

Last update: 21 May 2025, 10pm

LONGER Festival Program with Biographies

Festival | 21 – 22 June 2025

BODIES OF WATER.

Learning from the River Panke through Art, Science,
and Storytelling



Hack the Panke Festival, "Meandering – Or, the Rights to Flow" with India Mansour and Sybille Neumeyer, Art Laboratory Berlin, July 2022, photo: ALB

Art Laboratory Berlin welcomes you to the two-day festival *BODIES OF WATER* exploring themes around urban waterways, in context of the ongoing series [ON WATER | PARCOURS](#) by the Berlin University Alliance (BUA). With the art science collective [DIY Hack the Panke](#) and scientists from the fields of eco hydrology and medicine, we will explore what forms an urban river takes and what lives in and around the Panke river. There will be workshops, Walk & Talks, panel discussions, performances, and other activities for participants of all ages.

Let's embark on a multi sensorial and transdisciplinary journey along one of Berlin's fastest flowing bodies of water! Join us on 21 and 22 June to explore our connectedness to water, urban waterways, and the river Panke through learning, crafting, sensing, walking, and listening.

SATURDAY, 21 June 2025

9:30 – 10:00

CHECK-IN

Let's get together at the festival site (PA58, Prinzenallee 58) and register for the events.

10:00 – 11:00

Reading Session and Water Sample Collection

HYDRO ENCOUNTERS – BECOMING COMPANIONS

With Sybille Neumeyer (artist, researcher) and Fara Peluso (bio artist, bio designer, researcher)

In a reading session at the riverside of Panke, we will collect samples of water and narratives of bodies of and in water as an invitation to amplify perspectives on symbiosis, microbial diversities and waters as shared resources. Readings from different genres and sensorial exercises allow hydrofeminist reconfiguration of "alien" towards more-than-human commoning, stewardship and companionship. (The texts are in English. The discussion is in English with options for asking questions in German).

11:30 – 14:30

Workshop

AMPLIFYING RIVER COMMUNITIES

With Prof. Dr. India Mansour (microbiologist, Rillig Lab | Plant Ecologies, FU Berlin), Dr. Joana MacLean (microbiologist, Rillig Lab | Plant Ecologies, FU Berlin), Sybille Neumeyer (artist, researcher), Fara Peluso (bio artist, bio designer, researcher)

Get to know your microbial neighbours! This workshop invites citizens of all ages to encounter some of the smallest inhabitants of the river Panke using various DIY practices. This hybrid, disciplinary workshop led by practitioners of different backgrounds – art, design, science and speculation – is an ecosystem of knowing and learning about microorganisms. Drifting between imaging and imagination, meandering between curiosity and concern, participants can explore art and science practices of culturing relationships of care with local microbial communities.

In this workshop we invite you to zoom into the microbial communities of the Panke, and learn about the role of microorganisms in the freshwater ecosystem. We will provide insights into diy practices for observing and growing algae in a pop up research base at PA58, consisting of workstations for microscopy, diy biospheres & diy bioreactors and a crafting table. Participants are further invited to observe, draw and craft freshwater organisms into drawings and sculptures. Making our invisible neighbours visible for everyone around is a form of amplifying their existence, voices and needs, inviting us to reconsider the possibilities of mutual care in coexistence with freshwater microbes. The sculptures will parade along the Panke at the end of the festival (Sun, 17:00 - 18:00). This workshop will be in both languages, English and German.

15:00 – 18:00

Workshop

BERLIN FLOWS

With Dr. Kat Austen (artist, chemist), Nenad Popov (media artist and sound artist), Sarah Hermanutz (artist, researcher), Dr Maria Warter (eco hydrologist, The Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries / IGB), Dr. Christian Marx (eco hydrologist, The Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries / IGB)

It's said you never cross the same river twice, because the water is constantly changing. All rivers flow, and so does our Panke. But even if they flow, they have a character - one that is affected,

maintained and expressed not just by the movement of water, but also by what surrounds them. From beavers to plant life to urban refuse, the flow of the Panke is full of dynamic character, and stories. In this workshop we will explore the river through the water and its flow, the changing boundaries of the riverbank, learning how flow affects the river, and hearing the many stories the river has to tell.

