

ANOTHER MAP OF THE NORDKIEZ CRITICAL COLLECTIVE MAPPING WORKSHOP

Dear neighbours and friends,

Because we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of our houses, we want to invite you to participate in the **First Nordkiez Critical Collective Mapping Workshop!**

Wednesday July 8th from 5pm in the corner of Rigaer- and Liebigstr. (aka Dorfplatz)

Wait a second... What is collective mapping?

Maps are narrations, stories about certain place at certain time. They are supposed to give us useful information... But who is allowed to make maps, what kind of maps we use, who decides what it's important enough to be on the map?

Most of times maps are created from the top, offering an interpretation of places where our stories, the stories from below, the micro stories of real lives and resistances and other ways to understand realities are not reflected. In a word, maps are tools of power.

That's why we want to create together another map of the Kiez. A map where our stories are reflected, a map where everyone is allowed to speak. All people can make a map, we don't need to be experts, just need to have something to point out, something to say. Collective mapping is a process troughout we want to get to know each other and each other's stories. It's a way to create other narratives, to give invisible / speechless people the power of visibility and voice.

And it is also a try to understand what's going on in our area, what is changing and why and who is getting the benefits of these changes.

Because nothing is by accident.

Gentri...what? Gentrification

We all know that many areas in the city are suffering, since some years, very fast and hard processes of "renovation": new fancy buildings, public places being privatized, tourist masses everywhere, little stores being replaced by big supermarkets or fancy pricey shops.

Governments promote this kind of "actions" as a improvement: the city will be nicer, safer, cleaner... But this transformations are part of a big proces activated in most of big/famous cities, a process that, yes, will make city cleaner, but will also make shopping more expensive, rents unaffordable, public places less and less public, life more controlled... This is what gentrification is: a very convenient process whereby capitalism turns everything into benefits: our strenght, our bodies, our stories, our city, our lifes.

Urban planning, as maps, is also a tool of power and social control. Means erasing ugly people, poor people, working class people from the map, from the postcard. Gentrification makes business out from the whole city, turning it in a theme park, a death nice place where mid-high class people and tourists can have a lot of fun and spend a lot of money, but what about people who is not profitable but very alive, people who use and live the city?

Weaving resistances: What has this do to with me?

We are everywhere, but we are not allowed to show ourselves. That's the reason for collective mapping. Let's make a statement, let's think together and act together. The map is one of mutiple ways to point out gentrification, and to fight against it and to make the struggles and ourselves visible.

There is not a unique way. Everybody has something to say about the city, our neighbourhood, our streets. In this workshop, we wanted to focus in the processes and results of gentrification and the voices, movements, people who resist and confront those processes. We would like to point out **evictions, fancy expensive buildings and shops, areas of extrem control (police the whole day, cameras), increasing rents, mobbing, turistics apartments -legal or illegal-...**

But we also think that making a common, free, open, and public use of the space is one of the most efectives and powerful ways to create/hatch resistance. Personal is politic and we want to reflect this aspects in the map too: **places where people can get together -squares and parks, asociations, etc-, cheap and nice cafés, best cheap food in town, beratungs and places where people help each other, recycling-dumpstering points, alternative-non-commercial places, diy places...**

But this are just some ideas. Nobody needs someone to tell them what to say.

Bring your own stories! Take back the city!

We will be very happy to see you.

25 Years /collective mapping crew