

Günther Möbius

28 August – 28 October 2025

The *Golem of Berlin* is an ongoing project I have been developing over the past years, set in an alternate Weimar Republic. I am interested in what could have taken shape if the Republic had lasted longer, letting its housing crisis, hyperinflation, and political turmoil ferment further before the fascist rise to power. In a sense, it is an imagined prolonged interwar period.

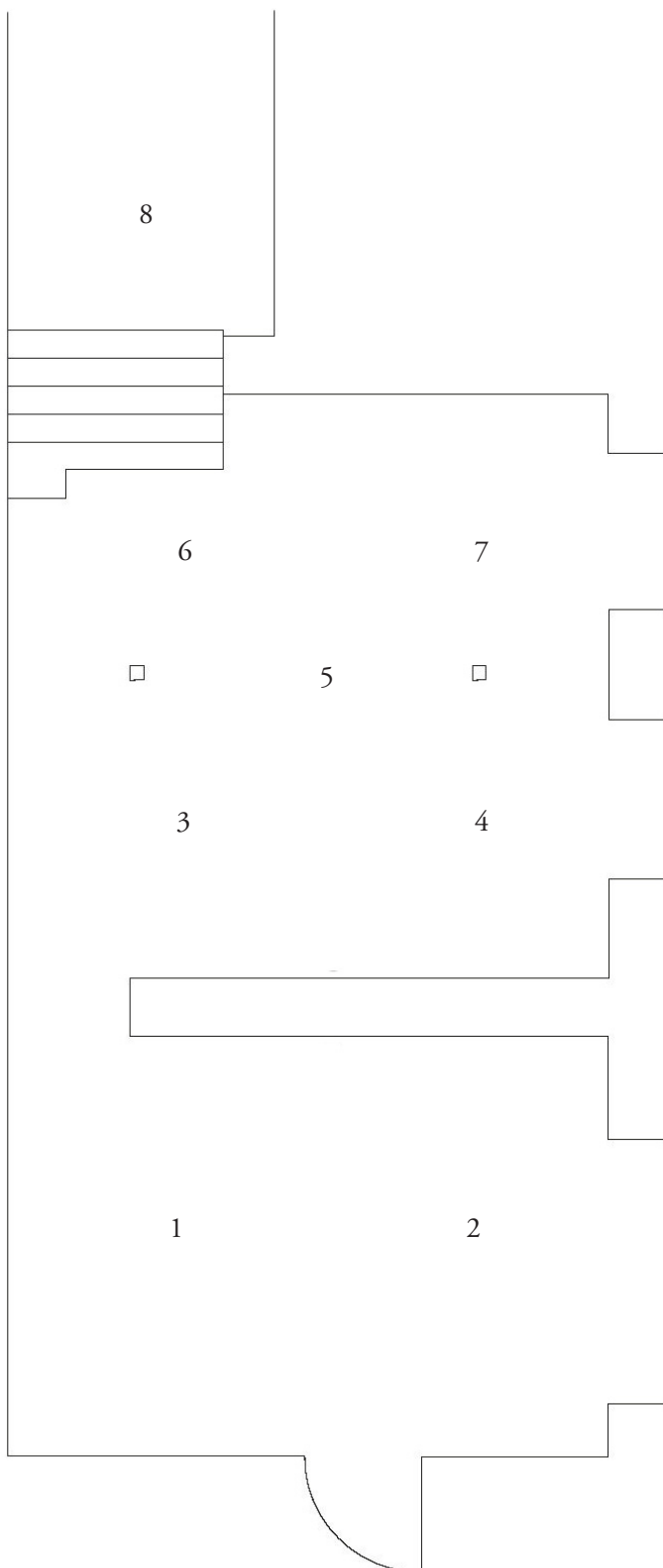
The project consists of two components: sculptures as one register of the work, and a database novel as another, to be published in the near future. The writing takes the shape of an interactive archive: a montage of entries—locations, factions, devices, figures—linked through hyperlinks. Readers navigate laterally, piecing together meaning bit by bit. Both crypt and script act as vignettes of the same imagined city. Together, fragments of text, models, and props outline Berlin as a technical contraption, a gastrological apparatus, and above all, a golemic superstructure.