Along the river, participants will be guided by a group of scientists and artists, sharing histories that have shaped the Panke's flows, research insights, and experiencing scientific concepts via both technological/scientific and unmediated senses of touch, sight, and sound. Throughout the workshop we will be playfully experimenting by means of science, art and exploration, with interventions that invite the River Panke to become our collaborator in a collective performance to embrace flow and flux without fear - for the river and for ourselves.

18:30 – 20:00

Panel Discussion

WATER, BODIES, AND PLANETARY HEALTH

Speakers:

Dr. Kat Austen (artist, chemist),

Hélène Furaha Hauch (Medical scholar, Charité) and N.N.

Moderation: Prof. Regine Rapp, Christian de Lutz (Art Laboratory Berlin)

This cross-disciplinary panel looks into the ways that human-made pollutants enter Berlin's waterways and how they affect the organisms and ecologies there - in the context of "planetary health". What are the roles of pharmaceuticals, industrial and agricultural products, and microplastics in urban waterways? How can we improve the current situation? The speakers have a background in medical research, ecohydrology and a trans-disciplinary artistic research with a background in water chemistry.

20:00 – 20:15

SOUND PERFORMANCE

Based on workshop *BERLIN FLOWS* from the afternoon, the artists Nenad Popov, Kat Austen, and Sarah Hermanutz will share with the public some sound samples recorded at and in the river Panke. The presentation will also highlight various experimental approaches of artistic research on water.

20:15

RECEPTION

Let's get together with some drinks and snacks, exchange ideas, and end the dense festival day together.

SUNDAY, 22 June 2025

9:30 – 10:00

CHECK-IN

Let's get together at the festival site (PA58, Prinzenallee 58) and register for the events.

10:00 – 13:00

Workshop

BERLIN FLOWS

With Dr. Kat Austen (artist, chemist), Nenad Popov (media artist and sound artist), Sarah Hermanutz (artist, researcher), Dr Maria Warter (eco hydrologist, The Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and

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13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Talk

ATMOSPHERIC WATER HARVESTING (AWH)

With Johannes Müller, Berliner Hochschule für Technik (BHT)

The increasing global water scarcity - intensified by climate change - requires innovative and sustainable solutions. This talk delves into upcoming challenges and presents a new device to remotely harvest potable water with renewable energy. The talk will be in English, but questions and answers can be also communicated in German. (Bring your own lunch)

14:00 – 17:00

Workshop

AMPLIFYING RIVER COMMUNITIES

With Prof. Dr. India Mansour (microbiologist, Rillig Lab | Plant Ecologies, FU Berlin), Dr. Joana MacLean (microbiologist, Rillig Lab | Plant Ecologies, FU Berlin), Sybille Neumeyer (artist, researcher), Fara Peluso (bio artist, bio designer, researcher)

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(Bilingual workshop in German and English, repetition of Saturday's workshop)

17:00 – 18:00

Walk along the Panke

MICROBIAL PARADE

With Dr. Prof. India Mansour (microbiologist, Rillig Lab | Plant Ecologies, FU Berlin), Dr. Joana MacLean (microbiologist, Rillig Lab | Plant Ecologies, FU Berlin), Sybille Neumeyer (artist, researcher), Fara Peluso (bio artist, bio designer, researcher)

Join us for the closing event of the festival, where DIY art, science, and community come together to celebrate the hidden life of the river Panke. During the *Microbial Parade*, we will march down the river with our large floating sculptures that were crafted upon microscopic observations from river (micro)organisms during the workshop *Amplifying River Communities*. Each sculpture is a magnified interpretation of forms, patterns, and structures observed under the microscope, transforming the invisible life of the river into tangible, visible sculptures. It is a collective celebration for the river Panke, her human and nonhuman neighbours, the microbial communities, and other invisible inhabitants of this urban water stream. Together, we will walk along the riverbanks, accompany our floating sculptures on the water, and try to imagine new ways to care for and connect with our urban environment. The event is open to everyone: Neighbors, families, friends, and anyone curious about the river's ecology or the creative process.

