

how to use the toolkit



Truly Yours understands the 11th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art as a receptacle for an expanded area of discussion. The material approaches topics such as rituality, memory, identity, imagination, conflict, institutional critique, collectivity and displacement.

This bag contains 15 different cards, a notebook and a pencil. The cards stimulate reflection and debate inspired by art education practice, and propose activities through different mediums, such as drawing, writing, engaging with body language and using mobile phones. The material has been designed in a flexible way: you may use it individually and/or collectively, in all the venues, either inside or outside the exhibition. You will find hints on each card which tell you what you can expect.

We invite you to interact with artistic practice and thinking in a creative, contemplative way. You can also activate the cards in other exhibitions than the 11th Berlin Biennale.

For sharing your experiences, please use the following hashtags on Instagram:
#berlinbiennale11
#bb11exchange

storytelling
rituality

collection
spirituality

which rituals are part of your life?

What is a ritual? Greeting, praying or meditating, wearing something specific, a wedding or a birthday celebration, a personal routine?

Think about activities, symbols and events. Which rituals have you experienced? Are they only meaningful for you personally, or for a group of people which you identify with? In which way?

Find an object or artwork, either within the exhibition, on the street or in another place chosen by you, that has no apparent value at first sight. Which stories does this object tell? Could it be part of a ritual for someone? Create a story of your own for this object, turning it into something valuable.

Share it with the one(s) you are with, and/or digitally on Instagram by using the hashtags:
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body
choreo-
graphy

performance
language

can you move it?

A drawing can inspire a music score, and a book might be a basis for developing a movie.

Allow yourself to be inspired by an artwork of your choice. How does it make you feel? Which body gestures do you find in it? Which movements would fit to it? How can we use our bodies to interpret an artwork?

If you are alone, create a set of gestures and develop your own movements. If you are in a group, each one produces a movement and chooses a sequence to perform together.



perform

narrative
of the
space

institutional
critique

what is around?

Does the surrounding space influence the perception of an artwork? How?

Which aspects (such as size, color, sound, light or background) contribute to the piece, and in what way? How are artworks in the same room in dialogue with one another?

Choose an artwork. Think about different spaces for this piece, inside or outside the exhibition. What has changed?

How would you modify the display of the artworks in the room you are in now? Redesign this space mentally or make a sketch with the existing objects. Which new connections can you imagine?

collective group

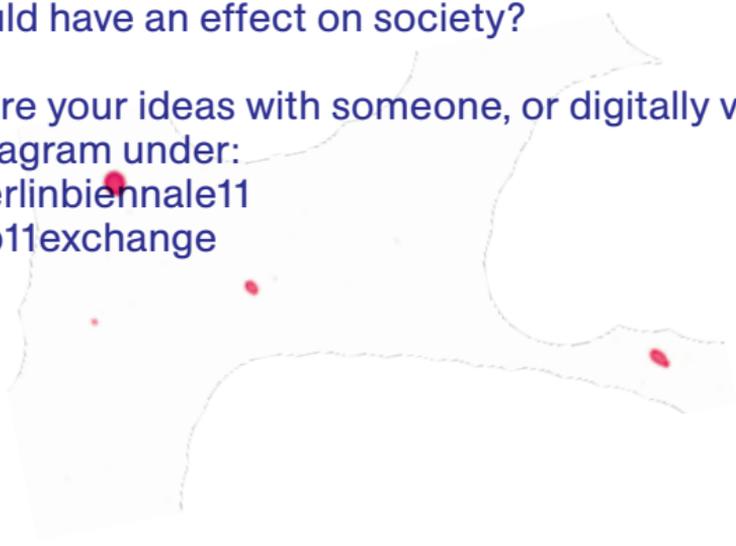
how do we work together?

Artists work alone or in a collaborative way. Find art collaborations in the exhibition. Is there one you would like to join? Why?

Would you say that collectives in contemporary art are initiated with political intentions and activism, or more because of economical issues? Or what other motives can you imagine for a collaboration?

Think about topics you would like to work on, alone or with others. How can you turn these into projects? Furthermore, do you think your project would have an effect on society?

Share your ideas with someone, or digitally via Instagram under:
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costume
identity

gender
performance

costume as activator

How can clothes have a meaningful impact on a situation?

Which clothes in the exhibition caught your attention and why?

Can we know things about a person through their clothing? How does fashion influence your choices? When you choose clothes for yourself, do you look mostly in shops labelled for your assigned gender?

Create an outfit from what you saw today (inside and outside of the exhibition). Try to be as free from fashion rules as possible, or better: break them! Think about the item's function. Where can you wear it?

create

memory
history
collective



is memory a battleground?

