

Reflections on Taking Office

Dr. Julia MÜNCH, JDZB Secretary General

I have been following the activities of the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin JDZB) for many years and I appreciate it for the quality and diversity of its offerings, and its potential to contribute widely to international understanding between Germany and Japan through international exchanges. My appointment as Secretary General from 1 October 2020 is therefore a great honor for me, and I look forward to the exciting tasks that lie ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your trust and support.

Our work environment has changed fundamentally since the JDZB was founded in 1985. While in the early years, the JDZB primarily acted as a venue for bilateral talks between Japan and what was then West Germany. Over time, global networking has increased and we now work closely together on many levels – in business, science, culture and politics, but also at the level of civil society. For example, there are more than one hundred friendship associations between both countries, lively exchanges between companies, universities, schools, in sports, in music and the arts, town twinning, etc.

In a time full of political imponderables, a shaky world order and increasing global protectionism, I believe our shared German-Japanese



partnership of values plays no less an important role today than before. I am convinced that only together can we find holistic answers to pressing issues such as appropriate responses to deal with the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, shifts in global power, climate change, the aging society or new ways of working, and learn from each other in many areas.

The JDZB with its valuable contacts has a special responsibility as a (physical) venue for personal encounters and increasingly also as a (digital) platform. It is our aim to strengthen relationships by providing information, developing opinions and creating new connections. We are particularly interested in inspiring the younger generation – future decision-makers – to learn more about the other country, deepening understanding, developing potential and

building up a capital of trust for future cooperation. Therefore, in 2021 we are planning to offer a wide range of activities again: digital, hybrid and face-to-face events, exchange programs, concerts, exhibitions, library services, language courses and more.

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However, the special situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, in which opportunities to meet and travel are drastically limited, requires a radical rethink. At the same time, the JDZB is facing critical challenges due to the continuing situation of low interest rates and urgently needed infrastructure investments. As a result, the JDZB's governing bodies initiated a process of structural change over the summer.

Against this background, in coordination with the members of the Board of Executives and the Foundation Council, and in close cooperation with the Deputy Secretary General and the whole staff, I would like to contribute to the strategic direction of the JDZB. Keeping in mind the purpose of the Foundation, we would like to make the organization "fit" for the future and to set new accents in our portfolio of services:

- One of our goals will be to make many of the existing German-Japanese initiatives more visible by consciously seeking synergies with projects and activities of third parties.
- As a hub – not an end point – for identifying future topics, we would like to establish continuous exchange between institutions and people in addition to purely selective meetings. We communicate proactively and deliberately seek to engage with institutions and individuals not usually focused on Japan or Germany.
- We actively include the virtual space in our considerations. Although digital formats cannot replace personal exchange, they do have the advantage of drastically expanding the scope of par-

ticipants regardless of location and easily integrate actors from different places in Germany and Japan. Young people in particular can be involved sustainably into our discussions via decentralized forms of exchange and with a greater presence in social media.

- In addition, we would like to open up our beautiful building in Berlin-Dahlem with its many possibilities for external parties. To this end, we are currently developing creative business and cooperation models.

Finally, a few words about myself: After studying Japanology, Business Studies and Psychology in Göttingen and Bonn, I was initially entrusted with the development of the internship platform for East Asia "KOPRA e. V." (2004 to 2009). Following this I was the Managing Director of the Japanese-German Business Association (Deutsch-Japanischer Wirtschaftskreis e. V. DJW) (2007 to 2020) as well as holding honorary offices on boards for the Foundation for Japanese-German Cultural Exchange (Studienwerk für Deutsch-Japanischer Kulturaustausch e. V.) (since 2009), the Association of German-Japanese Societies (VDJG) (since 2016) and in the VDJG Foundation (since 2018). In 2017 I received my doctorate at the Mercator School of Management at Duisburg-Essen University. I have recently relocated to Germany's capital with my family of five.

It would be lovely to welcome you personally here at the JDZB as soon as the situation permits. Please contact me with any suggestions you may have regarding the upcoming process of our transformation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dear Readers!

