

DISLOCATIONS—*within reach*

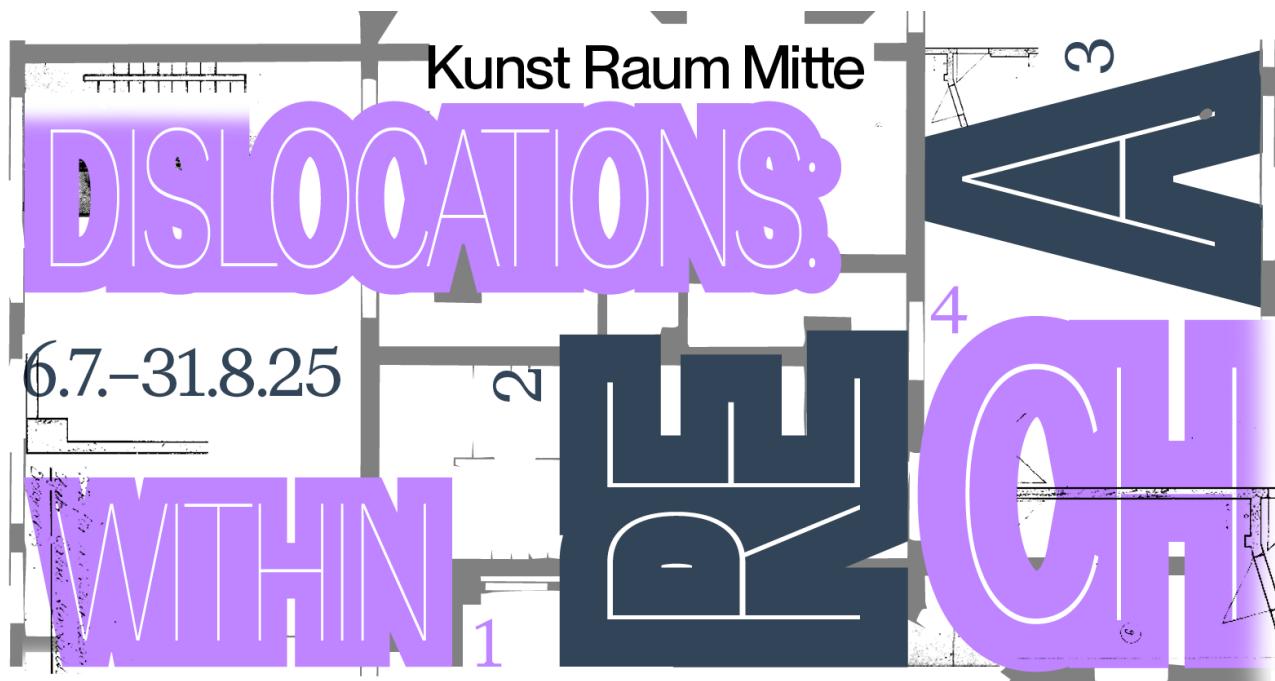
6 July – 31 August 2025

Artists: Daniela Kneip Velescu, Songhak Ky, Mila Panić, Anguezomo Nzé Mboulou Mba

Associated researcher/curator: Sarnt Utamachote

Curators: Natalie Keppler & Agnieszka Roguski (Artistic Directors Kunst Raum Mitte)

On 5 July, the second exhibition of the program DISLOCATIONS—*within reach* opens, placing (post-)migrant perspectives on historiography at its center. As the second chapter of the program curated by Natalie Keppler and Agnieszka Roguski, *within reach* explores the occupation and departure of spaces and the resulting spatial in-betweens that emerge from these acts. The stories of the communal gallery Kunst Raum Mitte, originally founded as *galerie weisser elefant* in the late GDR, are linked to the group exhibition featuring works by Daniela Kneip Velescu, Songhak Ky, and Mila Panić, a talk with Sarnt Utamachote, and a collective intervention by Anguezomo Nzé Mboulou Mba Bikoro, thereby socio-geographically including Southeast European and Southeast Asian perspectives.



