



Franz Wanner
Mind the Memory Gap
Maschinenhaus M1

24 March – 14 July 2024
Opening: 23 March 2024, 6 – 9 pm

Curator: Kathrin Becker

In his first solo exhibition in Berlin, Franz Wanner investigates the present-day repercussions of the widespread exploitation of forced labour under National Socialism. Using photographs, texts, films, and objects, the artist weaves a narrative on social continuities from the Nazi era to today, pinpointing gaps in German's collective memory.

Under the Nazi regime, approximately 26 million people were exploited as forced labourers. A large part of German society participated in this exploitation: corporations and medium-sized companies, crafts, agriculture, universities, research institutes, the arts and film industries, churches and monasteries, government agencies, families, and individuals profited from the work of forced labourers. In the German Reich alone, some 13 million forced labourers were used, including around 8.4 million civilians deported from occupied territories to Germany for forced labour. These civilian forced labourers were distributed among some 30,000 camps – roughly the number of supermarkets and grocery stores in Germany today.

The vast majority of citizens under National Socialist rule actively participated in the use of forced labourers – a stark contrast to a contemporary narrative where approximately 80% of Germans believe their ancestors did not employ forced labourers. Two of the former forced labour camps still exist as architectural ensembles: in Berlin-Schöneweide and Munich-Neuaußing. These two sites form the starting point for a multilayered artistic exploration.

Developed for the KINDL in collaboration with the Harun Farocki Institute, Berlin, with the support of the Farocki Forum at the Department of Film Studies at the University of Zurich, and the Erwin and Gisela von Steiner Foundation.

The exhibition will be shown at Kunst Meran / Merano Arte from October 2025 to January 2026.

Franz Wanner (* 1975 in Bad Tölz, lives in Zurich and Munich)
roulettepolar.net

Select solo exhibitions: Platform, Munich (2015); Rathausgalerie | Kunsthalle Munich (2015); GEDOK Stuttgart (2015); Forum für zeitgenössische Fotografie, Fotomuseum Munich (2014); GFLK Halle Süd, Galerie für Landschaftskunst, Hamburg (2014); basis e.V., Produktions- und Ausstellungsplattform für Gegenwartskunst, Frankfurt am Main (2014); Museum für Photographie Braunschweig (2013)

Select group exhibitions: Museum Villa Stuck, Munich (2023); Goethe-Institut, Paris (2020); Museum of Moscow (2018); Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus and Kunstbau, Munich (2017, 2016); galerie KUB, Forum für zeitbasierte Kunst und politische Kultur, Leipzig (2013); Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art, Ekaterinburg (2010); Spektre Gallery, New York (2010); Museum of Contemporary Art Shanghai (2007)

KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art

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