



WELT- OFFEN- (GE)DENKEN

***BANNER CAMPAIGN OF 19 DRESDEN BASED
CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND INITIATIVES
AT TEN CENTRAL SITES OF THE CITY ON THE
OCCASION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
DESTRUCTION OF DRESDEN IN WORLD WAR II***

**9. - 20. FEBRUAR 2022
#WELTOFFENGEDENKEN**



#WOD

*#WOD - Weltoffenes Dresden
is a merger of Dresden based
cultural institutions*

**Altmarkt Kunsthaus Dresden Städtische Galerie für Gegenwartskunst
Goethe-Institut Dresden
Museen der Stadt Dresden**

1. Kunsthaus Dresden

Is history a simple tag? Is history a simple trap?

Coming from Lebanon, Rana Haddad and Pascal Hachem grew up during the civil war, followed by many other wars, invasions, etc. Lately, the country's been going through a total economic collapse followed by the apocalyptic blast of August 4, 2020.

Once asked to participate on the occasion of the commemoration in Dresden, the artists chose to question the role that history should play in designing our future.

"We have grown up hearing that history repeats itself. Which in our case is unfortunately so true! But shouldn't we learn from history precisely so that we don't fall into the same trap and leave the mistakes of our ancestors behind?" A lettering swinging freely in space and set in an open circular form leaves the question open whether the circle is closed or not: History is what you make of it.

History is what we make of it is an artistic contribution by 200 Grs/ Rana Haddad and Pascal Hachem at the invitation of Kunsthaus Dresden.

**2. Goethe-Institut, Zentrum für internationale Kulturelle Bildung
"Memory is multicoloured" by Sergio Beltrán-García, Mexico**

Memory makes sense of the past in the present to transform our future, and it can be used as a both an emancipatory tool, or a weapon against peace-building. Sergio Beltrán-García's piece "Memory is multicoloured" invites spectators to become more aware of how monuments and memorials are used as propaganda to reduce the complexity of human experience, repress free speech, and restrict protest. When participants peel away the confronting layers—black-against-white or good-versus-evil—they reveal a UN report on the weaponisation of memory on social networks: a framework to create memory that is multicoloured, dialogical, and multidirectional.

**3. Museen der Stadt Dresden
Water-logging Cripples Port City Dwellers' Lives**

Photographer Kazi Md Jahirul Islam's image shows the aftermath of incessant heavy rains that every year, coupled with high tides, flood most parts of the city of Chittagong in Bangladesh, bringing havoc in the city dwellers' lives. Streets and alleys of the port city are deeply submerged twice a day.

Puppeteer performs for children in Saraqib, Idlib governorate

Since 2013, puppeteer Walid Rashed has been touring refugee camps and destroyed neighbourhoods, performing for the children living there. In his work Photographer Mouneb Nassar addresses the ecological background of the Syrian civil war. Already in 2007 and 2010, Syria was hit by the worst drought the country has experienced in the last century.

**Neumarkt Deutsches Hygiene-Museum
Dresdner Musikfestspiele
Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden**

**4. Deutsches Hygiene-Museum
Deep-level-clearing Germany**

Open-minded remembrance requires the examination of one's own past. In her posters, artist Irène Mélix (*1988) has incorporated motifs from a series of drawings. "Deep-level-clearing is a term also used in construction. It is a method to rehabilitate areas. Demolition grab, hydraulic hammer, sorting grab, backhoe bucket and screening bucket are tools for the deep-level clearing with specific characters. The deep-level clearing is clearly not a process of cleanup, it is a process with the objective of reusing areas differently. It is not completed, because that's what it can never be. The deep-level clearing might be destructive in some parts, but not in its entirety." Irène Mélix

5. Dresdner Musikfestspiele / Dresden Music Festival

Music moves us, music brings us together, music opens hearts, crossing all geographical borders. Music tells many stories: of joy and sorrow, of love and hatred, of war and peace, of life and death. As a universal language, music is understood by everyone, bringing together opposites and what seems irreconcilable. Music has the power to heal and reunite. The "Ode to Joy", the final chorus of Beethoven's ground-breaking Ninth Symphony, is an example for the unifying power of music and has become a resounding symbol for peace and intercultural dialogue. Where words fail, music can speak. Yesterday, today and in the future.

