

URBAN NATURE

by Rimini Protokoll (Haug/Huber/Kaegi/Wetzel)



URBAN NATURE FROM RIMINI PROTOKOLL
INSTALLATION SHOT
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July 15 – October 16, 2022
Kunsthalle Mannheim

Press Conference: July 13, 2022, 11:00 am
Opening: July 14, 2022, 6:30 pm

The city is an enormous, future-defining project. With URBAN NATURE, Kunsthalle Mannheim invites visitors to take part in an immersive spatial experience that spans the meeting point of art, theater and performance.

Rimini Protokoll transforms Kunsthalle Mannheim into a walk-through installation. The work is presented in cooperation with the Nationaltheater Mannheim.

Is this an exhibition or a staging? URBAN NATURE is both — an experiential space and a role-playing game. The new and most complex exhibition project produced by the author and director team of Rimini Protokoll centers on the theme of urban society. How do we imagine the future in the city? What form could living together in solidarity take in the future?

A world of different urban spaces comes together in the exhibition spaces of Kunsthalle Mannheim and have the effect of a walk-in labyrinth. This interactive installation opens up new perspectives, encourages visitors to break out of their own realities, and facilitates unexpected experiences. A walk through the exhibition, which takes place in small groups, lasts about an hour. In video walks visitors engage actively with the work and are immersed in a new scene every eight minutes; these range from a homeless shelter to a high-rise. Equipped with a digital tablet and earphones, visitors encounter everyday experts at these individual stations, thus meeting an investment advisor, an environmental and economic historian, a young woman looking for work, a prison guard, and a graphic designer.



In the city center, the starting point of the walk-through, visitors first encounter Enric, an environmental and economic historian and an advocate for city life. For him, sharing critical resources such as water, living space, and infrastructure is an opportunity for social understanding and community building in urban space. All the protagonists, who are based in Barcelona where the project was first produced, relate their own personal perspectives. An investment advisor invites viewers into her bank; a prison guard shows his workshop, where inmates produce air conditioners for a major company; Camila, a graphic designer, talks about how as a single mother she decided to leave the advertising business and plant cannabis in her apartment; and young Leyla describes her mother’s fear of city spaces and questions the dangers and obstacles of everyday life: “I ask myself, why grown-ups created a city that is dangerous for their children.”

The artist collective steers visitors through an installation that addresses the real problems faced by urban society. The boundaries between exhibition and theater and between reality and fiction blur. Kunsthalle Mannheim becomes a space of experience, in which different realities meet and in which the stories of the seven protagonists open up social and political questions about urban society.

The Collective — Rimini Protokoll

Rimini Protokoll is known for creating an exceptionally intense artistic experiences that challenges the familiar formats of the theater and art worlds — whether presented in Tokio, Copenhagen, Melbourne, or Rome. Founded in 2000 by Helgard Haug, Stefan Kaegi, and Daniel Wetzels, the author-director team is internationally known in the theater world for its interactive productions and has been working globally for over 20 years in various constellations. With the project URBAN NATURE, Rimini Protokoll continues its longstanding collaboration with scenographer Dominic Huber. URBAN NATURE is technically and conceptually an outgrowth of various formats previously employed by the artist collective, but it is also a radical alternative to traditional exhibitions. In its projects Rimini Protokoll clearly departs from the delimited space of the theater stage, in order to explore urban space as the theme and setting of their production. The project URBAN NATURE was first shown in Barcelona and is being adapted for the spaces of Kunsthalle Mannheim. URBAN NATURE is also a continuation of a successful collaboration with the Nationaltheater Mannheim, with which Rimini Protokoll cooperated in 2005 for a documentary-styled staging of Friedrich Schiller's Wallenstein.

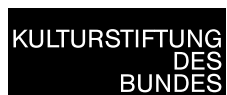


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 INSTALLATION SHOT
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Accompanying Program – the “Stadtzimmer” or “City Room”

With the “City Room”, a publicly and freely accessible space for exchange and reflection, the local community of the city is rooted in a central place in the atrium of the Kunsthalle. The team of Kunsthalle Mannheim plans to engage in on-site conversations about the questions raised by the URBAN NATURE project with regional protagonists, who are impacted by the structure of the city and who have their own perspectives. Experts, institutional partners, members of civil society, initiatives, non-profits, intercultural communities, and research projects are being invited to make suggestions for events that include discussions, music, workshops, and interactive events. Issues such as urban development, gentrification, new forms of work, alternative models for communal living, micro-economies, neglected minorities, and additional urban these relevant to the city of Mannheim and the Rhein-Neckar metropolitan region are the focus. These events are scheduled for September and October 2022.

Sponsored by:



URBAN NATURE is a production of Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona – CCCB and Rimini Apparat. It is a coproduction of Kunsthalle Mannheim, Nationaltheater Mannheim, and Grec Festival de Barcelona. The project has been made possible by the German Federal Cultural Foundation, which is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media, and by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe. It is presented in collaboration with Mediapro and Institut del Teatre.

Project supporters in Mannheim:



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