BIOGRAPHIES

Christian de Lutz is a curator, originally from New York. As co-founder and co-director of Art Laboratory Berlin he has curated over 50 exhibitions and many talks, workshops, and seminars. His curatorial work focuses on the interface of art, science and technology in the 21st century, with special attention given to BioArt, DIY Science initiatives and facilitating collaborations between artists and scientists. He has been a member of DIY Hack the Panke since 2018.

Dr. Christian Marx is a postdoctoral urban hydrologist based in Berlin. His research explores ecohydrological processes, water reuse, and isotope hydrology in urban environments. He holds a PhD from TU Berlin and works at the Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology. For over six years, he has studied hydrological dynamics in the Panke catchment. He received the Aqua Award for advancing sustainable urban water management.

Fara Peluso is a bio-artist, bio-designer and researcher. With a strong interest in Biology, she pursues her deep research on algae taking constant inspiration from them, enquiring into their poetic and agency through a transdisciplinary and speculative methodology. Peluso wants to contribute to raise critical questions asking how the design of new and fictional artifacts through a speculative methodology can tell the story of possible future scenarios about the quality of our lives, attitudes and choices. She has been a member of DIY Hack the Panke since 2018.

Since March 2023, **Hélène Furaha Hauch** has been working as a research assistant at the Institute of General Medicine at Charité Berlin. Prior to that, she worked as a general practitioner assistant at the Centre for Holistic Medicine, a practice specialising in HIV and substitution therapy in Berlin, where she gained valuable practical experience in caring for patients with complex medical and psychosocial needs.

Prof. Dr. India Mansour, guest professor at the Free University Berlin, researches how microbial communities shape and are shaped by their environment and their interactions. She completed her PhD in River Science in Germany and the UK, investigating soil and river ecology. Her current research focuses on dynamics within matter-closed, energy-open (eco)systems, known as microbial biospheres. She has been a member of DIY Hack the Panke since 2018.

Dr. Joana (Nana) MacLean is a microbiologist researching microbial communities in anthropogenic and plastic-polluted soils. She completed her PhD at the GFZ Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences Potsdam and is currently a researcher at the Rillig Lab, Institute of Biology, Freie Universität Berlin. Her work explores plastic as a neo-geological material and microbial habitat, using molecular techniques and sometimes other imaginative practices to investigate future ecologies in the Anthropocene. She has been part of DIY Hack the Panke since 2018.

Johannes Müller studied physics with a specialisation in climate physics at the University of Potsdam. Since April 2024, he has been doing his doctorate at the BHT and TU Berlin on adsorption-based atmospheric water harvesting under Paul Kohlenbach and Stefan Elbel in the Sustainable Cities research network (<https://projekt.bht-berlin.de/sustainable-cities/forschung/adsorptionsbasierte-wassergewinnung-aus-der-umgebungsluft>). He also works as a guest researcher at the Alfred-Wegener Institute, where he conducts research on atmospheric physics and global climate modelling.

Dr. Kat Austen is a person. In her artistic practice, she focuses on environmental issues. She melds disciplines and media, creating sculptural and new media installations, performances and participatory work. Austen's practice is underpinned by extensive research and theory, and driven by a motivation to explore how to move towards a more socially and environmentally just future. Austen's prize-winning work has exhibited at Venice Biennale, Jeju Museum of Art, V&A Museum, Prater Galerie, LABoral and Bozar Centre for Fine Arts among others. She has been part of DIY Hack the Panke since 2018.

