

neXus

Center Shock at Localize festival 2020



Valentine Emilia BOSSERT

Amaury BOUQUET

CONCEPT

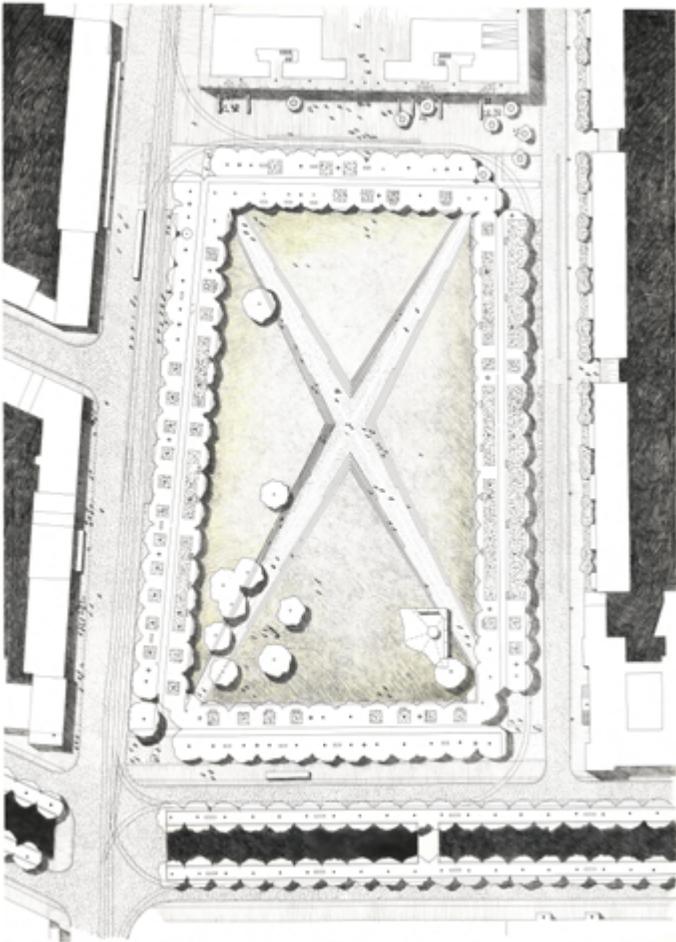
neXus is an installation located at the crossroads in the middle of Platz der Einheit in Potsdam. Composed of four walls made of a metallic structure supporting a two-sided flexible mirroring surface, it creates an empty reflective space inspired by the Roman forum designed to playfully foster encounters and self-reflection, thus altering its usual function from a place of passage to a centre of civic relations.

In the spirit of Socrates' interactions with his fellow citizens, we use the mirrors to provoke individual reflection, critical analysis of the status quo and encourage people to put their own convictions in doubt in order to promote a democracy based on civic investigations and experimentation rather than political manipulation and propaganda. In a context of global capitalism, structural individualism and ecological distance pertained by growing socio-political tensions, the necessity for debate, critical exchange and human solidarisation with itself and the environment seems greater than ever. This coincides with the location of the installation and its happening during the 30th anniversary of German reunification. It invites to reconsider our perception of unity within and between societies as well as our relation to otherness. NeXus offers the space for diverse and thought-provoking encounters to arise. We are convinced that art and culture in general possess the potential to respond to these needs in favour of an open community.

Further, we strive to offer a cultural counterpoint to the Western capitalist mindset where commercial relations are prioritised at the centre of the city. Through our research, we have been influenced by the notion of void at the centre of traditional Japanese city planning analysed by Roland Barthes in *The Empire of Signs*, and the Taoist and Buddhist notions of emptiness.

neXus

Location : *Platz der Einheit, Potsdam*



By disrupting the routine itinerary of passers-by, neXus invites them to take a mental time out to reflect and exchange in a relatively confined space, a physical void, mimicking the effects of the corona crisis. It materialises the psychic space in which we are free to play with our thoughts.

Despite the potentially devastating physical, psychological and economical effects of the health crisis on a number of people, we believe that Western society must seize the opportunity of the recent suspension of 'normality' in our lives to perform the introspection of its core values and existential motivations at this crossroads in history, rather than concentrating on the fear and shock consecutive to this situation.

Through the multidimensional symbolic aspects of this project, we aim at recreating a centre for civic engagement, the conditions for a nexus between the multiple and sometimes contradictory dimensions of our society. Camouflaged by its mirroring surfaces, neXus reminds us that despite the perceptible complexity of the world we live in, there is still space for free and collective reflection towards change. This is also reflected in our choice of the location. Beyond its architectural interest, Platz der Einheit's name reflects our search for a greater social cohesion, which would determine a new ethos as building blocks for the future.

