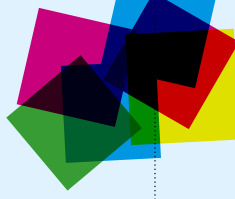




Delight- ful Doing

Public Lecture Series 2025/26

**Trier University
of Applied
Sciences**
Campus
Gemstones &
Jewellery



Delightful Doing

Desire, Pleasure, and the Art of Engagement

In the winter semester 2025/26, the Campus for Gemstones & Jewellery in Idar-Oberstein will launch its first interdisciplinary lecture series, Delightful Doing. Open to members of the university as well as interested guests from outside the institution, the series invites participants to explore the many dimensions of desire, creativity, and action.

Delight is often the catalyst for human action. It arises from an attraction to the other – whether people, ideas, objects, materials, or processes – and sets in motion a sensuous engagement that momentarily dissolves the boundaries between subject and object. Unlike duty or external obligation, this impulse springs from encounters with that which feels different, complementary, and enriching to everyday existence.

Far from being an end in itself, such delight fosters presence, connection, and vitality. In reaching toward the other, living relationships to the world emerge through touch, interaction, and transformation. The lecture series opens a space to rethink and experience the possibilities of acting and making with delight at their core.

The public lecture series “Delightful Doing” takes place on Thursdays at 6:30 pm at Campus Gemstones & Jewellery, Saarstraße 2 in Idar-Oberstein. The lectures are held in English and admission is free. Open to all.

**Trier University
of Applied
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The **Public Lecture Series 2025/26** is presented within the framework of Idar-Obersteiner FormDiskurs, a cultural programme dedicated to fostering dialogue between academia, the arts, and the wider public. Organized and hosted by the Campus Gemstones & Jewellery of Trier University of Applied Sciences, the programme provides a platform where scholarly perspectives, artistic practices, and societal issues intersect in meaningful exchange.

Trier University of Applied Sciences

Faculty of Arts and Design
Campus Gemstones & Jewellery
Saarstraße 2, 5743 Idar-Oberstein
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Concept & Coordination:

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„Delightful Doing“ is made possible through the generous support of the City of Idar-Oberstein and the County of Birkenfeld, and realised in close cooperation with the Jakob Bengel Foundation. This lecture series underscores the region’s strong commitment to education, culture, and heritage. Together, these partnerships enable a vibrant and enduring forum that enriches both the university community and the cultural life of the region.





9 October 2025

Pleasure and Freedom. Aspects of Epicurean Art of Living

Prof. em. Dr. Wolfgang Rother, University of Zurich,
Department of Philosophy

The lecture explores the tension between pleasure and freedom in Epicurean philosophy. Though both are commonly regarded as desirable goods, their unchecked pursuit often undermines human flourishing. Excessive desire leads not to fulfillment but to dependence; unbounded freedom negates itself. At the heart of Epicurus' ethics lies a concept of happiness grounded in physical well-being, mental tranquility (ataraxia), and rational self-regulation. Freedom is thus redefined as autonomy through conscious self-limitation. Epicurus' calculus of pleasures helps distinguish between natural and empty desires. The talk further highlights the social and ethical dimensions of Epicureanism – especially friendship, justice, and mutual care. In the end, it is not the pursuit of pleasure but the mastery of desire and lust that grants true freedom – and with it, a well-lived and genuinely pleasant life.

Wolfgang Rother, born in 1955, studied Protestant theology, philosophy and German language and literature in Marburg, Tübingen and Zurich. After completing his doctorate in 1980, he worked as a research fellow at the Philosophy Department of the University of Zurich, as a grammar school teacher and as the director of a publishing house for humanities and cultural studies (Schwabe, Basel). He obtained his habilitation in 2004 and taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Zurich until 2020.

His work and research focus on ancient and modern philosophy, in particular the Italian and German Enlightenment, German idealism, existential philosophy and critical theory. He is also interested in the philosophy of religion, the philosophy of criminal law, hedonism and the philosophy of education.




16 October 2025

A Pleasure Cruise

lambert, M.A. & M.F.A., Artist in Residence Jakob Bengel
Foundation, Idar-Oberstein

Cruising in its many forms is driven by pleasure, it is a state of action or motion, but where am I/you/we/them going? As a state of motion, words, terms and definitions shift just as quickly as the view out of the window on whatever mode of transport now boarded. This lecture will unpack and entangle actions of cruising from curatorial strategy, research method, and craft based studio practices, to body modification as alchemy, golf courses becoming public sex forests, and a strategy for navigating the Louvre Museum.



lambert is a non-binary, multidisciplinary artist whose practice entangles making, writing, performing, curating, and collaborating. They explore craft as both a lens and a language to reveal systems of land, labor, power and exploitation, and to transmit knowledge through kinship and shared skills.

lambert is currently a PhD candidate in artistic practice in visual, applied and spatial arts at Konstfack University of Arts, Craft and Design in Stockholm Sweden and Artist in Residence at the Campus Gemstone & Jewellery and the Jakob Bengel industrial monument until November 2025. Their developed method of "cruising" in research creation focuses on movement, desire, and encounter, treating objects as active participants in shifting constellations.

