

# **GESELLSCHAFT FÜR ZEITGENÖSSISCHE KONZEPTE e.V. INVITATION**

## **FALLING FROM THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS: RE:DEFINE PRESSURE | NIKLAS WASHAUSEN**

**23 July, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.**

**Digitalvilla, Hedy Lamarr Square, Karl-Marx-Str. 67, Chair of  
Information Systems, Processes & Systems, 14482 Potsdam  
(Cooperation Partner)**

**Registration recommended – Video call link available upon request at:  
[kontakt@verena-voigt-pr.de](mailto:kontakt@verena-voigt-pr.de)**



*Dr Tilmann Engel, University of Potsdam Outpatient Clinic,  
generates graphical artefacts using the NOVEL platform technology.  
Photo: Verena Voigt.*

# International Participation

International participants are warmly invited to join the event online. A live video call will accompany the programme throughout the day, allowing artists, researchers and guests from abroad to participate in the discussions and presentations.

If you are unable to attend in person, you are nevertheless invited to become part of **RE:DEFINE PRESSURE**. You may record your own recitation of a selected term from the **MfS Dictionary**—either in German or translated into your native language—and send us the recording as an MP3 or WAV file.

See also: **Ministerium für Staatssicherheit** -- Ministry for State Security (Wikipedia).

Contributions are welcome from anywhere in the world. Whether you participate on site, online or through an audio recording, every voice becomes part of the ongoing artistic research. We are particularly interested in linguistic variation, translation, productive misunderstandings and international error cultures. Rather than correcting differences, **RE:DEFINE PRESSURE** understands them as artistic and epistemic material. Recordings in all languages are warmly welcomed.

How does meaning emerge? This question marks the beginning of **RE:DEFINE PRESSURE**, an artistic research project by Glitch Artist **Niklas Washausen**. Conceived as a multi-part participatory project, it forms part of the two-year curatorial programme **FALLING FROM THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS: COLD FEET – LONG ARMS**. As part of the funding programme **Von hier aus Zukunft – Kulturland Brandenburg 2026/27**, it is financed by the State of Brandenburg (GER) with the generous support of the Brandenburger Sparkassen.

Curatorial Director: **Verena Voigt M.A.**, Investigative Curator on behalf of the project organizer & NGO **Gesellschaft für zeitgenössische Konzepte e.V.** (Society for Contemporary Concepts), Potsdam.

Following the opening event on 18 June, the second event will take place on 23 July from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the **DIGITALVILLA**, Chair of Information Systems, Processes & Systems, Hedy Lamarr Square, Karl-Marx-Str. 67, 14482 Potsdam. **Katja Melzer, Managing Director of Kulturland Brandenburg and Director of the Brandenburg Museum**, will deliver the opening address.

Niklas Washausen's project **RE:DEFINE PRESSURE – COLD FEET** is embedded within the programme of 23 July, which also presents, among others, the project **SLOWGRAM** and continues the long-term study **GLITCH ART IN THE AGE OF PERFECT CENSORSHIP**. See also the interview with Ian Keaveny published by [art-in-berlin.de](http://art-in-berlin.de).

The Gesellschaft für zeitgenössische Konzepte e.V. (Potsdam) invites people of different generations and linguistic backgrounds to collaboratively record the specialised terminology of the **MfS Dictionary**—either in German or translated into their respective native languages—in order to become part of a large-scale architectural installation at the Digitalvilla on 25 September, during the next public event.

**Background:** The project explores language, the body and architecture. Participants will read from the [MfS Dictionary of the German Federal Archives DE / EN](#), the central digital reference work documenting the history of the SED dictatorship. Freely accessible and based on scholarly research, it provides information on the structures, methods, unofficial collaborators and key terminology of the Ministry for State Security (MfS).

Alongside the online edition, the artistic project also uses the printed standard reference work **Das MfS-Lexikon**, published by the Federal Archives – Stasi Records Archive, most recently released in 2021 as an expanded and updated fourth edition by [Ch. Links Verlag](#).

The curatorial point of departure for the experimental lecture performance RE:DEFINE PRESSURE is the literary observation of writer Ines Geipel concerning dictatorial systems of inscription:

“Power, mechanisms of access, and society are negotiated through the body: as an essential component of the political physiology of dictatorship, as a system of inscription ...”

For further discussion see Verena Voigt, [Glitch: Ontological Exhaustions & System Failures](#), 2026, p. 129.

Together with Dr Michael Cassel, Dr Tilmann Engel, researchers at the University of Potsdam Outpatient Clinic, and the artist Niklas Washausen, this raised the question of whether these linguistic inscriptions might conversely be “read out” from the body itself. This led to the idea of interpreting plantar pressure as a metaphor for the lightness and weight of language, supported by the orthopaedic foot-pressure scanner of the NOVEL platform.