In 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic was fought and a way to eradicate the virus was sought worldwide. At the JDZB we have dealt with infection protection measures, come up with new event formats and tested them.

However, there are also positive things to report: The JDZB has a new Secretary General! In the leading article of this issue, Dr. Julia MÜNCH presents herself and her goals. In a time of unstable international politics and wavering world order, the JDZB will also have to undergo change. With new guidelines, the JDZB will continue to contribute to strengthening German-Japanese and multilateral relations.

The "JDZB Open House" in summer as well as many events in autumn were held digitally. These new formats, which became necessary because of Covid-19, brought some advantages to light: The livestream of events could be realized in a very short time. Speakers and audience do not have to come to the JDZB to participate. Digitally, anyone can participate in our events worldwide, and this without a mask! That is why more participants came to these events than before, including many guests from Japan.

Nevertheless, by no means can video conferencing replace face-to-face conversations. I hope that in 2021 we can celebrate the 160th anniversary of German-Japanese relations with many real events. I wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!

KIYOTA Tokiko
JDZB Deputy Secretary General

jdzb echo

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Virtual Symposium: The “New Normal” – New Mobility and the Future of the City 24 August 2020 at the JDZB

Thomas PULS, German Economic Institute (IW, Cologne)

Does Covid-19 require a “new normal” or can we return to how things were? How can cities in Germany and Japan meet the challenges? These questions were explored at a symposium held by the Japanese-German Center Berlin (JDZB), Fujitsu Limited (Tōkyō) and the German Economic Institute (IW, Cologne) with the kind support of the Embassy of Japan to Germany (Berlin). In keeping with the theme, this was the JDZB’s first partially virtual event. The German speakers met in Berlin, while the Japanese speakers connected via Zoom. The audience were able to ask questions via chat or video. This made it possible to bring together speakers from science, business and associations who deal with the question of the “new normal” over two sessions. In her opening speech, KIYOTA Tokiko (Deputy Secretary General of the JDZB) emphasized the changes resulting from the virtual format, which also offer new opportunities for JDZB’s intended purpose of promoting exchange.

The first session, chaired by Dr. Hubertus BARDT (Managing Director, Head of Research at IW), focused on mobility issues. In his introduction, Dr. BARDT addressed the economic importance of the automotive industry and highlighted the challenges facing the industry.

The session was opened by Professor Dr. Reimund SCHWARZE from the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (UFZ, Leipzig). He placed his lecture under the generic heading “The Great Reset”, where he connected the expectation that there can be no return to the old normality. The question of the healthy city was at the center of his presentation. Inequality is an inseparable part of this, and the pandemic has clearly shown the link between the social environment and health. Professor SCHWARZE also explained that real economic recovery can only be achieved with sustainable growth.

Dr. Christian SCHEEL (Managing Director of the German Association of the Automotive Industry VDA, Berlin) and Axel NORDIEKER (Managing Director Germany at Toyota Fi-

nancial Services, Cologne), representatives of the automotive industry, then spoke. Both emphasized that the industry was already undergoing change before the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular the demand for the greatest possible decarbonization of transport by 2050 is driving the change. Adapting to the requirements of urban mobility was the key factor in this process. Dr. SCHEEL focused on the technological change in vehicle technology and its current integration into urban infrastructures. He explained that electric and automated driving requires an adapted environment. Mr. NORDIEKER also placed emphasis on this connection and put it into context with the development vision of car manufacturer to mobility provider. He also presented current projects of his company, including the BREATHE project, which is driving the development of such an infrastructure.

