

Press Release

Hamburg Commercial Bank's Art Foundation for Schleswig-Holstein supports inclusive project "WIR! Worlds in Resonance"

HAMBURG - In our diverse world, there are many areas of life that have hardly any points of contact with each other. Accessibility – even in a figurative sense – often does not exist. Thus, *inclusion and art* are a pair of terms that rarely come into contact. This is where the art project "WIR!" starts, which the Hamburg Commercial Bank Art Foundation for Schleswig-Holstein is sponsoring this year.

The abbreviation stands for "Worlds in Resonance". In the project, living worlds meet that would otherwise hardly find each other. This is possible because the two artists Chili Seitz and Ute Diez from Kiel are developing a work of art together with a group of people with disabilities. An interactive and barrier-free installation is planned, which only becomes complete when the viewers become active. The installation is to consist of different parts in different places. The objects are connected to each other, they react to each other, they enable resonance. A vernissage in November 2023 is planned as the conclusion of the project.

Since 2014, the visual artists Seitz and Diez have been developing artistic strategies as "büro für nichtlineares denken" ("office for non-linear thinking") that seek references to society and the everyday. Laura Schwörer, education specialist at the Institute for Inclusive Education in Kiel and also an artist, collaborates in the workshops. The workshops will be moderated by Silke Adam, specialist for "Augmentative and Alternative Communication" and "Easy Language". All other participants are employees of the Stiftung Drachensee with different backgrounds. Stiftung Drachensee is an institution that offers services for people with disabilities in the areas of work, education, living and leisure.

The project "WIR!" is supported by the HCOB Art Foundation for Schleswig-Holstein with almost 45,000 euros. The foundation has been supporting various art projects in Schleswig-Holstein for more than 30 years. "We are very impressed by the project's inclusive and integrative approach," said Ulrik Lackschewitz, Chief Risk Officer and Deputy Chairman of the Management Board of Hamburg Commercial Bank. "WIR!" makes an important contribution to inclusive work and explores new dimensions. We are pleased that our foundation can support this."

The project is curated and developed by Gesa Kobs, the managing director of the Institute for Inclusive Education at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel and IIB2 gGmbH.

Hamburg Commercial Bank Art Foundation for Schleswig-Holstein:

The Art Foundation was established in 1992 with the aim of promoting contemporary visual arts and culture in Schleswig-Holstein. It sees itself first and foremost as a stimulus that brings the state's artistic diversity to life and promotes talented young artists. The art programs supported to date in the fields of literature, music, film, design, photography and theater stand for innovation, originality and quality. They are initiated as independent projects and their uniqueness is in the foreground.

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