

# UNLEASHING DEBATE

The Event Program of "ARGUMENTS. An Approach" Exhibition  
at the Museum of Communication Berlin.

Presentation for the IATM 46th Annual Conference in London, 2023.

## Stripper Stories and the Relevance of Museums

»Clapping won't pay my bills!« - Healthcare workers during the pandemic (anonymous)

- Sex sells. Arguments and Debate too!
- Performance "Stripper Stories" by the Berlin Strippers Collective at Discourse Salon #1 as part of the exhibition "ARGUMENTS. An Approach"
- What do strippers have to do with valuable museum work?

Berlin Strippers Collective during the performance "Stripper Stories" at Discourse Salon #1 "Clapping won't pay my bills?", December 6, 2022



## Agenda

- Introduction to the Exhibition "ARGUMENTS. An Approach"
- The Event Program
- The Program Series "Discourse Salon"
- Educational Program for Children & Youth
- Audio Performance "Wrestling"
- Conclusion & Learnings
- Q & A





## The Exhibition "ARGUMENTS. An Approach". Arguments for Democracy

- Societies evolve through communication.
- Conflict is a part of human communication.
- A culture of arguments/debate is the foundation of democratic coexistence.
- Exhibition period: Museum of Communication Berlin until August 27th, 2023 and now at Museum of Communication Frankfurt until August 2024.

Photo: Epilogue of the "ARGUMENTS. An Approach" exhibition, Express Tour within the Discourse Salon, Museum of Communication, 2023

# How was the Exhibition structured?





## The Exhibition "ARGUMENTS. An Approach". The core themes. Art & Love.

- ART is free. Despite this freedom, it faces judgment: artwork or kitsch? Provocation or aesthetic delight?
- LOVE is one of the strongest emotions. Yet, conflict is a part of love: We engage in disagreement when something is particularly important to us.

Photo: Foreground: "Poisoned," Ottmar Hörl, 2008;  
Background: "Ich kann keine Kunst mehr sehen"  
Timm Ulrichs, 1975





## The Exhibition "ARGUMENTS. An Approach". The core themes. Power & Money

- In coexistence, there are POWER imbalances. Democratic debate helps overcome these. Sometimes it happens in an orderly manner, sometimes more passionately.
- MONEY is the subject of fundamental disputes. Especially workers have been fighting for better wages and more appreciation for centuries.

Photo: Exhibition view. Demonstrating workers.



How do we now incorporate ARGUMENTS & DEBATE into the event program?



