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Art and the City: zURBS invited to join this summer festival



We've heard whispering about it for months, but it was supposed to be a secret. Now it's finally official: The city is organizing a big art festival in Zürich West this summer, under the slightly ironic name ART AND THE CITY (AATC).

Starting in June, showing until September, featuring big international artworks as well as ephemeral performances and events. Artists are ranging from Ai Wei Wei to Paul McCarthy to San Keller, partners are ranging from local galleries to institutions such as Helmhaus or Cabaret Voltaire to schools like ETH or ZHdK ... and finally, in order to get this big fancy expensive bubble a bit more grounded in Zürich West, in order to get it a bit closer to the people, AATC collaborates with off-spaces such as Perla Mode, Corner College and zURBS!

The festival aims to answer the questions: What role can art play in public space? Can it help building an identity, can it initiate a discourse, or is it mere aesthetics? We are part of AATC, but we promise to stay critical! We will make sure that these questions are asked over and over, and that answers are being found, but are never taken for granted.

Coming soon: What exactly will zURBS contribute to ART AND THE CITY??

More info on our website: <http://zurbs.org/node/87>

The pink rabbit experiment – Re/Okkupation lab

In March zURBS conducted an “unpredictable” city-tour for a group of urban/artistic researchers in relation to the [research project Re/Okkupation](#). The aim of the tour was to take the researchers out of their familiar research context and encourage them to experience their research object (the city) from new and different perspectives.

The participants were sent out on a 1 h research trip where they were to test a set of hypotheses regarding how to re-discover the unpredictable city. On their way the participants visited a.o. the beverage-delivering company Intercomestibles, who now functions as a cloudfactory, the Swiss Life insurance firm, who now had been turned into the museum of security, the blind alley where they had to get advice where to go from a stranger, the container city, Basislager, where they were to discover the stories inside the containers, and the blind library where they were to describe their experiences for the blind employees. We had a lot of fun doing this, and are looking forward to more unpredictable tours in the future!



For a more detailed description of the tour, go to [our website!](#)

zURBS/allURBS is growing!

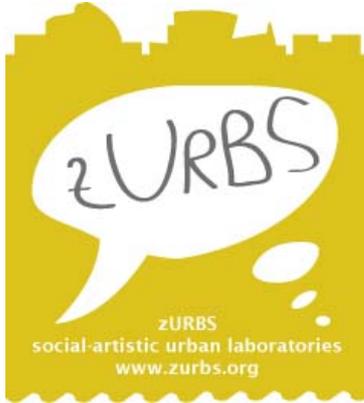


- We are happy to welcome **NINA LUND WESTERDAHL** as a new member to our zURBS team. The danish architect – living and working in Zürich – is more than just an architect. For zURBS' opening project "Züri West nochmals anders?" she has contributed a beautiful artwork called "and in between we live". That's how we realized how well she would complement our team, and now we're looking forward to an inspiring collaboration!
- zURBS invited at "Kunst und Partizipation // Art needs the Urban. The Urban needs Art" in Vienna.

The 3 of May zURBS will present an evening organized by our friends of [Einschleichende Neubauten](#). First we have a general but critical look and debate on the relation between Arts and Citizen Participation in the city. Afterwards we present the URBS-approach. We finish the evening with examples of urban experiments zURBS so far has made in Zürich.

• **Wanted in Ghent – enthusiast urbanophiles!**

You have your heart in the right place, a good sense of humour and lots of energy to storm your city? We welcome anybody (artists, activists, thinkers, doers,...you name it) who wants to contribute or collaborate with the start-up of gURBS, the URBS in Ghent, Belgium. A first meeting will be held the 14th of May. Feel free to contact us! Evelien, Freek and Sander
More info: sander@allurbs.org



[Monthly Newsletter](#)

About us

zURBS is a non-profit organization that wants to re-think urban realities by researching, re-viewing and re-acting to city life through a social-artistic performative approach that provides new perspectives on the urban debate.

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