



## ROHKUNSTBAU<sup>26</sup>

**Keywords:** exhibition, visual arts, gallery, modern art, castle

**The aim of the project:** The Rohkunstbau art festival shows current forms of visual expression in art as a project beyond the traditional art

**Partners:** Verein der Freunde des Rohkunstbau e.V., Förderverein Lieberose e.V.

**Project implementation time:**

26th exhibition 2021 is from 19 June 2021 till 3 October 2021.

The entire implementation starts with the transport and construction of the art objects about in April every year and ends with their deconstruction and remove in October.

**Budget:** about 100.000 € per year plus additional projects such as the ESF project on digitalisation of the 2021 exhibition

**Granted by:** Ministry of science, research and culture (Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur) of the Federal state of Brandenburg, County Landkreis Dahme-Spreewald, foundation Stiftung Kunstfonds zur Förderung der zeitgenössischen bildenden Kunst

**Priority line/Specific objective:**

**Context:**

The name of the exhibition is an artificial word. The name goes back to the first exhibition venue: a concrete hall in Groß Leuthen near Lübben (Brandenburg), which was built in 1989 for the workers' festival of the GDR but was never completed and remained a shell. The exhibition organisers made the hall usable and used it for five years. From 1999 onwards, the exhibition moved successively to various empty Brandenburg castles, which were only ever available for temporary use.

The location in 2021 is the Castle Lieberose, which belongs to the small town of Lieberose in the eastern part of the Dahme-Spreewald district in Brandenburg. The castle was built during Renaissance period, later extended and reshaped in the 18th century in the Saxon Baroque style. Now it is empty and needs renovation. It was owned by the state of Brandenburg but has been sold in summer 2021.

In April 1945, an air attack destroyed a considerable part of the north and west wings of the castle. This was followed by looting and demolition of the destroyed wings. Between 1950 and 1988, a vocational school with an attached dormitory moved into the castle and revitalised the castle and the town. With the political change, the use of the castle came to a halt and the town handed it over to Brandenburgische Schlösser GmbH. Around the year 2000, the castle was restored to a solid condition. Since 2015, the Förderverein Lieberose e.V. has revived the castle and the castle courtyard area. Regular guided tours of the castle, town and park are offered, a wide variety of cultural events take place and the history of the town and castle is continuously researched and communicated in many different ways by volunteers.

The 2021 exhibition is accompanied by various artistic events, such as a dance festival on 25 September.



**Description:**

Rohkunstbau is an international series of contemporary art exhibitions. It takes place annually in Brandenburg at changing exhibition venues and lasts 10 weeks each. The first Rohkunstbau was held in 1994.

The exhibition series promotes contemporary art and culture, as well as the rediscovery and revitalisation of almost forgotten cultural sites in the rural regions of Brandenburg. The exhibition series goes back to an initiative of the medical doctor Arvid Boellert, who is in charge of the project together with the curator Mark Gisbourne. The exhibition concept brings together contemporary visual art from internationally renowned and young Brandenburg artists under theme-specific and site-specific guidelines. As a rule, each exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue.

The recent exhibition is called „I am Nature: From the vulnerability. Survival in the risk society“. The ROHKUNSTBAU<sup>26</sup> is the second exhibition created and held under Corona conditions. The Corona pandemic has made the situation of artists more difficult. The presentation of one's own work in exhibitions, the communication with others about one's own work was missing for months. Lack of income is also one of the consequences of the closures and constantly postponed exhibitions. It is a hope that science and medicine can defeat the Corona pandemic and that everyone may return to the life they love. But this hope may be dashed. Nature and human beings are a part of it, have a fragile balance and function only in that balance. The constant creation of imbalance in the natural interplay of plants, animals and humans in favour of a consumerist lifestyle, currently has unforeseeable consequences or the way out is open.

ROHKUNSTBAU<sup>26</sup> is dedicated to the deep existential insecurities that have been triggered by the Corona pandemic for many people. The starting point is our relationship to nature and the instrumental understanding of nature shaped by ideas of omnipotence and its consequences. For a long time now, there has been an increase in the number of scientific voices that put the causal connections between climate change and the loss of biodiversity on the one hand, and the shrinking of the habitats of other living beings and the outbreak of pandemics on the other, into a fruitful relationship. The destruction of the natural foundations of life by humans exposes humanity to the dangers of disease and death. Through fears in times of pandemics, people do not consider the responsibility for their own actions, but project this onto nature itself and the invisible dangers. Viruses that people cannot see, hear, touch, taste or smell destroy everyday life.

The works of the 22 invited, internationally active artists were either conceived for the exhibition at Lieberose Castle or carefully selected from their holdings. The theme "I am Nature" runs through the exhibited works of the invited artists. For many of the invited artists, this theme is determinant in their work. The art works range from subtle interventions in the castle rooms (Daniel Steegmann Mangrané) to the sculpturally captured feeling of fear (Michael Morgner), the contemplation of discomfort (Kapwani Kiwanga) to the hopeful gesture of being able to hang one's own wishes on trees (TOWER OF LOVE by Yoko Ono).

