

14/3 – 10/5/2026, *hell is other people (if you're lucky)*: Chloe Chignell, Ewa Dziarnowska, Dorota Gawęda + Eglė Kulbokaitė, Liina Magnea, Abdoul Karim Martens + Dominik Sartor, Sinaida Michalskaja, Alexandra Sheherazade Salem, Gaia Vincensini, Stadthausgalerie ~~Kunsthalle~~ Münster



Press release:

Kunsthalle Münster and Residence NRW* are pleased to present *hell is other people (if you're lucky)*, an exhibition that understands the public as an affective field, shaped by the ongoing work of being in relation.

Borrowing its title from the cultural theorist Lauren Berlant and her book *The Inconvenience of Other People* (2022), the project takes everyday frictions as its starting point: irritations, (un)solicited glances and touches, misunderstandings and irritations that structure everyday coexistence. Rather than smoothing over these tensions or ignoring inequalities, the exhibition asks how we might stay with them and what forms of attachments and collective imaginations can emerge under these conditions—and what kind of public space we need.

The Stadthausgalerie is situated in the inner courtyard of the historic town hall in Münster's city centre. It functions simultaneously as an election office and an exhibition space—a hybrid site between democratic infrastructure and artistic presentation. The installed works reflect on the increasing privatization and commodification of public space. Behind the glass facade of the Stadthausgalerie, ceramic works by Gaia Vincensini look out onto the city with irony and precision. Motifs of locks, clocks, crosses and chains reference systems of belief, finance and protection. They evoke promises of stability upon which capitalist systems and privatized public spaces are built.

Dorota Gawęda and Eglė Kulbokaitė transform the inside of the Stadthausgalerie into a semi-transparent architecture of enclosures and reflections. With their large-scale, translucent work, *Enclosure (Lower bound of a landscape)* (2023), they blur distinctions between interior and exterior, artwork and surrounding. The monumental installation, consisting of several printed chiffon panels, refers to the historical enclosure of land while drawing parallels to contemporary forms of digital segregation. *Yield II* (2021) presents a metal flower that oscillates between a nostalgic vanity mirror and a

surveillance camera, its gaze dependent on the movement of visitors and confronting them with their own reflection.

Alexandra Sheherazade Salem contributes with a poetic work that mobilizes language and scent to explore the entanglement of spirituality and economies of profit. Developed specifically for the exhibition, her piece unfolds as a sensorial meditation on belief, exchange, and the architectural structures of the space. For her site-specific work, she draws on practices of spiritual cleansing and fumigation.

In dialogue with the space and its function as an election office, Sinaida Michalskaja's large-scale work *HANNAH (Deutsche Wärme)* recalls the necessity of civic engagement. Referencing the tradition of monumental portraiture, it depicts political theorist Hannah Arendt (1906–1975). By overlaying two tapestries, her smile appears almost physically present. Michalskaja's video work *SOPHIE* is dedicated to another public figure, the transfeminist electropop musician SOPHIE (1986–2021). Drawing on the track "Forever," the work translates the lyrics into a visual rhythm and brings the struggle for bodily self-determination into focus.

With four performative works, the exhibition opens a space for narratives of moving bodies and temporary gatherings. Rather than pursuing clear narratives or fixed meanings, Ewa Dziarnowska's choreographic practice invites an intuitive mode of seeing in which sensation and attention precede interpretation. Together with the dancers kiana rezvani and Sunayana Shetty, she seeks to create "moments" that elude linear temporality and paradigms of progress.

Chloe Chignell's durational performance *SUN CUT: a lover's dictionary* animates the 366 entries of *Lesbian Peoples: Materials for a Dictionary* (1979) by Monique Wittig and Sandie Zeig. Word by word, concept by concept, language appears as something material that happens between bodies—open to change, repetition and speculation. Building on Wittig and Zeig's critique of linguistic authority, *SUN CUT* approaches the dictionary not only as a text but as a practice for reshaping relations, movement and collective presence.

