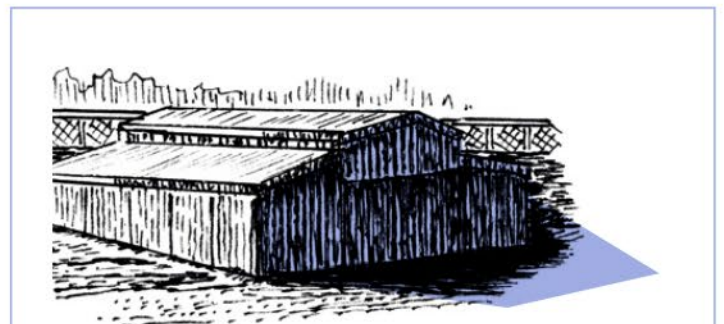


LIVING ARCHIVE

a laboratory for
documentary
comics

**OPEN
CALL**



sketches:
Kai Pfeiffer

We are looking for twelve comic artists to participate in a documentary comic project in Berlin.

The Pilecki Institute, an independent research unit in the heart of Berlin, has decided to enter the world of comics.

We want to create a laboratory situation in which a group of comic artists exchange their ideas and experiences, working together on twelve short individual comic strips - experimenting with the form of the documentary comic, or comic essay, and its narrative, informative and poetic possibilities, using historical source material.

OPEN CALL



Since 2019, our institute has been digitizing key documents related to the 20th century that are in the possession of the German Bundesarchiv, in accordance with an agreement signed between the two institutions. We would like the stories we have made accessible to reach an audience not only in academia but also in broader society through the medium of documentary comics.

The history of the last 70 years of the 20th century is crucial for the development of a proper approach to the challenges of the modern day, and for building consensus and constructive cooperation between European peoples.

In the course of the project, the participants will each create their own comic strip of approximately 12-16 pages.

The result at the end of the eight months should be a joint publication, edited by the Pilecki Institute and realized in co-production with a publishing house (tba).

The artistic direction of the project will be led by **Ulli Lust** (comic illustrator, professor at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Hanover), **Kai Pfeiffer** (comic illustrator, lecturer, curator) and **Monika Powalisz** (writer, playwright, comic scenarist).

In monthly meetings at the Pilecki Institute and other locations in Berlin, we will jointly review and discuss the state of comics throughout their creation, as well as explore new aspects of documentary comics, stimulated by lectures by the project leaders and special program items, such as an introduction to archive work and research during a visit to the Federal Archives in Berlin. In addition, the staff of the Pilecki Institute will provide advice, suggestions and fact-checking.

The programme will be supplemented by one-day meetings with international guests who will report on their practical experience, present their methods of work and engage with to the work of the project participants, followed by public lectures with a panel discussion.

Among those who have so far confirmed their participation are **Rutu Modan** ("The Heritage"), **Birgit Weyhe** ("Im Himmel ist Jahrmarkt"), **Leela Corman** ("Unterzakhn") and **Emmanuel Guibert** ("The Photographer").





We want to start the project with preliminary meetings with the group of twelve authors, or teams of authors, at the end of June or the beginning of July this year. The actual monthly program will begin in **September 2020**.

In addition to the monthly meetings, individual consultations with the project leaders are possible via email and video call.

Classes and workshops will be conducted in English, while individual consultations will be conducted in both English and German.

The project's programme, as well as the open meetings and master classes with foreign guests, will be carried out in accordance with the necessary rules and safety precautions demanded by the current state of the development of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The number of participants is limited to twelve comic artists or author-duos. Applications can be submitted by persons of full age who are resident in Berlin or who are able to attend the monthly programme onsite in Berlin without any problems.

Authors whose works will be published in the form of an anthology will receive an artistic fee of EUR 1,500 gross.

Applications:

Candidates are invited to send applications via e-mail to the following address: apply@pileckiinstitut.de by **20:00 on 15.06.2020**. Please include the title "**Living Archive**" in the subject of the message.

Applications should include:

- artistic biography or portfolio;
- samples of work (comics, storyboards) or a link to previous publications. Due to the fact that the workshops do not include drawing classes, it is required that applicants have experience with this artistic form;
- forms signed and sent as a scan:
 - declaration of the administration of personal data - [Annex 1](#);
 - declaration of consent to the processing of personal data - [Annex 2](#).