**Results:** In 2020, about 4.000 people visited the last-year exhibition in total. For 2021 no final statistics is available yet, but it is expected that the number will be a bit less although close to the former one. The finances of the project depend mainly on the granted funds that are used to pay the artists. Since the artists have to generate a considerable part of their income from this kind of exhibitions, the budget is not really sufficient.

**Success factors:** The Förderverein Lieberose e.V. supports the exhibition by manpower. The members of this non-profit association help with supervision and guidance of the visitors very much. The main factor to get visitors from the big cities far away (Berlin, Cottbus, Dresden and even from western Germany) are good public relations in press, radio and TV. For instance, the exhibition has been shortly announced by the national 2nd German TV channel ZDF:

<https://www.zdf.de/kultur/kulturzeit/ausstellungs-tipp-rohkunstbau-26-100.html>



and there is a half-hour movie about from the regional TV station BBR:

<https://www.ardmediathek.de/video/rbb-kultur/neue-kunst-im-alten-schloss/rbb-fernsehen/Y3JpZDovL3JiYi1vbmxpbmUuZGUvcmlja3VsdHVyLzlwMjEtMDctMTBUMTg6MzA6MDBfYjZiYTc1ZDktMmY4NC00YTRhLWJkMWYtZThjYWU1NTA0NDM2L25ldWUta3Vuc3QtaW0tYWx0ZW4tc2NobG9zcv/>

and a podcast from the same station:

[https://www.rbb-online.de/rbbkultur/radio/programm/schema/sendungen/der\\_tag/archiv/20210619\\_1000/kultur\\_aktuell\\_1110.html](https://www.rbb-online.de/rbbkultur/radio/programm/schema/sendungen/der_tag/archiv/20210619_1000/kultur_aktuell_1110.html)

Several articles in the daily press present the exhibition as well.

**Limiting factors:** The outstanding limiting factors is the very bad traffic situation of the town. It is almost not possible to come there without a car. No train connection exists and hardly some busses are available, particularly on weekends. The way by car is long and time consuming, from Berlin because of street construction sometimes more than two hours, the same applies from Dresden.

Also a limiting factor is the budget, which allows simply to perform the exhibition, but salaries for the artists are very low. It is not possible to pay for a stay of the artists in the region during the exhibition time so that presence and communication become difficult.

Another critical limiting factor is the missing gastronomy and under-developed shopping opportunities in the town, which does not even have a restaurant. Shops are closed on Saturdays by 11:30, i.e. before the visitors arrive the venue (the exhibition takes only place on weekends from 12 until 18 o'clock).

Most critical is the future access to the castle, when the castle is sold and a new owner does not allow to come in, the exhibition has to move out for ever.

#### **Applicability and upscaling:**

The exhibition did (in the past) and may have to move also in future to other suitable buildings (castles). But the success and sustainability is better when staying in the same location.

**Others:** (Links and pictures)

<https://www.rohkunstabau.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Rohkunstabau-108848874209833>

<https://www.instagram.com/rohkunstabau26/>

[https://www.tagesspiegel.de/kultur/ausstellung-in-schloss-lieberose-zsiphus-und-andere-katastrophen/27410036.html?fbclid=IwAR2VDcEZ4x-vX1UK7U3tOIC1bV4\\_5O-uZskD3RQkExHlrhFOOr00F\\_XFCZ4](https://www.tagesspiegel.de/kultur/ausstellung-in-schloss-lieberose-zsiphus-und-andere-katastrophen/27410036.html?fbclid=IwAR2VDcEZ4x-vX1UK7U3tOIC1bV4_5O-uZskD3RQkExHlrhFOOr00F_XFCZ4)

More links see the facebook site above.







**teatre  
BLAU**

Schloss Lieberose

**25.09  
26.09**

Performances, interaktives  
Whiteboard, Kontakt:  
[teatreblau.eu](http://teatreblau.eu)

**whiteboard**

**lieberose**



Horizon 2020

*This project has received funding from the European Union's  
Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme  
under grant agreement No. 870644*

[www.SPOTprojectH2020.eu](http://www.SPOTprojectH2020.eu)





**ROHKUNSTBAU<sup>26</sup>**



Lucas Simons, Skulpturen 76, 2020, Light print Diasec, 65,3 x 114,5 x 30,5 cm in three parts.  
Copyright © Lucas Simons, VO 0164 Adoni (Bonn 2021), All rights reserved

**ICH BIN  
NATUR**

VON DER VERLETZLICHKEIT.  
ÜBERLEBEN IN DER  
RISIKOGESELLSCHAFT.

**Schloss Lieberose  
Spreewald**  
19.6.2021 bis 3.10.2021  
Sa./So. 12.00–18.00 Uhr  
Tickets 12 Euro,  
ermäßigt 7 Euro

Source of the pictures: Rohkunstbau



Horizon 2020

*This project has received funding from the European Union's  
Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme  
under grant agreement No. 870644*

[www.SPOTprojectH2020.eu](http://www.SPOTprojectH2020.eu)