How can we activate memories? Is memory changeable?

Think about your earliest memory. How old were you then? Can you recall the situation?

Ask your peers or someone from your family if your memory overlaps with theirs. Did you find any differences?

Now thinking about history on a larger scale: who tells the “official history”? Do you think there is something like collective memory? What is its influence on our present and/or future?

point of view
exchange
conflict

when was the last time
you changed your mind?

Is it possible to practice listening when we have extreme points of view? Sometimes a discussion about politics, religion, gender, social and economic issues generates polarization, separating us more than uniting us. How can we learn from each other in a respectful way?

When was the last time you changed your mind? Did someone influence your perspective? What was your opinion before, and what is it now? How do you see both sides? Share this memory with other persons, and discuss the diversity of opinions.

Choose a topic you consider sensitive inside the exhibition. Discuss it with the person you are with, or talk about it with someone later.

debate

language displacement translation

found in translation

How many languages can you find in the exhibition? How many of them do you understand? What does this mean for you in the context of the exhibition?

How many languages did you hear or use today? How important is it for you to understand them? Can you think of ways of understanding besides language?

Pick up some words in the exhibition you don't understand (from the titles of artworks, wall texts or one word you have heard in the room). What could they mean? Write a phrase or little poem, make an acronym out of them, or play with the form of the letters.

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conflict
collaboration
imagination

how to solve a conflict

How did you deal with a conflict in a given situation? Try to recall your strategies.

Find a conflict in an artwork of the exhibition. How would you solve it? Use your imagination to create a solution, even if it seems far from realistic.



think

gender bodies
queerness identities

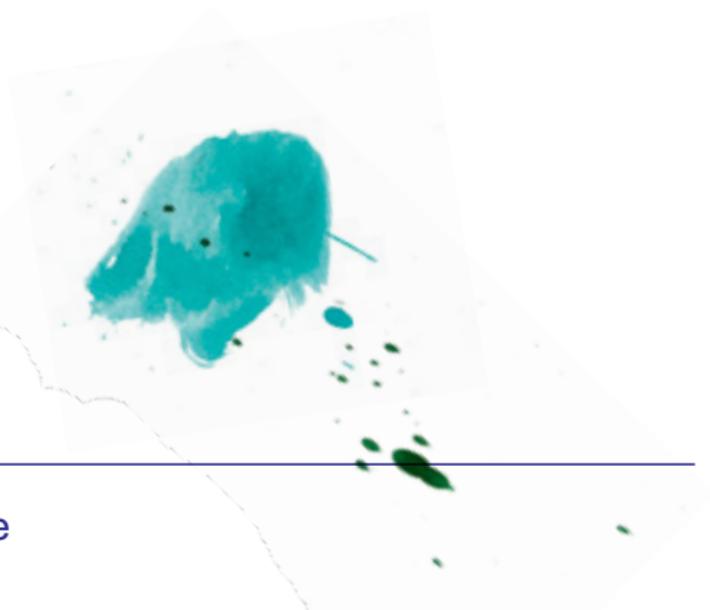
genderness or genderless

Pay attention to how many works are displayed by male artists, female artists, and artists who are not easily assigned to the traditional gender duality. Many artists use their work to examine, question, and criticize the relationship between gender and society.

Do you think there is gender inequality in the arts? Pick an artwork and observe how it constructs identities, either for characters or situations.

Now think about your own identity. Write down some words to describe yourself. How do you think gender division affects our society?

think write



body identity performance

please turn on your phone

The wide use/distribution of easily portable devices and social media allows us to be creative, with minimum effort and time. To use a mobile phone to take a picture, record a sound or make a video is a fun and harmless way to engage with art.

Contemporary art often challenges traditional frames, as it involves the use of the body as the primary artistic material.

Use your cell phone, if you have one with you. Choose an artwork and try to take a selfie or make a little video that is somehow related to the work. Involve the person you might be with, and discuss your experiences.

You can share your results via Instagram by using the following hashtags:

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language
caption
institutional critique

please don't read!?



The artworks in an exhibition have labels with information, such as the name of the artist, title of the piece, year, or country of origin. Does this information influence the reading of the artwork? Does the label add extra content to the piece? What other information do you think would be important to include?

Try to look at the next artwork without paying attention to its label. How do you feel without having this information?

