

Press release, 22 December 2020

A year of encounters - despite everything

HMKV looks back on the unusual year 2020

The year 2020 will be remembered at HMKV as a year of very special encounters, despite the pandemic-related temporary closures. This is primarily due to the collaborative exhibition project ***Fațadă/Façade***, which opened in October 2020.

The exhibition, which builds on the Interkultur Ruhr project of the same name, sheds light on the **little-known phenomenon of Roma building culture** and was realised together with members of Dortmund's Roma community. "Working on the project together, especially during the weeks of the construction phase when we literally transformed our floor together here in the Dortmunder U, was the highlight of the year for us," says HMKV director Dr. Inke Arns.

Although ***Fațadă/Façade*** had to close again due to the second lockdown at the beginning of November, barely a week after its opening, numerous visitors were nevertheless able to view the almost 20 house models inspired by Roma building culture, while complying with hygiene regulations, and learn about the context and history of the ongoing discrimination against Roma in the reading area.

In the hope that it will be possible to visit exhibitions again in 2021, ***Fațadă/Façade*** has been **extended until 11 April 2021**. Information on the date of reopening will be posted on the HMKV website.

Digital formats have been developed for the **accompanying program for *Fațadă/Façade***, such as a **podcast** by Olga Felker. The first season of the podcast with four episodes is already available online and sheds light on the background of the exhibition in conversations with the project participants. A second season is in preparation for 2021.

The year 2020 began with the international group exhibition ***Artists & Agents - Performance Art and Secret Services***, which had opened in October 2019. The high number of visitors and the continuing interest of the press spoke for themselves. ***Artists & Agents*** highlighted the multi-layered interaction between intelligence services and performance artists – and the occasionally blurred border between the two. Due to the first lockdown, the exhibition was moved to the web, where the HMKV made further impressions and backgrounds of the exhibition available in videos and podcasts (***Artists & Agents Online***).

Some of the events accompanying ***Artists & Agents*** that had to be cancelled in the spring due to the pandemic were made up for in the fall – to great success: the unique ***Spy School*** (September 19+20) by Croatian theater director **Tea Tupajić**, in which participants learned some tricks from the toolbox of skills of secret service agents, as well as the ***Crypto***

Workshop on online security with **Digitalcourage e.V.** (September 10+17), an online format which reached an all-time HMKV record high with over **160 participants**.

Already in spring 2020, the HMKV management made an early decision to **postpone the entire HMKV 2020 program** by six months. Travel restrictions affected several project participants traveling from Romania, so the opening of *Fațadă/Façade* had to be postponed until October. Spontaneous rescheduling was thus made for the summer: Inke Arns conceived the exhibition **25 of 78** for the reopening of the Dortmunder U in June, a kind of "best-of" of the ongoing **HMKV Video of the Month** series that has been running since 2014. **25 of 78** opened on June 2 and was on view until September 20, 2020. The year 2020 therefore also offered the HMKV the opportunity to revisit its own exhibition history and to re-encounter works by many artists, many of whom are likely old acquaintances for HMKV fans, such as **Hito Steyerl, Morehshin Allahyari, Magdalena von Rudy, Abner Preis, Fabian Bechtle, Ulu Braun, Taus Makhacheva, NEOZOOM, Laure Prouvost, Clemens von Wedemeyer**, and many more. The **exhibition magazine** documents not only the exhibition itself, but the entire **six years** of the *HMKV Video of the Month* series.

Due to the closure during the first lockdown, the **HMKV Videos of the Month** are also being shown online on the HMKV website since April 2020: "We have thus created a new **ongoing online art format** that we are now maintaining," says Inke Arns. Since 2014 – for six years now – the *HMKV Video of the Month* series has been offering a platform for current video works by international media artists in a quickly changing format apart from the major exhibitions.

A new cooperation arose for the HMKV in 2020 in the collaboration with the Dortmund publishing house **Verlag Kettler**. All HMKV magazines are published and distributed exclusively by the publishing house.

