



We make Saarbrücken diverse—hand in hand with artists, cultural workers and participants of different levels of professionalism. This time we are integrating Schlag aurtl, the master's project of art mediation student Leo Scheidt. You can find more information in the Veranstaltungsraum on the first floor and on our website.

Scan the QR Code to listen to the audio guide and find out what motivated the young curators to make their selection and what their thoughts are on the individual works and the curatorial processes within the classes.

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 *arcs audio*, she makes the voices of visitors audible and enlivens exhibitions through different perspectives on art and culture.

Students of the school in Rastbachtal:
Anastasia, Eugenia, Eva, Francesca, Hanan, Jay, Lara, Lemar, Lili, Martha, Natascha, Samira, Sefora, Sophie, Xheneta, Zuzanna (with teacher Felix Henn)

Students of the Wallenbaum primary school:
Abdullah, Abdubaset, Alex, Alik, Angelina, Annabelle, Daniel, Dalya, Deniz, Enrico, Jana, Jasira, Liza, Majd, Mark, Maria-Saray, Maya, Mirhat, Mohammed, Phileas, Rusa, Sarah, Sophie, Tarek, Yustina (with teacher Stephanie Bauer)

The young curators are:

Saskia Riedel presented a selection of artistic works to the children and young people. Katharina Ritter, artistic director of the Stadtgalerie, and Leo Scheidt, research assistant, prepared these for the children and young people. From this selection, the two school classes each selected three artistic works on the theme "Desirable Future".

Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken
St. Johanner Markt 24
66111 Saarbrücken

stadtgalerie@saarbruecken.de
+49 (0) 681 905 1842

Opening hours
Tue, Thu, Fri: 12 p.m.–6 p.m.
Wed: 2 p.m.–8 p.m.
Sat, Sun, Holidays: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Free entry

You will find information on the accompanying programme on our website:
www.stadtgalerie.saarbruecken.de

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Curator and Director
Katharina Ritter, M.A.

Curator and Research Assistant
Leo Scheidt

Art mediator
Saskia Riedel, M.A.

Director Schulkultur
Lisa Blum

Technical Director
Jörg Schallmo

Construction Team
Khrystyna Rymsha-Davidov und Julia Rabusai

Office
Lin Mara Krämer

Working Student
Marie Theißen

Assistance
Chloé Gabbar

Design
Hannes Brischke

Artists
Mert Akbal, Jeppe Hein, Lene Markusen,
Jonas Mayer, Rop van Mierlo, Gamze Yalçın

With kind support from MESaar



To make their curatorial decisions, the students asked themselves questions about art and curating: As a curator, how do I choose works? How do I decide on a particular work? How do I argue and convince others of my decision?

In spring 2023, the exhibition project was launched in the local schools with Saskia Riedel. Both school classes were invited to visit the then current exhibitions of the Stadtgalerie in order to get to know the art, the exhibition spaces and the location of the Stadtgalerie. Through the works, the students got into conversation about art.

The project is a cooperation between the cultural office of the state capital Saarbrücken, represented by the Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken and Schulkultur: initiated by Katharina Ritter, M.A. and co-organised by Lisa Blum, with the primary school Wallenbaum and the school in Rastbachtal, as well as the art mediator Saskia Riedel.

As a place of critical confidence, the Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken has been working with various stakeholders since April 2021 towards a more desirable future. We create exhibitions as spaces of possibility. In this way, we implement ideas for shaping this desirable future directly on site and involve visitors. The first exhibition curated by children and young people, *Our House is on Fire* (2022/23), was initiated by Katharina Ritter and focused on the theme of climate justice. The second exhibition curated by children and young adults at the Stadtgalerie gives young people a voice and empowers them to help shape their city.

