

LebensBILD. bioGrafische Begegnungen

An intercultural project with 21 Dresden artists and many participants with and without a migration background

“Tell me a childhood prank” or “What was your first love?” – biographical experiences were the focus of the encounters. Through their art, artists and illustrators encouraged participants to actively remember and illustrate these life moments. In the process of sharing their life stories commonalities were discovered and social cohesion was promoted. The artistic approach to the diverse lives and experiences of people in Dresden took place in creative and interactive events:

In **atelier workshops**, the artists/illustrators presented their own biography and their “path to becoming an artist”. Afterwards, the participants were able to get to know the personal style of the artist/illustrator and implement it in their own illustrations.

In monthly **meeting cafés**, the artists/illustrators invited people to talk about the meaning of free art. This took place on the basis of topics – based on true stories – such as raising children, first love, women’s rights and patriarchy. The lively discussions showed how speaking about empowering, painful or wonderful experiences opens people up. The biographical experiences shared also highlighted a number of commonalities among people in Dresden, regardless of their background.

In addition, our participants had the opportunity to creatively illustrate moments from their lives in monthly **biography workshops** and create their own pictures, sketches or comic sequences. The artists/illustrators taught the basics of comic drawing and the method of storytelling, among other things. Storytelling and listening were so intense that the two hours of the workshop were often felt to be far too short.

The interactive exchange between artists/illustrators and individual participants was further intensified in **tandem sessions**: One artist/illustrator and one participant shared a special experience, and the artists/illustrators immortalized these biographical moments in comic-like illustrations. Four participants contributed their own images.

LebensBILD took place **in many districts of Dresden**: Altstadt, Johannstadt, Neustadt, Kleinschachwitz, Striesen, Gorbitz, Prohlis, Pieschen, Friedrichstadt. The participants got to know and appreciate Dresden and several institutions of the cooperation partners, which accompany people in different phases of life. The project also strengthened social cohesion in Dresden.

LebensBILD.bioGrafische Begegnungen illustrates the immense potential of art: art opens people’s hearts and gets them talking. The two artistic directors Elena Pagel and Nazanin Zandi already gained this experience in their comic courses “Wandelsterne”(2018-2019). Together with ethnologist Dr. Verena Böll, they initiated the project LebensBILD.

This exhibition shows a selection of the artistic project results: Illustrations of the artists/illustrators (from tandem sessions) and works of the participants (from different workshops).



Biography workshop: life moments are shared, led by illustrator Paula Huhle, at Putjatin House, August 08, 2020. (Photo: Elisabeth Renneberg)



Atelier workshop: Participants show what they have learned at the workshop of illustrator Liane Hoder, July 06, 2020 at Stadtteilhaus Äußere Neustadt (Photo: Elisabeth Renneberg)



Meeting Café: Exchange on the theme “First Love”, led by the artist Yini Tao, at SPIKE, August 27, 2020. (Photo: Elena Pagel)

Duration

May - Dez. 2020

Support

Kultur Aktiv e.V.

Projektmanagement

Dr. Verena Böll

Artistic direction

Elena Pagel, Nazanin Zandi

artists and illustrators

Alma Weber, Anja Maria Eisen, Anne Rosinski, Annette von Bodecker, Annij Zielke, Antje Dennewitz, Daniela Veit, Effi Mora, Henrike Terheyden, Ines Hofmann, Johanna Failer, Liane Hoder, Luisa Stenzel, Nadine Wölk, Paula Huhle, Rosa Brockelt, Susanne Schrader, Xenia Gorodnia, Yini Tao und die Teilnehmerinnen Estrella Pérez Ramos, Mahsa Alizadeh, Petra Wilhelm, Uta Rolland

Cooperation partners

Ausländerrat Dresden e.V. | Förderverein Putjatinhaus e.V. | Frauenstadtarchiv/Frauen-BildungsHaus Dresden e.V. | Johannstädter Kulturtreff e.V. | MEDEA International - FMGZ MEDEA e.V. | Omse e.V. | Outlaw gGmbH Stadtteilzentrum EMMERS | SPIKE Dresden e.V. | Städtische Bibliotheken Dresden | Volkshochschule Dresden e.V.



More information under
www.kulturaktiv.org/lebensbild

A Projekt from



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