

## Fact Sheet

# URBAN NATION MUSEUM FOR URBAN CONTEMPORARY ART

A unique global institution for urban contemporary art in the heart of Berlin

### About URBAN NATION

URBAN NATION is an international institution for artists and projects that is setting new standards as a museum within the Berlin cultural landscape. URBAN NATION is rethinking the classic definition of a museum, and its work is not limited to within the museum's walls: Works of art created in public spaces are also part of the curation. Interactive workshops and pedagogical formats are driving forward urban life.

The vision of a global art community, of a network without borders, became a reality on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, when the URBAN NATION MUSEUM FOR URBAN CONTEMPORARY ART opened its doors. Behind URBAN NATION is Stiftung Berliner Leben, which was founded by Geowobag.

The URBAN NATION initiative has been transforming Berlin's facades into gigantic outdoor galleries since 2013 and connecting people with their city through works of art in outdoor spaces and integrated neighborhood projects. It was initiated by Yasha Young. Since mid-October 2019, Jan Sauerwald has been Head of the URBAN NATION Museum.

The museum itself can be found in a renovated "Gründerzeit" building in Berlin-Schöneberg at Bülowstraße 7. The already existing building was redesigned into a museum according to innovative plans from the architectural firm GRAFT Architekten. Different from conventional museums, the architecture and surfaces of the building turn into image media, making the building itself a work of art. The mobile façade elements are maintained and preserved along with the classic image collection. Many artists who were originally active outdoors can now be found with studio work indoors. The museum's interior, which was also designed by GRAFT Architekten, offers an exceptional experience: URBAN NATION literally brings the street into the building. A gallery walkway, which runs through the two-story interior, makes it possible to view the exhibited works from a distance as well as from up close.

### Rotating Exhibitions and Exciting Workshops

With the opening exhibition UNique. UNited. UNstoppable. in September 2017, the URBAN NATION Museum began its normal operations. That same opening weekend, there was an art mile along Bülowstraße that showed installations, sculptures, and performances from national and international artists. Currently, visitors can view the permanent exhibition The Power Of Art As A Social Architect, which transforms the former white cube into a black box and tells the story of URBAN NATION. At the first URBAN NATION Biennial in September 2019, 17 artists took on the topics of sustainability, urbanity, and environment. The emphases of the building's work are international group exhibitions, the alignment of its content with the city of Berlin, museographical aspects, as well as the artist residence program Fresh A.I.R.

Up to now, URBAN NATION has worked with the following artists: Sandra Chevrier, Nomad Clan, 1010, Filthy Luker, Mia Florentine Weiss, 1UP, Vermibus, Dan Rawlings, Ekow Nimako, Coderch & Malavia, Herakut, Tankpetrol, ICY & SOT, Olek, Nuno Viegas, Fin Dac, Fanakapan, ELLE and [many more...](#)

### URBAN NATION and the Neighborhood

URBAN NATION participates actively in the local life and social inner-city development as an open building for all visitors. At different locations throughout the urban area, façade paintings

make for an outdoor gallery (e.g. Bülowstraße, Art Park Tegel). The art is used as an integrative force to help encourage a dialogue between residents, visitors, and artists. In this way, artists are able to be inspired by their environment and the respective neighborhood and aim to serve as a facilitator of communication alongside URBAN NATION. In addition, introducing more color and art improves residents' quality of life by enabling them to identify positively with their neighborhood.

### **FRESH A.I.R.**

With the artist-in-residence scholarships, the museum is also expanding its tasks with the goal of promoting an international exchange in the areas of urban and new contemporary art. Up to 13 scholarship recipients are invited to attend a 6-month long work stay in Berlin. The artist-in-residence scholarships provide artists and cultural professionals from the area of urban and new contemporary art the time, space, and resources to dedicate themselves to an artistic project that is oriented towards Stiftung Berliner Leben's funding priorities. Through this funding, scholarship recipients are given the opportunity during their stay to gain new inspiration and develop themselves artistically while being integrated into Berlin cultural life, as well as to gain important experience for their future careers.

A new living environment, as well as their encounters and discussions with other artists provide the ideal conditions for the unfolding of their own creativity and the triggering of new artistic processes of creation.

### **Executive Director**

Jan Sauerwald ([j.sauerwald@urban-nation.com](mailto:j.sauerwald@urban-nation.com))

### **Opening Hours**

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 AM – 6 PM

### **Address**

Bülowstraße 7, 10783 Berlin

### **Barrier-free Access**

### **Free Admission**

### **Tours**

Per request ([event@urban-nation.com](mailto:event@urban-nation.com))

### **Website**

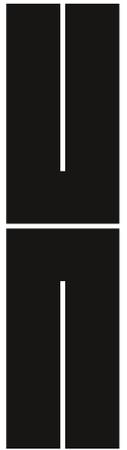
[www.urban-nation.com](http://www.urban-nation.com)

### **Social Media**

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## **About the URBAN NATION MUSEUM FOR URBAN CONTEMPORARY ART**

URBAN NATION is an international institution for artists and projects that has been setting new museum standards within the Berlin cultural landscape since 2017. URBAN NATION is rethinking the classic definition of a museum, and its activities are not limited to the actual museum spaces: Works of art in public spaces are also part of the curation. Interactive workshops and new pedagogical formats generate stimuli for the future of urban life. The focus is on the promotion of young artists in urban contemporary art. Under the guiding theme of "Connect. Create. Care", URBAN NATION invites local and international artists, as well as curators to Berlin in order to design urban spaces. This results in an inspiring exchange between well-known and up-and-coming creatives. The URBAN NATION MUSEUM is a location to meet and discuss, as well as an archive. URBAN NATION is anchored in the charitable foundation Stiftung Berliner Leben.