

Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino: *Seven Works*
Kunstraum Leuphana in collaboration with Halle für Kunst Lüneburg
June 10 - July 9, 2025

Kunstraum of the Leuphana University Lüneburg is pleased to announce *Seven Works*, a solo exhibition by Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino curated by Ana Druwe in collaboration with Halle für Kunst Lüneburg and Leuphana Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS) in Culture and Society. The exhibition highlights the interplay between the institution's archive, the university campus, and its historical connection with Halle für Kunst Lüneburg, exploring potential porosity between the university and the city.

Celestino explores agency and complicity within institutional systems. The selection of the seven existing score-based pieces taps into the surface of the space – architectural and organizational – with responsive, contingent negotiation to examine how familial ties, property regimes, and institutional procedures shape the terms of visibility, authorship, and access.

A public program is presented in collaboration with students of Leuphana Universität. As part of the seminar on Institutional Praxis, led by Susanne Leeb and Ana Druwe, the pedagogical program examines how communities and institutions negotiate shared spaces through notions of porosity. Throughout the semester, Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino has contributed to the seminar with practice-based exercises that speculate on futures, rethinking institutional gestures, and reimagining the organization of the university campus.

Their lecture *From Language* introduces linguistics as an operational force that structures contracts, performances, institutions, and forms of refusal. With the workshop *Descriptions II*, the artist invites students to consider the political aspect of grammatologically elucidating an object within a given context.

Keys (2021) enacts a reciprocal exchange of keys between Kunstraum Leuphana Lüneburg and Halle für Kunst Lüneburg and is exhibited at both venues, where each institution presents the keys of the other. Rooted in a shared institutional history, the gesture extends the work's inquiry into trust, risk, and access across the spaces of both organizations.

In this partnership, *Belonging* (2022) engages the existing archives of both institutions while reflecting on the production of *Seven Works* itself. While the archive selection provided by Halle für Kunst Lüneburg also considers interventions by the students of the seminar *De/Konstruktion eines Archivs*, the Kunstraum's archive now includes the negotiations, contracts, and production costs related to the show.

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Production, Communication and Research by Jana Paim and Litha Sabelfeld (Kunstraum Leuphana Lüneburg). Special thanks to Maria Sophie Dorsch and Lisa Deml (Halle für Kunst Lüneburg), Ulf Wuggenig, Susanne Leeb, and Sabrina Bollhof.

Keys (2021) was made possible with the help of Elke Zinner and Christoph Seidel. Interventions at the Halle für Kunst Lüneburg's archive in *Belonging* (2022) by the students Luisa Bretter, Lenja Marie Fehrmann, Sahra-Lucia Vittinghoff-Gau, Laura Schulz, Mara Rotthues, Jona Liv Steinke. *Ana* (2024) was executed by Daniel Raschke. *Lot* (2022) was executed by Karl-Heinz Berens with the support of Daniela Wöbken, Oliver Günther, and Frank Sudfeld (Hausdienst und Gebäudemanagement of Leuphana Universität).

The public programme workshop, part of the seminar Institutional Praxis, features contributions from Anna Jo Dornbracht, Sina Korb, Philine Held, Gissu Zarandi, Marie Meyer, Helena Bamberger, Manja Jo Fackert, Marieke Wagner.

Wisrah C. V. da R. Celestino (Brazil, 1989) lives and works in Berlin, Germany. Through score, sculpture, text, sound, and video, the artist addresses the remaining structures of the transatlantic colonial project, focusing on institutional critique, language, and objecthood. Celestino was awarded the ars viva 2025, Pampulha Grant 2024, and the Ducato Prize 2023.

Ana Druwe is currently a fellow at Leuphana Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS) in Culture and Society. Her work pursues a critically reflective institutional practice. At Casa do Povo, a renowned cultural center in São Paulo, she creates collaborative projects that understand communication as a tool for participation and active co-creation of artistic spaces.

Kunstraum der Leuphana Universität Lüneburg is an organization dedicated to reconfiguring institutional critique as a proliferating form of institutional practice with exhibitions, lectures, workshops, conferences, film screenings, and performances. The Kunstraum allows students to work with artists and curators, develop exhibitions, encounter artistic practices, and deal with current questions of contemporary art. Founded in 1993, it has collaborated with artists such as Andrea Fraser, Renée Green, Park McArthur, and Christian Boltanski, as well as curators such as Marion von Osten, Alice Creischer, and Andreas Siekmann, to name a few.

Halle für Kunst Lüneburg was founded in 1995 by a group of students from Leuphana University. As a Kunstverein, it is relational in nature and relies on the engagement of its members to sustain an institutional rhythm. Interweaving solo and group exhibitions, mediation and education activities, publishing and research projects, the program is dedicated to emerging artists and underrepresented cultural practices. In 2020, Halle für Kunst Lüneburg was honored with the ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize for Kunstvereine. 2025 marks

the art association's 30th anniversary, an occasion on which it sheds light on the administrative processes, support structures, and relational fabrics that have shaped its programs and publics.

The Leuphana Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS) at the Leuphana University of Lüneburg is a research institute that contributes to developing and internationalizing the university's main research priorities. Driven by an international fellowship program, it meets the challenges of a globalized present in a research-based way.