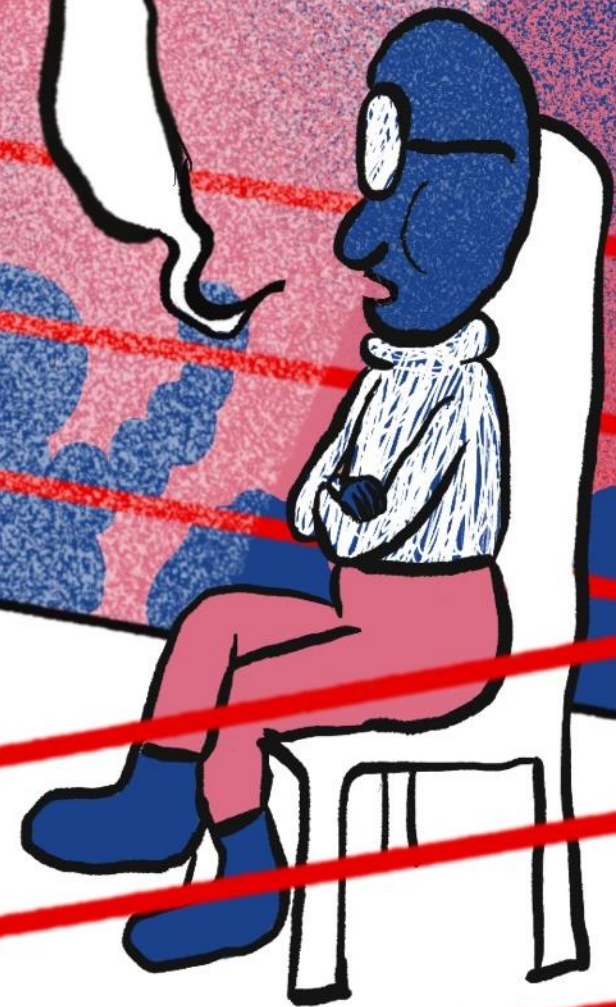
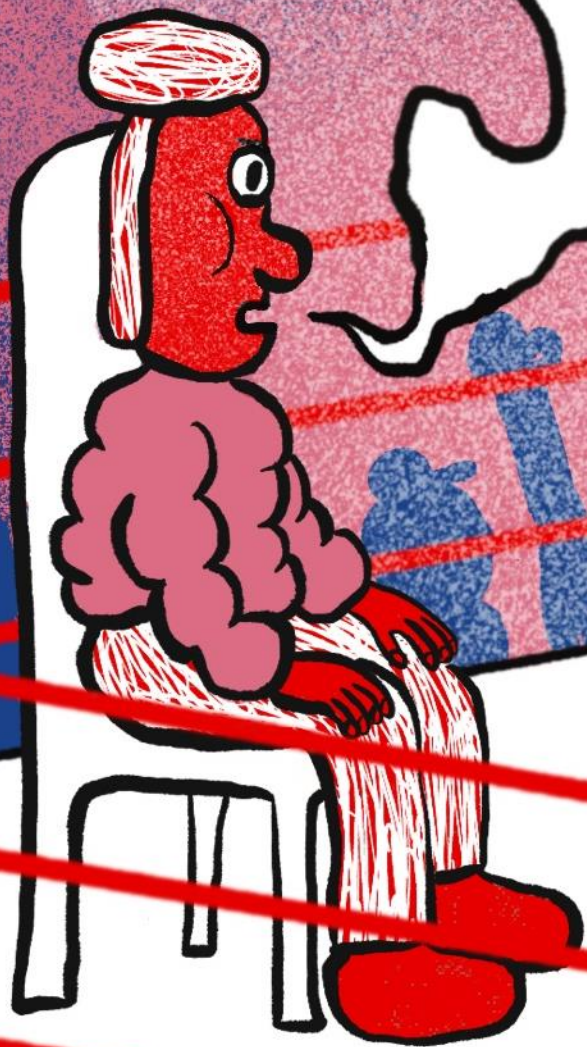
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Bundeszentrale für  
politische Bildung