Where would you include a label outside the exhibition (in the street, in a bar, at home, etc.)? How does it change the object and/or the setting where it is placed?

identity performance

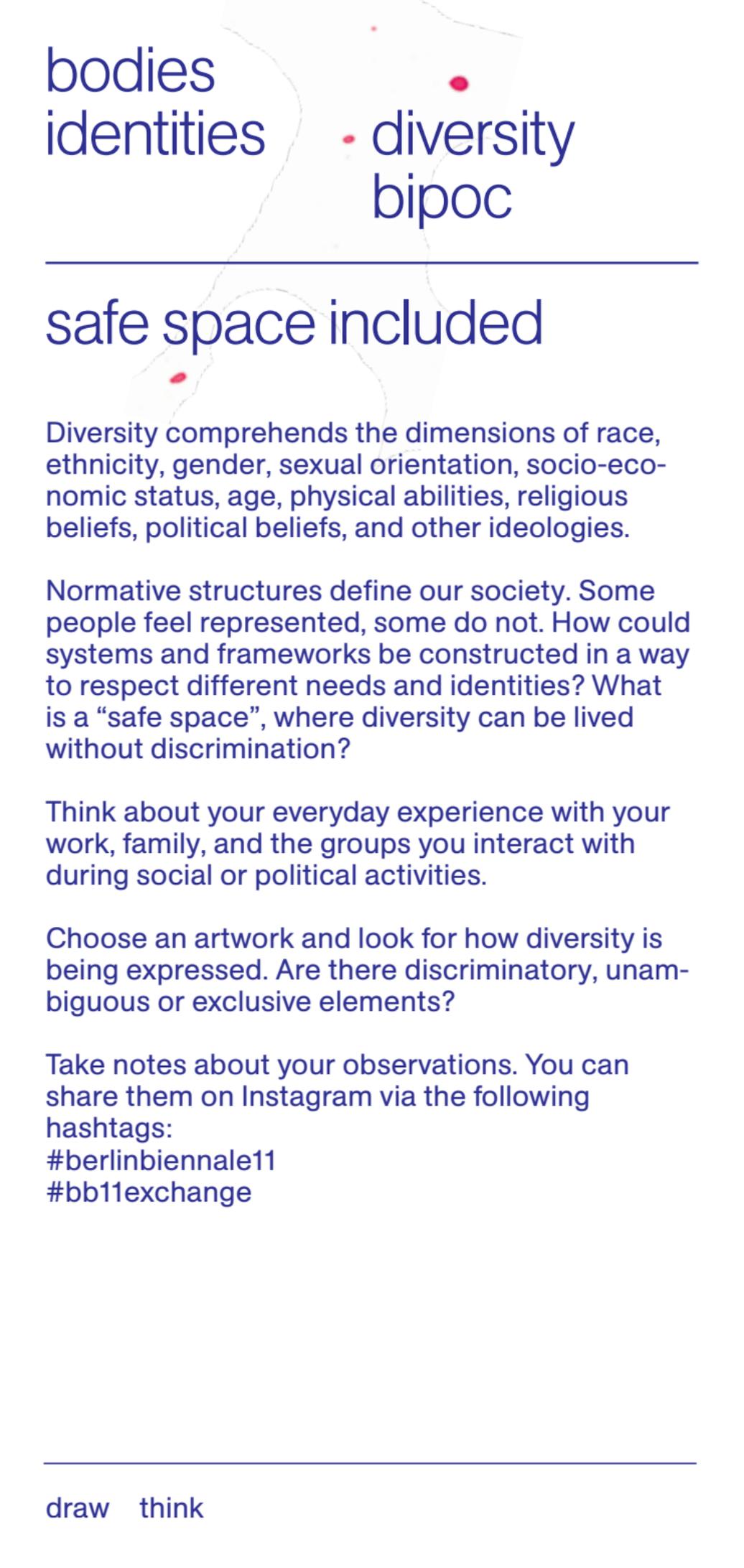
how many roles do you play in your daily life?

We can be family members, students, workers, neighbors, or someone's friend, all at the same time. List the roles you play in your daily life. How do these roles construct your identity? Does your personality change according to the role?

If you are alone, think about the roles you would like to have. Choose one of them, and imagine yourself in that position. What does your routine look like? Would your behavior change?

If you are with a partner or in a group, share your list and identify the different roles you have. Are there any surprises?

In the context of the exhibition, look for an artwork which has a narrative in it. Do you recognize the different roles being played?



bodies
identities

diversity
bipoc

safe space included

Diversity comprehends the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, and other ideologies.

Normative structures define our society. Some people feel represented, some do not. How could systems and frameworks be constructed in a way to respect different needs and identities? What is a “safe space”, where diversity can be lived without discrimination?

Think about your everyday experience with your work, family, and the groups you interact with during social or political activities.

Choose an artwork and look for how diversity is being expressed. Are there discriminatory, unambiguous or exclusive elements?

Take notes about your observations. You can share them on Instagram via the following hashtags:

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