

Winter week in Berlin, December 2021 :Snow, Books, Plants, Cats, Lights, Human-Cross-Connections, Snow:

<https://lists.puscii.nl/www/arc/uncivilization/2021-12/msg00009.html> 06/12/2021

I've spent a week in Berlin: with Alisa, with friends & on "vacation".



Resting & relaxing after almost two years of pandemic stress was a welcome experience; first "long" trip planned all on my own, abroad... made possible (1) by decrease in antidepressants in early-October, when I decided this would be a good idea & by the new kind of medications I got since, so I was calm and slow in preparing for the trip, travel, and stay in "strange" places; (2) by Alisa's companionship, energy & enthusiasm; & (3) by Arnd's support: keeping the forth & caring for home creatures: Charlie, plants, Dikkie & Grapje, plus tending the friendships at home...

I've been looking forward to meet up with many friends in Berlin - and we were invited to stay in two places while they themselves traveled!

Such wonderful generosity! I feel honoured by their trust & fortunate to be offered their hospitality! We felt "at home" in their homes, watched over by Fiona The Angry Rabbit and surrounded by plants & books; we could make tea & entertain guests who were banned from "2G" venues; we could sleep late & have much tea & much Internet... thank you Laura, Katherine & Aaron!

The best part of this trip was: low-key celebration of my connection with Alisa! This was our mother-daughter time, and I've enjoyed it very much! I am blessed with Alisa's affinity for me — I could not wish for a better outcome of my parenting saga! With my own history of growing up in alcoholic family, inter-generational traumas of economic migrations, poverty, political displacements and wars... our harmonious relationship is a miracle! And, of course, result of years of therapy, meters of shelves of self-help-books, workshops of self-improvements & parenting courses & years of practices of "anarchist parenting"... on my side, plus Alisa's own "magic" and being a "gifted child" herself... so, YES, we are a dream-team of powerful & wise / woke women!

And for some "dark" side: everything was tainted by the spirit of Covid... and so different from the Dutch practice. In Germany, we've been wearing FFP2 masks EVERYWHERE, we've been questioned to show our vaccinations QR codes EVERYWHERE (the shops, public transport, restaurants), and a test was required as a part of "2G+" for going into a night-club! We needed special registration to enter the country, and the news about situation worsening were following us, even if we didn't follow the news.

OTOH, my own health was surprisingly solid: I could sleep well, even in the "strange" beds; I could walk for hours, despite the "heel spur"; and my mood was excellent :) Train trip was smooth.

For the visually inclined: pictures are within this thread: https://twitter.com/Ms_Multicolor/status/1464582364580003841

Please reach out to cross-connect with each other & co-create our shared future by "composting" our mixed contributions: feminist, anarchist, plant-loving, bookish, cat-caring, artistic, activist, nerdy, hacking...

Love to all,

Vesna (& Alisa)

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And now for some details:

The most significant event we've attending was a cross-over between Art, Activism & "inhabiting life": book launch of "We Are Nature Defending Itself" <https://vagabonds.xyz/wandi/>

Podinski invited us to it, Alisa loved the book title, I've invited C.T. and we all were invited to join Jay & friends in a squat-like cafe for an after-event discussion, where we've petted a few dogs & met Diego & hopefully created some new connections. Story about ZAD is inspiring me to get braver in my own politics, activism and art - as well as focusing on where I am living right now!

The most pleasant afternoon was in the cat cafe, where we've petted Caruso&Pelle, and chatted with Elektra.

Our last night we've been guests on Pod's radio-show! Together with Des!! Such stars :-)

We had animated discussions about Big Tech, Big Pharma, air-pollution, punk & protests in Amsterdam (Hang Youth!), mental health &

community care, Eastern Europe & Rio Tinto, & ZAD.

Tips
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Here are some more links to the special places, activities, projects, people we've encountered this week, as recommendations for Berliner's and as a memory for our diaries:

* Xmass LIGHT show at Botanical Garden!!!

<https://www.christmas-garden.de/berlin/>

(hack/tip: go in with a regular ticket, then hide between 4-5PM & enjoy the lights for free!)

The regular Botanical Garden is impressive enough: it's huge & well-maintained, and even in the dead of the winter the plants & herbs are inviting to be touched, smelled & eyed; the glasshouses were closed so next time I'll have to visit them, because some stolen glances of their interior made me ANGRY with unmet desire to be inside!!; and the best part was - LIGHT ART! illuminated trees! synchronised LED-lights & music! disco-lights & smoke machines with lasers, in the forest! water-fountain & animated projections on the droplets & air! hackers-camp-blinkenlights meets Amsterdam-Light-Festival!