# STREIT

DAS PROGRAMM





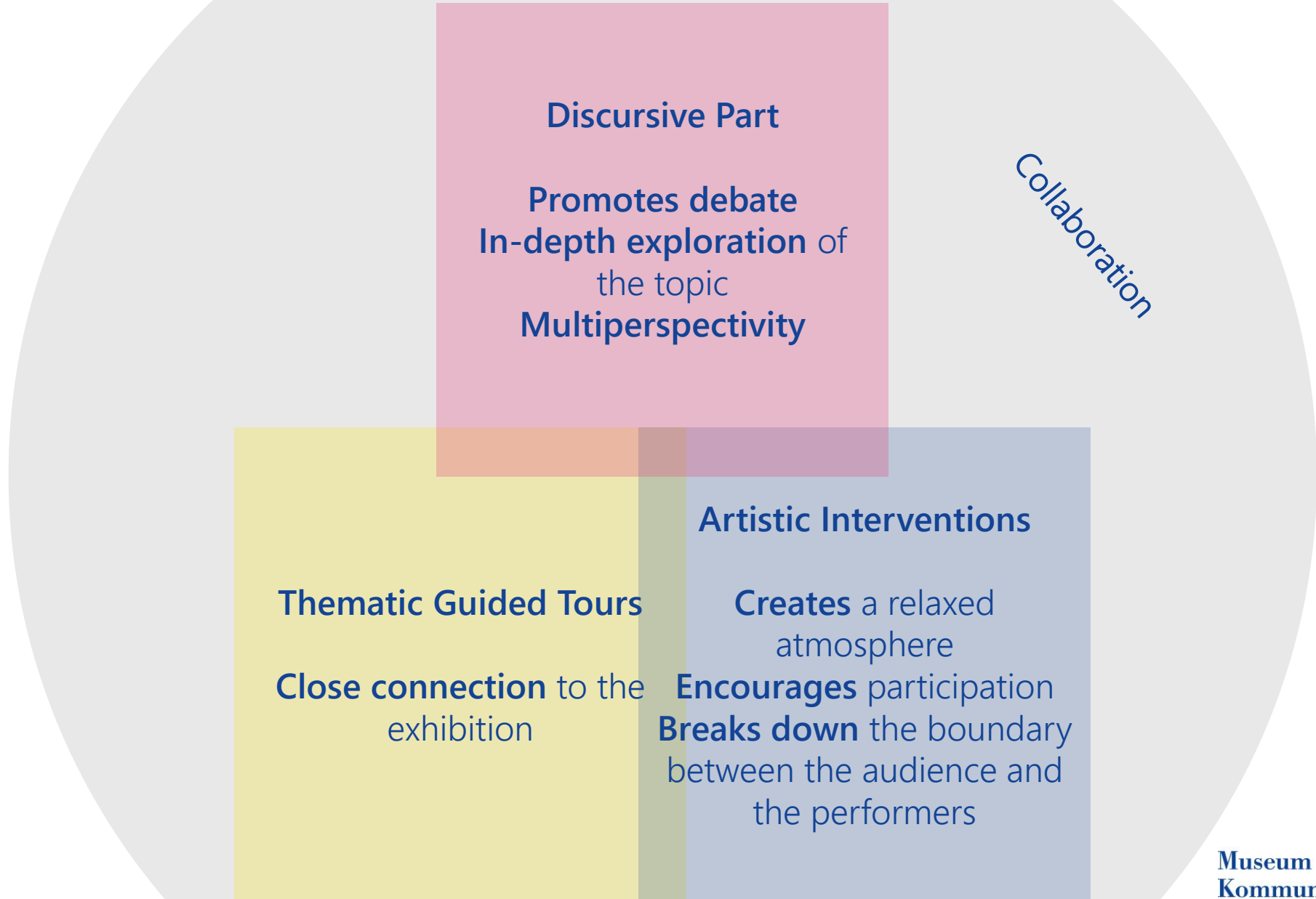
# The Program Series "Discourse Salon"

## The Program Series Discourse Salon

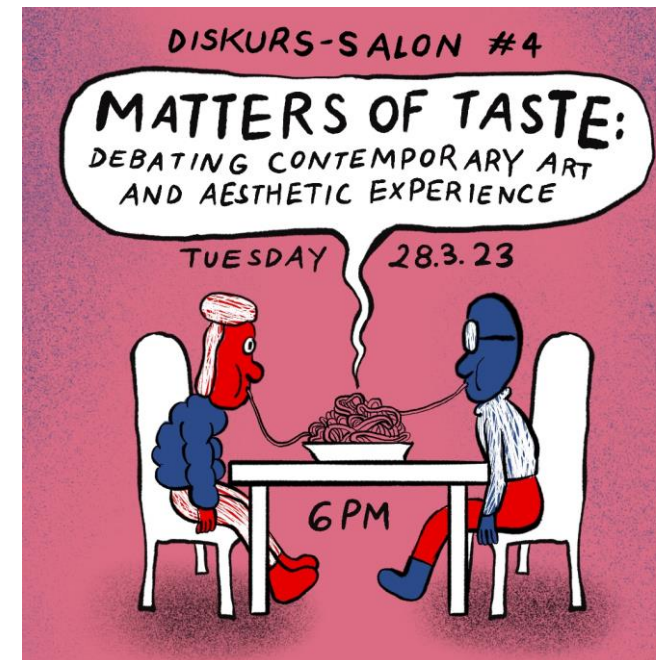
»Everything becomes a political question«  
– Patti Smith