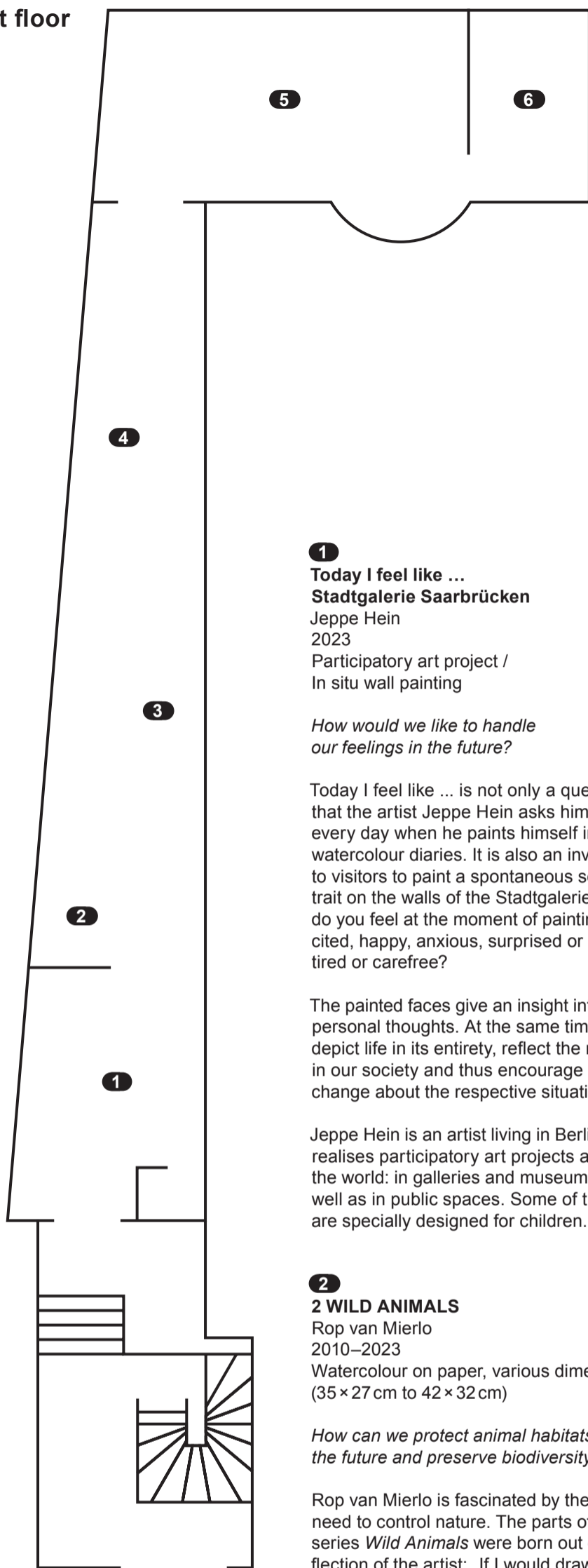
Children and young adults are the curators of the exhibition *Wildes Morgen*. With the support of art mediator Saskia Riedel, two school classes selected the following artists: Mert Akbal, Jeppe Hein, Lene Markusen, Jonas Mayer, Rop van Mierlo and Gamze Yalçın. With this group exhibition of regional and international artists, together we ask ourselves: how do we want our future to be?

WILDES MORGEN

curated by children and young adults

20.10.2023
– 28.01.2024

EN



1
Today I feel like ...
 Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken
 Jeppe Hein
 2023
 Participatory art project /
 In situ wall painting

How would we like to handle our feelings in the future?

Today I feel like ... is not only a question that the artist Jeppe Hein asks himself every day when he paints himself in his watercolour diaries. It is also an invitation to visitors to paint a spontaneous self-portrait on the walls of the Stadtgalerie. How do you feel at the moment of painting? Excited, happy, anxious, surprised or irritated, tired or carefree?

The painted faces give an insight into very personal thoughts. At the same time, they depict life in its entirety, reflect the mood in our society and thus encourage an exchange about the respective situation.

Jeppe Hein is an artist living in Berlin. He realises participatory art projects all over the world: in galleries and museums as well as in public spaces. Some of these are specially designed for children.

2
2 WILD ANIMALS
 Rop van Mierlo
 2010–2023
 Watercolour on paper, various dimensions
 (35 × 27 cm to 42 × 32 cm)

How can we protect animal habitats in the future and preserve biodiversity?

Rop van Mierlo is fascinated by the human need to control nature. The parts of the series *Wild Animals* were born out of a reflection of the artist: „If I would draw a wild animal, I'd be trying to capture it in lines, but that's just another way to control and tame it, which I didn't want to. How could I draw an animal that you can't control?""

This is how the drawings of animals, which almost threaten to blur, came about. The work started initially as a drawing or painting concept, as an attempt to paint—but simultaneously let go. The way Rop van Mierlo has produced the work, could also draw attention to the threat to wildlife posed by climate change and the destruction of habitat by us humans. The animals shown are a cross-selection of 15 years painting wild animals.

