



## Press Release

Alternatives for Living

Blueprints for Haus Lange Haus Esters

Act 3: Dystopia

15.09.2019 – 26.01.2020

Opening: Sunday, 15 September 2019, 11.30 am

Press conference: Thursday, 12 September 2019, 11 am

**Act 3: Dystopia is the third and final exhibition of the *Alternatives for Living* project that the Kunstmuseen Krefeld are staging throughout the year at Haus Lange and Haus Esters to celebrate the Bauhaus 100 centenary. Four installations at Haus Esters and a culinary intervention in the kitchen at Haus Lange compare and contrast the utopian and mobile blueprints for living in Haus Lange and in the gardens with dystopian scenarios from a variety of perspectives.**

Act 3: Dystopia – participants:

Banz & Bowinkel, Michal Helfman, Laura Lima, raumlaborberlin, Slavs & Tatars

Total surveillance, manipulation by a perfidious entertainment industry, obliteration of the individual, abolition of private space – the major dystopian scenarios of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries paint a picture of societies that have lost their humanity. In his novel *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley already conjured up a system of total state control in 1929. George Orwell's 1949 (1949) anticipated mass surveillance and the strategies of a brand of post-truth politics that uses language primarily as a means of manipulation. Examples from recent film history such as *Matrix* (1999) or *Children of Men* (2006) predict the downfall of humankind as artificial intelligence takes over, or the loss of our ability to reproduce in a destroyed environment. Dystopias or "places of evil" are often read as perceptive analyses of societal developments that are applied to a future in which the world has spun out of control. An optimistic view of human progress becomes the exact opposite, and the promises of and threats posed by new technologies are closely related.

"This third exhibition in September completes the circle, the dystopian ideas at Haus Esters serving as a response and complement to the utopian blueprints at Haus Lange. This gives rise to a dialog between the two houses that addresses forms of future living from different perspectives", explains Kunstmuseen Krefeld Director Katia Baudin.

The artist duo **Banz & Bowinkel** (Friedemann Banz, \*1980 in Mainz, Germany & Giulia Bowinkel, \*1983 in Düsseldorf, Germany, both live and work in Berlin) is developing a carpet for Haus Esters

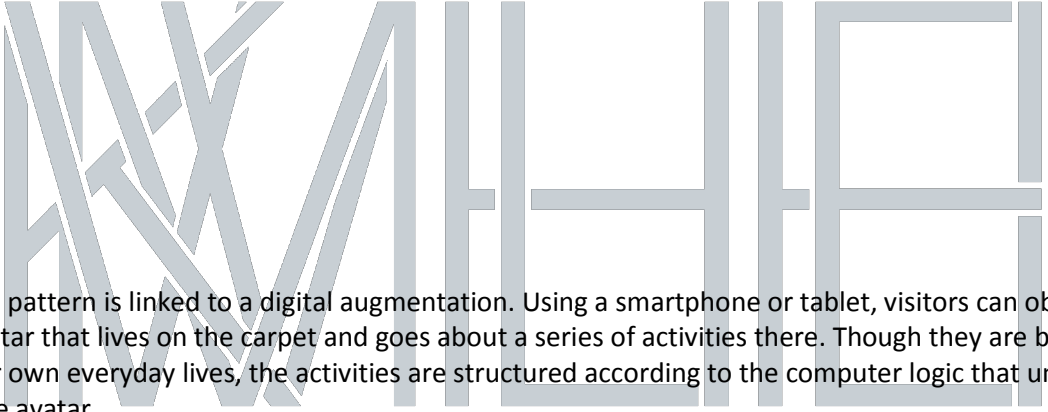
Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Haus Lange Haus Esters

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whose pattern is linked to a digital augmentation. Using a smartphone or tablet, visitors can observe an avatar that lives on the carpet and goes about a series of activities there. Though they are based on our own everyday lives, the activities are structured according to the computer logic that underlies the avatar.

The Israeli artist **Michal Helfman** (\*1973 in Tel Aviv, Israel, lives and works in Tel Aviv) has commissioned a fictitious collective of artists living in exile to create an artwork. The resulting room-filling installation of video works and sculptures is a detailed reflection on the conditions and possibilities of artistic production in a state of homelessness.

**Laura Lima** (\*1971 in Governador Valadares, Brazil, lives and works in Rio de Janeiro) is developing a project for the historic kitchen at Haus Lange. While the exhibition is ongoing, she will have meals prepared there several times a week; these will be made non-perishable, sealed in light- and airtight containers, and placed in the museum's collection – to be consumed at some point in an uncertain future.

The architects' collective **raumlaborberlin** (founded in 1999 in Berlin, Germany) plays with a quote from Mies van der Rohe that undermines the iconic character of its architectural interventions. When *Alternatives for Living* opened in March, raumlaborberlin had developed flexible furniture that was used for the extensive program. The wall of stools, a painted quote of Mies van der Rohe's famous wall in the Barcelona Pavilion, now becomes a permanent divider that interrupts the flow of the room.

The artists' collective **Slavs & Tatars** (founded in 2006 in Berlin, Germany) uses a tapestry and wallpaper to create a pseudo-oriental ambience that literally interlaces utopian and dystopian features. The melon stall at the market that is depicted on the tapestry is a quote from *Ten Years of Uzbekistan*, a photographic book published by Aleksandr Rodchenko and Varvara Stepanova in 1934. The book, which had been commissioned to celebrate communism, was banned just a few years later when Stalin had numerous influential Uzbek politicians executed.

The *Alternatives for Living* projects look at the way we will live together in tomorrow's world. A precise program of different complementary acts will create one major production that continues until January 2020. "Act 1: Utopia" already opened in the gardens of Haus Lange and Haus Esters in May, followed in July by "Act 2: Mobility". In the three exhibitions, a total of 15 international artists, designers, and architects are presenting their blueprints for living concepts at Haus Lange and Haus Esters. Utopia, mobility, and dystopia provide the thematic orientation for the new site-specific works. At the same time, the villas are transformed into a lively dialog forum for active participation and inspiration on many levels.

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886 – 1969), the last director of the Bauhaus, designed Haus Lange and Haus Esters in the late 1920s. Their interiors, which he designed together with Lilly Reich, form a unique work of art together with the architecture and gardens of the buildings. The families who resided here in around 1930 were in some sense already living in the future. Thus the villas provide impetus for interdisciplinary dialogs, practical design, and a visionary approach to thinking about society.

*Alternatives for Living* is the contribution of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld to the national "Bauhaus 100" project.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

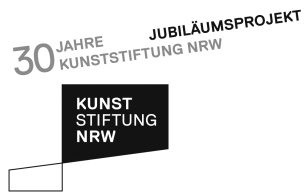
Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Haus Lange Haus Esters

# ALTERNATIVES

Curators: Katia Baudin, Dr. Magdalena Holzhey, Dr. Sylvia Martin  
Project Management: Julia Reich

## Sponsors and partners

The project *Alternatives for Living* is sponsored by:



With the generous support of the Bureau des arts plastiques  
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Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Haus Lange Haus Esters

# KUNSTHAUSE

## Cultural partner



## Visitor's address

Haus Lange Haus Esters  
Wilhelmshofallee 91-97  
47800 Krefeld

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum  
Joseph-Beuys-Platz 1  
47798 Krefeld

## Opening hours

Haus Lange Haus Esters  
Tuesday, Thursday to Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Wednesday 3 – 9 p.m.

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum  
Tuesday to Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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