

# RECLAIMING THE NEW

The end of history is over: We are building a new city! No matter who we are, where we are from or how long we are planning on staying; we are all citizens of the new city.

We go to the museum, invent tools to solve the problems of tomorrow, we encounter a monster, get together for a barbecue in our garden plot, we listen to the ghosts, write love letters, meet on the observation deck at sunset or for a drink in the city centre, and we ask ourselves: What does the city we want to live in look like and what should be happening there?

“We Are Building a New City”, is a claim we are all too familiar with here. The city of Oberhausen for instance is quite new: Its beginnings date back to the early 18th century, when industry first settled there. Its current state is thus a product of its industrial heritage. With time, industry largely disappeared, while Oberhausen continued to exist. Consequently, in the early 1990s, Oberhausen’s former industrial area was reimagined as a ‘new city centre’ for shopping and leisure. But what happens to a city when you remove its actual foundation, its raison d’être? What to do with a reality that is set in stone and concrete, with architectural and infrastructural prerequisites from another era, 250 or 25 years ago? “We Are Building a New City”, a claim derived from a song by German new wave band Palais Schaumburg, further underlines the possibility of simply starting anew, ignoring the status quo and instead raising the fundamental questions of how we want to live together and how to achieve this.

Thus, in September 2016, a new city will come into existence in Oberhausen, one we can all start living in.



## CITY CENTRE → 1

geheimagentur will construct a city centre in Oberhausen’s main train station, intended as a contact point and place of exchange for all residents of and visitors to the new city. All information relevant to the new city can be found here, in addition to workshops, parties, performances and presentations. Play a round of table tennis, try the drink of the day or rent a bicycle to explore the new city.

- 📍 Willy-Brandt-Platz 1
- 🕒 Daily 12 am–12 pm

### CITY TOURS

The City Centre is also the meeting point for all guided tours of the new city, arranged by the geheimagentur.

- 📍 From the City Centre, Willy-Brandt-Platz 1
- 🕒 September 3 and 10: 3 pm, September 6: 6 pm
- 🔗 Register via [info@geheimagentur.net](mailto:info@geheimagentur.net) / the City Centre

## INFRASTRUCTURES

### ALLES AB MORGEN → 3

EVERYTHING AS OF TOMORROW | WE ARE VISUAL (Felix Jung and Marc Einsiedel) | WE ARE VISUAL research and imagine the problems of tomorrow and claim to already know what’s to be done, before the problems manifest themselves. WE ARE VISUAL will host a workshop in a futuristically designed trailer that also serves as a showroom and laboratory. Here, they design and produce the tools and everyday objects to help solve tomorrow’s problems.

- 📍 Will-Quadflieg-Platz: September 1–4, Altmarkt: September 5–8, Bahnhofsvorplatz: September 9–11
- 🕒 Daily 2 pm–7 pm

### ARCHÄOLOGISCHES STADTMUSEUM → 6

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CITY MUSEUM | Susanne Kudielka and Kaspar Wimberley | As a visitor of Oberhausen one inevitably ends up facing the city’s industrial past. Europe’s first chewing gum museum bids farewell to the old and tells the story of today. Instead of digging deeper, it investigates the upmost layer of earth. However, the museum is not just an area for chewing gum exhibits. It also acts as a stimulator of thoughts and talks about the role of museums and local policies of identity.

- 📍 Marktstraße 107
- 🕒 Daily 2 pm–7 pm

### DAS MONSTER → 4

THE MONSTER | Lars Moritz | There is a monster living in the new city. It resembles a giant lizard, but nobody knows which species it belongs to. Sometimes, at night, it crawls up the Knappenthalde (mining heap). At other times it can be spotted in the pedestrian zone. People say, the monster lives in the city’s former mining shafts and tunnels. It embodies the uncanny, the sinister, ready to break forth at any given moment. And that is exactly why it has become one of the city’s major tourist attractions. Book a monster safari or buy a popular monster souvenir in the new city centre.

- 🕒 September 2, 7:30 pm: Monster Safari by bicycle, from City Centre
- September 8, 6 pm: Monster Barbecue at In Hostel Veritas
- September 8, 7:30 pm: Monster Safari by foot, from In Hostel Veritas
- 🔗 Register via [info@geheimagentur.net](mailto:info@geheimagentur.net) or directly in the City Centre

### GUTEHOFFNUNGSGEISTER → 2

GHOSTSOFGOODHOPE | Denise Ritter | Denise Ritter will realize a multi-channel, electro-acoustic sound installation on the abandoned platforms 2 and 3 of Oberhausen’s main train station. The installation features field recordings from the city’s leisure and entertainment culture, thereby rendering audible the ‘ghosts’ that took the place of Oberhausen’s cultural and historical identity.

- 📍 Willy-Brandt-Platz 1, Museum Platforms 2/3
- 🕒 Daily 12 am–10 pm

### PARZELLE 1 → 5

PLOT 1 | Dirk Schlichting | A row of garden plots will be placed in the middle of the city’s former pedestrian zone. The initial phase will feature the allotment of a ‘sample garden’. As such, a new function will be assigned to a designated area, thus creating a juxtaposition of representation and privacy, of old and new urban space. The sample garden can be rented and used by residents to host a spontaneous barbecue or simply spend a summer afternoon relaxing in the garden.

- 📍 Marktstraße, at number 161
- 🕒 Daily 12 am–9 pm
- 🔗 Rentals (for up to four people) via [info@geheimagentur.net](mailto:info@geheimagentur.net) / the City Centre

## PROGRAMM

### DESTRUCTION WORKSHOP

Cardboard models of the former city are taken apart in a true celebration of destruction. After all, there is no construction without destruction.