For the sake of inclusivity, the structure will be made universally accessible to all passers-by. It will also make this a priority to conform to sanitary prevention measures, with features such as an open roof or entrances allowing people to enter without touching surfaces, and will provide sufficient space for social distancing.

Eager to base our confidence in the arts on factual observations, we will spend the two research weeks measuring the outcomes of our installation through observations, recordings, interviews and experimenting with punctual interventions in the space, such as ambient sounds or interactive objects.

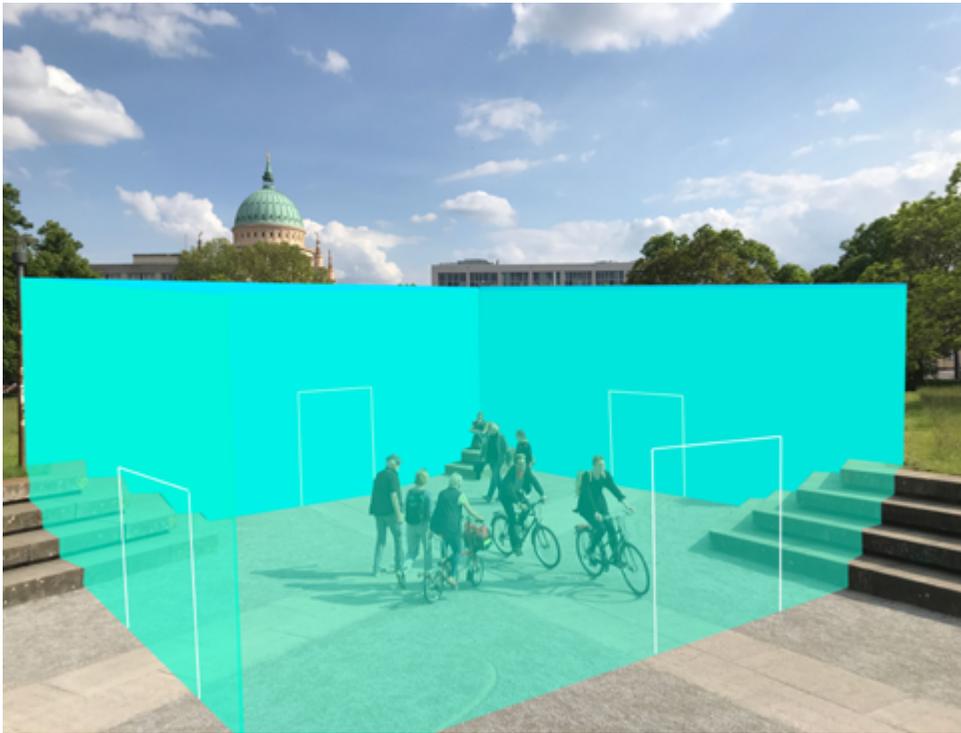
neXus

Visual Insertion

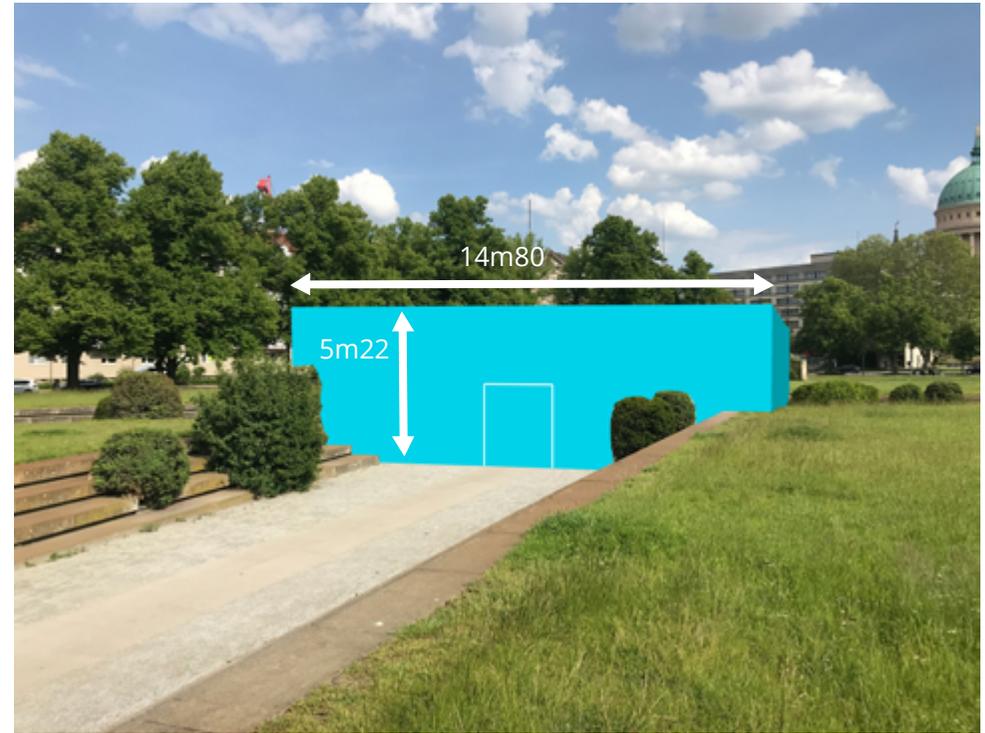


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Sketches

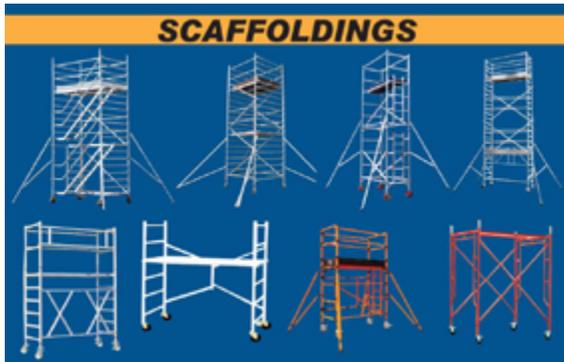


neXus
Inside



neXus
Outside

Materials & Realisation Timeline

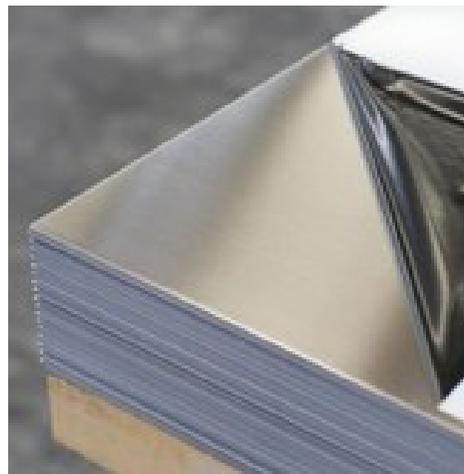


MATERIALS

- Structure: scaffoldings, aluminium building elements (Blocan, tubes with junctions, etc.)
- Mirroring surface: stainless steel mirroring plates
- Urban maintenance equipment
- Tools
- City authorisation & architectural plans of the square
- Sound equipment



#8 MIRROR



REALISATION TIMELINE

- June- August: design, material & funding solutions
- September/October: installation & research
- October: research report/publication

About the Artists



Valentine Emilia BOSSERT — Switzerland
Based in Berlin, Germany.

