

PROJECT  
SPACE  
FESTIVAL  
BERLIN  
01-31 AUG 2015

**PRESS MATERIAL**

20.03.2015

The first and most important step of a wonderful 2nd Project Space Festival has been made: we are very pleased to present the 30 participating Project Spaces for 2015:

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The spaces were selected this year by a jury which consisted of Ulf Aminde (artist), Kathrin Becker (n.b.k), Marie-josé Ourtilane (General Public), Matthias Reichelt (Journalist and Curator) and Marie Graftieaux (Project Space Festival).

The Festival provides a momentary slice of the city's independent scene, offering a platform to consider the idea of what the term 'project space' can mean. The sheer diversity of the independent scene points toward the notion that what project spaces share in common is what they are not - not a white cube, not institutional, usually not commercial. Project spaces typically focus on artistic experimentation, spark dialogue, nurture local art communities and operate under a position of both freedom and fragility.

In 2014 the program of the Project Space Festival was made with the intention of celebrating diversity: therefore the architectural structure, curatorial perspective and experimental working structure had been aspects on which to choose the program from. The jury was briefed to either continue working with this parameter or develop their own criteria for 2015.

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Jury Statement 2015

The jury for the Project Space Festival 2015 faced the difficulty of selecting 30 spaces for the Festival from 70 applications of "project rooms" of various kinds. The Project Space Festival was founded in 2014 with the aim to create an event platform that highlights and presents the diverse work of the different Berlin project spaces to an interested audience. As part of this jury it has been shown how challenging it can be to answer the most basic questions in relation to project spaces, namely: What defines a project space? Should only the programs of the project spaces be

**PRESS CONTACT**

Marie Graftieaux | Nora Mayr | Lauren Reid

[press@projectspacefestival-berlin.com](mailto:press@projectspacefestival-berlin.com) | [www.projectspacefestival-berlin.com](http://www.projectspacefestival-berlin.com)

assessed, and if so by what criteria? Or is it an assessment of the conceptual orientation of the project spaces in the context of the cultural and political situation in Berlin? In the discussion among the jurors and founders of the festival, the following criteria were discussed

- the organization of its work processes (flat hierarchies, collectivity, collaboration?)
- its financial conditions
- its independence from parent structures
- its role in the city and neighborhood policy
- its political attitude and its position towards gentrification
- its position outside the mainstream and value beyond neoliberal interests

To what extent can these criteria be crucial for the assessment of the program of a project space? Is the only solution to deal with the variety of formats encountered which, as previously designed by the festival to define a maximum diversity as a guiding principle? The development of such parameters must of course also correspond to the cognitive interests and objectives of the festival operators. Due to the given time frame, the jury had not been in the position to develop the necessary criteria, as this can only be the result of a lengthy discussion process. Therefore, the jury was limited to a results-based selection by more individual, subjective criteria.

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Developing a Festival around a topic which is still defining itself and in constant flux is a challenging task. Over time, the program of the Project Space Festival can function as a window to different approaches and concepts of Project Spaces as considered by the jury and team each year.

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