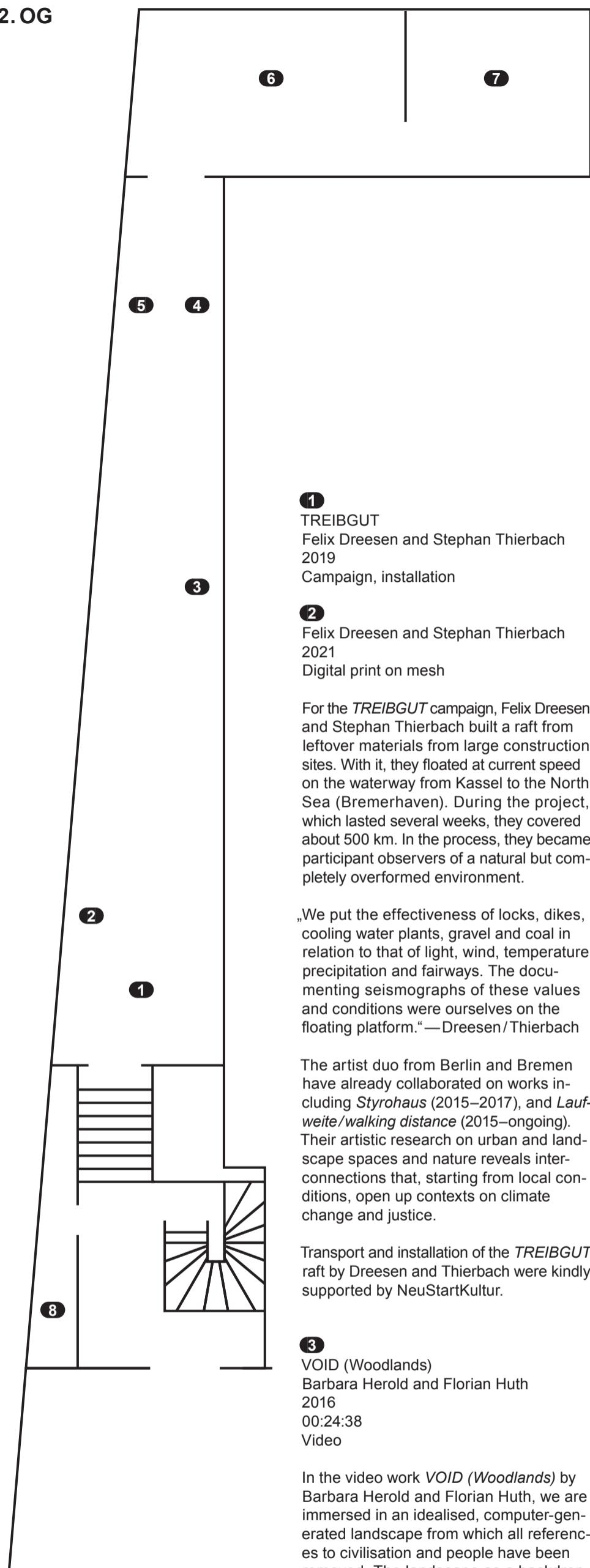
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**Opening hours**  
Di–Fr: 12 p.m.–6 p.m.  
Mi: 2 p.m.–8 p.m.  
Sat/Sun/Holidays: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Eintritt frei/Free entry

www.stadtgalerie.saarbruecken.de  
f stadtgaleriasaarbruecken  
@ stadtgaleriasaarbruecken

**Curator:** Katharina Ritter, M.A.  
**Curator and research assistant:** Katja Piilisi, M.A.  
**Art mediator:** Saskia Riedel, M.A.  
**Director Schulkultur:** Lisa Blum, M.A.  
**Creative Lecturer Schulkultur:** Claudia Lang  
**Technical Director:** Jörg Schallmo  
**Construction Team:** Khrystyna Rymsha and Christian Richert  
**Office:** Lin Mara Krämer  
**Internship:** Hannah Liliane Markus, Chloë Gabbar and Mado Nullans  
**Design:** MM, M

**Artists:** Fiona Arenz, Barbara Herold und Florian Huth, Felix Dreesen und Stephan Thierbach, Icy and Sot und Eric Schwarz



**1**  
TREIBGUT  
Felix Dreesen and Stephan Thierbach  
2019  
Campaign, installation

**2**  
Felix Dreesen and Stephan Thierbach  
2021  
Digital print on mesh

For the *TREIBGUT* campaign, Felix Dreesen and Stephan Thierbach built a raft from leftover materials from large construction sites. With it, they floated at current speed on the waterway from Kassel to the North Sea (Bremerhaven). During the project, which lasted several weeks, they covered about 500 km. In the process, they became participant observers of a natural but completely overformed environment.

„We put the effectiveness of locks, dikes, cooling water plants, gravel and coal in relation to that of light, wind, temperature, precipitation and fairways. The documenting seismographs of these values and conditions were ourselves on the floating platform.“ — Dreesen/Thierbach

The artist duo from Berlin and Bremen have already collaborated on works including *Styrohaus* (2015–2017), and *Laufweite/walking distance* (2015–ongoing). Their artistic research on urban and landscape spaces and nature reveals interconnections that, starting from local conditions, open up contexts on climate change and justice.