The year 2020 closes for HMKV not only with the anticipation of the **Beuys anniversary year 2021**, in the context of which the exhibition **Technoshamanism** (opening 08 October 2021) is being prepared, but also with further good news for the medium-term future: The **Ruhr region** has been chosen as the venue for the **European Nomadic Biennale Manifesta in 2026** thanks to the commitment of renowned cultural figures from the region.

The year 2020 at the HMKV

26 October 2019 – 19 April 2020

Artists & Agents – Performance Art and Secret Services

HMKV Hardware MedienKunstVerein at the Dortmunder U, level 3

The international group exhibition focused on the interaction between secret services and performance art – an art form that was considered particularly dangerous by the secret services of the Socialist countries in Eastern Europe. Accessible archives today exist almost exclusively in Eastern Europe and reveal the "disruption" and "liquidation" of dissident artists by state security services. For this, however, some of the agents had to become 'performance artists' themselves. *Artists & Agents* presented examples of artistic subversion and secret service infiltration, some of which have never been shown before. Recent works show that the issue of the increasing use of secret service methods in today's politics and everyday life is highly topical.

Curators: **Inke Arns**, Director of the HMKV Hardware MedienKunstVerein, **Sylvia Sasse**, Professor of Slavic Studies at the University of Zurich, **Kata Krasznahorkai**, Research Assistant at the project "Performance Art in Eastern Europe (1950-1990)" at the University of Zurich

With works by artists from Bulgaria, Germany, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Russia, Hungary and the USA:

Alexandru Antik (RO), Tina Bara & Alba D'Urbano (DE), Kurt Buchwald (DE), György Galántai / Artpool (HU), Ion Grigorescu (RO), Sanja Iveković (HR), Voluspa Jarpa (CL), Jens Klein (DE), Daniel Knorr (RO/DE), Csilla Könczei (RO), Korpys/Löffler (DE), Jiří Kovanda (CZ), Károly Elekes / Árpád Nagy / MAMÜ group (RO), Simon Menner (DE), Arwed Messmer (DE), Clara Mosch (DE), Orange Alternative (PL), Peng! Collective (DE), Józef Robakowski (PL), Cornelia Schleime (DE), Nedko Solakov (BG), Gabriele Stötzer (DE), Tamás St.Turba (NETRAF-agent) / Gábor Altorjay (HU)

Files: Politische Polizei, Switzerland; Ministerium für Staatssicherheit (MfS), GDR; Służba Bezpieczeństwa (SB), Polish People's Republic; Štátní bezpečnost (ŠB), Czechoslovak Socialist Republic; Komitet gosudarstvennoj bezopasnosti (KGB), USSR; Belügyminisztérium (BM), Hungarian People's Republic; Securitate, Socialist Republic of Romania; Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional (DINA), Chile; Algemene Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsdienst (AIVD), The Netherlands; Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), Germany

Publications:

Publication at Spector Books: Kata Krasznahorkai, Sylvia Sasse (Eds.): *Artists & Agents. Performance Art and Secret Services*, Leipzig: Spector Books, 2019, German, 690 pages, 34,00 €. Authors: Inke Arns, Mădălina Braşoveanu, Anna Krakus, Liliana Gomez, Hristo Hristov, Kata Krasznahorkai, Tomáš Pospiszyl, Łukasz Ronduda, Sylvia Sasse, Tamás Szőnyei and Anikó Szűcs

Exhibition magazine 2019/2: Inke Arns, Kata Krasznahorkai, Sylvia Sasse (Eds.): *Artists & Agents – Performance Art and Secret Services*, HMKV Hardware MedienKunstVerein at the Dortmunder U, Dortmund: Kettler, 2019, bilingual German/English, 226 pages, 10,00 € / 18,00 €, also available as a free PDF download at www.hmkv.de.

An exhibition by the HMKV Hardware MedienKunstVerein, Dortmund, in cooperation with the Slavic Department of the University of Zurich, Switzerland

Funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and by the European Research Council (ERC) in the framework of the project "Performance Art in Eastern Europe 1950-1990. History and Theory".

From the press (selection):

"Performance art and secret services make connections in this group show that may easily seem a bizarre curiosity from today's perspective, but were suitable and designed to intimidate, silence, destroy artistic existences."