The second session focused on how the “new normal” will affect the city of the future. The session was chaired by Dr. Martin SCHULZ (Chief Policy Economist, Fujitsu Ltd.) from Tōkyō. In his introduction, he used Fujitsu as an example to show how much the working world in cities will change. Digital working has already received a major boost, and this will have lasting consequences for the use of space and mobility in metropolitan areas. He expressed the expectation that a new work-life balance will be a central

component of the “new normal”. What “new normal” means for urban society was also the subject of the presentation given by Professor Dr. HARAYAMA Yuko (Executive Director, RIKEN, Tōkyō). She addressed the question to what extent previously formative social trends must now be questioned, and pointed out that the experience of the pandemic must encourage new courses of action, including increased digitization and strengthening local communities. However, this also requires the corresponding infrastructure that only a smart city can provide. Here, Dr. Alanus von RADECKI (Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering iAO, Stuttgart) took over with a presentation on the implementation of the smart city concept. He presented the “Morgenstadt” initiative of the Fraunhofer Society, which promotes the practical implementation of research results on the Smart City in cooperation with cities and industry. One focus of his presentation was the topic of sovereignty over data.

In the third presentation of the session, NAKAJIMA Kosuke (General Manager, Battery Solutions Dept., Mitsui & Co., Ltd., Tōkyō) presented Mitsui’s investment strategy in the electric mobility value chain. This strategy aims to invest in smaller electric vehicle manufacturers in order to develop business models in the supply and service sector from this position.

Following a lively discussion with chat participants, the symposium came to a close.

Link to the recording of the symposium: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTmgtjXb04U&t=93s>



15. German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum 2020/2021 – Virtual Kick-Off on 30 August 2020

The 15th German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum 2020 on “Designing a Prosperous Aging Society: The Perspectives of the Young”, which was originally planned to be held from 28 August to 6 September 2020, was unfortunately postponed to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the 16 young prospective leaders – eight participants from Germany and eight from Japan – were so much looking forward to meeting each other that the Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin (JDZB) held a virtual kick-off event instead. On Sunday morning German time (late afternoon Japanese time) of 30 August, the participants, the chair of the summer school, Prof. Dr. Harald CONRAD, chair of Modern Japanese Studies III at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, and JDZB-staff “met” online for about three hours for the official welcome, self-introductions and a preliminary introduction to the topic. We are all very much looking forward to finally getting to meet each other in person next year!

Sven TRASCHEWSKI

Project Manager for Exchange Programs (German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum) and Conferences



Aging societies are one of the central problems of industrialized nations, with Japan and Germany leading the way. What initially appears primarily as a socio-economic challenge, on closer inspection reveals numerous facets. How a society deals with this challenge will influence political decisions in all their dimensions. It shapes the way our democracies develop and shapes the transformation of social norms and values.

Our societies are aging and as a community we must decide how to meet the challenges ahead. As a representative speaker of a political foundation, this topic regularly affects my work. The main question is always: What can we learn from each other? How can we be inspired by the solutions offered by other countries? I hope that, together with my fellow participants - with our different backgrounds and approaches – I can take up existing debates, exchange solutions and suggestions that might be relevant for Germany or Japan, and apply this better understanding to my work.

Zoë VAN DOREN

Desk Officer Asia Unit, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Although issues such as the sustainability of the social security system or the old age of one's parents are familiar problems, I'd never thought deeply about them. Until January 2020, I was stationed in Jakarta, Indonesia, a country with a relatively young population and enjoying a demographic dividend. After returning to Japan, I became aware of the aging society in everyday life, and I am convinced that the young generation must bring about changes in society. At that time, I heard through the company about the public advertisement for the German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum and applied.

The aim is finding a problem-solving approach to problems related to various social factors and developing the ability to consider new issues that may arise in the future and to propose solutions. Demographic change is becoming a global trend among developed countries, and I hope to develop with my colleagues proposals for problem-solving models also for countries facing similar problems. The forum has been postponed to 2021 due to the corona crisis, but I am looking forward to being able to form a network with young leaders in Japan and Germany.

ARIMA Yūsuke

Manager for Business Development and Projects Execution, Hitachi, Ltd.

