

## Exhibition "Dilemmas of Freedom"

Curator: Danyang Zhao

March 19 - April 6, 2017

Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte  
Greifswalder Straße 4, 10405 Berlin



March 19

16:00-18:30 "Democracy in Moment - the game" Please register [here](#)

19:00-21:00 Opening Party

---

### Participating artists:

#### [Kai Teichert](#)

KÖNIGSWIESE Gedankenacker zum Dilemma der Freiheit  
Kohle auf Baumwollnessel, 285 x 510cm

#### [Lan Hung](#)

Democracy in Moment März 19, 16:00 -18:30  
Interactive Performance/ Group Gaming

#### [Barbara Eitel](#)

Menschen und Freiheit  
Papierschnittzeichnung

### Meng Huang

International Face  
Oil on Canvas 220 x 280cm  
Naked Protest  
Photography of art project

### Janine Gerber

"Was mich anblickt, erblicke ich in mir."  
2016, 1:42 Minuten

### Chen Shuyun

the boss of first aid station  
Drawing on canvas 150 x 70cm

### Birgit Cauer

#### Ilse Winckler

Documents and segments of project "[Planspiel Hütte](#)"

### Rainer Bendfeldt

Nachtfischer  
Collage, Zeichenmaschine mit Tusche 29 x 21 cm 2017  
Komponist: Yun i-Sang

---

### **Exhibition Concept (En)**

„Totalitäre Herrschaft drosselt nicht bloß bürgerliche Freiheiten oder vernichtet wesentliche Freiheiten. Sondern sie hat, sofern wir wissen, auch nie darin Erfolg, die Liebe zur Freiheit in den Herzen des Menschen gänzlich auszurotten. Sie zerstört die einzige wesentliche Vorbedingung für alle Freiheiten, nämlich die Fähigkeit zur Bewegung, die ohne Raum nicht existieren kann.“

Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism, A Harvest Book - Harcourt, San Diego/ New York/London 1985, S. 466.

Politics is not only ruling our society and interpersonal relationship, but also defining the construction of our mind, how we think, act, and react. It influence our attitude to freedom, and is derived from our appeal to freedom too.

Today, when we talk about the dilemmas of freedom, we actually talk about ourselves: the risk of making free decision, the fear of taking responsibility, the stress of finding one's own way in a new

era. Freedom is not welfare. In order to practice freedom, individual must have strong will and action to fulfill one's faith both in life and society. Freedom initiates various imaginations on the future of the world and different understanding of the present. This is the intrinsic dynamics in democratic system and it enables human society to deal with uncertainty and stand with challenges and crisis.

This exhibition is not an "artist talk" about politics or freedom, but to simulate how individual spirits practice freedom in real life. There we would enlighten our visitors by presenting how art piece is proceeded with by each participating artist through a serie of free choices, as well as how human history is brought forward. Moreover, each visitor is invited, not only to enjoy art on the exhibition, but also to take part of interactive program to reflect on our time together: discuss about the US election, Brexit, the threat of ISIS, the settlement of refugees, the argument of TTIP and globalization, the digital surveillance and so on, look into ourselves and see if we are prepared to take responsibility of making decision for the confusing issues in front of us. Whatever, what we had, have, and are going to have, both inside of us and outside in human society, are all about how we practice our individual freedom.

### **Background of curator**

Danyang Zhao is a Berlin-based media artist, curator and intercultural expert. Because of her Chinese origin, there is always an emphasis being made on the transition from autocratic to democratic system conceptualized in her exhibitions and projects. As a documentary media artist, she follows social activities and political issues both in China and Germany with her camera; as an intercultural researcher, she focuses on value changing in the time of globalization and the possible influence of it on politics. The exhibition "dilemmas of freedom" presents a recent progress of her curating: art is applied as a method to simulate political-psychological process in social research, and at the same time, social research is not constructed in paper, but in a documentary video.