[FAZ](#)

"(The exhibition) shows what kind of destructive thrust and dangerous potential against artistic subversion secret service and other similar organized authoritarian structures might have in the future. In view of the sometimes helpless data collection attempts of the past that are on display here, one occasionally has to laugh. A laugh that becomes empty in the face of today's possibilities."

[Monopol](#)

"The show is as exciting as a spy thriller. Only, unfortunately, everything is true here."

Ruhrnachrichten (print only)

"The exhibition 'Artists & Agents' is more than a reassessment of the complex relationship between art and control during the Cold War in Eastern Europe."

[DLF: Corso](#)

"A play on decomposition and disinformation. A subject close to the heart of the exhibition's creators."

[ZDF heute plus](#)

"30 years after 1989, exhibition and accompanying book are a spectacular achievement,"
Der Freitag (print only)

02 June 2020 – 20 September 2020

25 of 78

International Media Art from the series HMKV Video of the Month

HMKV Hardware MedienKunstVerein at the Dortmunder U, level 3

Curated by Inke Arns

With works by Monira Al Qadiri, Morehshin Allahyari & Daniel Rourke, Chris Alton, Fabian Bechtle, Ulu Braun, Aleksandra Domanović, Isabella Fürnkäs & Lukas von der Gracht, Matt Goerzen & Ed Fornieles, Niklas Goldbach, Martin Kohout, Ignas Krunglevicius, Joep van Liefland, Taus Makhacheva, NEOZOOM, Abner Preis, Laure Prouvost, Magdalena von Rudy, Alla Rumyantseva & Alexey Rumyantsev, Silke Schönfeld, Hito Steyerl, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Andrew Norman Wilson, Ming Wong, Ina Wudtke, Katarina Zdjelar.

Funded by: The Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, The City of Dortmund / Dortmunder U

Press reviews of 25 of 78:

„Strong, diverse themes that are also aesthetically convincing. ... Each of the videos is a work of art in itself. ... Artistically, (the exhibition) thrilled and convinced me as much as it did in terms of content.“ (Susanne Luerweg, „Fazit“, [Deutschlandfunk Kultur](#), 06/02/2020)

„Here, videos from all over the world once again get the showcase they deserve. Some are timeless anyway, others are still good today as a commentary on political issues, and still others are stylistically pleasing. ... Videos from seven years - worth seeing.“ (Kai-Uwe Brinkmann, „In 25 Videos Around the World“, [Ruhrnachrichten](#), print only, 06/03/2020)

24 October 2020 – **11 April 2021 (extended)**

Fațadă/Façade – Exhibition, workshop, public programme

HMKV Hardware MedienKunstVerein at the Dortmunder U, level 3

Currently closed until January 11, 2021! We will inform promptly about a possible reopening at www.hmkv.de.

Based on the collaborative art project of the Mallinckrodtstraße workshop on Romani building culture of the same name and the redesign of a building façade in the Nordstadt district of Dortmund in September 2019, the *Fațadă/Façade* exhibition focuses on a special form of architecture that has arisen in Romania, among other places, in the last 30 years. This is distinguished by expressive façades, in which many different forms of design are found. The (dream) homes are also often provided with domes or cupolas, castle battlements or silvery, shimmering, onion-shaped roofs. In addition to many building models that originated in the context of the project and that are on view in the exhibition, members of the Mallinckrodtstraße workshop will also realise a redesigning of the HMKV's entrance area. An event programme enables in-depth examination and discussion of the many different aspects of the project. In December 2020, the exhibition magazine will be published by Verlag Kettler (136 pp., numerous illustrations, German/Romanian/English, 10,00 € / 18,00 €).

A project by HMKV Hardware MedienKunstVerein, Interkultur Ruhr and Werkstatt Mallinckrodtstraße

Partner of the project: Djelem Djelem – Dortmund Festival for Roma Cultures

Funded by: City of Dortmund/Dortmunder U, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Fonds Soziokultur, Kunststiftung NRW

The accompanying digital and discourse programme is funded by the Federal Agency for Civic Education. **Interkultur Ruhr** is a project of the Regionalverband Ruhr.