30 October 2025

Embracing Resistance

Prof. Christoph Zellweger, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Institute of Design, Film and Art

Embracing resistance is essential; simply going with the flow is not an option. Resistance shapes muscles, sharpens the mind and allows unexpected solutions to mature. Christoph Zellweger will talk about his artistic perspectives and what he sees as the necessity of facing resistance – always in context of creative processes – and beyond.

The Swiss jewellery artist will report on 35 years of interdisciplinary, critical and experimental practice. He will present his latest work, which was recently shown in the context of a pharmacy museum in Lisbon, as well as earlier works and installations, and elaborate on how he explores the factual, fictional, socio-political and ethical dimensions of his themes. As an artist, designer and researcher, Christoph experiences 'making' as a playful and intuitive form of thinking aloud. For him, it is essential and a true privilege to defy reality time and time again, thereby gaining insight into both dystopian and desirable alternatives.

Christoph Zellweger is dedicated to pushing boundaries in the fields of contemporary jewellery, research and education. He served as a lecturer and research professor at Sheffield Hallam University for over 30 years, as well as at many other influential European institutions. Currently he holds a professorship on the Master's programme in Design/Eco-Social Design at Hochschule Luzern in Switzerland, while running his studio in Zurich. Zellweger's works can be found in many museums and public collections in Europe, China and North America.

The Extranalities Collective: In Conversation

The Extranalities Collective currently consists of nine jewellery artists from nine different European countries.

Founded by **Herman Hermesen**, from the Netherlands and **Timothy Information Limited**, from the United Kingdom, in 2015, the collective has grown year by year, adding **Peter Vermandere** from Belgium, **Felieke van der Leest** from Norway, **Sofia Björkman** from Sweden, **Denise Reytan** from Germany, **Sara Gackowska** from Poland, **Christoph Zellweger** from Switzerland and **Catarina Silva** from Portugal to complete its current 2025 line-up.

All the members have been pro-active in the field of contemporary jewellery for some time, and for some, a long long time. Most would identify as being freeish radicals and not top of the class for following rules. There is nothing they all collectively more enjoy than negotiating self-inflicted creative restrictions and formulating seemingly senseless making tasks as a way of challenging their practices. Bloody weirdos!

Instead of working in perfect isolation, they meet up together physically and digitally, regularly, to discuss boundaries that need to be challenged and territories that need to be explored. The Extranalities Collective follows an erratic and deeply anarchic path, something they embrace in every aspect of their process, including how the work meets the audience.

The Collective measures the success of their activities by evaluating the experience from the comfort zone they have just left against the fun and games they had in leaving it. Check out their ten years anniversary display at Villa Bengel: The First, the Worst, the Best & the Rest.

Of course, the Extranalities Collective will introduce itself and (in its inimitable, bold yet empathetic style) point out what's going on. So, be there or be square.

30 & 31 October 2025 Exhibition Openings

Cabinet of Risks & Chances Christoph Zellweger

The Cabinet of Risks & Chances consists of hermetically sealed glass vessels – ampoules, that contain physical substances of various kinds. Ampoules can be transported safely, but without destroying them, it is unclear if a vessel contains – a cure – or else – a threat? With an increasing number of pills, powders and injections, we moderate the way we experience life, how we reproduce or age and how we face death. With the right cocktail of substances, tranquillisers, painkillers or hormones, we may help people to lead a more desirable life or, change the sex of a population of fish. All substances we design have a long-term effect on all living organisms. How does it feel to wear a glass ampoule filled with a substance that can be both life-saving, toxic or addictive?

Opening: 30 October 2025, 6:30 pm
Campus Gemstones & Jewellery
Saarstraße 2, 5743 Idar-Oberstein
1 November – 14 December 2025

Extranalities N°16 @ Villa Bengel The First, the Worst, the Best & the Rest

There are works from various previous Extranalities exhibitions, so yes this is a retrospective. Some of the works are shown because they were part of the First Extranalities exhibition in which the artist participated. Another criterium for selection is works considered to be the artist's Worst contribution to one of the projects. The Best speaks for it self.

& the Rest has some different angles. Extranalities were granted access to the galalith collection of the Bengel Foundation which sparked some colourful creations. Originally the exhibition would be happening during the SchmuckDenken Symposium. Concerning the theme of the symposium, 'Lost in Lust' was our inspirational working title. Some of the works created during that time are here. Last but not least there are works where all of the words are a perfect match, or none of them at all...you never know... Viva Extranalities!

Opening: 31 October 2025, 6:30 pm
Villa Bengel, Wilhelmstraße 44, 55743 Idar-Oberstein
1 November – 14 December 2025
Tue–Sun, 10 am – 5 pm

20 November 2025

Open Endings: The Art of Not-Knowing What You're Looking For Prof. Simon Maris, Trier University of Applied Sciences, Campus Design

What happens when designers stop knowing what they're looking for? When there's no brief? When experiments lead in directions nobody planned? This lecture explores the joy of open-ended experimentation – that special moment when curiosity becomes more important than control.

