

Press release 15.4.2021

Fellowship by invitation 2021/2022 awarded to Christian Helwing

Visual artist Christian Helwing is invited by the artistic direction of Künstlerhaus Lauenburg to participate in a one-year project fellowship (April 15, 2021 to April 15, 2022) funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Schleswig-Holstein.

Christian Helwing will develop an artistic and functional architectural concept at the interface of architecture and visual arts called "Besucher*Systeme". At the center of this concept is the spatial and content-related reformulation of the interior spaces and functions of the Künstlerhaus Lauenburg in connection with the modernized Stadtgalerie in the building next door. The connection of the two institutions in terms of content and space places extraordinary demands on the concept, whose potential lies in the interweaving and overlapping of artistic, architectural and usability considerations.

Already in 2016, Christian Helwing used the spatial conditions as material in his reinterpretation of the architectural conditions in the Künstlerhaus and developed a site-specific installation. The current concept is intended to remain permanently in the Künstlerhaus.

Christian Helwing understands architecture not as a fixed construct, but as a changeable space. This is shaped by various parameters such as the external shape or the function assigned to it, but can be reinterpreted. "The floor plan of the house provides certain parameters from which Christian Helwing derives reference points for his work in order to reveal architectural conditions and functional assignments."¹ The classic demarcation between architecture and sculpture is erased, by creating a walk-in sculpture.

Starting this year, the artistic direction of Künstlerhaus Lauenburg will award an annual fellowship, funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Schleswig-Holstein, by invitation to an artist with a special connection to Lauenburg. This fellowship is connected with an exhibition at Stadtgalerie Künstlerhaus Lauenburg. In addition, four residency scholarships in the fields of visual arts, literature and composition will be offered on a regular basis starting in 2022, which are also funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture Schleswig-Holstein.

¹ Translation of Marita Landgraf in: Double Blind, Christian Helwing, Künstlerhaus Lauenburg, Lauenburg, 2017, p. 6.