In her solo performance, *SSASSIN'S CREED (LADY SAYS STOP)*, Liina Magnea immerses herself in the abysses of human behaviour. In the role of a police officer, she embodies institutional authority while simultaneously undermining it through humour and linguistic distortion. Between fantasies of victimhood and delusions of grandeur, she unfolds the portrait of an unsettled figure whose belief in order and security has begun to fracture—while probing questions of violence and political radicalization.

With the work *dérivedérive*, Abdoul Karim Martens and Dominik Sartor take *hell is other people (if you're lucky)* beyond the exhibition space and assert the right to the city. The intervention takes place for one day each at the harbour area near Speicher II and at the allotment plots opposite the former Heerde College at Hoppengarten. On a mobile white wall, the artists present their works, shifting familiar axes of vision, routes and uses. Referring to the cultural technique of the *dérive*—a drifting through a place—the work resists any logic of exploitation and understands the city as a constellation of atmospheres, affects and encounters.

Curators: Anneliese Ostertag + Antoine Simeão Schalk

Residence NRW⁺:

The Residence NRW⁺ fellowship programme is aimed at particularly talented young artists in the field of contemporary visual art. It has been affiliated with the Kunsthalle Münster since 2020 and will enter its fifth round in 2025/2026. Residence NRW⁺ is aimed at visual artists and curators with ties to the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, as well as curators from Switzerland. Four artists and two curators are always present at the residence at the same time. Living and working together enables an intense exchange between them. The grant is not dependent on a concrete project but offers the best possible conditions for further development in the respective field of work. With its four core program elements—exchange, practice, support, and networking—it provides a framework for twelve or six months to reflect on and deepen one's practice, refine approaches, or try out new things. During their stay, the curators

will form a German-Swiss working duo. Each duo is invited to develop and implement two projects in the museums and art associations in North Rhine-Westphalia that cooperate with Residence NRW⁺. One of the four projects during the scholarship year is always reserved for an exhibition by the four artists. Cooperation partners for the period 2025/2026 are the Museum Kurhaus Kleve and Kunsthalle Münster with the Stadthausgalerie, the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen, and the Kunstmuseum Mülheim an der Ruhr, where the exhibition of the artists participating in the programme will take place.

- Press preview: 12/3/2026, 11 am, Stadthausgalerie
- Opening: 13/3/2026, 6 pm Stadthausgalerie
- Events:
- 14/3/2026, 10 am–6 pm, Am Hoppengarten / Acker
Abdoul Karim Martens + Dominik Sartor. *dérivedérive*,
 - 15/3/2026, 3 pm, Stadthausgalerie
Chloe Chignell. *SUNCUT: a lover's dictionary*
 - 29/4/2026, 6 pm, Stadthausgalerie
Performance by Ewa Dziarnowska (work in progress),
 - 30/4/2026, 10 am–6 pm, Kunsthalle Münster / Waterfront
Abdoul Karim Martens + Dominik Sartor. *dérivedérive*,
 - 10/5/2026, 3 pm, Stadthausgalerie
Liina Magnea. *SSASSINS CREED (LADY SAYS STOP)*

Stadthausgalerie Münster, Platz des Westfälischen Friedens, 48143 Münster

Opening hours: Wed – Sun 12 – 6 pm

www.kunsthallemunster.de

Press contact: Merle Radtke, radtke@stadt-muenster.de, +49 251 4924191

Press download: <https://www.kunsthallemunster.de/de/presse/texte/> + <https://www.kunsthallemunster.de/de/presse/bilder/>

Image: Gaia Vincisini, *POWER DYNAMICS 1*, 2025, porcelain. Courtesy of the artist and Gallery Gaudel de Stampa.
Photo: Adrien Mole

An institution of the



A joint project with

**Residence
NRW⁺**

A programme of Kunsthalle Münster,
an institution of the City of Münster

The programme is supported by:

Ministry of Culture and Science
of the German state
of North Rhine-Westphalia



Kunststiftung
NRW

swiss arts council
prohelvetia

The programme of the Kunsthalle Münster ist supported by the Friends of the Kunsthalle Münster.