- 📍 Simply pass by the City Centre on
- 🕒 August 31, between 4 pm–10 pm

### NEW CITY OPENING

- 📍 City Centre, Willy-Brandt-Platz 1
- 🕒 September 1, open to visits from 3 pm on
- 7:30 pm: Speeches and Official Opening
- 8 pm: Destruction and New Beginning
- 🔗 Afterwards: Party with Tillamanda and geheimagentur

### WITH A LITTLE HELP / WARUM WIR REISEN

WHY WE TRAVEL | Panos Sklaventis presents his poster series “With a Little Help” in public space. The series features the artist’s friends, portrayed as exemplary citizens of a new city. Meanwhile, Saša Šimpraga exhibits her work “Warum wir reisen” (WHY WE TRAVEL) at the main station: a small metal badge listing reasons why people should travel, extracted from an old guide book.

- 📍 From City Centre, Willy-Brandt-Platz 1
- 🕒 September 3, 6 pm

### SWEAT SHOP RECORD RELEASE PARTY

Back in 2015, as part of their musical “Sweat Shop”, geheimagentur told the big, tragic love story between a city and its industry. We now invite you to the record release party, featuring Knarf Rellöm and Tillamanda!

- 📍 City Centre, Willy-Brandt-Platz 1
- 🕒 September 3, 9 pm

### THEATRE FESTIVAL

In collaboration with “Monster Workshop” and “Alles ab morgen” (Everything as of Tomorrow).

- 📍 Will-Quadflieg-Platz
- 🕒 September 4, from 2 pm on

### AMOROUS WRITER IN RESIDENCE

The new city not only has a post office, it also has an amorous writer in residence. During her performance Marie-Luise O’Byrne-Brandl assists people with formulating and fabulating love letters.

- 📍 Main Station Square
- 🕒 September 6, 3 pm–6 pm

### OBSERVATION DECK

- 📍 Lothringer Straße 60, 4th floor
- 🕒 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays: 9 am–6 pm
- Wednesdays and Fridays: 9 am–4 pm
- 🔗 Sundowner: September 6, 8 pm, Drinks on the terrace, with an eye on the horizon.

### MUSEOLOGICAL FORUM FOR UTOPIAN IDENTITIES

The archaeological city museum invites you to a collective chewing event: Does our city want or can it have an identity?

- 📍 Marktstraße 107
- 🕒 September 7, 7 pm

### THE REHEARSAL

Irena Ristic’s “Sociodrama Workshop” is an interactive presentation of her research about the self-organization of the cultural scenes in Oberhausen and Belgrade.

- 📍 City Centre, Willy-Brandt-Platz 1
- 🕒 September 9, 6 pm

### MAKE YOUR OWN CITY / WORK LIKE A DONKEY, LIVE LIKE A MAN!

In “Make Your Own City” Stefan Ghenciulescu reports on ‘citizen mayors’, gold fever, guerilla restauration, postapocalyptic wildlife and other civic adventures in Romania. “Work Like a Donkey, Live Like a Man!” is Önder Özengi’s tale of the division of labor between humans and donkeys, collecting trash on the streets of Mardin (Turkey).

- 📍 City Centre, Willy-Brandt-Platz 1
- 🕒 September 9, 8 pm

### RADIO / MONSTER / EXODOS

Haris Sahačić: Actopolis Radio. A live radio show about ACTOPOLIS, composed of interviews and field recordings conducted in participating cities.

Lars Moritz: A lecture comprising unpublished audio and visual material about the need for and value of monsters in collective and private life.

Afterwards: Disco Exodos & Karaoke Dub with Tillamanda and geheimagentur.

- 🕒 September 10, 8 pm

### PICKNICK! PARK!

Pay-as-you-wish, with Chef de Cuisine Sebastian Brimmer.

- 📍 Meeting Point: City Centre
- 🕒 September 11, 4 pm

Actopolis | The Art of Action  
A project of the Goethe-Institut and Urbane Künste Ruhr

Artistic directors: Katja Aßmann, Angelika Fitz, Martin Fritz

- [actopolis.net](http://actopolis.net)
- [geheimagentur.net](http://geheimagentur.net)



September 1 to 11, 2016  
Oberhausen  
Curated by geheimagentur

# ACTOPOLIS

Questions concerning the future of urban life can no longer be answered on a local level alone. That is why ACTOPOLIS is bringing together artists, urbanists, activists and curators from six cities in Southeast Europe (Ankara /Mardin, Athens, Belgrade, Bucharest, Sarajevo, Zagreb) and Oberhausen. Art in the urban sphere is perceived as a collective practise, transverse to the familiar. Alternative communities, publics and platforms have the ability to reveal new spaces of possibility inside as well as in between cities.

We Are Building a New City is curated by geheimagentur and part of ACTOPOLIS. ACTOPOLIS | The Art of Action is a joint project by Urbane Künste Ruhr and the Goethe-Institut, establishing an international testbed for questions of future urban life. Theater Oberhausen is involved as a local partner.

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Production management for geheimagentur:  
 ehrliche Arbeit – freies Kulturbüro

- **1**  
**STADTZENTRUM**  
 Willy-Brandt-Platz 1  
 Daily 12 am–12 pm  
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 Register via  
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 the City Centre
- **2**  
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 Daily 12 am–10 pm
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 Marktstraße 107  
 Daily 2 pm–7 pm

