

## art Karlsruhe

Coming soon: The art Karlsruhe opens its doors - rather early this year - from 17 to 21 February 2016. You can find us at the booth of Kunsthau Fischer (Markus and Betha Kraushaar) in Hall 3, Booth F07 and we plan to be there all the time.

From me - among other - two new series will be seen, the China- and USAwalks and the Beijing-Circle work and I am already looking forward to all the exchange and encounters.

## I AM WE\_IDENTITY

The German media artist Wolf Nkole Helzle makes ever new works on the theme of the individual and the collective, of the One and the Many. With this community-net-art project he presents a work which can and should be used as a tool, therefore up to now unknown people meet and get to know. He sees the I AM WE\_IDENTITY as an extension of known identities.

So you are invited to extend your identity with doing an I AM WE\_IDENTITY\_Card (short: ii\_card) with you and the people around you - in the best case with people you did not know up to now. Therefore you are able to load the card with several tabs of your browser and switch from one tab to the other to everybody who is in your group.

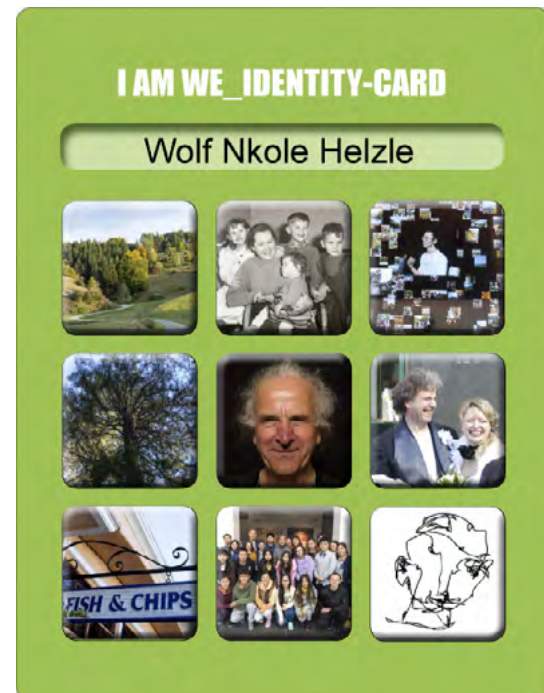
**THE IDEA BEHIND** Once we see people we do not know, we have a certain fear, to contact them. Even more so if they are foreign to us. Often the problem is much easier than you think, because you just do not know what to talk to these people. Sometimes, however, is already the language a problem. So the artist has thought of something

to communicate with questions and images. There is a proverb that says: „A picture is worth a thousand words“.

The game goes like this, that you provide nine simple questions to someone that you do not yet (well) known as "Where do you live". He or she can say: "I live in Birmingham" and give you a picture of his or her living place.

After all nine questions have been asked and answered, nine images can be seen and nine answers are typed in. In the pictures are so much information that you know more about this person and remember, as if you had just spoken. Another plus of course is the whole exchange during a game, we have come closer to many things and may even have discovered similarities. Or you have discovered strange, but that makes no more fear.

With each card one element of a world is prepared in which it is worth living, in which we exchange, we show up, we learn from each other, we appreciate us. The I AM WE-IDENTITY is the idea of a new identity beyond the previously so narrowly defined identities, which put first and foremost on the distinction. This culminates in the West / East ideologies of having and being, of matter and spirit, which often irreconcilably oppose each other, but ultimately both ends in a dead end, because the one is lost in the material, the other in the void. We step in a period of time in which we understand that the two opposites together form the world in which it is worth living. The individual and the collective: I AM WE. The Dalai Lama says: „We all have a responsibility to ensure the welfare of humanity, to try to make this a happier more peaceful world. But we need to find ways to promote an acceptable, universal approach



to ethics or human values. Open hearts encourage a sense of security and trust that is the basis of genuine friendship, which is to everyone's benefit."

The nine questions are:

1. Where I live
2. Where I come from
3. What I do
4. What I like
5. Who I am
6. Important moment
7. Favorite dish
8. What is important
9. Drawing / painting I did

Once the card is completed, it can be printed out and used for further communication used by being worn as a badge around the neck.

**MYMATRIX** The artist collects all pictures of all ii\_cards and form a huge I AM WE\_IDENTITY-matrix out of them. This matrix will be shown in exhibitions. Here is a link for more information about the matrix: <http://www.helzle.com/en/performative-projects/mymatrix/>