As a festival which brings together artists from all over the world, the Dresden Music Festival considers itself an ambassador for respectful, peaceful coexistence, and a bridge-builder for multilateral cultural exchange.

6. SLUB

„a big jumble“ by Theresa Rothe

The contribution of the Saxon State and University Library Dresden (SLUB) at Neumarkt transforms the construction fences into a colourful, lively, three-dimensional installation.

Long, worm-like creatures wriggle and wind their way along and around the different sections of the construction fences, almost completely obscuring them.

"The colourful 'Wurmgemenge' (crowd of worms) abstractly depicts our heterogeneous society and its diversity. It also stands for the squabbling and squirming in the dialogue around the concept of openness and tolerance. Colours and shapes paint a colourful, multifaceted picture of the future." (Theresa Rothe)

Let us all work together to foster a lasting discourse on the essential issues of our time. Libraries are places of democracy!

Theaterplatz Semperoper Dresden riesa efau.Kultur Forum Dresden e. V. tjg. theater junge generation

7. Semperoper

Stories of people on the run are as old as humanity itself. Time and again, operas, dramas, and novels tell of how people set out in search of a better life, of a home – and of peace. Photographer Ludwig Olah has captured scenes of flight from the operas Don Carlos and The Other Woman.

8. riesa efau.Kultur.Forum.Dresden e. V.

What does peace mean? Is it the same for everyone? Who decides about it? The people (Das Volk)?

What is Das Volk? Statements made in different times and by different people were the starting point for Alex Lebus' work "Vervolken".

Do Das Volk unite "For the Love of Peace?" Johan Schäfer deforms the fingers giving the victory sign into a heart. The "V" as a hand sign and in Morse code (···–) became a symbol during the Second World War. The Morse code corresponds to the head motif of Beethoven's 5th Symphony ("Ta Ta Ta Taaa"), which the BBC also broadcast in occupied countries as a distinctive sign of its programme – a resounding beacon of resistance against the Germans, written by a German.

9. tjg. theater junge generation

Faline: „Wir schließen einen Pakt. Einen Pakt mit uns selbst!“

Waschbär: „Wir kriegen das schon hin. Jeder tut was er kann.“

Bambi: „Wir passen alle gegenseitig aufeinander auf.“

(aus „Bambi“ von Oliver Schmaering, nach Felix Salten)

„Wir wollen uns mit Respekt begegnen. Aber das gilt für alle. Wir müssen uns alle respektieren.“

(Ina in „Gertrude“ nach dem Roman „Gertrude grenzenlos“ von Judith Burger, für die Bühne bearbeitet von Thomas Freyer)

For the annual commemoration and reminders around February 13th in Dresden, peace is naturally an important topic and also for children, regardless of the date, a particularly important one. This includes social peace and

social cohesion, especially in these days. Treating each other with respect and taking responsibility for the community are important concerns of various protagonists in tjg.- productions and their audiences.

Postplatz Staatsschauspiel Dresden LackStreicheKleber e.V.

10. Staatsschauspiel Dresden

For years, the culture of remembrance on February 13 in Dresden has been associated with a human chain through the city center. This unifying peace action symbolically stands against the violence spreading marches of right-wing extremist groups. Since a large human chain in real space is not possible under current pandemic conditions, the ensemble and staff of Staatsschauspiel Dresden are forming a virtual human chain. We join hands as a sign for a cosmopolitan and solidaric civil society in our city.

11. LackstreicheKleber e.V

LackstreicheKleber e.V., in cooperation with the Italien-Zentrum, invites the group Collettivo FX to realise a design on the motto. Collettivo FX is known for political murals and actions in Italy and beyond.

The series "Vorsicht Sie/Er hat keine Papiere" addresses the circumstances of African refugees fleeing from Italy to Germany. The train paintings were realised on German freight trains crossing the Brenner Pass.

The work "LA DISTANZA TRA ITALIA E YEMEN" refers to the use of the civilian port in Genoa for bomb transport. Italian military technology is loaded onto ships in Genoa for use in the Yemen war.

