

Un/Commoning
Curatorial Practices through
Multimodal Engagements

Out of Focus

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Out of Focus brings together anthropological and artistic projects that challenge dominant modes of seeing, listening, sensing, knowing, and narrating. Across film, photography, sound, installation, performance and app design, the exhibition explores how blurriness, fragmentation, and participation can become tools for resistance, care, and shared meaning-making. From feminist co-curation to decolonial archives and queer sound intervention, each contribution questions what is centered, what is left out of frame, and how we might create commons through uncertainty.

The exhibition departs from the idea of un/commoning: a movement where certain narratives, images, and media practices help build communities of resistance and care, while others reinforce exclusion, hierarchies, and control. By working with blurred visuals, sounds, broken archives, participatory formats, performance and open-source tools, contributors resist the demand for clarity and control. Instead, they open up spaces of uncertainty, tension, and co-creation. Thus, the exhibition ›Out of Focus‹ is an invitation to dwell in vagueness, to see differently, and to imagine otherwise. Through the curatorial project, we ask: Can we use the unfocused to shift attention away from extractive practices and towards collective ways of knowing? Can we turn curatorial spaces into commons, sites of shared care, critique, and speculation?

As part of the GASCA-Conference 2025 in Cologne, the Working Group Media(anthropology) curated the exhibition ›Out of Focus‹ for selected intervention spaces in and with the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum. From Tuesday, Sept 30th to Thursday, Oct 2nd, 22 selected works are on display at various locations in the museum. On Wednesday, Oct 1st, 2025, there will be an exhibition reception and a movement activation.

Contributors

14 Anna Lisa Ramella & Ben Bernhard *Leftovers*

1 Sebastian Ritter Choquehuanca, Kathrin Schilbach, Viola Cantù, Sevi Bayraktar *Moving Bodies — Moving Relationships*, movement activation, Wednesday Oct 1st, 6:30 pm

15 Selen Göbelez & Yann Le Crouhennec *Contemporary Archaeology*

2 Gregory Gan *Empathy for Concrete Things*

16 Kivildim Zafer Teoma *Four Weeks*

3 Beatrix Hoffmann-Ihde *Enmeshed and Entwined*

17 Suzana Jovicic *Out of Funding*

4 Luca Bruls *«Is Sharing Caring?»*

18 Mirjam Kislat Löwen, Götter

5 Sadaf Biglari *A Guide to Dance for Adult Children*

19 Caterina Sartori *Living Room*

6 Félicie Kertudo *Bodies of Water*

20 Christoph Balzar *Resonanzraum #*

7 Dafina Gashi *Lost in the Light*

21 Claudia Liebelt, Ilke Imer & Mayis Tokel *Thinking with Scents*

8 General Assn. Art/Anthropology *Collective 52 Stones: Redescriptions of a Colonial Archive*

22 Isabel Bredenbröcker & Adam Pultz *Queer Sonic Finger Prints*

9 Sarica Robyn Balsari *Living on the Edge*

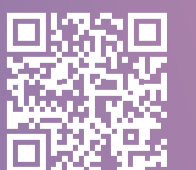
10 Arjang Omrani, Tahere Aboofazeli & Simone Pfeifer *WE ARE NOT CARPETS*

11 Corinna Duschl *Hot Coals*

12 Anja Dreschke & Michaela Schäuble *Santu Paulu Meu Falla Guarire*

13 Rebecca Carlson & Maximilian Schrade *Tracing the Rhine*

All works
and descriptions:



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Curatorial Team: Anja Dreschke, Simone Pfeifer,
Anna Lisa Ramella, Beatrix Hoffmann-Ihde together with
Nanette Snoep and Kristina Hopp;
Curatorial assistant: Romy Berthold

Tuesday, Sept 30th, 10 am — 6 pm,
Wednesday, Oct 1st, 10 am — midnight,
Thursday, Oct 2nd, 10 am — 10 pm

Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum – Cultures of the World
Cäcilienstraße 29 — 33, 50667 Köln

Exhibition reception and movement activation:
Wednesday, Oct 1st 2025, 6 — 8 pm

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General Assn. Art/Anthropology Collective
Gregory Gan
Ilke Iner
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Maximilian Schrade
Mays Tokel
Michaela Schäuble
Mirjam Kislát
Rebecca Carlson
Sarica Robyn Balsari
Sadaf Biglari
Sebastian Ritter Choquehuanca
Sevi Bayraktar
Selen Göbelez
Simone Pfeifer
Suzana Jovicic
Tahere Aboofazeli
Viola Cantù
Yann Le Crouhennec

30.9. — 2.10.2025

Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum
Cologne

Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum
Kulturen der Welt

LEUPHANA
UNIVERSITÄT SACHS-ANHALT

GSKA
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie

Media Studies
Working Group

Media Anthropology