



# qualitalk

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New rulers have been wiping out the traces of their predecessors since time immemorial. In New-Speak German, the erasing of memories that have become unpopular is referred to as *cancel culture*.

After 1945, Nazi art disappeared from the public eye into the poison cabinet of museums. Monumental buildings such as air raid shelters cannot be locked away. Only if the room rent is affordable for the artists there, they can operate studios and rehearsal rooms behind the meter-thick concrete walls.

I wish you a peaceful time

*Oliver Schuster*

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**In the tower staircase to the studio of the Hedernheim music bunker the oeuvre „We are all in the same boat“ is created by the artist Karin Rahts. This Frankfurt air raid shelter from World War II was disguised as a church in order to distract the bomb squadrons with its slate pitched roof and false bell tower.**

# Art in the Bunker

## Project: We 're all in the same boat

**Karin Rahts** was born in Berlin. She studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts (Städelschule) in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. She lives and works in this city. With installations in public spaces, such as in the foyer of Frankfurt Fair (Messe Frankfurt, a huge exhibition center) and in the subway station, she attracts people beyond the cultural scene.

The staircase to her studio in the Hedderheimer Musikbunker is de-

corated with the artist's earlier works for an event at a local jazz club. Wall paintings are attached with a contemporary reference to the slogan: „We are all in the same boat.“

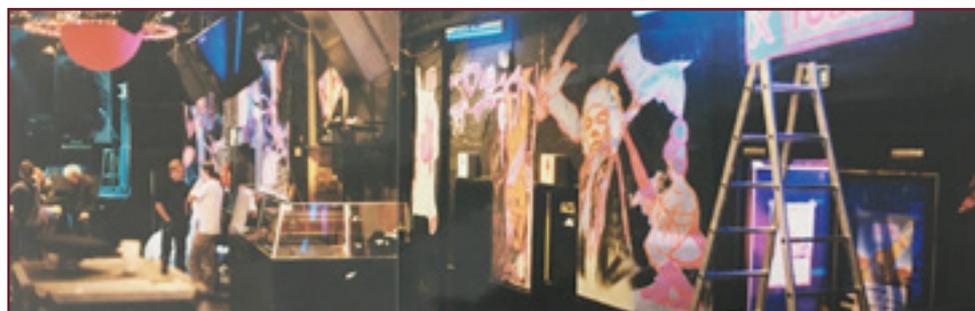
Climbing the stairs looks like a big thumb cinema and brings the scenes to life on the 82 steps.

It is not yet clear when the work of art can be made accessible to the public - possibly as part of the historical review of Frankfurt's bunker history. ☒



*x roads Festival – the sketch for the design of the BATSCHKAPP in true-to-scale. The home of the legendary rock club in Frankfurt am Main (above).*

*Installing the art work in the club room (below).*



## Karin Rahts describes her Project

I have been the tenant of the attic studio in the »Hedderheimer Musikbunker« since 1984.

Right from the start I had the idea of painting the walls of the bunker stairwell in the tower. A few drawings were initially made in 1999, inspired by cave drawings and Egyptian painting. More than twenty years have passed

since then. It wasn't until 2021 that I resumed the idea of designing the stairwell in the bunker tower.

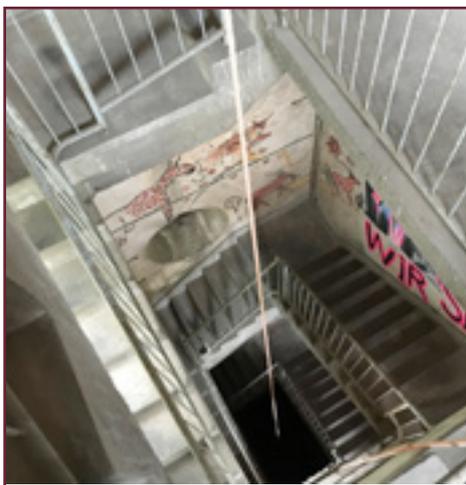
### **Bunker after Wartime**

A brief look back at the history of the bunker in the 1980s illustrates its position for the Frankfurt cultural scene. For a long time it was not certain whether the »Hedderheimer

Musikbunker“ and other bunkers in the city of Frankfurt would be permanently available for the music and art scene, although the renovations (the musicians' practice rooms and my attic studio) were made from our own resources..

The rock music scene in Frankfurt mobilized the public with the x roads festival in 1999 in order to maintain the bunkers with moderate rental agreements for the cultural scene. The lead was the drummer Sepp'l Niemeyer from the group »Flatsch« from the Hedderheimer Musikbunker.

In this context, it was my task for the kick-off concert of the festival on November 21, 1999 in the BATSCHKAPP to paint the walls there with luminous paints - but only for this occasion and



not permanently. That is why I first painted the motifs I had planned on plastic fabric in my studio in order to then attach them to the BATSCHKAPP walls. I opted for figurative motifs, quotes across painting from art history

**Frankfurt-Hedderheimer Musikbunker:** 82 steps lead in the tower to the studio under the slate roof.

The rope with a pulley system hangs in the stairwell.



Entrance to the studio at »A« at the base of the tower.

Address:  
In der Römerstadt 28A  
60439 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

In the stairwell, the artist has placed elements from the BATSCHKAPP session x roads.





with frequent references to music and dance.

At this fantastic rock concert night, the Frankfurt bands performed without a fee, with the result that the bunkers were preserved for the Frankfurt cultural scene. After the event, I removed the painted parts and kept them.

This painting from 1999 became my starting point for the design of the stairwell in the tower of the Heddernheim bunker twenty-two years later.

Most of the painting that I did in the BATSCHKAPP Jazz Club in 1999 for the x roads festival, I now wallpapered on the stairwell walls. Sometimes I put newspaper under the painted fleece. Then I supplemented the recycled picture elements with drawings and paintings to create the collage »We're all in the same boat«. ☒

**Karin Rahts**

*on the tower stairs in front of the large-format dance dance.*

*Her Œuvre in details – work in progress.*





## Current Situation

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work in progress

*Karin Rahts* laying hands on a young man on newspaper.

*As of November 2021*

*more ...*





**Although we're all in the same boat,**  
*but until the sinking we will sit more comfortably on the upper deck in this country.*

## Impressum



**Chris Schuth**

*Foto: Maurice de Chlourigon*

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