Accepted languages for application documents: English, Polish and German;

Recruitment will be decided by 25.06.2020, the list of candidates will be posted on the website of Pilecki Institute (www.pileckiinstitut.de). All applicants will also be notified by email;

The organizers are not required to justify the evaluation committee's decision. We do not anticipate an appeal procedure;

If qualified for participation in the project, the content of this document will be an attachment to the contract concluded between the candidate and the Pilecki Institute;

Please send any questions or concerns to: apply@pileckiinstitut.de

Ulli Lust

Ulli Lust, born in 1967, emigrated from Vienna to Berlin in 1995. Since then, she has been drawing comic documentaries with pointed observations drawn from modern everyday life, such as a report on a Berlin shopping center (in *Fashionvictims, Trendverächter - Comicreportagen aus Berlin*, 2008). In autumn 2009, a comic about her youth appeared in the form of a travel and picaresque novel combined with an existential teenage drama *Heute ist der letzte Tag vom Rest Deines Lebens*. The book has been translated into multiple languages and has received several awards, including the Prix de Revelation at the Angouleme Comic Festival, the Ignaz Award and the LA Times Book Award in the United States.

In 2013, Lust's book *Flughunde*, a comic adaptation of Marcel Beyer's novel of the same name, was published by Suhrkamp-Verlag. Her autobiographical graphic novel about an unusual tripartite relationship *Wie ich versuchte ein guter Mensch zu sein* (Suhrkamp, 2017) made it onto the shortlist for the Fauve d'or in Angouleme in 2018 and won an Ink-Pot Award from Comicon San Diego.

She has been teaching drawing and comics at Hanover University since September 2013.

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES



Kai Pfeiffer

Born in Berlin, Kai Pfeiffer now lives there as a comic book author and visual artist, creating various comic projects which cover fiction, abstraction and reportage. His first book *Opérations esthétiques* was published in 2000 by Le Dernier Cri (Marseille). *Radioactive forever*, his documentary comic about the Chernobyl reactor disaster, was released in Japan in 2012, (in *No Nukes*, ed. Ryuichi Sakamoto). His series *Realm* explores the space of visual narration in "concrete" or, as the author puts it, "molecular" drawings, among others, including in *LAND*, *stadtelphen*, and *Glory Hole* (in: *Strapazin*). He is the editor of the anthologies *Plaque* and *flitter*, the curator of several comic exhibitions, including at the Kunsthaus Dortmund and Comicon Napoli.

Pfeiffer taught comics at the Illustration & Comic class at the Kassel Art School between 2009 and 2014, as well as numerous workshops, seminars and lectures at international institutions.

He is an editor (including *Heute ist der letzte Tag vom Rest deines Lebens* by Ulli Lust) and a translator (*Der Jude von New York* by Ben Katchor). In 2015, *Glücklich wie Blei im Getreide* was published by Suhrkamp in collaboration with the Austrian author Clemens Setz. In 2018, he co-directed the documentary film *Urwald* with Ulli Lust for arte square, for which he also contributed music and sound design. The semi-documentary comic strip series *Der Flaneur*, in collaboration with the illustrator Tim Dinter, appeared in 2003 in the *Berliner Seite* of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. Since 2011, he has been part of an artistic duo with the Brussels artist Dominique Goblet. Her first graphic novel, *Plus si entente*, was published in 2014 by Frémok and Actes sud in French, the German edition, *Bei Gefallen auch mehr...* followed in spring 2019.

Monika Powalisz

A graduate of the Department of Polish Philology at the University of Łódź, the Department of Theatrical Directing at the Theater Academy in Warsaw and the Wajda School in Warsaw. Prior to attending university, she debuted with the drama *Rapsod dla Krowy* in 1992, for which she won the first prize in the competition "Szukamy Polskiego Szekspira" organized by Assitej Polska.

Writing dramas and stories was her main work for many years. As a playwright, she co-founded the G8 Playwrights Group and the Wytwórnia Theater. She participated in the National Theater Drama Laboratory project. She wrote the play *Portret Heleny S.* as part of the TR/PL program, which premiered at Teatr Rozmaitości in 2007, directed by Aleksandra Konieczna. In 2007, the author also began to write scripts for film, television and comic books. In 2007, her script for the comic *Ostatni Koncert* (cartoonist Tymek Jezierski) won the first prize in the Warsaw Rising Museum's competition "Uprising '44 comics". In 2012, the Jewish Community in Warsaw published her comic book anthology entitled *Złote pszczoły. Żydzi międzywojennej Warszawy*. A year later, she published the comic *Płaszcz Ajewskiego* (cartoonist Tymek Jezierski).

The scripts for her comics have been published in comic anthologies such as *Chopin. New Romantic* and *Polski Komiks kobiecy*. In 2015, she created the series of comics *Historie i kreski* (cartoonist Jacek Michalski) for the Polin Museum in Warsaw, devoted to Warsaw's Jews. In 2018, she published her first novel, *Ósme ciało*. Privately, the author is interested in art history and modernist architecture. She has been living in Berlin since 2019.