Valentine Emilia BOSSERT's work is deeply rooted in her drawing practice and influenced by her aesthetic and socio-political concerns. Her inspiration delves into absurdism, existentialism, utopian theory and critical materialism. She creates drawings, sculptures and installations as well as interactive pieces for the public space. She is convinced of the transformative power of art and of the necessity to bring culture outside institutions.

Since 2017, she is a member of the transdisciplinary art organization ANTROPICAL.



Amaury BOUQUET — France
Based in Berlin, Germany.

With a background in social innovation, Amaury BOUQUET creates a bridge between art, social change and mindfulness. He develops the concept of Art-experience to help people dive into one's interiority. Both his mediums, pictorial symbolism or symbolic actions, are representations of our collective psyche and each individual history. His work encompasses the joyful transgression of public space and to the social performance of participatory street-art installations.

Since 2018, he is the founder and active member of the transdisciplinary art collective BIMBIM.

The duo is part of ilali, a collective artists' studio and gallery focused on socially oriented practices and engaged with the local community, located in Berlin Neukölln. Social Media: @ilali_studios

Official support



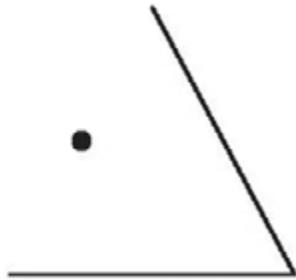
Hinnerk WEHBERG

Architect of Platz der Einheit and founder of WES architecture agency.

Hinnerk WEHBERG is supporting this initiative. He bring his specific approach to the Platz der Einheit to this project.

