

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Rescue Memory - Activism, Arts and Public Remembrance – ReActMem
<b>Participant:</b>	JUDISCHES ZENTRUM SYNAGOGE FRAENKELUFER E. V (LABA)
<b>PIC number:</b>	883130778

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
<b>Event number:</b>	WP 26
<b>Event name:</b>	Public Arts Event in Berlin 1
<b>Type:</b>	Entropy exhibition opening and artist talks
<b>In situ/online:</b>	in-situ
<b>Location:</b>	German, Berlin
<b>Date(s):</b>	23.10.2025
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/opening-of-the-entropy-exhibition-and-artist-talks">https://reactmem.difficultheritage.eu/en/blog/event/opening-of-the-entropy-exhibition-and-artist-talks</a>
Participants	
Female:	31
Male:	27
Non-binary:	3
From country 1 [Germany]:	60
From country 2 [Luxembourg]:	1
Total number of participants:	61
From total number of countries:	2

### 1. Objectives and Context

The opening of Entropy marked the public presentation of the 2025 LABA Berlin Fellowship, featuring new works by eleven Jewish and Muslim artists based in Berlin. The objective of this event was to provide public visibility for the fellowship's artistic research, to foster engagement with contemporary Jewish memory through interdisciplinary artistic practices, and to create a public setting where questions of historical rupture, diasporic continuity, and narrative agency could be collectively considered.

The exhibition examined how erasure, fragmentation, and processes of transformation shape contemporary Jewish life, incorporating Jewish and Muslim perspectives thus acknowledging the intertwined cultural and historical contexts that inform artistic production in Berlin today. By foregrounding Jewish memory—its fragility, persistence, and transformation—while situating it within the wider landscape of minority experiences, the event fostered thoughtful public engagement with the ongoing work of confronting, preserving, and reinterpreting complex histories.

## 2. Preparatory Phase (May–September 2024)

### Curatorial Development

- Regular meetings of the fellows with scholars, scientists, and art practitioners to explore Jewish and Muslim theology as well as contemporary aspects of activism and Jewish and Muslim realities
- Regular meetings were held between the curatorial team and all participating artists to review concepts, ensure coherence with the fellowship’s thematic scope, and coordinate new productions.
- The curators developed a unifying framework around “entropy” as a lens to understand historical discontinuity, archival absence, and the fragility of diasporic memory.

### Venue Coordination with Künstlerhaus Bethanien

- Technical assessments of the exhibition space were conducted to support multimedia installations (video, sound, light-based sculpture, and performance documentation).
- Agreements were reached regarding installation timelines, equipment needs, wall treatments, and accessibility provisions.

### Production Support

- LABA Berlin supported fabrication, material procurement, and AV testing for several new works (e.g., multichannel sound installation, sand reliefs, video projection setup, and sculptural assemblages).
- Risk assessment and insurance coverage were arranged for all loaned artworks.
- Press and public communication materials were prepared (press release, catalogue texts, artist statements, signage).

## 3. Implementation: Exhibition Opening

The event took place on October 23, 2025 from 7 to 11 PM. The exhibition opened with guided tours led by the curators and participating artists, followed by public discussions throughout the evening. More than 1100 visitors attended, including cultural workers, community members, researchers, students, and representatives of Berlin-based arts institutions.

The programme included:

- Introduction by the curatorial team on the fellowship and exhibition concept
- Rotating short presentations by the artists at their installations

- Open Q&A segments structured around audience engagement
- Informal conversation zones to encourage dialogue between artists, visitors, and stakeholders

The opening created space for deep reflection on how diasporic Jewish memory persists despite historical distortions and attempts at erasure, and how artistic strategies make these dynamics visible.

#### 4. Artistic Contributions

The exhibition Entropy features eleven fellows whose work responds to the fellowship theme through a variety of media. Their artistic contributions, grounded in the study of entropy, address historical erasure, memory, and change.