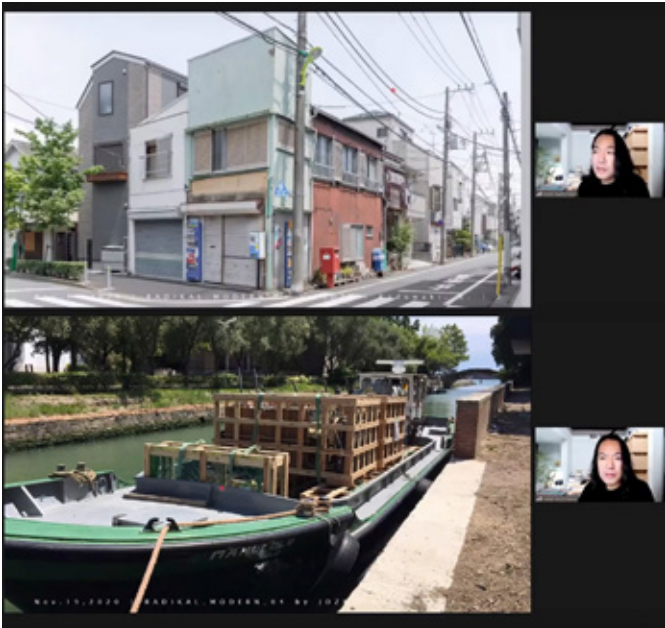


Photo above: Virtual lecture and dialogue “RADIKAL MODERN_04: Co-Ownership of Action. The Japan Pavilion of the 17th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (2021)”, livestream on 19 November 2020: Curator KADOWAKI Kozo presents the residential building “Takamizawa House”, which was dismantled in Tōkyō, brought to Venice and will be reconstructed in the Japan Pavilion (Commissioner: The Japan Foundation).

Photo right: Virtual panel discussion “After the U.S. Elections: What Germany and Japan Should do to Safeguard International Order” with Prof. HOSOYA Yūichi (Keiō University, Tōkyō), Prof. Hanns MAULL (bottom left) and Dr. Markus KAIM (both from the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP, Berlin) and the moderator Rabea BRAUER (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Tōkyō Office). Livestream on 10 November 2020.



Virtual Panel Diskussion “EU-Japan Relations: Beyond the Strategic Partnership Agreement”, live stream on 26 November 2020. Chair Prof. Dr. Patrik STRÖM (European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm) with UEMURA Noritsugu (Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Tōkyō) and Dr. MAAIKO OKANO-HEIJMANS (Clingendael Institute, The Hague); three more speakers from Milan, Trondheim and Tōkyō took part in this event.



Participation of the new Secretary General, Dr. Julia MÜNCH, in the virtual symposium “Autonomous Driving: Perspectives on Japan, France and Germany”, livestream from the JDZB on 8 October 2020.



Opening of the exhibition “Silent Shadows” with paper reliefs by Iso Masko and installations by Wolf KAHLEN on 24 September 2020 at the JDZB, with an introduction by Prof. Dr. Stefanie ENDLICH (on right, photo). The exhibition will be on display at the JDZB until 29 January 2021.

CONFERENCES BY FOCAL AREAS

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Security Policy Workshop, Track 1.5

C: Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō; Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Berlin; The Japan Institute of International Affairs, Tōkyō
Date: May 2021

Conference: Global Health IV

C: National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM, Tōkyō); Waseda University; Alexander von Humboldt University, Berlin; Heidelberg University/Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH); Association of Research-based Pharmaceutical Companies, Berlin
Date: To be confirmed in 2021, in Tōkyō

Conference: Trilateral Cooperation Germany – Japan – Indonesia on Maritime Security

C: Federal Foreign Office (AA, Berlin); think tanks in Germany, Japan and Indonesia
Date: To be confirmed in 2021, in Jakarta

Symposium: The Role of Japan and Germany in a Changing World Order

C: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS, Berlin); German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP, Berlin), Asia-Pacific Initiative (API, Tōkyō)
Date: To be confirmed in 2021, in Tōkyō

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

10th Meeting of the German-Japanese Expert Council on Energy Transition

C: Hennicke Consult, Wuppertal; ECOS Japan Consult GmbH (Osnabrück); Institute for Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ, Tōkyō); Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi, Berlin); Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI, Tōkyō) (by invitation only)
Date: 12 March 2021