- **Objectives:** Discuss and experientially explore questions of public relevance based on the exhibition's thematic areas. But also dare to experiment and venture into uncharted territory: try out new multidisciplinary formats.
- **Target Groups:** Our regular (adult) audience and people whom we haven't reached as effectively in the past, aiming for a "broad" outreach.
- **Discourses:** ART, LOVE, POWER, MONEY
- **Format:** Multidisciplinary evening events with a late/after work character
- **Collaborations:** Collaborations with varying partners
- **Venue:** Kaffeehaus (restaurant) of the museum

# Discourse Salon: Concept & Strategy

















# Educational Program for Children & Youth

## The Educational Program

*»Gewalt beginnt da, wo Reden aufhört.« / Violence begins where speech ends.*  
- Hannah Arendt

- **Objectives:** teaching the value of a culture of debate and dispute for personal and public coexistence, provide tools for "constructive arguing"; teaching media and communication competence
- **Target audience:** Students of all grade levels
- **Format:** Workshops with accompanying materials, thematic guided tours
- **Locations:** Museum, schools
- **Synergy Effects:** Integration with curriculum content, involvement of educational facilitators



## SCHILDKRÖTE

- PRO ruhig und bedacht, gute Beobachterin und kann sich (wenn es sein muss) aus einem Streit zurückziehen
- KONTRA Streitvermeidung kann als Desinteresse gedeutet werden

## The Educational Program



## AFFE

- PRO streitet sich gerne und ist schlagfertig, hat stets Argumente, Thesen oder Zitate parat
- KONTRA äußert sich zu allem, ist dabei aber mal mehr, mal weniger gut

- Conflict in Democracy, Democracy in Conflict: Three-part workshop format with supplementary materials
- Using Vibrant Colors Against Brown (right-wing) Slogans: Workshops with Irmela Mensah-Schramm
- Anti-Discrimination Workshop with the Educational Initiative Ferhat Unvar

