

ArtWalk



• Ministerium für
Bildung und Kultur

SAARLAND

Großes entsteht immer im Kleinen.



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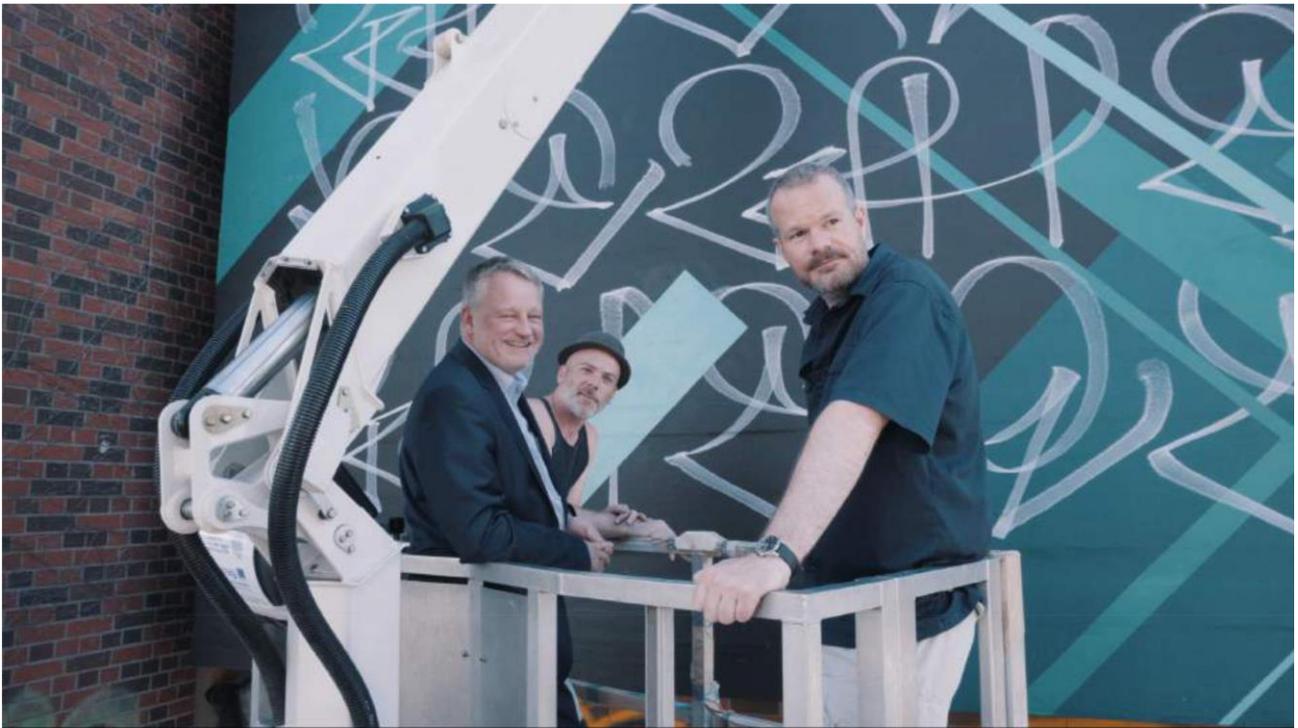
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#artwalksaarbruecken



ArtWalk





Culture Minister Ulrich Commerçon with artists Stohead and Heiko Zahlmann from Berlin and Hamburg. (Photo: Mike Mildenerger)

In 2017 The Ministry of Education and Culture in collaboration with curators Patrick Jungfleisch and Benjamin Knur is organizing an Urban Artwalk in the Saarbrücken city center.

15 famous Urban artists from Germany, France and beyond have been creating large-scale artworks on 12 building facades in downtown Saarbrücken since March of this year. This permanent open-air gallery will be presented in October 2017 as part of the Colors of Pop festival for the first time as a complete circuit.

Multilingual interactive workshops for children and adolescents, guided tours and musical events have been organized to accompany the ArtWalk.

There will also be a digital adaptation of the project and an App, as well as a separate website (incl. a catalogue of the various walls, photos and short clips of how the designs on the walls were developed, information on the artists and artworks, etc.).

