

1

# Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art

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## Press Release #2

### 12th Berlin Biennale announces duration and visual identity

Berlin, October 28, 2021

The 12th Berlin Biennale takes place from June 11 to September 18, 2022 at various venues in Berlin and is curated by Kader Attia.

“I am often asked: What comes after decolonial thinking? Frankly, I’m less concerned with what comes next than with the fact that this is an ongoing conversation in the here and now, a series of acts of repair taking place in different spheres of society.” Kader Attia

Colonialism continues to impact the present, long after the achievement of political independence by people in the Global South. Over 500 years of colonial thought and action have shaped all aspects of life—in the societies of the South and also the North. Colonial violence, fascism, and capitalist exploitation continue, persisting in ever-new forms. Liberating knowledge, thinking, and action from colonial patterns is what drives decolonial processes, which seek to unlearn what has been learned and continuously question existing points of view.

Kader Attia looks back on more than two decades of decolonial engagement. As an artist, thinker, and activist, he has been particularly engaged with the notion of repair—first of objects and physical injuries, and then of individual and societal traumas. Throughout his practice, repair has emerged as a mode of cultural resistance, a form of agency that finds expression in diverse practices and fields of knowledge. In his role as curator of the 12th Berlin Biennale, Attia makes this form of agency the starting point of a program that involves contributors and audiences in a critical conversation, in order to find ways together to care for the now.

Recognizing art as a special form of repair, the 12th Berlin Biennale unfolds around a set of questions. How can the decolonization of art be conceived—from the restitution of plundered goods to an anticolonial culture of memory? What role can non-Western feminist movements play in the reappropriation of history and identity? How are climate crisis and colonialism related? How can resource extraction be resisted and native knowledges acknowledged to preserve ecosystems?

With exhibitions, interventions, and events, the 12th Berlin Biennale will span diverse venues in the city, offering a discursive space that bridges different fields of knowledge production. From June 11 to September 18, 2022 a polyphonic debate unfolds, convening artists, scholars, and activists to map the world with its ruptures and contradictions, create counter-trajectories to the colonial narrative, and collaboratively shape new forms of agency for the future.

### **The 12th Berlin Biennale's visual Identity**

The visual identity for the 12th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art is based on a set of twelve abstract, graphic sculptures loosely based on the letter "B." These shapes are adapted to various formats and inspire visitors to interact with them. Whether in a physical setting, the digital sphere, or printed matter, the sculptures are conceived to both create and occupy different spaces.

Intentionally ambiguous and thus open for imaginative interpretations, these shapes can be read as maps, signs, or objects. Looking at these sculptures, one finds that the definitions between the inside and outside, the mapped and uncharted, the seen and unseen begin to blur. The sculptures thus encourage viewers to question their given knowledge and be open to new perspectives.

In contrast to the shifting shapes at the core of the visual identity, the logotype provides a recurrent spatial anchor. Finally, a broad color palette ranging from soft pastels to vibrant primary colors set different tones underscoring the various formats and themes of the 12th Berlin Biennale's program.

Martin Wecke is a designer and web developer based in Berlin. He specializes in applying experimental digital interactive formats to the design of dynamic visual systems, websites, and multimedia applications.

Fabian Maier-Bode is a graphic designer and type designer based in Berlin. Typography and font design are core elements of his practice, which focuses on developing progressive visual systems for both digital and analog applications.

The Berlin Biennale is organized by KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V. The Berlin Biennale is funded by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation). The Kulturstiftung des Bundes is funded by the Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media).

# Press Contact

Sabine Weier  
Head of Communications

Nicole Tanzini di Bella  
Communications Coordinator

T +49 30 243459-42  
F +49 30 243459-99  
press@berlinbiennale.de

12.berlinbiennale.de  
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Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art  
KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V.  
Auguststraße 69  
10117 Berlin

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