

Press Information

Berlin, 30 MARCH 2016

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URBAN NATION One Wall: A Starling is Born – Collin van der Sluijs and Super A give Tegel a House-High Artwork

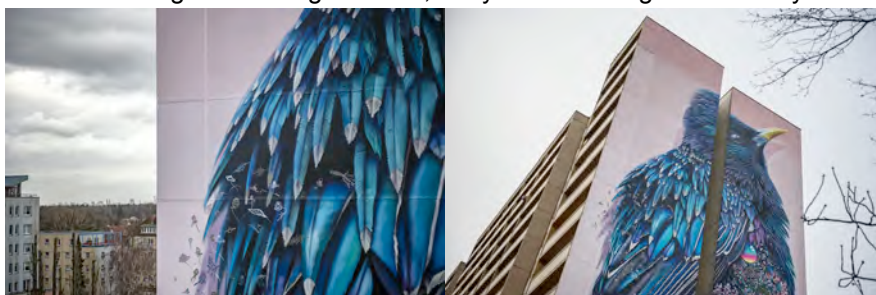


The starling sprayed by the artists Collin van der Sluijs and Super A in Reinickendorf is 42 metres high. © URBAN NATION

The two street artists **Collin van der Sluijs** and **Super A** gave a little bird a taste of the big time on the wall of Neheimer Strasse 6 in Reinickendorf. The two Dutchmen sprayed a giant starling onto the back wall, which measures over 42 metres in height.

Their choice of this little songbird as *motif* was no accident. “The starling shows us what can be achieved when we join forces. It usually moves in flocks and skilfully uses this formation as a means of survival”, explains Yasha Young, director of URBAN NATION. The two artists, who have worked together before, have often explored how people can achieve change together without descending into chaos or having to submit to hierarchies. Their works have shown that the starling can be a model.

At first glance, the bird has a non-descript appearance, with its dark plumage. But the feathers beneath the outer coat shimmer colourfully in the sunshine. Hence, Collin van der Sluijs and Super A adorned their artwork with brightly-coloured flowers, entwined along the starling’s breast, to symbolise the great diversity of Berlin.



An eye for detail: the starling’s plumage is overgrown with brightly-coloured flowers. © URBAN NATION



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NATION

PRESSEKONTAKT

FÜR FRAGEN ZU DEN
KUNSTLERN
YASHA YOUNG
OFFICE@URBAN-NATION.NET

FÜR MEDIENANFRAGEN
ALLGEMEIN
Dr. GABRIELE MITTAG
030 / 4708-1525
PR@URBAN-NATION.NET

URBAN NATION
PRODUCTION OFFICE
BULOWSTRASSE 97
D-10783 BERLIN

PR@URBAN-NATION.NET
URBAN-NATION.NET

URBAN NATION IST
EINE INITIATIVE DER
STIFTUNG BERLINER LEBEN

VORSTANDSVORSITZENDER:
HENDRIK JELLEMA
GESCHAFTSSITZ:
ALT-MOABIT 101 A
D-10559 BERLIN

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The mural is the third house-high artwork to grace the neighbourhood. In September 2015, the twin brothers HOWNOSM completed their work "On tiptoes", which depicts a convoluted figure reaching for the stars. In June, Fintan Magee decorated house number two with a giant spray painting of two people separated by a war-torn landscape.

One Wall – One Message

"One Wall" – under this heading, outstanding street artists regularly transform a house wall in Berlin. The "One Walls" are initiated by the artist network URBAN NATION, run by Yasha Young, which regularly invites big names from the street art scene to Berlin, to change the city's face long-term with their urban art.



Collin van der Sluijs and Super A come from the small Dutch town of Goes. © URBAN NATION

About Collin van der Sluijs and Super A

Both artists trace their artistic roots to painting. Super A, aka Stefan Thelen, is known for combining classical painting techniques with elements of graphic design. It is not the first time he has covered a house wall with an enormous image of a bird: He has done a whole series of works depicting giant pigeons looking down at the observer. In addition to his internationally renowned urban art projects, Collin van der Sluijs is also active as an illustrator and gallery owner. His works repeatedly address the personal challenges of every-day life.

We will gladly send you **photographs** in print-quality resolution upon request.

About URBAN NATION

Buildings are turned into canvasses and the city is transformed into a museum: URBAN NATION is an innovative network for artists, projects and neighbourhood initiatives. The focus is on promoting young artists devoted to Urban Contemporary Art. Since late 2013, URBAN NATION has been inviting local and international artists and curators at regular intervals to work in Berlin and redesign urban spaces and create positive impulses. The result is an inspirational exchange between established and up-and-coming young artists in public nonprofit spaces. Workshops and exhibitions promote a sense of community and public participation. URBAN NATION is an initiative of the foundation Stiftung Berliner Leben and is directed by Yasha Young. For more information go to www.urban-nation.net.

About Berliner Leben – a Gewobag Foundation

With the establishment of Berliner Leben in 2013, the city-owned company Gewobag assumed responsibility for continual and long-term district development in Berlin's boroughs. At the centre of the foundation's work is the promotion of equal rights of participation and intercultural integration. Berliner Leben promotes art and culture, projects for young people and senior citizens, and sport. For more information about the foundation visit www.stiftung-berliner-leben.de.



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FÜR FRAGEN ZU DEN
KUNSTLERN
YASHA YOUNG
OFFICE@URBAN-NATION.NET

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030 / 4708-1525
PR@URBAN-NATION.NET

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