### **What does this have to do with Glitch?**

The artistic experiment RE:DEFINE PRESSURE sets out to question the persistence and durability of architectures of knowledge, power and control. Through Glitch methodologies, we instead focus on those moments in which architectures begin to slip and systems lose their epistemic sovereignty.

Through a collaborative process and shared effort, we seek to trace the interrelations between disruptive grammar, the body and architecture. The project understands realities as pages that can be walked upon and rewritten. The foot—as the body’s lowest, weight-bearing and simultaneously vulnerable point of contact with the ground—does not become the bearer of hidden truths. Rather, it marks the point at which systems of knowledge begin to lose their stability.

Throughout our research over the past months, it became increasingly apparent that the relationship between inscription and knowledge must be more complex than initially assumed. The human body is evidently not an archive in the traditional sense. Every measurement remains an unsuccessful attempt. What remains is a glitch—a fleeting moment in which seemingly clear relationships lose their self-evidence.

It became increasingly clear that RE:DEFINE PRESSURE is not merely concerned with re-measuring the body, but with understanding dictatorial systems of language. The terms contained in the Stasi Dictionary interest us not only as historical documents but also as elements of a language that organises perception, describes reality and prepares action by helping determine what becomes visible and what remains invisible.

The project and Open Call GLITCH ART IN THE AGE OF PERFECT CENSORSHIP (2–3.30 p.m.) likewise addresses the digital invisibilisation of artefacts on social platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and Tumblr over recent decades. **Ian Keaveny and Verena Voigt will present the interview conducted for the project with the French Glitch Artist Xavier Dallet, who reports on the mass deletion of artistic artefacts.**

From 6 p.m., Michael Betancourt, Ian Keaveny and Laila Shereen Sakr will discuss the design fiction **SLOWGRAM** as a prototype for the revision of future platform cultures. Moderated by Verena Voigt M.A.

The first collective audio workshop on 23 July (4–6 p.m.) marks the beginning of a multi-stage research process. All audio recordings produced during the workshop will become part of a large-scale architectural installation at the Digitalvilla, to be presented on 25 September together with the opening of the Glitch Art Collection and an artists' talk with Thomas Scheffer and Karina Lejeune.

From the many voices participating in the recitation workshop on 23 July, we subsequently intend to invite a number of participants to a second phase of research at the University of Potsdam Outpatient Clinic. The date will be announced separately.

In the following stage, language, video and experimental plantar-pressure measurements will merge into an audiovisual research performance in which history, the present and the future reflect one another.

If you are curious and would like to become part of this research process, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The event also offers an opportunity to meet the international artists' group GIANT GLITCHES, learn about their work and join us in conversation.

## **PROGRAMME | 23 July | Digitalvilla | Forschungsbraukeller**

**A network of connected, simultaneous discussion spaces –  
in-person & online.**

### **PROGRAMME**

**11:00 a.m.**

#### **Welcome Address**

**Katja Melzer**

Managing Director, Kulturland Brandenburg  
Director, Brandenburg Museum, Potsdam

**Dr. Malte Teichmann**

Digitalvilla, Chair of Business Informatics, Processes & Systems, Potsdam

# Introduction

## **Verena Voigt M.A.**

Investigative Curator, Gesellschaft für zeitgenössische Konzepte e.V. (GFZK), Potsdam

FALLING FROM THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

What Might Happen After Falling from the Shoulders of Giants...

A Phenomenology of Algorithmic Experience

**12:00 p.m.**

## **Niklas Washausen**

RE:DEFINE PRESSURE

A Multilingual Recitation & Translation Workshop - Using the MfS Dictionary

Introduction to the participatory audio workshop in the afternoon.

No previous experience is required. Participants of all generations and all languages are warmly welcome.

**2:00 p.m.**

## **Ian Keaveny & Verena Voigt**

GLITCH ART IN THE AGE OF PERFECT CENSORSHIP

The Xavier Dallet Interview

Presented with German and English subtitles.

Introduction, moderation and discussion:

Verena Voigt & Ian Keaveny

## **BREAK**

**4:00 p.m.**

## **Niklas Washausen**

RE:DEFINE PRESSURE

Participatory Audio Workshop

Opportunity for participants to contribute to the ongoing research project.

If you would like to participate in the recitation workshop, please contact us in advance:

[kontakt@verena-voigt-pr.de](mailto:kontakt@verena-voigt-pr.de)

**6:00 p.m.**

## **Michael Betancourt, Ian Keaveny & Laila Shereen Sakr**

SLOWGRAM

A Prototype for the Revision of Future Platform Cultures

Moderated by Verena Voigt

**Approximate Closing: 8:00 p.m.**

Curatorial Concept: Verena Voigt M.A.  
Investigative Curator  
Gesellschaft für zeitgenössische Konzepte e.V. (GFZK), Potsdam

**Registration is appreciated:**  
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**Venue:**

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