Design: Sibel Beyer

Kunst Raum Mitte is shaped by the legacy of Berlin's division, ongoing processes of displacement and speculation around future uses of its space. DISLOCATIONS 2025 takes up these spatial dimensions programmatically, dedicating itself to different forms of localization and dislocation. DISLOCATIONS 2025 explores these spatial dynamics and examines varying forms of dislocation and relocation. As the second chapter of the year-long program, *within reach* focuses on (post-)migrant environments and connects them to the spatial and historical

Mitte

context of the exhibition site.

While the story of Kunst Raum Mitte—formerly *galerie weisser elefant*—has often been told through the lens of East-West migration within Germany, the exhibition draws connections across post-Soviet, Southeast European, and transcontinental contexts.

The works by Daniela Kneip Velescu, Songhak Ky, and Mila Panić open up transitional spaces shaped by the everyday experiences of migration. These works situate themselves in moments of passage, marking and subverting national, historical, and geopolitical boundaries. The installations reveal biographical narratives as layered processes in which diverse places contribute to a fragmented sense of home, absorbing dominant narratives as much as challenging them.

An accompanying archival display features invitations issued by the gallery since the 1990s, drawing attention to who was included—and who was excluded. *within reach* asks which invisible connections bring places within reach while keeping them elusive at the same time.

Event Program

within reach

6 July – 31 August 2025

Opening: 5 July 2025, 6–9 PM

24 July 2025, 6 PM

Talk & Tour on the work of Songhak Ky with **Sarnt Utamachote** (Associated Researcher/Curator)

29 August 2025, 6 PM

Collective intervention with **Anguezomo Nzé Mboulou Mba Bikoro**

Curated by **Annika Reketat** (Curatorial Assistant, Kunst Raum Mitte)

About Kunst Raum Mitte

Kunst Raum Mitte, formerly *galerie weisser elefant*, is an institution of the Department of Art, Culture and History in the district Mitte. The gallery's renaming was initiated by the department in 2023 and accompanied by an evaluation process. It aims to further open up the gallery's concept for contemporary discourse and the art of a new generation, linking it to current debates about a pluralistic urban society.

Artistic Directors and Curators: Natalie Keppler & Agnieszka Roguski

Program Coordination and Curatorial Assistance: Annika Reketat

Exhibition Management: Katrin Winkler

Design DISLOCATIONS: Sibel Beyer

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Directions and address: Kunst Raum Mitte

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Kunst Raum Mitte is an institution of the Department of Art, Culture and History at the District Office of Berlin Mitte.

Head of Department: Dr. Ute Müller-Tischler

Management: Andrzej Raszyk

Chief Curator Division Contemporary Art: Eylem Sengezer

Communication: Elias Pietsch



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Participants

Daniela Kneip Velescu, born 1982 in Bucharest, Romania, lives and works in Berlin. Daniela Kneip Velescu preferred to spend her last semester in 2011 in Bucharest rather than in the corridors of the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main. In 2019, she traveled along the Danube with the support of Kunstfonds Bonn. She followed the historical migration route of her mother's side of the family. The experiences and materials she gathered on this journey formed the basis for her last three exhibitions. The exhibition “Vampire Facelift” at the Kunstverein Grafschaft Bentheim and presentations in Berlin and Frankfurt were at the center of her work. Daniela Kneip Velescu is currently working on the monumental structure of Bucharest and her artistic response to it. The basis for this is a never-published travel guide by her grandfather from the 1970s from her Romanian-Ukrainian branch of the family. She had just obtained her birth certificate there, which she needed to regain her Romanian passport, and viewed her first artifacts.



Daniela Kneip Velescu, *Icebreaker*, 2025.
Courtesy the artist.



Daniela Kneip Velescu, *Designklassiker*, 2024.
Courtesy the artist.



