Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

30 Years Hamburger Bahnhof

HAMBURGER BAHNHOF –
NATIONALGALERIE DER GEGENWART

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CHANEL
CULTURE FUND

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Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart
Invalidenstraße 50, 10557 Berlin
Tue, Wed, Fri 10 am – 6 pm, Thu 10 am – 8 pm, Sat + Sun 11 am – 6 pm

CHANEL Commission: Lina Lapelytė. We Make Years Out of Hours
1 May 2026 – 10 January 2027
A special exhibition of Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
Opening: Thursday, 30 April, 7 pm

Lina Lapelytė's performance „We Make Years Out of Hours" transforms the Historic Hall of Hamburger Bahnhof into a space for collective action and singing as part of the second CHANEL Commission. The exhibition transcends boundaries between sculpture and performance, the individual and the collective: 400,000 wooden cubes spread across the floor, stack into piles, connect into architectural and then hill-like structures. The blocks move through the hands of performers and visitors, continuously reshaping the wooden landscape. „We Make Years Out of Hours" is a living monument to time, care, and coexistence. By actively involving the audience, the participatory format emphasises the concept of the open museum as the theme of Hamburger Bahnhof's 30th anniversary. The exhibition opens during Gallery Weekend Berlin.

The Historic Hall of Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart becomes a shifting landscape of 400,000 wooden cubes. 12 performers and visitors build temporary structures accompanied by sound. Voices fill the space with songs. The lyrics are based on poems by 15 international authors from the early 20th century to the present. These include the poet Khalil Gibran (1883–1931), the writer and painter Etel Adnan (1925–2021), the poet and film director Forugh Farrochzad (1935–1967), the poet Layla Sarahat Rushani (1952/4–2004), the poet Mahmud Darwisch (1941–2008), the lyricist Ocean Vuong (born 1988), the poet Ilya Kaminski (born 1977), and the poet and author Arundhathi Subramaniam (born 1973). Short lines about community, formation, love, loss, and hope form the libretto of the work.

Like the exhibition space itself, the work also becomes a place of constant change. The 10 x 10 x 10 cm cubes made of spruce and pine move through the hands of performers and visitors. Structures emerge and disappear. Each new form requires another to give way. The work raises questions about what remains and what passes away. It also asks who decides what is built and what must be removed, and whose lives carry the weight of these changes. The title „We Make Years Out of Hours" describes the significance of the part for the whole: hours become years, individuals become a community.

The 400,000 wooden cubes used in the installation and performance will

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become part of a public artwork in Eisenhüttenstadt in 2027 as part of Lina Lapelytė's project for Die Neuen Auftraggeber.

Lina Lapelytė (b. 1984, Kaunas, Lithuania) is an artist and composer whose practice is rooted in performance. Working between Vilnius and London, she collaborates with trained and untrained performers to create collective acts of singing that question systems of silencing and invite vulnerability. Among other places her work has been presented at Festival d'Automne/Bourse de Commerce (Paris), BAM, MOCA, and the Venice Biennale. She is best known for the opera Sun & Sea (with Vaiva Grainytė and Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė), which won the Golden Lion at the 2019 Venice Biennale.

The exhibition opens during **Gallery Weekend** on Thu., 30.4., from 7 pm to 10 pm. During Gallery Weekend, from Fri., 1.5. to Sun., 3.5., performances take place from 11 am to 2 pm and from 3 pm to 6 pm. During Gallery Weekend, the museum is open Fri., 1.5. and Sat., 2.5. until 10 pm.

The **performances** take place during the exhibition period on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 2 pm to 5 pm.

On Sun., 3.5., at 3 pm, Lina Lapelytė will speak in the **In Conversation** series, offering insights into her career and artistic practice. Admission is free.

The exhibition is part of the **30 Years of Hamburger Bahnhof** anniversary programme. In 2026, Hamburger Bahnhof celebrates its 30th anniversary with a programme bridging the site's history and its future: eight special exhibitions, a new collection presentation, as well as performances and concerts that extend the museum's reach into the city. Highlight will be the anniversary weekend, November 13–15, featuring an international conference on the future of contemporary collection museums and a 30-hour continuous opening of the museum.

The **CHANEL Commission** at Hamburger Bahnhof is an annual commission empowering artists to realize ambitious, large-scale projects. With its unparalleled scope and vision, the collaboration boldly reimagines the museum's iconic 2,500-square-meter Historic Hall, transforming it into an immersive, thought-provoking arena. After Klára Hosnedlová in 2025, Lina Lapelytė will realize the second edition of the CHANEL Commission in 2026.

Accompanying the exhibition, the 19th edition of the Hamburger Bahnhof catalogue series is being published, edited by Silvana Editoriale Milano, featuring a conversation between Raimundas Malašauskas and the artist (€12).

The exhibition is curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, Directors of Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart.

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The CHANEL Commission at Hamburger Bahnhof is made possible by CHANEL Culture Fund.

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