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The Metropolitan Art Organisation urban dialogues

Since 1998 the metropolitan art organisation *urban dialogues* has been experimenting with the urban spaces of the city of Berlin searching for interesting grounds for temporary and site-specific public art projects.

Starting point was a project entitled *urban dialogues outside* in 1998. The project addressed the final moments of the reconstruction of central Berlin around the Hackesche Markt in form of an artistic visual and performative intervention. The idea to explore a particular area within its contemporary usage as a spatial system within its own history and through its silently slumbering visions has been repeated in various areas in Berlin through a multitude of artistic approaches.



In 2004 *urban dialogues* presented the exhibition *Non Standard Cities* in the former meatpacking district Berlin. The show featured 13 international and German artists dealing with alternative architecture and city planning, e.g. Marjetica Potrc, Hans-Christian Schink, Sofie Thorsen and Matthias Müller.

The artistic principle of *urban dialogues* is to bring aesthetic sensitivity to the rapid changes of place and perspective within the city landscape. Since 2002 *urban dialogues* has worked within the social regeneration programmes in urban crisis zones, focussed on integrating youth and young adults in the production of art and culture.

The artistic projects of *urban dialogues* which began in the centre of Berlin as a scrutiny of the dramatically changing environment, have since then developed in a manifold artistic discourse with the phenomenon of urban spaces, urban literature and urban signs.

Since 2002 an old butchery in Berlin-Kreuzberg has been the home and base of *urban dialogues*. Every month our *Salon: Berlin from Within – The City in Words* stimulates the urban dialogues within literary circles on the themes of the metropolis by presenting readings and exhibitions in this intensive space of artistic and literary experience.

The projects have run with the support of amongst others the Capital Cultural Fund Berlin, the Senate for Urban Development Berlin, the Youth and Family Foundation Berlin, the Sociocultural Foundation Bonn, the Foundation for the Dramatic Arts Bonn, Siemens AG and Allianz AG.

urban dialogues is member of the Cultural-Political Society in Bonn.