

«Stretching thresholds, holding streams»

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An art project by Jeanne van Heeswijk, Sophie Mak-Schram, Lina Zeller, Sara Friech, Les Complices, Marieta Chemeli Kiptalam and Cihan Inan, Kenza Benabderrazik and the SAE Greenhouse Lab, Aurore Gayet and Zentralwäscherei, Carla Peca, Etienne Ost and Vicky Baderna, active at Feministisches Streikhaus Zürich, Walesca Frank, Laura Rivas Kaufmann, Joslyne Ohoka and Black Stammtisch, Chantelle Lue and the School of Commons, Welcome to School (Blaue Klasse and Munira Nour, Safaa Nour and Sabine Hageman), Stiftung St. Jakob, Flechtere, Mario Espinoza, Khanya, Natalja Burkhardt and Radio LoRa, Autonome Schule Zürich

The exhibition lasts from Saturday, 28 September 2024 to Sunday, 19 January 2025.

Jeanne van Heeswijk makes **Socially Engaged Art**. Socially Engaged Art means: The artist creates a project together with different groups of people. The Migros Museum of Contemporary Art works with this kind of art for the first time.

Who is part of this project?

- The artist Jeanne van Heeswijk
- The artist Sophie Mak-Schram
- Groups of people who live and work near the museum
- The Migros Museum of Contemporary Art

What is this project about?

The project is called «Stretching thresholds, holding streams». When you go through a door, you cross a line on the floor. This line is called a «threshold». You need to lift your feet to walk over a threshold. But there are other thresholds, too – not only in a doorway. «Threshold» can also mean: line, limit or border.

Many museums are like castles. The museum decides what it wants to show. Visitors of the museum can only look at the things in the museum. Sometimes, museums are not for everyone. These museums are only for some people. For example: The exhibition in a museum is difficult to understand. Some people know more than others. Therefore, they can understand what the museum is showing. Some people know less than others. Therefore, they may not understand the exhibition of the museum. We can also say: The threshold of this museum is high. In other words, often the language used in museums involves words and ideas that might not be accessible to all people.

A place for all people

Artist Jeanne van Heeswijk thinks: The museum should be a place for everyone. This is why she has created this project with artist Sophie Mak-Schram. Jeanne and Sophie invite groups and people who live and work near the museum: These people are all part of the project. And more people can join the project and create art together.

Everyone together thinks about the museum: What crosses the threshold to come out of the museum? What crosses the threshold to go into the museum?

Everyone thinks about the museum together: What comes out of the museum via the threshold? And what comes over the threshold into the museum via the threshold? It's like a river:

- There is a stream flowing out of the museum. For example: The museum influences visitors with artwork and with ideas. The stream of artwork and ideas flows from the museum to the people. People learn something from the museum.
- There is also a stream flowing into the museum. For example: The visitors bring something to the museum: their knowledge and their wishes. The stream of knowledge and wishes flows into the museum. The visitors change the museum with what they know and want.

A stream of water changes all the time. It changes its path and it changes the world around it. Our museum also changes all the time. Together with all the people, we change the exhibition again and again:

- You can always discover something new.
- Often, we have new activities.

You can think about ideas, and you can learn something. You can sit down on comfortable seats to take a rest and to talk to other people.

And you can help to change the thresholds of the museum as well.