045 The Esch Clinics

HOW TO INVOLVE CITIZENS?

Matylda Krzykowski
Felix Ganzer

March 24, 2026
18:30-20:00

At the core of the lecture by Felix Ganzer and Matylda Krzykowski are projects such as KOKO – All All Welcome in the Austrian Salzkammergut, Spielstadt München and CIVIC at the Basel Academy of Art and Design – initiatives that explore collective practices, public participation, and new forms of institutional openness. What connects them is a shared commitment to creating spaces where diverse publics can gather and actively shape cultural but also political processes.

Conceived as a contribution to The Esch Clinics, the lecture examines how participatory formats can activate collective intelligence and foster more inclusive and representative forms of civic engagement.

A particular focus lies on communication as practice: how people are addressed, invited, and engaged; which formats reduce barriers and make diverse voices visible. Communication is understood not as mediation, but as an ongoing, open process of listening, co-creation, and negotiation.

Through concrete examples, Krzykowski and Ganzer show how design, language, and situational formats—from informal encounters to structured participatory frameworks—can be deployed to increase accessibility and build lasting relationships with different communities.

The lecture extends into an open invitation to the Public Quiz, developed as part of The Esch Clinics: a low-threshold, participatory format that brings the spirit of a citizens assembly into the informal setting of a local bar in Esch.

Join us on Thursday, 26 March at 6:30 PM at Casablanca.

Let's make the city!

FELIX GANZER is an Austrian architect, activist and artist developing sustainable construction prototypes, establishing social infrastructures and supporting political engagement. He has worked at the architectural offices Dunkelschwarz in Salzburg and b+ in Berlin. Recent projects are the community project KOKO, collaborative constructions, as a part of the Salzkammergut Cultural Capital 2024, Head of Architecture & Urban Planning at children's play city Mini-München and activating public space with SuperHof. Felix Ganzer is co-founder of Bürgerliste Hallein, a political citizens group and Bürgerinitiative Hallein, a citizens initiative advocating for empowerment of citizens. Together with Matylda Krzykowski he is currently transforming a 600 year old house in Hallein into a prototype for cultural heritage construction.

MATYLDA KRZYKOWSKI is a Polish-German transdisciplinary practitioner working with spaces, exhibitions, installations, scenographies, public talks, and public engaging formats. Recent projects are the co-curation of Institution Building at CIVIC Brussels, the curation of The Energy Show at Het Nieuwe Instituut Rotterdam, scripting and hosting Airtime, a 'TV Show' on (Swiss) Design and the installation You Don't Want Space, You Want To Fill It at Marsèll in Milan. Krzykowski teaches Choreography may refer to the design itself at Critical Inquiry Lab at Design Academy Eindhoven and Show Your Work at MA Design at HKB Bern. Since 2022 Krzykowski is the Artistic Director of CIVIC, an educational and experimental environment, at Basel Academy of Art and Design FHNW.

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KOKO (Collaborative Construction), ALL ALL WELCOME, an ephemeral social infrastructure in the Alpine village of Kirchham, Austria. Image: Sophie Köchert.



CIVIC, a social infrastructure, and an educational and experimental place, for students, teachers and the public, at Basel Academy of Art & Design. Image: Pati Grabowicz.