

Kunstverein Siegen

Haus Seel, Kornmarkt 20, Siegen

 www.kunstverein-siegen.de

Öffnungszeiten Di-Sa 14-18 Uhr
So 11-13/14-18 Uhr

___STADT

We are delighted to invite you to the opening of our upcoming exhibition ___STADT, taking place in the former Karstadt building as well as at Haus Seel. With this project, we are opening an extraordinary inner-city vacancy as a temporary exhibition space.

The exhibition is developed in cooperation with the Neue Architekturschule Siegen (N_AS) at the University of Siegen and understands the site as an experimental space situated between exhibition, research, and spatial practice.

___STADT

with contributions by Ada Van Hoorebeke, Alwin Lay, Amedeo Polazzo, Ana Navas, Erika Hock, Ida Kammerloch, Karla Zipfel, Paula Erstmann, Sarah & Charles, Samuel Treindl, SpätiSpäti, Yoel Pytowksi

Opening: Saturday, March 14, 6 pm

Welcome by Mayor and patron Tristan Vitt, introduction by Jennifer Cierlitza and Prof. Tobias Hönig

Venue:

Partial area on level -2, former Karstadt building

Kölner Straße 1, 57072 Siegen

Entrance "Dicker Turm"

With ___STADT, Kunstverein Siegen opens a place never intended as an art venue: the vacant Karstadt department store. Where shoppers and goods once moved along escalators, shop windows seduced passers-by, and consumption set the rhythm, a temporary space for artistic and architectural engagement now emerges. A former department store—like in many other cities a symbol of inner-urban structural change—becomes a site of experimentation. Located on "Germany's steepest shopping street," at the threshold between lower and upper town, questions of future, identity, and urban public space converge. What does vacancy mean in a city in transition? Which stories are stored within these spaces—and which new ones can begin here?

In collaboration with Kunstverein Siegen and the Neue Architekturschule (N_AS) of the University of Siegen (Prof. Tobias Hönig, Prof. Tobias Becker), a section of

the building transforms into an open laboratory. Artistic works, student designs, and participatory formats interweave.

An accompanying program of salons, lectures, film screenings, guided tours, and performative contributions connects the exhibition to current debates on urban development and turns vacancy itself into a subject of public discourse. Vacancy is not understood as a deficit, but as a space of possibility—a stage for alternative models of publicness.

The exhibition brings together artistic and architectural positions that explore how spaces gain new meanings through appropriation, reuse, and design. It addresses urban transformation—disappearance and persistence, buildings as repositories of past promises and as projection surfaces for future development.

The participating artists examine material cycles and production processes, reflect on notions of dwelling and private space, and engage with transitions between interior and exterior as well as forms of presentation and staging. At its core lies the question of how artistic and architectural modes of thinking respond to urban transformation—and how they themselves can act transformatively, making change not only visible but sensorially tangible.

___STADT extends beyond the former department store. The surrounding urban space and Haus Seel, the Kunstverein's established exhibition venue, also become part of the project. A network of places, perspectives, and actors unfolds.

Duration: March 14 – May 9, 2026

Please note: Haus Seel and the exhibition in the former Karstadt building have different opening hours.

Opening hours former Karstadt:

Fridays and Saturdays: 2–6 pm

Closed on Good Friday and Easter Saturday

Haus Seel:

Tue–Sat: 2–6 pm

Sun: 11 am–1 pm & 2–6 pm

Program:

Sat, March 14, 6 pm

Opening and welcome by Mayor and patron Tristan Vitt, introduction by Jennifer Cierlitza and Prof. Tobias Hönig (N_AS)

Tue, March 17, 7 pm

Salon with Henrik Schumann, Head of Urban Planning, City of Siegen, and Prof. Thorsten Erl, Urban Design, University of Siegen: Urban Development within the Existing Fabric

Wed, March 25, 7 pm

Film screening on urban transformation

Wed, April 8, 6 pm

Artist talk with Karla Zipfel

Wed, April 15, 6 pm

Salon Diagonal – No Fear of Big Boxes with Ben Pohl, Denkstatt sàrl (Basel)

Sat, April 18, 2–6 pm

OPEN – Intervention by SpätiSpäti

Sat, April 25, 4 pm

Culinary intervention by Paula Erstmann and curatorial tour with Jennifer Cierlitz

Sat, May 9, 3 pm

Lecture “Learning to Read Vacancy” with Prof. Tobias Hönig and closing gathering

Das Projekt wird gefördert von:

Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



STIFTUNG KUNSTFONDS



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

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