Dr. Maria Magdalena Warter is a researcher at IGB Berlin, working on ecohydrological interactions in urban freshwater ecosystems. She holds a PhD in Environmental Science from Cardiff University where she studied the effects of climate change on riparian ecosystems of drought-prone regions in the Southwestern US. She now works on exploring the effects of urbanization and climate change on hydrological processes and freshwater diversity through novel tracer approaches that include eDNA, stable water isotopes and water chemistry. The goal of her research is to support sustainable urban water resource management and urban development towards climate resilient cities.

Nenad Popov is an interdisciplinary artist whose work is inspired by scientific concepts and methods. He specializes in live performances and cinematic installations, many of which include living organisms. He got his Master degree at the Art Science department of the Royal Conservatory in the Hague, Netherlands. He lives and works in Berlin. His work has been shown at the festivals such as Ars Electronica in Linz, Today's Art in the Hague and STATE Experience Science in Berlin. He has been a member of DIY Hack the Panke since 2018.

Prof. Regine Rapp is an art historian, curator, and co-director of Art Laboratory Berlin. She researches, curates, teaches, and publishes on 21-century art at the interface of science and technology, recently on her latest research project Hybrid Art Histories. As Guest Professor for Arts & Science at the Art Academy Münster she teaches Hybrid Art. She has conceived numerous international conferences, and

published numerous articles, papers, and books, recently MATTER OF FLUX. Art, Biopolitics, and Networks with Care (2024). She has been a member of DIY Hack the Panke since 2018.

Sarah Hermanutz is a Berlin-based Canadian artist. Her work explores sensory and emotional connection with wetland ecosystems and amphibious creatures that have historically been pushed to the margins. In 2021 she received her MFA in Media Environments from the Bauhaus University Weimar. She has been supported in residencies such as Cultivamos Cultura (Portugal) and Critical Media Lab (Basel), and her installations, lectures, performances, and workshops have been presented internationally. She has been a member of DIY Hack the Panke since 2018.

Sybille Neumeyer is an interdependent artist and researcher with focus on environmental issues and relationships between humans and non-humans. Her work is based on post-disciplinary research and collaboration. Through polyphonic (hi)storytelling, installations, walks, performative lectures, and video essays, she examines the intersections between the loss of biocultural diversity, planetary health, and the climate crisis. She is seeking transformative narratives, forms of rooting, and collective action for social, environmental and interspecies justice. She is part of the DIY Hack the Panke art science working group.

VENUE

Art Laboratory Berlin (organiser)
@ PA58, Prinzenallee 58, 13359 Berlin (opposite of ALB)
The festival takes place at PA58 during all two days

DATE AND TIME

21 – 22 June 2025
Morning – evening
Free entry

REGISTRATION

[Please register on ALB festival webpage!](#)

CURATORIAL CONCEPT

Regine Rapp, Christian de Lutz

ALB TEAM

Regine Rapp, Christian de Lutz,
Neele Marr, Zoë Rehnborg, et al.

COOPERATION PARTNERS

Rillig Lab | Plant Ecologies
Institute of Biology, FU Berlin
Leibniz-Institut für Gewässerökologie und
Binnenfischerei (IGB)
PA58, Berlin

MEDIA PARTNER

CLOT Magazine

SUPPORTED BY



**Berlin
University
Alliance**



*On both festival days, the public is also welcome to visit the current exhibition **FERMENTING TEXTILES. Weaving Together Traditional Craft, Anthropology, Microbiology, and Art** at Art Laboratory Berlin (Prinzenallee 34, 3 minutes from the festival site).*

Fermenting Textiles is a unique trans-disciplinary research and exhibition project that puts active matter at the center: it connects anthropology, microbiology, and art through the engagement of artisans, anthropologists, scientists, and artists, as well as more-than-human actors. Fermenting Textiles explores the fermentation of textile in mud and plant material to produce complex dyeing for various use – from traditional hunter shirts in Burkina Faso to kimono silk dyeing in Japan. In each case the process is artisanal and has fascinating traditional uses and meanings. Both cases make use of natural chemical and biological processes to create unique aesthetic and medicinal results.

More information: <https://artlaboratory-berlin.org/exhibitions/fermenting-textiles/>