

a bar IST a garden IST a café IST
a reading room
Prinzessinnengärten, b_books,
Kika Thorne
Forum Expanded, Berlinale Film
Festival, February 10 – 20, 2011



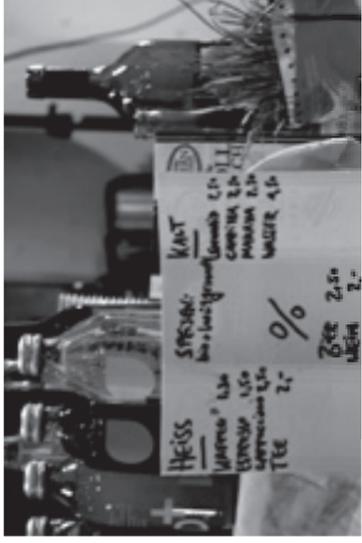
The point is not to imagine utopias; the point is to enact them.
 — Slavoj Žižek

Žižek is a DJ.

— Althea Thauberger



MATERIALS
 bicycles, time, sleep, Landwehr air, sun, water, coffee and other intoxicants, plant based diet, Dave Hickey's introduction to Air Guitar, Apartment (Marina Roy), Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things (Jane Bennett), Cultivation of the Bohan Upas (Patricia Ellis), How High Is the City, How Deep Is Our Love (Jeff Derksen), Human, All Too Human (Nietzsche), 14 meetings, over 3000 emails, skypes, texts, and cell phone transmissions, water, soil, compost, nitrogen, potassium, mint, chives, lemon verbena, basil, cilantro, parsley, 166 grey, brown, blue, yellow and red plastic bread crates, 21 europalettes, 20 sheets of No. 405767 20mm 244x122cm Elliot Pine C4/C grade plywood cut 45 times, 12x240cm bio lights, 21 lengths of scaffolding, 100 metres of AC cable, covers, 2 truckloads of plants, crates, soil, fridges, espresso machine, booze, honey, milk, cutlery, plates, lumber, tools, 33 crates full of recently published film and video monographs, anthologies, critical theory books, DVDs, Journals, etc.....



A bar IST a garden IST a café IST a reading room began with an invitation from Forum Expanded to produce an installation for the lobby of the Kino Arsenal during the Berlinale. The atrium is an empty steel envelope and is part of the Potsdamer Platz complex designed by American architect Helmut Jahn. b_books, by Stefanie Schulte Strathaus & Florian Wüst's publisher and buchhandlung collective near Skalitzer Straße, has an annual presence at the Berlinale. Books are typically sold on collapsible tables off to the side of the featured installation. I asked b_books and Prinzessinnengärten, a nomadic, organic urban farm collective and café, to collaborate with me. Plastic crates were stacked two-high on europalettes, and packed with soil, nitrogen, potassium, compost, water and plants—for this is the basic unit at Prinzessinnengärten. They were also flipped on their sides and filled with books or flipped again and clad with raw

plywood for seating and counters. Crates filled with Farocki, Douglas, Biemann, Julien, Haneke, Bruce, Ottinger, Cheap, Herzog, Godard and Marker monographs reflected a thriving industry of critical media discourse. Many are published by b_books, including Stefanie Schulte Strathaus & Florian Wüst's edited collection, *Who Says Concrete Doesn't Burn, Have You Ever Tried? West Berlin Film in the 80s*. Over 50,000 viewers drank, relaxed, read, and ate at the space, sauntering through the bookstore and experiencing the garden—oxygen infused with the volatile oils of mint, verbena, parsley, chives, coriander and basil. These herbs were free to pluck and sniff and chew. While they were used in the fresh organic soups, teas, and on sandwiches or tarts, they also induced a microclimate, accelerating joy.

Events can produce excessive waste. We spent our 1500 budget on materials that would be repurposed for other projects. For instance, Prinzessinnengärten used the bio-lights to catalyze the construction of a small greenhouse. Each material carries with it the question of a future potential. Like the hidden mass of an iceberg, the materials list for this project implies a vast assemblage of processes, substance, and networks. At the next Berlinale, a bar IST a garden IST a café IST a reading room will be installed without me, without my flight, its carbon expenditure and unnecessary expense. The project will change, according to the participants, released from this artist's control.

CREBITS
 Prinzessinnengärten, including Robert Shaw, Daniel Mueller, Marco Clausen, Urd Heuckel, Frank Dörms, Didier Héron, Eva Krüll, Mathias Wilkens, Maxi Gniot, Benmar Markus, Freida Knapp, Moa Hallgren, Salome Gopodze, Björn Koepfke, and Jonathan Hammert.
 b_books, including stephan geene, michaela wünsch, alessio bonaccorsi, aljoscha wekkott, astrid schmidt, daniel delhaes, katja tiefenbach, jürgen bogle, kim hannah hörbe, marietta keesting, mirjam thomann, nicolas siepen, vojlin sasa vukadinovic, theodora tabacki, zübeyde alvers, tim stüttgen, margarita tsomou.
 Other support, including Michael Thorne, Bruno Derksen, the Zapf Umzüge, Handelsvertretung, and Holz Posseling staff, the staff of the Berlinale and the Arsenal including Forum Expanded Technical Director Angela Anderson, and Arsenal crew

Angelika Ramlex, Frauke Neumann, Nora Molitor, and Susanne Hünicken.
 Sponsored by Holz Posseling, Zapf Umzüge, The Canada Council for the Arts, Nomadisch Grün, Adrian Blackwell, Katrin M. Frick, Diplom-Psychologin (DE), Michal Miciel Bartosik, Klom, Eileen Sommerman, Galerie ZK, Moritz Gaede, Team Project, and the Labour of love.
 Curated by Stefanie Schulte Strathaus, Nanna Heidenreich, Bettina Steinbrügge, Anselm Franke. Assistant Curator: Uli Ziemons.
 Kika Thorne lives in Toronto, loves Berlin, misses Vancouver.