ArtWalk has been brought to fruition as part of the “Digital Stones” project. The “Digital Stones” project is funded by the European Union within the framework of the INTERREG V A Greater Region.

ALEXEY LUKA (RUS)
ARYZ (ES)
CONE THE WEIRD (DE)
FINTAN MAGEE (AUS)
HEIKO ZAHLMANN (DE)
LAUNE (DE)
LEK (FR)
LX.ONE (FR)
RAKS (DE)
REMI ROUGH (GB)
RESO (DE)
SEN2 (USA)
SMASH137 (CH)
SOWAT (FR)
STOHEAD (DE)





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Mural #1: Alexey Luka (Moskau, RUS)



Alexey Luka: „One short story“, Bleichstraße 11, 66111 Saarbrücken (Garage) - Month: March
(Photo: Axl Klein)

Alexey Luka is among the most talented and most influential young artists on the contemporary Russian art scene. Born in Moscow in 1983, he meanwhile feels at home all over the world, for travel is one of the main sources of his inspiration. Large-format wall paintings (murals) by this Russian artist are to be found in cities including Tallinn, Marrakesh, Moscow and Paris. Alexey Luka began spraying graffiti at the beginning of 2000 – at the same time as he began his architecture studies in Moscow. At first, the artist simply wrote his pseudonym ‘Luka’, before developing his unique style based on abstract forms, geometrical figures and two-dimensional worlds of colour. In fact, there are mostly little stories to be found in the works of this young man from Moscow, which do not seem representational at all: an elderly married couple at dinner, men playing cards, two bodies entwined. Only rarely is the artist prepared to tell us anything about the story behind his works because, as Luka sees it, it is the job of the observer to reconstruct the shapes and expanses of colour and interpret accordingly: is it a face? A figure? A landscape?

Mural #2: Sowat & Lek (Paris, FR)



Sowat & Lek: „Saarbroken“, Bahnhofstraße 66, 66111 Saarbrücken (pedestrian zone) - Month: May
(Photo: Axl Klein)

Sowat and Lek are among the main representatives of ‘urban exploration’ or ‘Urbex’, the artistic exploration of the urban arena and so-called ‘lost places’ such as old industrial ruins and roofs. The two artists got to know each other in 2009 during a group exhibition in Paris. Their very first joint project, ‘Mausolée’, in the summer of 2010, was a tremendous success: in a deserted Paris supermarket, together with other French graffiti artists, they built a mausoleum, aiming to make a statement about the disappearing ‘graffiti subculture’, which, it seemed, was being displaced increasingly by street art and its global pop aesthetics.

Lek, born in 1971, studied architecture and has been painting outdoors for 25 years. In collaborations with his artist colleague Sowat, Lek is usually the one who structures the room or facade with abstract forms of expression. Sowat, born in 1978, has been occupying himself with script since he was 20. His style is often referred to as ‘calligraffiti’, a mixture of calligraphy and graffiti.

Lek and Sowat are both members of the European artists’ collective ‘Da Mental Vaporz’ (DMV), founded in 1999 – a crew known internationally for its unusual murals and graffiti styles.

Mural #3: Smash137 (Basel, CH)



Smash137: „Unmoral Mural“, Bahnhofstraße 62, 66111 Saarbrücken (pedestrian zone) - Month: May
(Photo: Axl Klein)

The artist Smash137, born in Switzerland in 1979, has been painting walls outdoors for more than 25 years and trying in particular to come to terms with the interaction of graffiti in an urban context and in painting. For a long time, Smash137 was preoccupied with the idea that graffiti could not be exhibited in a gallery and was difficult to present, because the geographical reference, the element of surprise and the rush of adrenalin so typical of graffiti painting would be lacking. He grappled intensely with this issue in his art, aspiring to become the artist who succeeded in bringing graffiti into the gallery without sacrificing any of its authenticity. However, the Swiss soon had to admit that, for him too, graffiti art in its original form is indeed unable to function properly in an enclosed space. He then attempted to get the ‘inwardness’ of the sprayer on to canvas: fear, adrenalin, tempo, darkness! He became more abstract, managing little by little to get graffiti into painting. So it is now all the more interesting for him to reverse that approach again and try to get painting into graffiti. In his recent murals, Smash137 plays with the perception of the observer, for when they go to a museum or gallery visitors usually make sure they have enough time to appreciate what they’re looking at. In the pedestrian precinct, the passer-by is not prepared for art; it strikes him suddenly and unexpectedly.