- 2014 Berater von Zhuhai City (CN)
- 2007 Berater und Repräsentant von WES
- 2005 Berufung in den Konvent der Baukultur
- 2005 Verleihung des Sckell-Rings
- 2002 Emeritierung an der TU Braunschweig
- 1992 Mitglied der Freien Akademie der Künste, Hamburg
- 1992 Auszeichnung mit dem Fritz-Schumacher-Preis
- 1982 2002 Professor am Institut für Städtebau und Landschaftsplanung der TU Braunschweig
- 1975 1985 Mitglied der Kunstkommission der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg
- 1969 Bürogründung Wehberg-Lange (heute: WES)
- 1966 1969 Gastdozent für Kunst am Bau an der HFK (Hochschule für Künste) Bremen
- 1964 1970 Visiting Lecturer am Hornesey College of Fine Art London
- seit 1964 Mitglied des Bundes Bildender Künstler
- 1963 British Council Scholar am Hornesey College of Fine Art London
- 1962 1969 Freier Maler und Bildhauer in Hamburg und Realisierung von Kunst am Bau Projekten
- 1961 Auszeichnung mit dem Kunstpreis Neues Forum Bremen
- 1957 1962 Studium der Malerei an der HFBK (Hochschule für Bildende Künste) Hamburg; Kunsterzieherexamen

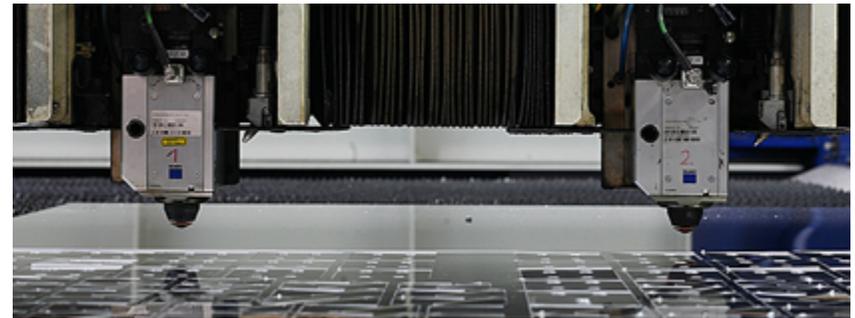
Technical partners



Bru Studio — Art, design & achitecture studio.
Berlin, Germany.

The studio is in charge of the creation of the plans of the art installation and provides support in terms of deisgn of the technical solutions : selection of the materials, design of the structure and fixing solutions.

<https://www.brustudio.com/>



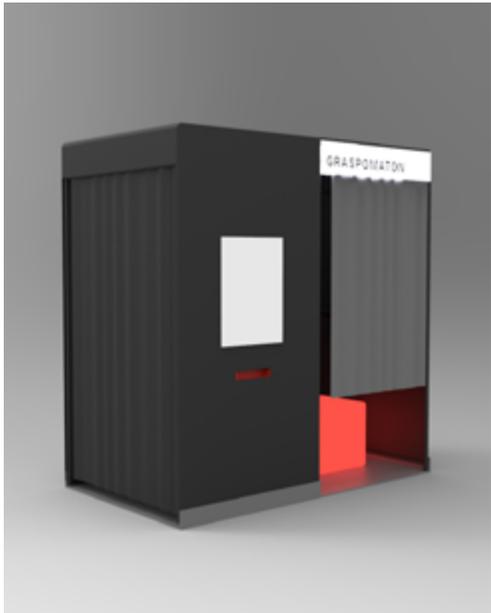
LKM — Steel and laser cut company.
Berlin, Germany.

LKM will provide the materials, the structures, the installation and desintallation of the entire art installation. They are expert in metal and plastic materials and have industrial laser cut technologies to ensure a high-end finish of the art installation.

<https://lkm-berlin.de/>

Valentine Emilia BOSSERT

Relevant Experience



About ANTROPICAL

Since 2017, Valentine Emilia BOSSERT is an active member of ANTROPICAL, a not-for-profit organisation based in Luxembourg, dedicated to the research and development of social and playful artistic practices. It supports artists not yet recognised by major institutions and the democratisation of culture.

In this context, she has created GRASPOMATON, a reproduction of the vintage photo booth, which focuses on interactions with non-suspecting audiences in the public space. It promotes local and emerging artists' visibility and offers a space for self-reflection.

Website: www.antropical.com

GRASPOMATON

Interactive installation for the public space



Amaury BOUQUET

Relevant Experience



TEMPORARY MAGICAL SPACES
Urban art laboratory

About BIMBIM

Amaury BOUQUET is the founder of BIMBIM, a transdisciplinary collective of artists and experts passionate about the relationship between art, people and society.

BIMBIM creates immersive art experiences offering people to explore themselves in a playful way. The collective combines art, social innovation and mindfulness to create unique, deep & long-term change.

In 2018, the collective used the urban space as a laboratory to test and iterate the concept of Art experience. This performance of urban tarot reading took place in the center of La Defense (Paris - FR), the biggest office district in Europe.

The members of the collective are based in Berlin (GE), Marseille (FR), Paris (FR) and London (UK).

Website : www.bimbim-art.com



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