

**New Solo Exhibitions by
!Mediengruppe Bitnik and Cornelia Herfurtner**
Kunsthalle Osnabrück launched the second part of its
annual programme “Spirits”

With two newly produced exhibitions by !Mediengruppe Bitnik and Cornelia Herfurtner Kunsthalle Osnabrück opened the second part of its annual programme “Spirits” on **Saturday, 29 November 2025**. The second part of the exhibition and art mediation programme “Spirits” deals with the spirit as an expression of personal attitudes and convictions. In different ways, the artists deal with questions of civil courage and protest as social and political responsibilities.

**!Mediengruppe Bitnik
“Computer Says No“**

Solo Exhibition in the Church
29.11.2025–22.02.2026



!Mediengruppe Bitnik, “Computer Says No“, Kunsthalle Osnabrück 2025.
Courtesy the artists. Photo: Friso Gentsch

The artist duo !Mediengruppe Bitnik is made up of Carmen Weisskopf and Domagoj Smoljo. For 20 years now, their practice has engaged with media to critically examine the social challenges and risks of an increasingly digitalized world. Their artworks not only

Öffnungszeiten/
Opening Hours

Di/Tue – So/Sun 11:00–18:00

Adresse/Address

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highlight technological developments and expanded possibilities, but also productively appropriate computer technologies for their own uses. For the exhibition at Kunsthalle Osnabrück, !Mediengruppe Bitnik considers the risks that arise when computer technologies and important areas of social life like religion are instrumentalized for political purposes. Here, their focus is on the increasingly prevalent technology of artificial intelligence. Their work not only presents AI as a source of potential, but also as an instrument of power that allows a select few to manipulate public narratives and exert social control. For the artists, these developments harbor the risk of a new digitally driven, anti-democratic authoritarianism: so-called tech fascism. Starting from the question of how societies can protect themselves from tech fascism, !Mediengruppe Bitnik has used AI to help formulate a handbook for resistance. Their template for this is the “Simple Sabotage Field Manual“, which the US Secret Service developed to combat fascist regimes in 1944 and distributed in Europe during World War II. For “Computer Says No“, !Mediengruppe Bitnik updated the “Simple Sabotage Field Manual“ for the present. In the process, they ask: How can we remain independent in an age of technological dependency? The artists have created an installation for the nave of Kunsthalle Osnabrück that transports us into a technological scenario of artificial light, neon signage, sound, and various video works, which contrasts the Kunsthalle’s Gothic church architecture. Part of the installation is the AI-generated fictional character “Qwen Stefani”—a wordplay between the name of pop icon Gwen Stefani from the 1990s band No Doubt and the Chinese Qwen AI used by !Mediengruppe Bitnik. Inspired by the exhibition space’s former function as a place of preaching, “Qwen Stefani” animates the exhibition at Kunsthalle Osnabrück to speak out against tech fascism and for a solidary, democratic world.

Cornelia Herfurtner

“Das Periphere Sehen“

Solo Exhibition in the Courtyard and in the Cloister

29.11.2025–22.02.2026



Cornelia Herfurtner, “Das Periphere Sehen“, Kunsthalle Osnabrück 2025.
Courtesy the artist. Photo: Friso Gentsch

Cornelia Herfurtner’s art combines investigations into contemporary social issues around public life, power, and the right to protest with traditional materials and ancient craft techniques. She works with wood reliefs and intarsia images as her artistic media. Through this deliberate choice of materials and technique, she creates a tension between history and the present. The lengthy creative process and the care for the material it demands also become part of the work. Herfurtner also transfers this aspect of care to her examination of civic responsibility. Her works create visibility for the rights of protesters so that they do not become ghosts in our society. For the cloister and inner courtyard of the Kunsthalle Osnabrück, Cornelia Herfurtner is bringing together both older and newer works.

Press images of the artists’ works can be downloaded from the [press section](#) of the Kunsthalle Osnabrück website.

The complete annual programme is available as a printed booklet and an [online](#) version (German, English, and accessible). To accompany the new exhibitions by Cornelia

Herfurtner and !Mediengruppe Bitnik, a public programme has also been curated in cooperation with the University of Osnabrück and the Museumsquartier Osnabrück. The detailed programme can be found in the appendix to the press release.

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Public Programme for the Exhibitions

For the new solo exhibitions, Kunsthalle Osnabrück is organizing a special public programme in cooperation with the University of Osnabrück and the Museumsquartier Osnabrück.

Thursday, 15 January 2026, 7 pm

Lecture on “Tech Fascism” followed by a discussion

Philosopher and mathematician Prof. Dr. Rainer Mühlhoff will present his new book “Künstliche Intelligenz und der neue Faschismus“ (Artificial Intelligence and the New Fascism, Reclam Verlag) and will discuss the issues with !Mediengruppe Bitnik.

Sunday, 8 February 2026, 4 pm

Tour with Guest

Historian and memory culture educator Daniel Gollmann will join the public tour and connect the current exhibition with the historical figure Hans Georg Calmeyer.

In addition to these public events, the Kunsthalle Osnabrück has invited four seminars from the University of Osnabrück to take a closer look at the new exhibitions. The lecturers' research focuses are related to the exhibitions. The seminars will take place at the Kunsthalle.

- **“Introduction to Science and Technology Studies“**
Led by: Nora Lindemann
Ethics and Critical Theories of AI, Institute of Cognitive Science
- **“Wozu (noch) Uni? Historie, Politiken und Kritiken einer Institution“**
Led by: Liane Schäfer
Institute for Social Sciences
- **“Christlicher Glaube und demokratische Bildung“**
Led by: Gregor Etzelmüller
Institute of Protestant Theology
- **“Critical Perspectives on AI“**
Led by: Paul Schütze
Ethics and Critical Theories of AI, Institute of Cognitive Science