

Rena Rädle & Vladan Jeremić | ZIP group | Nihad Nino Pušija
Delaine Le Bas | KollektivPlusX

BAUSCHILD

WILLKOMMEN IM POLIDROM
DEM ZUKUNFTIGEN
TREFFPUNKT FÜR ALLE
IN DER NEUEN NEUSTADT!
ZUSAMMEN MIT
EUCH WOLLEN WIR
DAS POLIDROM
VON 2023 BIS 2025
AUF DER BRACHEFLÄCHE
ZWISCHEN GRÜNSTRASSE
UND UMFASSUNGSWEG
ENTSTEHEN LASSEN.
WERDE TEIL DIESER
SPANNENDEN
PROZESSES UND
TEILE DEINE
VISIONEN
MIT UNS!

POLIDROM

Place of many ways

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POLIDROM is a place of encounter and activity that international artists and local residents have created on a wasteland in Magdeburg's Neue Neustadt neighbourhood. The objects standing there today were built on site by the artists with children and young people from the neighbourhood.

In the early summer of 2023 ZIP group mapped the derelict site at Umfassungsweg with the *One Mile of Rope* campaign.

With coils of rope on their backs, the children from the neighbourhood marked their paths across the site and put up self-made signs with their ideas for the POLIDROM.



Photo: Heike Walkhoff



Photo: Matthias Sasse



Photo: Matthias Sasse

The first construction campaign began in August 2023 with the unloading of granite kerbstones provided by the city to serve as foundations for the various objects. The motto was to reuse as many materials as possible instead of buying new ones.

The craft and design collective KollektivPlusX transformed old cable reels into floating platforms that can be fitted with parasols.

ZIP created a blue neighbourhood table, several metres long, from an old stage. The construction sign was turned into a mobile workbench on which the children cut the beams for the *Polidrom* bus stop.



Photo: Nihad Nino Pušija



Photo: Nihad Nino Pušija



Photo: Nihad Nino Pušija



Photo: Vincent Dino Zimmer

A tower was quickly built to hold up the shade sails designed by Vladan Jeremić and the young people – which unfortunately had to disappear again as it had not been approved in advance.

Photographer Nihad Nino Pušija invited for a photo shoot at his open-air studio *Polidrom Paravan*. After three days of work, the POLIDROM was inaugurated with the film *Amaro filmes – our film*, shot by a Roma youth group from Berlin.



Photo: Nihad Nino Pušija



Photo: Nihad Nino Pušija



Photo: Nihad Nino Pušija

In spring 2024, further objects were added and designed by ZIP and Rena at the suggestion of POLIDROM users. ZIP built two benches with poles that can be used as a football goal or for other ball games. The sphinx was created and given a mysterious face.

A rainproof roof was mounted on top of the *Polidrom bus stop*. Finally, a banner prepared by Rena & Vladan with a transparent cloud was hoisted, a reference to the mural that was to be painted on a nearby façade in the summer.



The mural is based on a drawing by Damian Le Bas, who is considered one of the leading artists of the contemporary Traveller and Roma art scene in the UK.

The motif was transferred by Magdeburg artist Christoph Ackermann; the lower part of the façade was designed by children and young people in collaboration with Laura Lindemann. The technical realisation of the mural brought together various stakeholders from the neighbourhood, who set themselves the goal of creating more murals in the district.

On 24 August 2024, the many people who fill POLIDROM with life day by day with their initiatives and activities gathered for the ceremonial opening of the mural. It was inaugurated with a touching performance by Delaine Le Bas. She recited a poetic text describing her journey to Magdeburg and her impressions of the POLIDROM. She spoke about her feelings in the face of the general indifference to war and the destruction of life, about her personal pain and about the unshakeable hope that Damian Le Bas expresses with his cloud paintings. The opening ceremony included the subsequent procession towards the Moritzhof, for which ZIP and the children had built the Kids' Power Car, which could only be moved forward with combined forces.



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Its red tongue licked
It had no eyes
Above it flew chunky monkey and glacé cherries
222 through the door
Yellow and white arrows point ahead
The a grows
The voices are indecipherable
Some laughter
Some questions
Second largest diamond found
Obscuring the eyes
To other headlines that may be of more importance

08.46

Blank

But it's not

Tears for loss of democratic dreams
While elsewhere someone walks onstage to
Beyoncé's freedom
“Gifts aligned with the public's appetite?”
But maybe it's an “appetite for destruction?”
A mystifying disaster holds the headlines
While those others without the money or the status
are demonised
& are politicians now rock stars?
While orphans wait for “baba and mama”
Orphans – is this the “new natural order of things?”
& will “the joy of Costco” be enough to save you
in an American dream
Broken their limbs stretch out
In joy?
In anguish?



Video still: Matthias Sasse



The summer haze and warmth
I feel through the glass
On my face
On my arm
I still only understand fragments
Faded memories
Saarmund does the word soothe Zaarmund
The yellow in amongst the grass
The heat is intense
Like skeleton jets they point to the sky
While others elsewhere point to destruction
To create orphans
Is this the new natural order of things?