Transport and installation of the *TREIBGUT* raft by Dreesen and Thierbach were kindly supported by NeuStartKultur.

**3**  
VOID (Woodlands)  
Barbara Herold and Florian Huth  
2016  
00:24:38  
Video

In the video work *VOID (Woodlands)* by Barbara Herold and Florian Huth, we are immersed in an idealised, computer-generated landscape from which all references to civilisation and people have been removed. The landscape as a backdrop takes centre stage. The result is a virtual experience of nature, an idyll as a “hyper”-realistic and senseless space: illusion—a place of longing, utopian space, place of silence and contemplation.

The video work refers to landscape painting in the Romantic period as well as to the religious and mythical idea of the Golden Age.

Barbara Herold and Florian Huth live and work in Munich. In joint projects, they deal with the increasingly digitalised world and people’s longing for alternative realities.

**4**  
Stay hydrated  
Eric Schwarz  
2022  
50 × 60 cm  
Spray paint on canvas

**5**  
We are all connected  
Eric Schwarz  
2022  
90 × 70 cm  
Spray paint on canvas

The two paintings *Stay hydrated* and *We are all connected* by Eric Schwarz (aka @comicblues) are part of a series created in spring 2022. The works were exhibited at the Paris coworking space Disocowork as part of Eric Schwarz’ exhibition *I will never be sad again*. They grapple with the question of whether we can simply choose to never be sad again.

“And if the answer to that question is no, does that mean we are exposed to our negative emotions like trees to the wind and rain?” — Eric Schwarz

Since 2021, the illustrator and comic author has been living and working between Paris and Kleinblittersdorf. After successful joint projects in Saarbrücken’s urban space, the Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken invites Eric Schwarz to his first institutional solo exhibition in spring 2023.

**6**  
Grauer Ozean  
Fiona Arenz  
8 × 3 m  
2021  
Textile installation, Upcycling

With her upcycling work *Grauer Ozean* (grey ocean), communication designer Fiona Arenz wants to encourage a more considerate co-existence on our blue planet. Coral reefs are among the ecosystems with the highest species density on earth. Reefs are home to many marine species, provide shelter from storm surges and prevent coastal erosion. We humans contribute significantly to their mass extinction: Overfishing, water pollution and global warming are pulling the bottom out from under the ocean. The designer directs the cone of light at the greying out of the ocean.

The installation consists of 100% upcycled materials. That means: nothing was bought new. Fiona Arenz worked with donations, old clothes and filling material from sorted-out cuddly toys. All materials will be reused and donated after the project.

**7**  
Our House is on Fire  
Icy and Sot  
Slab City, California 2020  
00:01:09  
Video

“I want you to panic.  
I want you to act as if our house is on fire.

I have said those words before. A lot of people have explained why that is a bad idea. A great number of politicians have told me that panic never leads to anything good. And I agree. To panic unless you have to is a terrible idea. But when your house is on fire and you want to keep your house from burning to the ground then that does require some level of panic.

Everything needs to change and it has to start today.  
So everyone out there: it is now time for civil disobedience. It is time to rebel.”  
—Greta Thunberg in *Our House is on Fire*

Iranian artists Icy and Sot recently took off on another self-initiated mission, inspired by climate activist Greta Thunberg’s work and the worldwide environmental

movement she has started. Using the vast Californian desert landscape as a dramatic backdrop for their work and activist’s impactful speech as an alarming wake-up call, Saman and Sasan Oskouei created a riveting video titled *Our House is on Fire*, which lends this exhibition its evocative name.

“In some way turning Greta’s inspiring words into poetic reality, Icy and Sot built a frame of an archetypal home and set it on fire. Allowing for the untouched surrounding nature to be seen between the blazing framework of the house, the artists suggest looking at the wider picture in which the Earth is our only home.

The video shows the reversed footage of their installation being swallowed by flames and crumbling to the ground, creating an illusion of burning pieces of wood rising up and forming the familiar structure. With Greta’s voice in the background calling upon civil disobedience and rebellion, the video has a compelling incentive reminding us that the change is possible if we put pressure on those in power.” — Sasha Bogojev

**8**  
Ocean Floor  
Icy and Sot  
2017  
00:00:36  
Video

With *Ocean Floor*, the Stadtgalerie’s video box is transformed into an aquarium. In the work we see fish that have to move between plastic waste and other human, capitalist waste products.

Icy and Sot, who live in Brooklyn, New York, are represented in the urban art scene worldwide with their work. For *Our House is on Fire*, our young curators\* have selected two video works by the two brothers. Icy and Sot are currently primarily working with urban sculptures and installations. Their work focuses on issues such as human rights, migration and climate change.

To learn more about the curatorial process of the students\* and their thoughts on each work, scan the QR code in this handout and listen for yourself, in an audio format by and with cultural mediator Saskia Riedel, *arcs audio*.