
FREIRÄUMEN

The future is back!

A programme by the Building Competence Centre of the City of Mannheim,
in cooperation with zeitraumexit, Oliver Rack, Collini Social Club,
and planning agency Yalla Yalla.

A future that never was. Or was it? The urban visions and architecture from the 1970s have long since fallen into oblivion. Too laborious, too risky, too expensive, too impractical, and divorced from reality. And what was the point? The world carried on turning, even without them. People began moving to the countryside, into the 'here and now', striving for growth. The feasibility of the Seventies' holistic idea of sustainability was still in its infancy and took refuge in the economy instead.

Yet one icon remains from this era: the Mannheim Multihalle, architect Frei Otto's experimental, resource-friendly and lightweight construction, whose contours are modelled on shapes from Nature. Never taken to its logical end, it has remained an experiment to this day. Presently there are good reasons for picking up on the original visions again. The city as a social agglomeration is once again en vogue - with all its civic challenges, and increasingly networked within Europe. Resources are depleting faster than assumed and lightweight construction is experiencing a renaissance, because mathematics and high-tech computers make it easy to do what Frei Otto so proficiently achieved: thinking by modeling.

Reason enough then, to revive Frei Otto's masterpiece, Mannheim's Multihalle - to make room for its message and to shift its meaning into today's world in order to connect new ways of thinking and exploring. It is about nothing less than revising the former predominantly technical discourse and working out a new interpretation of the Multihalle as an architectural cultural platform for an 'open society', in tune with Frei Otto's original intentions. An open society that shapes the future in a well-informed, responsible and co-creative manner.

FREIRÄUMEN aims to inspire the public to view the Multihalle complex (and the works and visions of Carlfried Mutschler and Frei Otto) from a fresh perspective, with the intention of using the Multihalle as a space in which to develop and realise new visions for its designed and engineered surroundings, yet in harmony with the local community, the general public, sustainability, and civic life.

FREIRÄUMEN #1

Kick-off: 24 May 2017

The Multihalle has been spruced up and is ready to re-open to the public. Starting on the evening of 24 May, a series of events will rekindle awareness of this unique architectural landmark among Mannheim's citizens. In being anything but a building with four walls, Frei Otto's Multihalle is an inspiration for creative minds and an ideal stage for aesthetic new formats and futuristic ideas. On 24 May we will be kicking off a summer of artistic, exploratory and playful interim uses of the entire ensemble. Together with artists from zeitraumexit, Collini Social Club, and planning agency Yalla Yalla, we will host an evening of music and the visual arts, portraying the history and envisaging the future of the Multihalle. The building will temporarily again reflect Frei Otto's original intentions by serving as a laboratory and playground for the senses and for ideas.

The programme in detail:

La_Trottier Dance Collective

La_Trottier Dance Collective will take the spectators into the Multihalle. The dancers will explore the building with their bodies, test the heights of ledges and stairs, investigate the boundaries of the whole space, and take the audience on an architectural expedition.

ÉRIC TROTTIER is one of the region's most distinguished choreographers. In 2011 he established the La_Trottier Dance Collective in Mannheim, and in 2017 was appointed artistic director of the new dance venue eintanzhaus, in Mannheim's Trinitatis Church.
latrottierdance.de

ÉRIC TROTTIER

Born in Quebec, Canada. Engagements: Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Nationaltheater Mannheim (Philippe Talard), Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck, Austria (Jochen Ulrich), Theater der Bundesstadt Bonn, Grand Theatre de Luxembourg, National Moravian-Silesian Theatre Ostrava, Stadttheater & Kulturforum Fürth, Theater im Ballsaal Bonn, Bühne Brotfabrik Bonn. Choreography collaborations with Rami Be'er, Mats Ek, Jiri Kilian, and others.

Waldlust

Das Frankfurt musicians Waldlust (Tobias Schmitt and Lasse-Marc Riek) invite visitors to an acoustic stroll through the park landscape around the Multihalle. After an afternoon of listening and taping, Waldlust will present a concert of the field recordings in the evening, in the Multihalle.

Waldlust have been working on various improvisational performance concepts since 2003, and regularly appear at museums, galleries and off-spaces across Europe.
waldlust.org

Tobias Schmitt

Experimental electronics, numerous performances, sound installations and recording releases in Europe and the USA. Tobias Schmitt has been giving radio broadcasts about live improvisations for many years, and regularly organises concerts and festivals. acrylnimbus.de/

Lasse-Marc Riek

Phonographer; sound recordings of animals, social gatherings, and landscapes. Installations, lectures and concerts. Recording releases in Europe and Asia. Operator of the Frankfurt sound artist label Gruenrekorder. Organiser and curator of various national and international sound projects.
lasse-marc-riek.de/

Light Installations (Benjamin Jantzen und Swen Seyerlen)

Video artists Swen Seyerlen and Benjamin Jantzen, alias VJ Pixelschubser, have been staging their impressive video projections at clubs, festivals, museums, and events throughout Europe for many years. The international media festival B-Seite, which they founded and regularly curate, will be taking place for the 10th consecutive year in Mannheim. Light installations in each room will generate their own aesthetic visual worlds in harmony with music and architecture. In the Multihalle, they will utilise the unique structure of the roof to elicit different perceptions of the architecture.
lichtinstallationen.com