* Globalista Radio Kit, every Friday evening 7PM CET, by Podinski:

<https://globalista.openradio.in/>

* Rainbow Factory: <https://www.regenbogenfabrik.de/> - a collective place that exists for 30 (40?) years already, as a shared living, cultural centre, bike-repair workshop, cafe, cantina, hostel, ... truly an inspiration in our common fight against gentrification, for the chances of young people to live & work in the cities where they were born in, or decided to move into!

* "Homeless Books" : a guy selling wonderful selection of books from suitcases on Böhmischer Platz ! on weekend+

* Cat Cafe: <http://peepeeskatzencafe.de/>

* "Hopscotch Reading Room" <https://hopscotch.page/> -> wonderful bookstore & cultural place!

* House of Materialization (HdM), part of HausDerStatistik -> for all your "material needs": second-hand furniture, clothes, building supplies... and workshops on repairing, up-cycling & refurbishing!

<https://hausderstatistik.org/veranstaltungsort/hdm/> & <https://hausdermaterialisierung.org/en/>

<https://www.berliner-stadtmission.de/re-use-zentrum> &

* Upside-down live-music place in former bordello! (Alisa went out by herself there...) <https://madameclaudede.de/>

& 11. December ::: BalkanBeats concerts in Lido: <https://balkanbeats.eu/events/>

Food:
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* Poppy-seeds cakes ALL THE TIME :) Mohn-kuchen, mohn-strudel, mohn-pastry... Opium-eaters-heaven :-)

* Turkish food at second-hand market in MauerPark! <https://www.flohmarktimmauerpark.de/index.php>

* Asia Tiger, Alisa's favourite nostalgic eating place - where we've met Sabrina! : <http://asiatiger.de/>

* Mira, Turkish breakfast paradise on Silbersteinstraße with abundant & colourful portions, and dry-ice smoke-effects!!

Friends:
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Here are friend's projects & businesses, so that you get to know each other better, since we could not have one massive gathering / party, as I wish we could... and an invitation for cross-pollination:

* Jocelyn: NVC mediator, empathic listener, Cultural Catalyst: <https://www.becomingtogether.net>

* Desiree: DNS businesswoman turned environmental hackathons organiser: <https://descon.me/2020/view-recordings/>

* Elektra is a wireless networking pioneer, member of CCC/FreiFunk, of VillageTelco/OpenMesh fame: <http://wndw.net/who.html>

She has a new project: Independent Solar Energy Mesh System : <https://isems.netlify.app/en/>

* Podinski: DJ, activist, philosopher: <https://soundcloud.com/podinski>

* Virtual friends:

* Arnd: brewer, hacker, gardener: <https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Justa>

** Niall Murphy, engineer & photographer: <https://www.edge-cases.photos/>

*** Keva & Sarah, my pod-sisters <http://culturalcatalystnetwork.org/>

**** the UnCivilised friends on the mailing list: <https://UnCiv.nl>

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+ friends I wish I've met with !
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Missed:
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* Katherine: data scientist, feminist, programmer, NVC-student: <https://kjamistan.com/>

* Rop: "patriarch of the Dutch hacker community" & a young father https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rop_Gonggrijp

* Ulrike: Debian-hacker, illustrator, activist, anarchist: <https://curlybracket.net>

* Laura, Mo, Franziska, Frank, Florian, Fiona, Aaron, Uta, Carsten ...

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+++ Let's do a hackathon all together soon!!! +++
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Missed2:
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Places where we've NOT gone, but wanted to:

Concert in Lido: <https://www.lido-berlin.de/events/2021-12-02-b6bb0>
& their catchy song about Wunderschöne Schmetterlinge(n?) : <https://youtu.be/K-jNoPmrkoE>

Exhibition tour of Mutual Murmurs: <https://bpjgs.com/openings/mutual-matters-exhibition-tour-0>

Club of Polish Failures: <http://www.polnischeversager.de/club/>

Sinema Transtopia <https://www.kinoheld.de/cinema-berlin/sinema-transtopia-berlin/shows/movies>

Exhibition: "Pants have skirts. Female artist group Erfurt 1984-1994"
<https://ngbk.de/de/show/501/hosen-haben-roecke-an-kuenstlerinnengruppe-erfurt-1984-1994>

Trial&Error: upcycling - diy - creative activism - urban gardening & solidarity economies <https://www.trial-error.org/>

Hamam & Liquidrom... maybe next time...

