



Dealing with socially relevant themes in the museum

Until summer 2021, the Bode Museum on Museum Island is a site for experimentation. This laboratory in the Bode Museum, with a country-wide trainee program in 23 museums and accompanying discussion events, will provide a model for what distinguishes museum education and what it can achieve.

Which currently relevant themes can be tied into the collections in the Bode Museum? What is interesting for children and especially adolescents? How can a museum succeed in speaking to a young generation? In order to address these questions, lab.Bode places the focus on cooperation between school and museum. Nine partnerships in various neighbourhoods in Berlin are part of this initiative. Students and teachers in these schools develop and test out – in concert with facilitators, artists, and experts from different disciplines – new approaches.

As a starting point for the school projects, lab.Bode identified a wide range of topics, printed them on cards, and bound those together in a fan pattern. To achieve this, the team interviewed colleagues from the Bode Museum as well as cultural education experts and asked them for themes that they would like to work on with children and adolescents in the museum. Teachers and students were also asked about themes that had relevance for them. Out of this effort came a broad spectrum, including key words such as “gender”, “body”, “identity”, “migration”, “racism and discrimination”, “values”, “museum as system”, “museum in transition”, “concepts of humanity”, “politics and democracy”, “sculptures”. These main themes led to ideas for concrete projects and education approaches. In this way, lab.Bode contributes new subjects to the collections, some of which had not previously been part of the practice of the Bode Museum.

lab.Bode – Initiative to Strengthen Museum Education is a joint program of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Berlin State Museums.

Further information about the program:
www.lab-bode.de

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Initiative zur Stärkung der Vermittlungsarbeit in Museen