Mural #4: Aryz (Barcelona, ES)



Aryz: „Untitled“, Nassauerstraße 16, 66111 Saarbrücken (Nauwieser Viertel) - Month: May (Photo: Aryz)

Lithuania, Finland, Ukraine, China, Morocco and La Réunion: the young Spaniard Aryz has already left his mark all over the world in the form of enormous wall paintings. Born in 1988 in Palo Alto, California, the artist moved with his parents at the age of three to Barcelona, the metropolis in which he still lives and works today. Aryz was still a child when he began with painting and later with the spraying of graffiti. Meanwhile, he finds but little use for the spray can, which is why he is mostly referred to as a street artist or illustrator and painter. His style is regarded as a combination of academic art and contemporary techniques. Brush and paint roller, for example, are among the artist's 'favourite tools'. The Spaniard's art is characterised by contrast and contradictoriness. It's a strange, unusual mixture of roughness and gentleness, a combination also reflected in the artist's choice of colours, which range from bold, radiant hues to earthy pastel shades. As for his figurative motifs, it's not unusual for Aryz to turn them inside out: human and animal skeletons, bones and organs.

Mural #5: Remi Rough (London, GB) & LX.One (Biarritz, FR)



Remi Rough & LX.One:
„Theo is looking at the
window“

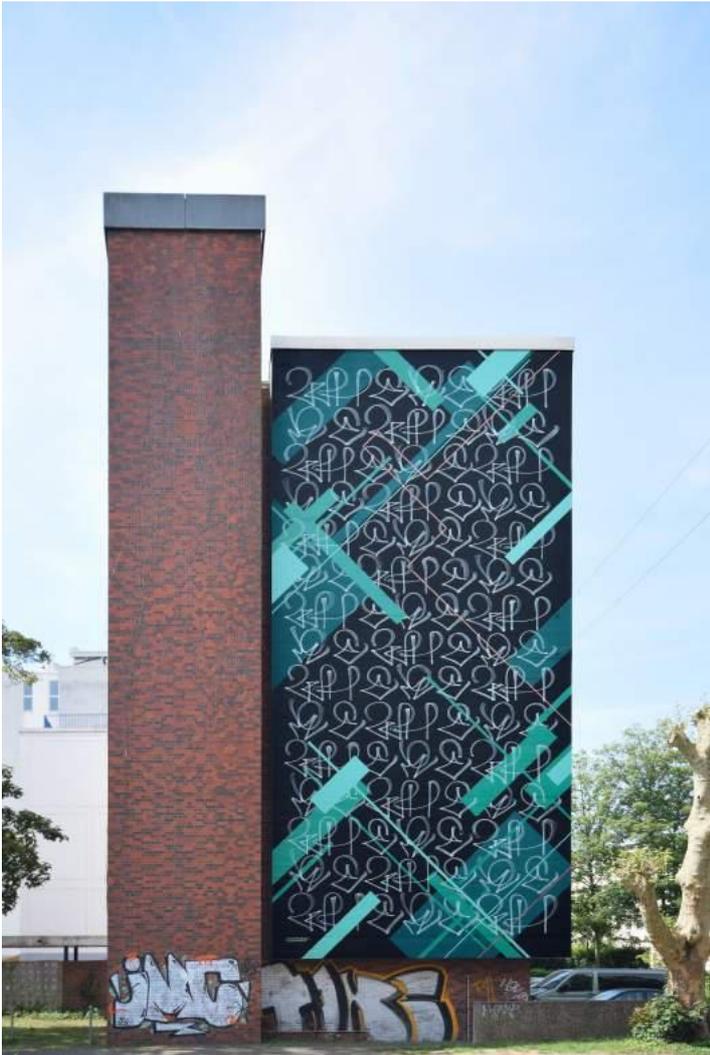
Försterstraße 21
66111 Saarbrücken
(Nauwieser Viertel)
Month: May/June

(Photo: Alex Bloch)

Remi Rough and LX.One are artist colleagues. They're members of the international artists' collective 'Agents of Change' (AOC) and have been best friends for more than 10 years now.