Symposium: Bioeconomics

C: German Society of JSPS Fellows (JSPS Club, Bonn)
Date: 7-8 May 2021

Symposium: The Role of Digitization in Sustainability

C: econsense – Forum for Sustainable Development of German Business e.V., Berlin; German Economic Institute (IW, Cologne); Fujitsu Ltd., Tōkyō; Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs (KIC, Tōkyō) requested
Date: October 2021, in Tōkyō

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Symposium: Demographic Change in Germany and Japan

C: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ, Berlin); Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW, Tōkyō)
Date: To be confirmed in 2021, in Tōkyō

Conference: Aging and Care in German and Japanese Communities

C: German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ, Tōkyō); Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Tōkyō office
Date: 2nd half of 2021, in Tōkyō

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Symposium: The Future of Work and Digitization

C: Shinshū University, Nagano; German Research Ambassadors Network for Industrial Technology Endeavors (GRANITE) of the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology (FIT, St. Augustin)
Date: mid-May 2021

Conference: Artificial Intelligence and the Human Being – Images in Science and Fiction

C: Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society Ltd (HIIG, Berlin); Waseda University, Tōkyō
Date: 17-18 June 2021

French-German Dialogue on Japan II

C: France-Japan Foundation of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS, Paris); Duisburg-Essen University
Date: September 2021, in Paris

Conference: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Legal Areas and Legal Norms

C: German-Japanese Association of Jurists (DJJV, Hamburg)
Date: Autumn 2021, in Tōkyō

STATE, ECONOMY, GOVERNANCE

Symposium: Crisis Communication

C: The Japan Foundation (Tōkyō)
Date: 4 February 2021

Conference: Energy, Politics, and Society: Continuity and Change 10 Years after 3.11.

C: Association for Social Science Research on Japan (VSJF)
Date: 18-20 March 2021

Conference: Olympia 2020: The Importance of Major Sporting Events for Society, Politics and the Economy

C: German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ, Tōkyō)
Date: 15 April 2021

Symposium: The Future of Democracy I

C: Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka; Duisburg-Essen University; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES, Berlin)
Date: 31 August 2021

Symposium: Diversity as an Innovative Force – Innovative Promotion of Diversity

C: German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH, Tōkyō)
Date: To be confirmed in 2021, in Tōkyō

Conference: Shaping Institutional Profiles in Research, Teaching and Community Engagement

C: German Rectors' Conference (HRK, Bonn); Japan Committee of Universities for International Exchange (JACUIE, Tōkyō)

Date: To be confirmed in 2021

Symposium: Sports Law

C: German-Japanese Association of Jurists (DJJV, Hamburg)

Date: To be confirmed in 2021, in Munich

CULTURE AND CHANGE

German-Japanese Architects Dialog

C: Association of German Architects, Berlin; Technical University Dortmund; Technical University Berlin

Date: To be confirmed in 2021

SPECIAL PROJECT

Symposium: Moving Ahead with Gender Equality in Germany and Japan

C: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tōkyō)

Date: 4-5 March 2021

29th German-Japanese Forum

C: Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), Tōkyō; Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tōkyō

Date: May 2021

CULTURAL EVENTS

EXHIBITION

Dialog Exhibition "Silent Shadows" Paper Reliefs by Iso Masko and Installations by Wolf KAHLEN

Duration: 25 September 2020 until 29 January 2021

"The rain falls and the ground hardens"

Sculptures and installations by AKIMOTO Naomi and Claudia SCHMACKE
Duration: 19 February until 28 May 2021

"Good Morning My Moon"

Photographs by Nicole AHLAND and glass sculptures by HIROHATA Masami
Duration: August until the end of October 2021

"theory of everything"

Pictures and installations by YAMAMOTO Noriko and Kornelia HOFFMANN
Duration: November 2021 until January 2022

CONCERT

New Years Concert "Dialogs on Nature: Japan – Germany" with the Ensemble Horizonte

C: Kunststiftung NRW

Date: 11 January 2021

"AUTUMN SONG" Concert with Members of the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie

C: Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, Frankfurt a.M.; Werner Reimers Foundation, Bad Homburg

date: 9 June 2021

Concert with contemporary compositions: INOUE Satoko (piano), Maurizio BARBETTI (viola) and Hartmut SCHULZ (vocal/bariton)