# STREIT.

*Eine Annäherung*

WORKSHOP ZUR AUSSTELLUNG  
»STREIT. EINE ANNÄHERUNG« | BLOCK 1





# Audio Performance "Wrestling"

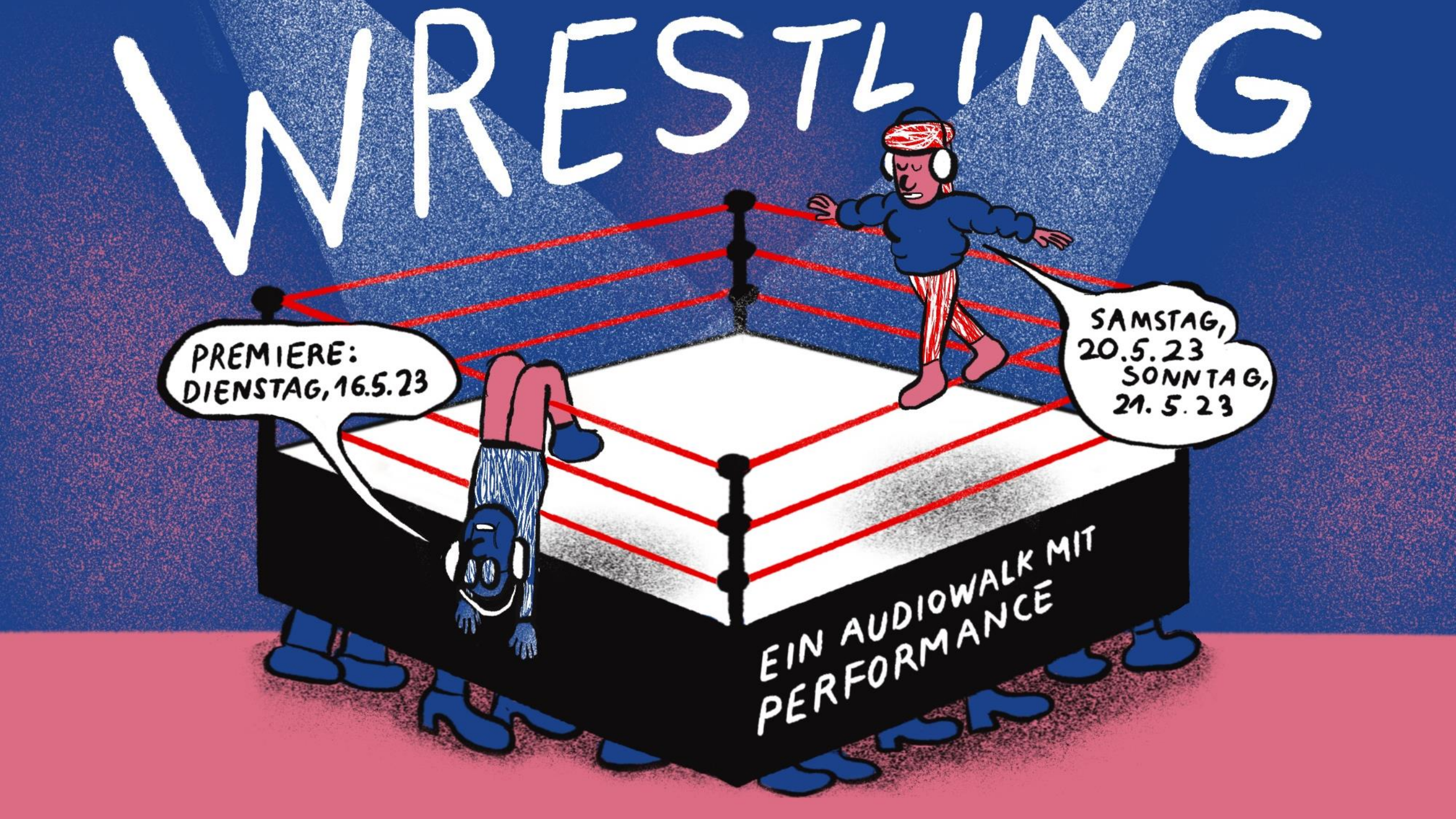


# WRESTLING

PREMIERE:  
DIENSTAG, 16.5.23

SAMSTAG,  
20.5.23  
SONNTAG,  
21.5.23

EIN AUDIOWALK MIT  
PERFORMANCE









## Audio Performance Wrestling by hannsjana

»So wie ein Schlag die Nase verformt, so formt auch ein feministischer Diskurs wirklich unser Leben«, hannsjana

- **Objective:** Performative audio work on feminist contrasting viewpoints.
- **Discourse:** Women's movement of the 70s vs. intersectionally influenced "queer feminists" of younger generations (in simplified terms).
- **Format:** Audio piece with wrestling live performance

Photo: Wrestling at Long Night of Museums,  
26.8.2023, Museum of Communication Berlin.





# Conclusion & Feedback

## Conclusion & Learnings

- **Very diverse audience** reached.
- **Good attendance**, many visitors returned to the events.
- **Positive feedback** from guests and participants; great mix of program.
- **Very good press resonance** (post-event coverage).
- **High learning curve** for the museum (internally).
  
- **Collaborations** with various partners are beneficial in terms of content but also demanding: costs, time, personnel.
- **Inclusion** needs to be more strongly practiced and implemented in the program.
- **Activating** and involving the audience is not always easy to realize, and there may be different expectations from collaboration partners
- What does "participation" mean - as the significant question for the future?

A photograph of a nightclub scene. In the foreground, two strippers are performing on a small stage. One is standing and looking towards the camera, wearing a dark, sequined outfit and high-heeled boots. The other is bent over, wearing a dark, sequined outfit and high-heeled boots. In the background, a crowd of people is clapping and watching the performance. The room is dimly lit with red and blue lights. A large window is visible in the background. The text "What do strippers have to do with valuable museum work?" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**What do strippers have to do with valuable museum work?**

# The End / Thank You / Any Questions?

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