

Between Coffee and World-Building – Art in Neukölln's Cafés West

Coffee cup in hand, borders on your mind – and in between: art that won't let go. This route takes you through six cafés in western Neukölln, transformed for the festival into something far more than a place to linger. You'll encounter photography that maps the invisible, workshops that renegotiate belonging with cardboard and imagination, suitcases too precious to throw away, and a drag show that brings intimacy to the stage. Each stop asks its own version of the same question: what is inside, what is outside – and who gets to decide?

Station 1 CAFÉ AUGUSTA

Jonasstraße 22, 12053 Berlin

THE INVISIBLE TAKES SHAPE

REFLECTIONS – Unseen Voices and Unheard Shadows

Fri 7:30–11:30 pm | Sat 10:30am–11:30 pm | Sun 10:30am–6:30 pm | PHOTOGRAPHY, MIXED MEDIA

Two artists, two bodies, one shared question: what stays invisible – and why? One transforms endometriosis into a photographic and collaged "cartography of resilience," in which chronic pain becomes landscape and fragility becomes a creative border. The other follows the traces of immigration: her black-and-white photographs reflect urban monumentality in shards, showing how fluid and vulnerable identity can become under the pressure of the outside. Together, the two works open a space in which the hidden suddenly takes form.

Alice Brunello Luise, Tatiana Bulanova

→ One step further, door to door: the Utopie Café is waiting right next door – with a very different question of belonging.

Station 2 UTOPIE CAFÉ

Jonasstraße 23, 12053 Berlin

WHOSE CITY IS THIS – AND WHOSE HOME?

A Home In-Between – Art Workshop

Sat 3:00–6:00 pm | Sun 12:00–6:00 pm | PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP, INSTALLATION

What if we thought about belonging not from a human perspective? A duo and one artist explore, in their participatory workshop, the borders between inside and outside through the animals that inhabit Neukölln just as much as we do – foxes, pigeons, rats, insects. From cardboard, wood and collected materials, speculative houses emerge for these non-human co-residents. On Sunday, the results are exhibited as a collective map of parallel interior worlds. No registration, no prior knowledge needed.

Mono/mint (Ivona Pelajic & Fredrik Stjernqvist), Khaelis

WHAT REMAINS WHEN THE BORDER TAKES EVERYTHING

Unconditional Belonging

Sat 9:00am–5:00 pm | Sun 9:00 am–5:00 pm | PHOTOGRAPHY, INSTALLATION

An abandoned house. The belongings of grandparents. A photographer who becomes a stranger in a room that should feel familiar. The work circles around what borders truly cost: not only territory, but memory, language, the unconditional belonging that one generation carried in silence. In the photographs, objects reflect stories wanting to be told – and a loneliness that arises when no one listens anymore.

Ele.a

→ Now a few minutes through the neighbourhood – Warthestraße awaits with an installation that will make you laugh. Or cry. Or both.

Station 3 CAFÉ PLUME

Warthestraße 60, 12051 Berlin

**THE QUESTION NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO ASK AGAIN
FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT"**

Fri 7:00pm–Sun 7:00pm (continuous) | INSTALLATION

What do you do? What do you want to become? The artist has turned this question into an installation – playful, sharp, with honest pain underneath. "Fake it till you make it" is the unofficial motto of the artist's life, and here it's taken literally: as an outer border drawn by society and expectation, and as an inner reflex with which one invents oneself before being ready. A space for everyone who knows exactly what that feels like.

Scarlett Morrow

→ Onward to Weisestraße – here two cafés unite under one theme, and the questions grow denser.

Station 4 CAFÉ IM AUFBAU & CAFÉ KARANFIL

Weisestraße 3, 12049 Berlin

LIVING ON THE THRESHOLD

on the h/edge

Fri 7:00–10:00 pm | Sat 11:00 am–10:00 pm | Sun 11:00 am–7:00 pm | DRAWING, PHOTOGRAPHY, COLLAGE, PERFORMANCE

Corners, folds, hedges, rifts – not as metaphor, but as a concrete problem of form. And as a way of life. The two artists approach, through drawing, photography, collage and performance, what emerges at the margins: not emptiness, but its own layered quality. What if the border itself were the most interesting place?