Rop van Mierlo is an artist who lives and works in Amsterdam. He graduated from the Design Academy Eindhoven in 2008. His books are sold at MoMA in New York and the Design Museum London, among others.

*Quote of the conversation with Gert Jonkers
<https://wild-animals.nl/pages/about>

3
Künstliche Intelligenz und die intelligente Kunst vom Oktopus
 Mert Akbal
 2023
 Animation

How can communication between humans and other animals contribute to our understanding of consciousness and machine intelligence?

Mert Akbal's work draws attention to the remarkable abilities of octopuses. These animals can adapt their colour and shape to their environment in milliseconds thanks to their highly developed nervous systems. Originally developed for camouflage, this ability has evolved into a means of communication and expression of their mental states.

The animation uses images generated by the AI image generator *Stable Diffusion*. These images are combined with music and voices that are also artificially (Bark-AI) generated. The spoken text is related to the way octopuses create images and the way artificial intelligence works in image synthesis.

Interspecies art can help us better understand the concept of consciousness in machines through comparisons between AI, octopus and humans.

Mert Akbal is a visual artist and researcher specialising in generative media art, cognitive science and artificial intelligence. He is an academic researcher at the Hochschule der Bildenden Künste Saar and an associate researcher at the Max Planck Institut for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig and Berlin.

4
How deep is the Ocean
 Gamze Yalçın
 2022
 Ink, acrylic and oil pen on canvas,
 700 × 250 cm

Wie können wir Schützenswertes vor weiterer Zerstörung bewahren?

Gamze Yalçın is a frequent guest at various artist residencies across Europe. The work *How deep is the Ocean* was created in November 2022 at the Grotta Air Art Residency near the Sierra de Aracena Natural Park in Spain. There she worked in the studio with various large textiles. This material became the canvas to explore the abstract landscapes of the surroundings.

With regard to climate change and the threat to nature in Spain and throughout Europe, the artist's work can be perceived as a snapshot of the landscape that still exists and is worthy of protection. The relationship between nature and architecture, is shown as an abstract visual representation of a world without people.

Gamze Yalçın lives and works in Berlin. She graduated from Mimar Sinan Fine Art University in Istanbul in 2010, majoring in interior design. Since 2014, her work has focused mainly on painting and art in public spaces. Her works have been shown in various exhibitions in Turkey, Germany and Spain.

5
Driving Range
 Jonas Mayer
 2023
 Mixed Media

How can we get new perspectives on the world?

Driving Range invites visitors to play in the exhibition space. Consisting of several sculptural and installative elements, as well as found objects, Jonas Mayer opens up a playful landscape to viewers, which blurs the boundaries between painting and sculpture.

In the process, our memories of childhood play experiences are addressed. The childlike, playful view of the world is always a positive, curious and also unbiased one. Play allows for new ideas and possibilities, as well as other ways of looking at the world.

Jonas Mayer's artistic works are based on nostalgic memories of his own toys and the interest in reviving the childlike, purpose-free play instinct. His work ranges from painting to toy-suggesting sculptures to spatial installations.

Jonas Mayer lives and works in Saarbrücken. He graduated in 2022 with a degree in Fine Arts, specialising in painting, from the Hochschule der Bildende Künste Saar. His works have already been shown in Lyon, London, Berlin and Cluj-Napoca.

6
The Farm after the Feminist Ecological Revolution
 Lene Markusen
 2022
 Video, 16 min

What utopias, metaphors and proposed solutions are there for agricultural life after the ecological catastrophe?

Lene Markusen's work is situated at the intersection of reality, dream and utopia. She traces the personal memories of gender oppression in the agricultural biographies of her female ancestors.

The work attempts to create a collective and feminist utopia of agricultural life after the ecological catastrophe. Digging into the endless archives of the soil, four female performers attempt to re-appropriate this history: from ploughing to sowing, from hoeing to harvesting, they gradually merge with the soil in an effort to be reborn by Mother Earth—in a kind of backward revolution to the origins of life.

The artist and filmmaker Lene Markusen lives and works in Hamburg. In 2021 she received the Villa Romana Prize. Her films and video installations have been shown and exhibited internationally, most recently at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, the Center for Contemporary Art Glasgow and the Moscow Museum of Modern Art, among others.