13.45

Crossing water
Rinkeni pani
Like diamonds of a different sort
Horses between tents of green stuffed with hay
I travel backwards today
Wild park no all one word wildpark
Brutalist
Graffitied
The roof curved covered in grey fish scales
A yellow house disneyfied with white windows
A modern day colosseum
What gladiatorial games take place within its walls?
Plains of green either side
After a fork of water
He sleeps next to me
Silently
The night has merged with day as time bends
For him
& also me
It feels like landscapes I have crossed before

&
 Then
 In the forest I saw myself
 Because
 14.53
 13.53 In the forest of grief I had grown into a shrub of
 Time travelling gold
 Often
 In painted faded blackening think
 While inside pink
 She sleeps
 Her head whispering from those that crown her
 Protectress
 She will encompass me in silver and gold
 With sparkled legs and rainbow feet
 That walk on air
 On this land
 (In this place
 Where your eyes did not see
 Where your hand did not paint
 Where your work is now placed
 Clouds of hope
 In today's sunshine)
 While two green and yellow
 & I saw two black
 Where the blue meets the green
 Patchworked
 Dense
 They wave to me
 Silently as the glass separates us
 Like honeycomb with no bees
 Not sweet
 Shards that cut
 We all bleed
 To another Moritzplatz
 Not Berlin this time
 The bleached square
 I glanced to see a stone head held in hands?
 For what for who?
 666
 On black
 While the dog prowls like they do in many places
 not just here
 While small feet run through a rectangle of
 water
 She sings as we pass
 The breeze catches my hair
 In white walls
 Wrapped in grey
 I sleep
 The thud of footsteps a chorus to my heartbeat
 A square light overhead not a sun not circular
 From the belly of an architect
 Pages stuffed with corals and seaweeds
 We dreamed
 You were there
 Clouds
 Arrows to where?

The head speaks in a cloud like a bubble
 The arrows take us in all directions
 There is more than one way
 Looking out onto the green
 They sit on a sphinx
 It's yellow face and body from this time
 Granite pins it all to the ground
 "A different type of Stonehenge"
 Conversations around different times
 A black cat flat looks on
 And is the world going backwards?
 Have the clocks stopped
 What do we see?

22.11

23.11

Time travelling still
 Trying to make sense of it all
 To create orphans
 The new natural order of things
 & No it does not have to be like this
 Hope is all that is left in pandoras box
 Because
 From this forest of grief
 we will grow like shrubs of gold

ZIP group was founded in Russia in 2009 and consists of Evgeny Rimkevich, Vasily Subbotin and Stepan Subbotin. The artists currently live in exile in Berlin and Yerevan. In their works, they deal with themes such as work, community and self-organisation and transform their installations into utopian spaces for work, rest and interaction. For POLIDROM, ZIP group developed a series of objects made of wood and stone, which they realised with children from the neighbourhood.

Nihad Nino Pušija, born in Sarajevo, has lived in Berlin as an artist and photographer since 1992. His work focusses on documentary and portrait photography with an emphasis on using photography as a means of self-expression for Roma and Sinti. His photographic research deals with topics such as struggles for representation, minority positions in art, south-east Europe, refugees and integration. He installed an open-air photo studio at POLIDROM and during his numerous visits he took portraits of people who live and work in the quarter.

Delaine Le Bas lives in Great Britain. She combines visual, performative and literary practices to create an artistic oeuvre that incorporates all aspects of life. Her work explores many facets, both political, personal and emotional, of belonging to the Travellers and Roma people, their history and their rich cultural heritage. Delaine Le Bas opened the mural for POLIDROM, based on a drawing by Damian Le Bas, with a performance of a text written for the occasion.

Damian Le Bas (1961-2017) is known for his drawings and collages, with which he covered maps, globes and other objects. He used his art to campaign for the rights of Travellers and Roma throughout Europe.

KollektivPlusX is a collective from Leipzig and Halle. With urban interventions that see public space as a stage, they stand up for a vibrant urban culture. At POLIDROM, they erected floating plateaus and created solar-powered lighting with young people.

Rena Rädle & Vladan Jeremić conceived the POLIDROM and accompanied the artists they invited in the realisation of their works. The artist duo lives in Berlin and Belgrade and has been working at the intersection of art, politics and education since 2002. Their works are created as artistic research into social and political issues, which they realise in drawings, installations, public actions and interdisciplinary projects.

The **POLIDROM** was realized by the cultural centre Moritzhof in Magdeburg and initiated by its director Katrin Gellrich.

Our thanks go to the many energetic supporters of the work at POLIDROM, especially Alexander Rönisch, Evgeniia Skvortsova and Sibylle Hofer.

Text and graphics: Rena Rädle
Photos: Vladan & Rena, unless otherwise stated.

