

Handout

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

A record of queer presence
under populist pressure

An interdisciplinary art project by
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Either you fight

and take this

as a challenge

or you keep crying

over your fate.

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I. PROJECT CONCEPT

“**Yesterday’s News**” is an interdisciplinary art and research project that uses queer perspectives as a driver for societal dialogue. The starting point is the diagnosis that binary interpretive frames suppress nuance and normalize exclusionary behavior.

Working thesis:

Populist and nationalist frames gain ground where spaces for differentiated, multi-perspective reflection are lacking. The project shapes such spaces—calm, respectful, capable of holding conflict without being confrontational—and keeps them reliably open through safer-space principles (clear consent, moderation, anonymization of sensitive content).

Why queer?

Queer lived realities make the mechanisms of exclusion and belonging precisely visible. These insights are transferable and open bridges to other marginalized communities—moving away from moral attribution toward intelligible structures and learnable practices.

Transnational framework (Germany–Colombia).

Connecting two contrasting yet complementary contexts (legal frameworks, cultural histories, civil society, media landscapes) sharpens comparison and learning curves. The North–South perspective makes it possible to render, side by side, and discuss different institutional conditions, notions of safety and the public sphere, and community-driven strategies of resilience.

Artistic formats & curatorial translation.

We work with photography, painting, video, poetry, dance/movement, and wearable hand-painted clothing. Curatorially, we translate content into accessible exhibition and conversation settings (showings, moderated dialogues, workshops). The aesthetic is “gentle and direct”: unvarnished, emotional, steadfast—able to hold conflict on substance while remaining respectful in tone.

2. PROJECT GOALS

- **Raise awareness:** Highlight the political dimension of representation and memory.
- **Create spaces:** Open new visual and linguistic spaces for queer experiences.
- **Foster dialogue:** Promote intercultural exchange between Europe and Latin America.
- **Celebrate diversity:** Emphasise difference as a productive force.
- **Document experiences:** Capture intergenerational queer stories through ethically conducted interviews.
- **Compare narratives:** Examine democratic backsliding in Germany/Europe and Colombia from a comparative perspective.
- **Encourage encounters:** Design exhibitions as places for exchange and reflection rather than consumption.
- **Magazine as time capsule:** Publish a limited-edition magazine for each stop of the tour.

3. RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

- **Research questions:** How does populist pressure influence the visibility of queer people? Which discursive frames shape debates? Which social infrastructures (family, community spaces, religious venues) foster resilience? How is visibility translated into participation?
- **Method mix:** Qualitative interviews, focus groups and participant observation; discourse analysis of media and social-media texts; artistic research using photographs, video testimonies, magazines and hand-painted garments.
- **Triangulation:** All findings are cross-checked using at least two additional sources.
- **Ethics:** Voluntary participation, anonymisation on request and transparent selection criteria; the project is exploratory and makes no claim to statistical representativeness.

4. TIMELINE AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Overall duration: 18 months.
 - **Months 1–6:** Team building, planning, interviews, artistic production (photography, painting, poetry) and development of performances and magazines.
 - **Months 7–18:** Touring exhibition across six cities: Cologne, Berlin, Hamburg, Leipzig, Bogotá and Medellín. Each stop consists of multi-day exhibitions with opening events, discussions, readings and a concluding clothing-auction ritual.
- **Ongoing:** Digital outreach, limited magazine editions and continuous documentation in video and text.

5. TEAM

- *Jan Richter – Artistic Director and initiator (Germany):* Concept, painting, photography and curatorial planning.
- *Catalina Guzmán – Artistic co-director and Colombian coordinator:* Photography, film and local coordination.
- *Stiofán Grego – Artistic co-director (Ireland/Spain):* Painting, visual language and fashion design.
- *Janna Koehler – Narrator and moderator:* Texts, moderation and audience communication.
- *Clara Koehler – Dancer and performer:* Choreography and physical interpretation.

6. FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Planned expenditures are structured as follows:

- Artist and personnel costs
- Material and equipment costs
- Travel and accommodation costs
- Administration, public relations and art education
- Reserves for unforeseen expenses

Fiscal considerations such as 19 % VAT on eligible services and roughly 5 % artists' social security contribution on all fees are accounted for. The budget planning is based on realistic experience.

7. CONCLUSION

“Yesterday’s News” is not merely an exhibition project but a research-driven artistic initiative of clear social relevance. It opens new spaces for queer narratives, connects artistic practice with scholarly analysis and creates a dialogue between Germany and Colombia. For institutions and foundations, the project offers an opportunity to support a nuanced, transnational endeavour that strengthens diversity, visibility and democratic participation.