The Londoner, born in 1971, and the young man from Strasbourg, eight years younger, met in 2004. As both of them describe themselves as 'perfectionists with a predilection for mathematical art', they hit it off immediately on the artistic plane. Since then, Remi Rough and LX.One have worked together regularly, realising joint projects, exhibitions and facade designs. Meanwhile, the two artists concentrate on the forms of expression of graffiti which are dissociated from lettering, for which reason their recent work no longer has anything in common with traditional graffiti. Remi Rough and LX.One share their fascination for abstraction. They invoke the same idols, influences and references. The two artists refer us, for example, to art movements such as suprematism, constructivism and minimalism, but also to kinetic art and op art.

Mural #6: Heiko Zahlmann (Hamburg, DE) & Stohead (Berlin, DE)



Heiko Zahlmann & Stohead:
„Mapped 66117“
Stengelstraße 29
66117 Saarbrücken
(Friedrich-List-School KBBZ)
Month: May/June
(Photo: Christoph Häßler)

There have been several points of intersection in the careers of the artists Heiko Zahlmann and Stohead: both were born in 1973, and both began spraying graffiti at the end of the 80s. In Hamburg they shared a studio for many years, travelled together and realised projects together. Today, indeed, these two German artists still exhibit occasionally as a duo and work together on facade paintings. What connects Heiko Zahlmann and Stohead is their passion for script, the various different types of script and its further development. In spite of all these similarities, their personal styles could hardly differ more: Stohead for example occupies himself with ‘tagging’ (the abbreviated signature used by sprayers) which had its origin in graffiti, and with scripts such as Fraktur and Kufic. Heiko Zahlmann has further developed the so-called ‘pieces’ (large-scale, repeatedly sprayed graffiti), dismantling the characters and putting them back together again in geometrical form.

Mural #7: Cone The Weird (Saarbrücken, DE)



Cone The Weird: „The Antonymy“, Futterstraße 15, 66111 Saarbrücken (Kaiserviertel) - Month: June
(Photo: Jan Tretschok)

Though actually born in Munich in 1979, the artist Cone The Weird is regarded at Artwalk as one of the 'local heroes' Saarbrücken can boast in its 2017 urban art itinerary. This 'Saarländer by choice', who came to the state capital to study at the University of Art and Design (HBK) in 2003, co-founded the design collective 'Bureau Stabil' in Saarbrücken seven years later and decided to stay. Since then, people walking along the Saar and visitors to Saarbrücken's 'Staden' have now and again been able to take pleasure in small or large wall paintings by Cone The Weird, either as a solo artist or together with his internationally known artists' collective 'The Weird'. Meanwhile it's impossible to imagine the 'hall of fame', the legally authorised graffiti wall below Saarbrücken's city motorway, without Cone's own very special aesthetics, in which he mostly produces self-portraits in comic style, with excessively long extremities.

Murals #8 & #9: SEN2 (New York, USA)



Sen2: „Broadway“
Bahnhofstraße 52,
66111 Saarbrücken
(Kaiserviertel)
Month: June

Photo: Patrick Jungfleisch)



Sen2: „New York, New York“
Hotel Am Triller
Trillerweg 57
66117 Saarbrücken
Month: July

(Photo: Sen2)

Born in 1969 in Santurce, Puerto Rico, Sandro Figueroa alias Sen2 has been living and working in New York for over 30 years. His art is loud, garish and shrill – and his style is unmistakable! Sen2's paintings consist of combinations of bold colours, (calli-)graphic lettering, 3D objects, pop art motifs and abstract forms of expression. Classical elements of graffiti blend in with well-known motifs from pop art – graffiti meets pop (art), or Puerto-Rican passion meets New York subculture! In the golden age of graffiti, the 1980s, Sen2 was a co-founder of the 'Mad Crew', a group of spray artists who achieved considerable fame, especially in Sen2's homeland. After moving to the United States, Sen2 joined the legendary 'Tats Crew', a formation of prominent graffiti artists and muralists in New York. Meanwhile, Sen2 has left his artistic mark all over the world. His enormous wall paintings are to be found in New York, Madrid, Montreal and other cities, and now there are also two of them in Saarbrücken.