HMKV Video of the Month

The *HMKV Video of the Month* series ran continuously in 2020. Since April 2020, the monthly changing videos are also shown online on the HMKV website: www.hmkv.de.

01/2020	Maya Schweizer , <i>L'Étoile de Mer</i> , 2019, 11:00 min.
02/2020	Magdalena von Rudy , <i>AIR (BSP)</i> , 2014/2018, 6:00 min.
03/2020	Ina Wudtke , <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Worker (rmx.)</i> , 2006, 11:00 min.
04/2020	Kerstin Honeit , <i>Panda Moonwalk or Why Meng Meng Walks Backwards</i> , 2018, 8:00 min.
05/2020	Sebastian Schmiegl , <i>I Will Say Whatever You Want In Front Of A Pizza</i> , 2017, 12:29 min.
06/2020	Nora Al-Badri / Jan Nikolai Nelles , <i>Robo Polke</i> , 2018, 4:28 min.
07/2020	Marisa Olson , <i>Hash to the Future</i> , 2018, 4:17 min.
08/2020	Nadja Buttendorf , <i>Robotron – a tech opera (seasons 01+02)</i> , 2018-2019, 20:20 min.
09/2020	Steffen Köhn , <i>Always here</i> , 2015, 11:24 min.
10/2020	Moritz Stumm , <i>BULLPIT</i> , video loop, 2017, without sound, 11:00 min.
11/2020	Abner Preis , <i>The Mask Maker and the Tree</i> , 2017, 12:20 min.
12/2020	Bjørn Melhus , <i>FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE</i> , 4K video, 2014, 15:00 min.

From the accompanying programme for *Faṣadă/Façade*

„FAṢADĂ“ - How the Roma community reclaims housing space – Podcast with Olga Felker

No other place in the city stands for cultural diversity in Dortmund quite like the Nordstadt district. At the same time, Dortmund's Nordstadt is infamously stigmatised and widely problematised even beyond the city and its inhabitants are criminalised. In four podcast episodes the author Olga Felker shines a light on the background of the project [Faṣadă/Façade](#), outlines political contexts and discusses the importance of the project for the city of Dortmund.

Episode 1	We take back the city – On representation, exhibitions and the future (with Jörg Stüdemann)
Episode 2	Be my guest – On hospitality, prejudices and a hotel (with Inke Arns and Fabian Saavedra-Lara)
Episode 3	More is more – On architecture, racism and classism (with Christoph Wachter und Mathias Jud)

Episode 4 Don't call me that! – On name giving, persistent myths and a sedentary lifestyle (with Siminoc, Vasile Siminoc and Stefan Raul)

More episodes to follow, all episodes available at www.hmkv.de

The accompanying digital and discourse programme of *Façadă/Façade* is funded by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education.

Exhibition magazines as download

On the HMKV website in the HMKV Bookshop all exhibition magazines since 2019 can be downloaded as PDF free of charge: <https://www.hmkv.de/shop.html>. Print versions can be ordered directly from the Kettler publishing house: www.verlag-kettler.de.

Façadă/Façade

Exhibition magazine 2020/2 | Verlag Kettler (forthcoming)

The HMKV Videos of the Month 2014-2020

Exhibition magazine 2020/1 | Verlag Kettler

Artists & Agents - Performance Art and Secret Services

Exhibition magazine 2019/2 | Verlag Kettler

The Alt-Right Complex

Exhibition magazine 2019/1 | Verlag Kettler

The **printed magazines** (18,00 €) can be ordered directly from Verlag Kettler (www.verlag-kettler.de) and are available on site at HMKV at the Dortmunder U (10,00 €).

HMKV on Social Media

Videos & exhibition trailers from current & past exhibitions can be found at:

Vimeo: vimeo.com/hmkv

Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/TheHMKV

Impressions from the current exhibition and references to related topics as well as other activities of artists who were presented in HMKV exhibitions:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/hmkv_de/

Twitter: twitter.com/hmkv_de

Please note: On the successful application of the Ruhr region as the venue for the **European Nomadic Biennale Manifesta in 2026**, see the [press release of the RVR of Dec 11, 2020](#).