Schlesischer Platz – Bahnhof Dresden Neustadt Staatsoperette Dresden

12. Staatsoperette

„Gewiss, ich bin sehr happy: doch glücklich bin ich nicht“. The poet Mascha Kaléko (1907 – 1975) was among the many Jewish artists censored, defamed and forced into exile by the National Socialist regime in Germany. After settling in America in 1938, she channelled her experiences of displacement and alienation in her writing. Her poem "Der kleine Unterschied" ("A slight difference") is a poignant reflection also on the difficulties of encountering a foreign language. Kaléko's words feature in a concert celebrating the life and work of Jewish composers and authors of the early 20th century presented at Staatsoperette Dresden, titled "Wäre es doch immer so!" ("If only it were always so!").

Prager Straße Hellerau – Europäisches Zentrum der Künste Dresden

13. Hellerau

The artwork "Zusammenführungsanlage" (Merging Facility) encourages overcoming societal polarisation through dialogue. On almost all issues and commemorative occasions, supporters and opponents clash in increasingly irreconcilable ways. In the work, the opponents enter through separate doors into an illusionary room without an exit, where they can settle their differences at a round table. The small room is also representative of our earth and its limited resources: if diverse people want to coexist peacefully on it in the future, they must dare more togetherness. The humour hinted at in the work can help. A performance is also part of the work.

Schlossstraße Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

14. Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

The 3 silkscreen prints from the series "about a bomb – again" by Jan Kunze show supposedly peaceful and harmonic scenes and details from historic photographs. Like an allegory they may stand for the ideals of work, house and home. But there are curtains of fog over the pictures of our past.

**Jorge-Gomondai-Platz SOCIETAETSTHEATER gGmbH
TanzNetzDresden e. V.
Klubnetz Dresden e. V.**

15. Societaetstheater

During the "Week of Remembrance" around February 13 in 2021, we staged two public performances that treated the concept of commemoration with the greatest artistic freedom. Julian Bellini built a tower out of ash poles and climbed his work meter by meter. Once at the top, he ate an apple and dismantled his tower while descending - a universal picture of the growth and decay of human endeavors. The "Wanderboje", a traveling buoy of the artist team Peschken/Pisarsky, appeared in several places and collected memories of Dresden citizens of the bombing night of February 13, 1945. We question and reflect on our artistic activities with the memory of these actions. Artistic pursuits on the subject of commemoration can be very diverse and controversial. Ideally, they help us to live together peacefully.

16. TanzNetz Dresden e.V. und 17. Klubnetz Dresden e. V.

"In anger, man loses his intelligence"

Respect and humanity are values that one should carry in one's heart throughout life and integrate in one's actions. Especially in uncertain times. However, the quote "In anger, man loses his intelligence" is more topical than ever. And everything could be so simple. After all, the children are showing us how it's done.

The motif was created by Lars P. Krause, graphic artist and illustrator from Dresden, and was developed in cooperation with TanzNetzDresden and KLUBNETZ Dresden.

TanzNetzDresden and KLUBNETZ Dresden are initiatives that network contemporary dance culture on the one hand and the club landscape in Dresden on the other, and stand for tolerance, respect and cosmopolitan coexistence.

Radebeul, Meißner Straße Landesbühnen Sachsen GmbH

18. Landesbühnen Sachsen

During the #WELTOFFENGEDENKEN poster campaign, an installation by the artist group Tiger from Heaven will be on view at the Landesbühnen Sachsen.

The work "all blood is red" addresses injuries, traumatic experiences and past events in children's drawings. In them, fears and nightmares that children associate with violence, conflict and destruction are dealt with undisguised. The installation spans an arc from the destruction of Dresden in February 1945 to Corona and the climate crisis and calls for a peaceful future and a preservation of creation.

The artist group Tiger from Heaven based in Radebeul are János Emil Zeger, Emese Szabó and Ralph Zeger.

Theaterkahn THEATERKAHN - Dresdner Brettli gGmbH

19. Theaterkahn

For the second year in a row, the Dresden painter Klaus Dennyhardt has designed an image on the subject of "13. February WELTOFFEN (GE)DENKEN "for the theater boat.

This motif will be the basis for a picture flag that will be stretched out on the outside of the theater boat as part of the commemoration of the destruction of Dresden on February 13, 1945 as a result of the Second World War that was sparked by Germany.

This year's slogan #WOD WELTOFFEN (GE) DENKEN and the artist's signature are planned as the headline. The image rights are held by the Theaterkahn for the time of the presentation.