Mural #10: Raks & Laune (Saarbrücken, DE)



Raks & Laune: „Die Suche“, Mainzer Straße 183, 66121 Saarbrücken - Month: July (Photo: Holger Kiefer)

The artists Raks and Laune have known each other for almost 15 years, and for just about exactly as long the two of them have also been painting together. Born in Saarbrücken in 1987 and 1988, these two 'local heroes' began spraying graffiti as youths. They went to the same art college and subsequently both made art their profession. All that binds together, of course, so after all these years Raks and Laune understand each other implicitly.

If their motto was 'bigger, faster, riskier' when they were teenagers spraying graffiti, their artistic aspirations have grown considerably since then and their real focus has shifted. Now, the image as a whole has to be coherent, from the idea, via the draft, all the way up to the choice of colours and the execution of the work.

Having realised several (wall) paintings jointly, these two artists have learnt to think like colleagues; but on the other hand each has remained true to his own personal style, however much it differs from that of the other. Laune, for example, describes his painting as figurative-abstract, whilst Raks is known for working more graphically, mostly with the letters of his pseudonym 'Raks' ('lettering').

Mural #11: Reso (Saarbrücken, DE)



Reso: „Out of this world“, Bismarckstraße 1, 66111 Saarbrücken (Hochschule für Musik Saar) [Music Academy] - Month July/August (Photo: Holger Kiefer)



Close-Ups (Photos: Holger Kiefer)

Reso – the name comes from the French and is a phonetic rendering of ‘réseau’, which means net or network. Reso’s network is large: with family in New York and Paris, this artist, born in Saarbrücken in 1975, began to get to know the world early on. And that is also how he discovered the art of ‘style writing’ for himself at the end of the 80s. This style is one of the more picturesque forms of traditional graffiti, in which the artist depicts his pseudonym again and again in different ways. The alias ‘Reso’ always remains the same, but because of the continual rearrangement of the individual characters and the varying design and colouring, no two works are the same.

In recent decades Reso has realised more than 100 wall paintings in cities including New York, Barcelona and Basel. So it comes as no surprise that he as an artist has influenced the international urban art scene.

Mural #12: Fintan Magee (Sydney, AUS)



Fintan Magee: „Boyhood“, Mainzer Straße 62, 66121 Saarbrücken - Month: August (Photo: Holger Kiefer)

Born in 1985 in Lismore, Australia, Fintan Magee began spraying graffiti as a teenager and spread his 'tag' (pseudonym) all over Brisbane. It wasn't until he attended art college that the artist began to move further and further away from traditional graffiti and concentrate on his technique as a painter and muralist. Because of the unique way he combines street art and expressionist art, Fintan Magee, who currently lives and works in Sydney, is up among Australia's most major upcoming artists in contemporary painting.

Thanks to Magee's participation in ArtWalk, Saarbrücken has had something in common with other cities including Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Los Angeles and Copenhagen since August 2017: all those cities are 'proud owners' of a mural by the Australian artist. Just back from Waterford, Ireland, Fintan Magee started work on his wall for ArtWalk the very next day. When he had finished, the Australian travelled on to Gothenburg, Helsinki and Paris to leave his mark in those metropolises too. The artist says he travels all over the world, painting, for three to six months each year. Often enough, the people he encounters and gets to know during that time become motifs for his wall paintings. So alongside travel itself, those people are among Magee's most important sources of inspiration.

Artists 2017 / LINE UP



Alexey Luka (*1983)



Lek (*1971) & Sowat (*1978)



Smash137 (*1979)



Aryz (*1988)



LX.One (*1979) & Remi Rough (*1971)



Cone The Weird (*1979)



Sen2 (*1969)



Raks (*1987) & Laune (*1988)



Reso (*1975)



Fintan Magee (*1985)



Stohead (*1973) & Heiko Zahlmann

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