In this restless organism, architecture is not primarily driven by manifesto or blueprint but mostly by vernacular construction: underground passages, improvised dwellings, scavenged infrastructures. The metropolis, then, becomes a multilayered dungeon built out of scrap. It's ornament, both mnemonic (key) and debris (riddle). The peeling of plaster, the curling of façades, the porosity of stone all reveal an archaeology of ornament, stratified across walls, tunnels, and pipes. The carved slums and grottos stir up a metastasizing webwork. Architecture as scab, crust. Built on a swamp, the maze 'Groß-Berlin' continuously sinks back into it; what is built on top lies beneath. A morass, taking on a life of its own.

The Republic as a whole appears as a contested machine of factions: parties, militias, unions, Wandervereine, mystical circles, reading groups, avant-gardes. Cosmological and cultural antagonisms shape the country as much as elections and street battles. In particular, German Expressionism (utopian distortion) and New Subjectivity (realist social criticism) face each other not only as styles but as seemingly incompatible systems of organization.

The overall aim is not merely to focus on a chasm between Left and Right, but on a manifold of collective utopian tinkering. Mass societies seem able to change only through populism, with its tendency to flatten the nuance and ambiguity of political positions into caricature, to the point of unrecognizability. The Weimar period appears as a rare phase where such diversity briefly endured before being fatally reduced to a grand duel. I'm not seeking historical accuracy in this project; rather, I want to point to history's inherent forkability, its constant branching, and its unrealized possibilities. I attempt to counter ideas of History's inevitability, fate, and incomparability, emphasizing instead that agency endures, even amid times of acceleration and crisis.

Bureaucracy, mass media, the autonomization of work, and the rise of the 'Angestellte' class attempted to stabilize the rattling apparatus 'Weimar Republic.' Yet, these mechanisms eventually drove the system to a breaking point while simultaneously laying the groundwork for impending totalitarian control. What emerged was a golem built of files, regulations, and technical images: designed to serve, yet impossible to control. Yet it was precisely this uncontrollability that may have opened up room for resistance.



- 1 *Eisennest*, 2025
foamboard, blackfoil, polystyrene, plastic parts,
wire, cable, bulb, brads, acrylic paint, varnish,
tape, glue
60 × 30 × 18 cm
- 2 *Eisenrohrnest 02*, 2025
MDF, foamboard, blackfoil, aluminium foil,
cardboard, plastelline clay, plastic parts, plastic
tube, branch, cable, brads, nails, wire, tape, glue
60 × 32 × 30 cm
- 3 *Schleuse*, 2025
forexboard, foamboard, blackfoil, aluminium
foil, cardboard, plastelline clay, polystyrene,
branch, cable, brads, nails, wire, tape, glue
60 × 25 × 27 cm
- 4 *Wehr*, 2025
forexboard, foamboard, blackfoil, aluminium
foil, cardboard, plastelline clay, polystyrene,
plastic parts, plastic tube, branch, cable, brads,
nails, wire, tape, glue
60 × 13 × 30 cm
- 5 *Eisenrohrnest 03*, 2025
forexboard, foamboard, blackfoil, aluminium
foil, cardboard, plastelline clay, plastic parts,
plastic tube, bark, cable, brads, nails, wire, wire
mesh, tape, glue
60 × 20 × 30 cm
- 6 *Eingangshalle*, 2025
MDF, foamboard, blackfoil, aluminium foil,
polystyrene, cardboard, tape, glue
60 × 32 × 30 cm
- 7 *Mietskasernenkeller 02*, 2025
forexboard, foamboard, blackfoil, aluminium
foil, cardboard, plastic parts, copper tube, bark,
cable, brads, nails, tape, glue
60 × 30 × 30 cm
- 8 *Eisenrohrnest 04*, 2025
forexboard, foamboard, blackfoil, aluminium
foil, cardboard, plastic parts, bark, cable, brads,
nails, tape, glue
30 × 15 × 30 cm