Yet open-ended research doesn't mean being planless. Through projects from design research, it becomes visible how rigorous documentation and curated analysis make the unpredictable productive: AI systems that become stubborn collaborators, biological materials that develop their own logic, or the simple drawing that changes direction while emerging.

Between the "already-known", the "known-not-known", and the completely "unknown", new forms of knowledge emerge. A counter-proposal to classical research concepts that understands serendipity as a cultivatable method.

Simon Maris is Professor for Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability at the Campus of Art and Design, Trier University of Applied Sciences. Since his studies in architecture, he has been working at the intersections of technology, society, ecology, and design. He leads KINDLAB (Laboratory for AI and Sustainability in Design) within the KITeGG consortium, which integrates AI into design education across five German universities. His current research focuses on AI as design material.



11 December 2025

**In Search of Resonance in a Precarious World:
On Materiality in Times of Transformation**

**Dr. Martin Repohl, Friedrich Schiller University Jena,
UNESCO Chair on Global Understanding for Sustainability,**

Things influence relationships: They break, they are easy to throw away, some seem to be alive and we keep our distance from others. Their materiality shapes how we relate to them, what we can do with them and what they do to us. Their nature determines how we can experience ourselves and the world. To question this material relational quality becomes even more precious in the face of ecological crisis and digitalization, because both transformations are threatening the possibility of enabling liveable and valuable relations with and within the material world.

The presentation shows that seeking resonant relationships with the material world entails a direct exposure to its concrete experience – and, often, to alienation rather than resonance. By various examples it will be illustrated how things shape the possibilities of relating to the world, and how such conditioned relations can be approached reflexively. It will be demonstrated that an inhibiting relational quality contributes to the precarization of concrete experience, and that resonance in a transforming material world is frequently characterized by the experience of ambivalence.

Martin Repohl is a sociologist with a focus on the possibility of world relationship in a transforming material world. He studied political science, sociology and social theory in Jena and Leipzig and completed his doctorate at the Max Weber Centre in Erfurt. Currently working as project coordinator at the UNESCO Chair at Friedrich Schiller University Jena and member of the postdoc network “Junges ZiF” at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research at Bielefeld University. Main research interests: Relational Sociology and relational qualities (beyond the human).

22 January 2026

**Objects of Desire and Embodied Pleasures.
Rethinking the Fetish After Modernity**

**Dr. Susanne Huber, University of Bremen, Institute for
Art History – Film Studies – Art Education**

In modern cultural theory, the concept of the fetish has gained an unfavourable reputation. Prominently discussed by Sigmund Freud and Karl Marx, who both declared it an indication of misrecognition for different reasons, it models excessive pleasure which not only aesthetic theory in the idealistic tradition of Immanuel Kant was eager to dismiss. As a critical lens, however, fetishism proved crucial to Laura Mulvey’s famous analysis of scopoc regimes in androcentric cultures and concomitant visual pleasures. Set against the backdrop of a cultural history in colonial expansion and appropriation, this lecture explores artistic articulations of the fetish that address its sensational economies through material vocabularies of the erotic. The case studies propose an understanding of pleasure that is inextricably linked to the socially situated body as both its fundamental condition and determining instance.

Susanne Huber works as a researcher for art history and art theory at the University of Bremen. Ongoing fields of interest include organic formalism in photography at the beginning of the 20th century, fetishistic and fetishizing practices as well as negotiations of value in art and visual cultures since the 1970s. She is a co-editor of the book series “Oyster. Feminist and Queer Approaches to Arts, Cultures, and Genders” and author of the book “Vom Konsum des Begehrens. Appropriation Art, Sex Wars und ein postmoderner Bilderstreit”. Her writing has been published in journals and magazines such as *Texte zur Kunst*; 21: *Inquiries into Art, History, and the Visual*; *Kritische Berichte*; *Zeitschrift für Medienwissenschaft*, and various edited volumes.

Speakers and Dates

@ Campus Gemstones & Jewellery

9 October 2025, 6:30 pm

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Aspects of Epicurean Art of Living

Prof. em. Dr. Wolfgang Rother, University of Zurich

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A Pleasure Cruise

Iambert, M.F.A. & M.A., Artist in Residence

Jakob Bengel Foundation, Idar-Oberstein

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Exhibition Openings

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Open Endings: The Art of Not-Knowing

What You're Looking For

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In Search of Resonance in a Precarious World:

On Materiality in Times of Transformation

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22 January 2026, 6:30 pm

Objects of Desire and Embodied Pleasures.

Rethinking the Fetish After Modernity

Dr. Susanne Huber, University of Bremen

Thursdays 6:30 pm · Free admission · Open to the public

Campus Gemstones & Jewellery

Saarstraße 2, 5743 Idar-Oberstein

www.hochschule-trier.de/es