Merlin J. Noack, Sian P. Lang

SEEING ALWAYS MEANS: CONSTRUCTING

Femina Aliena

Fri 7:00pm–Sun 7:00 pm (continuous) | PHOTOGRAPHIC INSTALLATION

The same female body, shown twice – once in its original visual logic, once in an altered chromatic progression. The subject stays the same; the conditions of looking shift. What begins as recognition tips into irritation; what was familiar becomes strange. The photographer reveals how much power lies in the way we look – and how quickly identity dissolves once the parameters of the gaze change.

Adam Ripley

THE SUITCASE THAT NEVER ARRIVED

SANSIBAR

Fri 7:00 pm–Sun 7:00 pm (continuous) | SCULPTURE, INSTALLATION

A sand-filled suitcase, boxing gloves, beach items, a sign. The artist deliberately forgoes any explanatory text – the work is meant to function associatively, not instructively. What it tells: how longing becomes commodity, how colonialism disappears into a travel brochure, and how close vacation and violence can lie to one another.

Heinrich Hochmuth

ONE BROKEN WHEEL. ONE WHOLE LIFE.

Threading

Fri 7:00 pm–Sun 7:00 pm (continuous) | INSTALLATION, OBJECT

Almost ten years ago, when she moved to Tehran to study, her mother bought her this suitcase. Now one of the wheels is broken, the suitcase unusable. Her mother no longer lives there. The house has been rented out. And when a piece of junk becomes too precious to throw away, you might as well exhibit it – one of the sparest, densest works on the route.

Melika Tourchi

YOUR VOICE BELONGS HERE

wege_4

Fri 7:00–10:00 pm | Sat 5:00–10:00 pm | Sun 5:00–7:00 pm | SOUND INSTALLATION, PARTICIPATORY ARCHIVE

Since 2023, the two authors have been building a voice archive: visitors share what moves them – about life in the city, about borders, about what a good life might be. Recordings from past years can be heard; dialogues and stories weave together into a multi-voiced portrait of the city. Anyone who wants to can add their own voice.

Danosch & Caro

→ Now a little further along Herrfurthstraße – to the route's final, perhaps most intense stop.

Station 5 CAFÉ ENGELS

Herrfurthstraße 21, 12049 Berlin

WHAT WE FORGET WHEN WE PUSH IT TO THE SIDELINES

Abseits

Fri 7:00-9:00 pm | Sat 10:00 am-9:00 pm | Sun 10:00 am-7:00 pm | PHOTOGRAPHY

Away from the tourist crowds lies the Plötzensee Memorial. Away, too, lies the Maria Regina Martyrum memorial church. The photographer visited both places, and his images move between past and present, grief and hope, guilt and remembrance – two architectural and emotional opposites that reveal the foundation we stand on. How much space do we give to remembrance? Especially now.

Lothar Köhler

GLITTER, CHAOS AND THE ART OF SHOWING YOURSELF

LOSZT IN BOUNDARIES – a Drag Show

Fri:Doors 8:00pm | Show from 9:00 pm | PERFORMANCE, DRAG

Somewhere between confession and cabaret – three performers play with what happens when desire, control and intimacy begin to melt at their edges. Choreographies that confess more than words. Drag as emotional camouflage. Berlin nightlife without substances, but not without chaos. Friday night only – and only once.

Anali Goldberg, Dalia Castel, Inta National

SHAME COMES FROM THE OUTSIDE. AND WRITES ITSELF IN.

Scham und Schuld: Wo das Außen ins Innere spricht

Fri 7:00-9:00pm | Sat&Sun 10:00 am-7:00 pm | ABSTRACT PAINTING

This route closes with a work that arcs back over everything encountered along the way. Shame and guilt arise in a border layer between inside and outside – where social norms, power relations and personal experience intertwine. The painter translates these processes into colour and form: layering, density, retreat. Images that don't explain – but let you feel what language often cannot capture.

Jeanne Winterer

Six cafes, five stations, one walk, many questions. This route has no clear ending – it leaves you with whatever you brought along. Perhaps a little different.

CURATED PICK: The 4 Must-Sees

Short on time? These four stops form an especially dense arc through the theme OUT/SIDE/IN:

Café Augusta – REFLECTIONS – two bodies as maps of the invisible

Utopie Café – Unconditional Belonging – remembering what no border can survive

Café Karanfil – Femina Aliena + Threading – identity, gaze and what you can't let go of

Café Engels – LOSZT IN BOUNDARIES (Friday night only!) – the most spectacular finale of the route

48 Stunden Neukölln 2026 | 3-5 July | OUT/SIDE/IN | 48-stunden-neukoelln.de