

[aquamediale] 16

Das Kunstfestival im Spreewald

»aquamediale« is the festival for contemporary art in Spreewald. 2025 it will take place from **May 31st until September 27th**, organised by the district of Dahme-Spreewald in cooperation with the support association aquamediale e.V. .

»biodiversity«

Everything is linked with everything.

Open Call for the 16. aquamediale 2025

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Biodiversity, biological diversity, a technical term and also a catchphrase, much used in politics, culture, science and society ... suitable to attract attention and money. A technical term that can be turned into a battle cry : Save/protect biodiversity!

But what is biodiversity? What about the substance of this battle cry, when perhaps not even the content or meaning of the technical term is clearly clarified, even being contested? Who has the power of interpretation? Do we even know what is under threat, what we want to protect? Life does not exist as an abstract concept, but only in the form of individual living beings, as individual organisms. Each individual is unique and all together form what we call the biosphere – a unique whole in the universe made up of an unnumerable diversity of individual life. And: the individuals are not only unique, but also mortal – with each individual death something irretrievable is lost.

So 'life' is just an immense collection of organic survival machines that, while eating and being eaten, reproducing and dying, have covered the earth with a thin biofilm?

Two questions arise : What is it that all these organisms have in common?
And : How does this 'life' develop if it only exists in transitory units?

At least the experts agree to the second point in that there are supra-individual units, biosystems, which consist of closely related individuals and evolve as 'biological species'; but opinions differ widely as to what exactly 'species' are.

Biosphere The members of a species establish ecological niches through their activities; and the members of different species that together exist and interact in one place in turn form ecosystems. Both, species and ecosystems develop and are also 'mortal' over long periods of time, but these are the units of life that we seek to preserve in order to preserve the biosphere (of which we are a part).

What is life? The first question is fundamental :
Today we can describe the basic unit of every living being, the cell, down to its molecular components, and there is no doubt that all these components behave according to the known laws of nature.
But we still cannot explain why these living organisms behave in a way that inanimate objects do not.

Günter Tembrock, a pioneer of modern behavioural biology, put it as follows :
"Life is characterised by the fact that it has a component that we call 'consciousness' in humans."

Individual & environment Every individual is a subject and generates its own view of the world, a world of its own, through constant activity and interaction with the environment. Through its existence, every living being continuously changes reality and creates a complexity of dynamics that is, in principle, uncontrollable.

Biodiversity is also diversity of perceptions, diversity of environments, diversity of world views, diversity of meanings ...

Approach A living system – a feeling and perceiving subject, can never be fully described from the outside. We as individuals only have an inside view of one subject, ourselves. We know that we feel and think. Should we assume that other subjects do not feel and think?
We cannot protect life if we do not understand it (or at least begin to try).
The living can only be grasped as an aesthetico-logico-ethical unity through another such unity.
The exploration of the living is self-knowledge.

Dialog The gap between science and art is an apparent one :
the unity of perceiving, feeling and thinking must be restored – in dialog with nature, the nature within us and around us.

Topic The **16.** aquamediale is committed to analysing the factors that influence the coexistence of species and examines the effects of a disturbed balance between humans and nature.

Artists are being called to artistically visualise their insights and visions in dealing with the living and dead environment. The results of their subjective perceptions will be presented under the theme "**biodiversity – everything is linked with everything**" into the urban landscape of Lübben and up for discussion.

In **2025**, the town of Lübben will celebrate its foundation **875** years ago and seems to the organizer the ideal place to install the diverse topic in this context and make it tangible for everyone.

Location The basic idea of the submitted artistic interventions should interact with the location in the city area of Lübben. For this reason, the project management will coordinate a visit to the exhibition area together with all selected artists in November 2024.

The organisers expect convincing concepts and ideas from the applicants with a commitment to the theme and surprising implementations of high artistic quality. There are no restrictions on specific materials and genres.

Application **Concept Idea**

The call is aimed at national and international artists of all genres. The concept idea must be submitted by **August 31st 2024** together along with the attached application form digitally as pdf or jpg (300 dpi) to the project team at :

harald-larisch@gmx.de und **dianikameissner@web.de**

Please pay attention to the technical feasibility of this topic in the concept feasibility for the restrictive area of an urban landscape.

The project team selects 12 concepts according to the curator principle.

Contract 1 **The design**

The contracts for the draft and its implementation between the selected artists and the district of Dahme-Spreewald will be signed during the site visit on **November 16th & 17th 2024**.

The design concept for the realisation with sizes, quantities, costs and times will be rewarded with a gross amount of **500** euros by the organiser.

Contract 2 **The implementation**

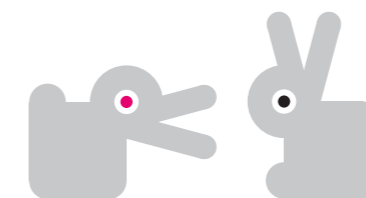
The contracts for the implementation of the designs will be concluded in mid-**February 2025**. The district of Dahme-Spreewald will provide a gross fee of **2500** euros for this.

Material costs can be invoiced separately.

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| Selection | The selected applications will be announced in September 2024 . | Construction | The construction of the installations is from April 15th to April 30th 2025 . |
| Presentation
Concept
& Conference | These artists will be invited by the curator to a concept presentation and for a site visit in Lübben on November 16th & 17th 2024 .
The district council hall in Lübben will be the venue for a conference at which all the artists will present their concept and invited scientists will give lectures on the topic of biodiversity. Good conditions for a stimulating and mutual exchange in order to optimise the designs in terms of content, form, location and technical implementation, among other things. | Acceptance | The acceptance of the installations by the support association aquamediale e.V. will take place on May 2nd 2025 . |
| Design | The more precise draft will be presented by the artists at an on-site meeting in mid- February 2025 and its implementation confirmed by the curator. The artistic intervention must withstand the weather conditions and be resistant for 6 months. | Vernissage | The vernissage of the 16th aquamediale with supporting programme is on May 31st 2025 in Lübben. |
| Material costs | To produce the object, the Dahme-Spreewald district will grant a subsidy for materials and construction workers of up to 1500 euros gross. Further details will be regulated in the 2025 fee agreement. | Utilisation | The support association aquamediale e.V. acquires the right to utilise the objects. The copyright remains with the artists. |
| Travelling expenses | Travel expenses will be reimbursed after prior consultation with the project manager and invoice submission at 20 cents per kilometre driven or reimbursement of travel by public transport (in accordance with the Federal Travel Expenses Act). Overnight stays are at your own responsibility. | Documentation | The artists' works will be documented in a works catalogue with images and text. |
| | | Finissage | The finissage is on September 27th 2025 .
The artists are responsible for the contractually regulated dismantling. The dismantling must be completed by October 10th 2025 at the latest. |



Harald Larisch & Anika Meißner