Daniela Kneip Velescu, *Spätzünder*, 2024. Courtesy the artist.

Songhak Ky (1950, Kandal – 2000, Berlin) was a Cambodian artist who came to the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in 1972 to study art and design (metal and enamel work). He fled to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in 1987 and did not return to Cambodia until his death in 2000. Influenced by the formalist principles of the Bauhaus and his professor Irmtraud Ohme, Ky developed a visual language influenced by Western design ideology, which was recognized by the state in the 1960s. In 1980, he joined the Association of Visual Artists of the GDR, whose history is linked to that of galerie weisser elefant. After fleeing to West Berlin in 1987, Ky distanced himself from the Cambodian embassy and manifested a cosmopolitan aesthetic that resisted cultural essentialism. He never returned to Cambodia until his death in 2000.



Songhak Ky, *DUO*, 1995. Courtesy family Ky



Songhak Ky, *DUPLEX*, 1995. Courtesy family Ky



Songhak Ky, *BALANCE*, 1997. Courtesy family Ky

Mila Panić (* 1991) is a Bosnian-born artist and stand-up comedian. Her artist's practice ranges from personal documentation to poetic visual and discursive elements through which she creates a cycle that interprets the various inheritances of migration. She is the co-founder of the collective and association Fully Funded Residencies eV.

Her most recent exhibitions were in GMK (Zagreb), eastcontemporary Gallery (Milan), Kuenstlerhaus Sootburn (Hamburg), POST (Arnhem), Autostrada Bienalle (Prizren) etc. Panic is the winner of ZVONO YVVA of Bosnia and Herzegovina and has received a number of scholarships and grants. She is based in Berlin, Germany.



Mila Panić, *Südostpaket*, ongoing.
Courtesy the artist

Sarnt Utamachote is a Southeast Asian nonbinary filmmaker and curator in Berlin. Their work explores the intersection between activism and contemporary art through intense archival research and community-based collaborations in the form of exhibition or film. They have curated exhibitions or programs for institutions such as HKW, Schwules Museum, nGbK, Sinema Transtopia, shaping conversations on migration, queerness, and transnationalism. Additionally, they work as a film programmer for XPOSED Queer Film Festival Berlin and Short Film Festival Hamburg.

Anguezomo Nzé Mba Bikoro (GAB/FR) is an interdisciplinary artist, author, somatic body therapist, and curator. Their practice weaves together decolonial, somatic, and abolitionist approaches with ancestral knowledge, herbal medicine, and sound. At its core are queer histories, collective healing, and anticolonial resistance. Site-specific works explore the colonial entanglements of migration, ecology, and memory. In collaboration with human rights organizations, artistic and para-ecological methods are used to expose colonial violence and structural racism.

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This is a selection of installation views. If you would like to publish any of these images or are interested in viewing more, please contact Annika Reketat (annika.reketat@ba-mitte.berlin.de) or Elias Pietsch (elias.pietsch@ba-mitte.berlin.de) for high-resolution photos.



Installation view DISLOCATIONS—*within reach*, Kunst Raum Mitte, 2025. Photo: Jannis Uffrecht



Installation view DISLOCATIONS—*within reach*, Kunst Raum Mitte, 2025. Photo: Jannis Uffrecht



Daniela Kneip Velescu, *Icebreaker*, 2024. Photo: Jannis Uffrecht



Installation view DISLOCATIONS—*within reach*, Kunst Raum Mitte, 2025. Photo: Jannis Uffrecht



Songhak Ky, installation view Kunst Raum Mitte, 2025. Photo: Jannis Uffrecht



Mila Panić, *Südost Paket*, ongoing. Photo: Jannis Uffrecht



Mila Panić, *Südost Paket*, ongoing. Photo: Jannis Uffrecht



Mila Panić, *Südost Paket*, ongoing. Photo: Jannis Uffrecht