C: Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, Frankfurt a.M.; Werner Reimers Foundation, Bad Homburg

Date: 9 June 2021

READING

"Convenience Store Woman"

Reading and discussion with MURATA Sayaka (Akutagawa prizewinner 2016)

C: Japan Culture Institute Cologne/The Japan Foundation

Date: 1 March 2021

JAPANESE COURSES

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, all courses will be held online until further notice. These courses are facilitated by competent instructors with active exchanges between teachers and participants. When face-to-face teaching becomes possible again, the courses will be held at the premises of the JDZB. Only the **advanced level courses** will continue online for participants who live outside of Berlin.

New **courses will start on 18 January 2021**. Information on how to register can be found on our website (www.jdzb.de).

CALLIGRAPHY COURSES

Following Covid 19 restrictions, calligraphy courses for children (from 6 years) and adults (from 16 years) are being held in small groups. You can find further information on our website (www.jdzb.de).

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

- Junior Experts Exchange Program
- German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum
- Youth Group Leaders Exchange Program
- Study Program for Youth Work Specialists
- Exchange Program for Young Employees
- JDZB SCIENCEYOUTH PROGRAM

For details of the programs, please refer to: <http://www.jdzb.de> --> Exchange Programs

Opening hours of exhibitions

Monday to Thursday 10 am to 0.30 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm, Friday 10 am to 0.30 pm and 1 pm to 3.30 pm

Registration for the cultural events opens close to the date

C: = in cooperation with

Venue: JDZB, if not stated otherwise

For **more information** please refer to: <http://www.jdzb.de> --> Activities

For **information on JDZB language courses** please refer to: <http://www.jdzb.de> --> Japanese Courses

Based on the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, this is only a preliminary plan of JDZB programs as reflected from November 2020.

Please confirm the dates for each event on the JDZB homepage!

Besides that, also the format may develop differently:

virtual, hybrid (partly online / partly with presence), presence.

**“The rain falls and the ground hardens”
Sculptures and installations by AKIMOTO Naomi and Claudia SCHMACKE**

Both artists reflect their view on the phenomena of the material and transcendental world. AKIMOTO Naomi explores the physical and tactual qualities of our environment, while Claudia SCHMACKES sculptures, installations and videos capture movement and ephemeral phenomena. The artistic exploration of natural phenomena through clay and ceramic art as a means of physical expression is of crucial importance for both artists. AKIMOTO Naomi and Claudia SCHMACKE will present new works especially designed for this exhibition as well as already existing works.

Duration: 19 February until 28 May 2021



Photo left: “Phiole” (Detail) by Claudia SCHMACKE, 2011 © Robert SCHEIPNER / Photo right: “without title” by AKIMOTO Naomi, 2017 © Do Hyun KIM



“Good Morning My Moon”

Photographs by Nicole AHLAND and glass sculptures by HIROHATA Masami

AHLAND and HIROHATA enter into a dialogue through the art form of still life and by exploring the concept of space as the source of perception and intercultural exchange. By emphasizing the contrast between light and darkness, vicinity and distance, external and internal, the artists create an imagined moment of touch.

Duration: August until end of October 2021

Photo left: “LightRoom” #7 by Nicole AHLAND, 2020 © N. AHLAND & VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2020
Photo right: “Blue Flower #3” by HIROHATA Masami, 2019 © HIROHATA M.

“theory of everything” Pictures and installations by YAMAMOTO Noriko and Kornelia HOFFMANN

Under the headline of “theory of everything” the two artists from Bremen explore the same questions from their personal perspectives in order to create a dialogue between their separate approaches. Their installations reflect on the concept of space and invite you to explore and question all phenomena of our inner and outer worlds.

Duration: November 2021 until January 2022



Left: “World Formula” by YAMAMOTO Noriko, 2011-2018 © YAMAMOTO N. / Right: “Jenseits der Blätterränder” by Kornelia HOFFMANN, 2019 © K. HOFFMANN