- **Ioana Lungu**  
Her piece *A Place That Loves You Back* evokes the intimacy of a Balkan living room, while a video on a television screen traces the affective history of the submerged island Ada Kaleh, once home to Muslim Sufis.
- **Nimrod Astarhan**  
*Lighting the Same Fire* is a sculptural installation of solar panels arranged like a Khazar sundial; its uneven light patterns ask whether the energy of lost civilizations can be reactivated.
- **Cory Tamler**  
In *Liebe kleine Panke*, Tamler documents seven walks along the Panke River. A system of shelves represents each segment and contains objects to show a process of sedimentation. The walk also revisits the Jewish ritual of Tashlich, reimagined with Annabel Zoe Paran.
- **Hümeyranur Imamoglu**  
Her portraits depict figures simply, but insist on their fullness. Drawing on Freud's notion of the uncanny, she explores the interplay of silence, projection, and self-possession.
- **Ruth Sergel**  
In *Witness*, she presents a tall lightbox made of hundreds of fractured images, each commemorating a Palestinian killed in Gaza. Alongside, *The Worst Jew in Berlin* gathers photographs and stories that speak about what it means to be Jewish in Berlin amid past and present violence.
- **Nazanin Bahrami**  
In *You Have Seen This Before*, she prints snippets of news on long transparent paper rolls, creating a visual metaphor for how images fade, blur, and dissolve under repetitive exposure — a comment on media bias, censorship, and algorithmic indifference.
- **Annabel Zoe Paran**  
Her work *Desert Things* consists of sand-cast reliefs. The material embodies entropy through continuous, infinitesimal erosion, while also critiquing mythological ties between Jewish identity and the land.
- **Farah Bouamar**  
Her audiovisual installation *To Speak of a Djibuk* draws on Djinn and Dybbuk myths, blending voices in Arabic, Hebrew, and English to create a fragmented texture of dissonance, desire, and spiritual longing.
- **Guli Dolev-Hashiloni**  
Her piece *Bahnhof Bar* is a sculptural installation: a menu of experimental wines and

champagne bottles, based on her research into brothels run by Polish Holocaust survivors. The work reflects on how precarious autonomy emerged from chaos.

- **Nicole Wysokikamien**

In Lay All Your Love On Me, she uses a bridal veil as a performance prop, turning a wedding ritual into a symbolic act that highlights beginnings, endings, and potential embedded in religious traditions.

- **Mudassir Sheikh**

He presents an immersive installation of white fabric, mosquito nets, and a layered soundscape, evoking a space of mourning. His work connects mythical genealogies (e.g., claims about Pashtun descent from the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel) to contemporary experiences of colonialism and conflict.

### 5. Audience and Participation

The opening attracted a diverse audience, including:

- Local Berlin Jewish and Muslim community members
- Artists, curators, and cultural workers
- Students and researchers of Jewish studies, migration studies, and memory studies
- Members of organizations engaged with minority narratives and cultural heritage
- Representatives of partner institutions and international visitors

### 6. Outputs and Impact

- Successful public presentation of new artworks developed by eleven artists through the fellowship
- Strengthened public visibility for LABA Berlin’s role in supporting contemporary Jewish culture
- Increased awareness of the complexities surrounding Jewish memory, diaspora, historical rupture, and cultural entanglement
- Establishment of new connections between artists, scholars, and Berlin-based cultural institutions
- Documentation for future dissemination (photography, video recordings, catalogue texts)

The exhibition can be visited from Wednesday to Sunday from 2 to 7 pm until December 14th.

Media Coverage: [RBB](#), [ARD](#), Deutschlandfunk

Communications: [Announcement of exhibition opening](#), [Coming soon reel](#), [Thank you for coming post](#), [Sharing RBB media coverage](#), [personal artist thank you](#), [Interview with program director](#), [Reel from opening](#), diverse community and art newsletters and magazines

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE

1.0	01.04.2024	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	19.02.2025	Changed the delivery date (from January 2025 to September 2025)
3.0	29.09.2025	Changed the delivery date to November 30, 2025