

Call for Ideas: Ideas competition for 'Perspectives' 2026

Curated exhibition format as part of the 48 Hours Neukölln art festival

The Festival 48 Stunden Neukölln

48 Stunden Neukölln is an annual, free art and culture festival that transforms the entire Berlin district of Neukölln into a huge exhibition space. It was launched in 1999 and is now one of the largest and most traditional festivals for independent art in Berlin. Over the course of a weekend, numerous galleries, studios, project spaces, and even unusual locations such as backyards, shops, and private apartments open their doors to art lovers.

The festival offers a diverse platform for established and emerging artists from all disciplines – from painting, sculpture, and photography to performance, music, and dance. It promotes exchange between artists, residents and visitors and reflects the creative energy and diversity of the district.

48 Hours Neukölln is organised by Kulturnetzwerk Neukölln e.V. The association has been committed to promoting art and culture in the district for many years and plays a key role in putting this unique festival together every year.

The Format

As part of the 28th edition of our festival, which will be held in 2026 under the motto **OUT/SIDE/IN**, we are once again presenting the curated exhibition format 'Perspectives'. These exhibitions deal thematically with the central idea of the festival and serve as a guide through the diverse interpretations of the motto throughout the festival area.

The format is aimed specifically at **young curators up to the age of 35** who apply to participate with innovative curatorial ideas and then realise their own exhibitions.

Applications from individuals or collectives from Germany and abroad are welcome.

The Thema

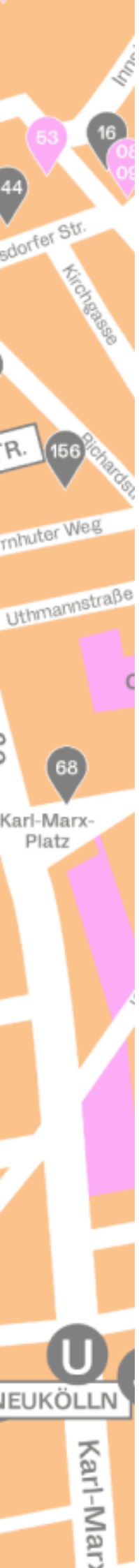
OUT/SIDE/IN

'Maps are always designs of the world. They do not show reality, but rather a bold interpretation.' (Judith Schalansky, Atlas of Remote Islands)

Borders are not rigid lines, but provisional markings that shift, overlap and take on new forms. In artistic practice, they do not appear as end points, but as spaces in between, where meanings become suspended and new configurations become visible.

This is not about a linear path from the outside to the inside, as if the aim were to uncover a hidden interior. Rather, the relationship between inside and outside should be understood as a relational dynamic: both poles are intertwined and marked by cultural and political inscriptions. The boundary thus proves to be not the end, but the beginning of a story.

Identity does not appear as a fixed essence, but as a process – as a fluid formation that constitutes itself in shifts, breaks and transitions. Artistic practice is therefore less focused on heroic transgression than on tentatively circling and dissolving opposites. Borders are not simply adopted, but redesigned – not as restrictions, but as open spaces of possibility. 1



Art that follows this approach understands boundaries as permeable structures – psychologically, socially and symbolically. Their cracks reveal that the ‘outside’ has long been inscribed within the ‘inside’. Artistic works make this interweaving tangible and open up spaces in which belonging, ethics and aesthetics are not fixed, but constantly renegotiated

What we are looking for

We are looking for conceptually strong and flexible curatorial ideas that approach the theme **OUT/SIDE/IN** in a creative way. In order to make the best use of the diversity of locations, the detailed exhibition concept submitted must be developed independently of space – we will assign a suitable space in Neukölln to the selected projects.

Terms and conditions of participation & submission

Curators or curatorial collectives up to the age of 35 are eligible to participate. Applications from Berlin, Germany and abroad are welcome. Submissions must be made exclusively via the registration platform:

👉 <https://anmeldung.48-stunden-neukoelln.de/en/anmeldung>

Please submit the following documents:

- Curatorial concept (max. 2 pages, PDF)
- Brief introduction of the participating artists or planned positions (optional)
- Short biography/CV of the curator or team
- Short letter of motivation: Why do you want to be part of 48 Hours Neukölln (max. 4 sentences)
- Contact information

application deadline: 30. November 2025

Selection process

In the first half of December, a jury of experts and festival representatives will select the most compelling concepts.

The evaluation criteria are:

- originality and relevance of content,
- curatorial quality and clarity,
- relevance to the festival theme
- feasibility within the festival



What we offer

The most successful curatorial concepts (a total of 6–7 exhibitions) will be realised as **‘Perspectives’** during the upcoming festival edition. For this, we offer you:

Fee for curators:

A contract for services in the amount of €1,500 for curatorial support, organisational responsibility and implementation of a ‘Perspective’. The fee includes the preparation of texts and two guided tours in two languages during the festival.

Artists' fees:

Fee agreements for participating artists, based on the salary guidelines of the State of Berlin:

- Solo exhibition (1-2 artists) €2,500 per artist
- Small group exhibition (3-9 artists) €800 per artist
- Group exhibition (10-30 artists) €400 per artist

Material and transport costs:

A budget for necessary expenses can be settled by submitting a reimbursement claim. Please note that expenses must be kept within limits due to the tight overall budget.

Public relations & materials:

The 48 Stunden Neukölln team centrally coordinates social media communication, press relations and the creation of all printed materials. Own templates, posters, exhibition texts, flyers and key visuals are expressly not welcome.

Support staff:

Support staff can be provided if required.

Timetable (provisional)

- **Application deadline:** 30 November 2025
- **Jury phase:** early December 2025
- **Contract conclusion:** from January 2026
- **First network meeting:** February 2026 (allocation of exhibition venues)
- **Concept phase:** March 2026 (adaptation to the venues)
- **Communication & preparatory work:** April 2026 (festival guide & website)
- **Organisational implementation:** May 2026
- **Publication of the programme:** early June 2026
- **Festival:** early July 2026

Kontakt

Do you have any questions about the competition or the process?
Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Festival Director:

Kat Nowak

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We look forward to hearing your exciting and forward-looking perspectives!