

Out of Focus brings together anthropological and artistic projects that challenge dominant modes of seeing, listening, sensing, knowing, and narrating. Across film, photography, sound, installation, performance and app design, the exhibition explores how blurriness, fragmentation, and participation can become tools for resistance, care, and shared meaning-making. From feminist co-curation to decolonial archives and queer sound intervention, each contribution questions what is centered, what is left out of frame, and how we might create commons through uncertainty.

The exhibition departs from the idea of un/commoning: a movement where certain narratives, images, and media practices help build communities of resistance and care, while others reinforce exclusion, hierarchies, and control. By working with blurred visuals, sounds, broken archives, participatory formats, performance and open-source tools, contributors resist the demand for clarity and control. Instead, they open up spaces of uncertainty, tension, and co-creation. Thus, the exhibition ›Out of Focus‹ is an invitation to dwell in vagueness, to see differently, and to imagine otherwise.

Through the curatorial project, we ask: Can we use the unfocused to shift attention away from extractive practices and towards collective ways of knowing? Can we turn curatorial spaces into commons, sites of shared care, critique, and speculation?

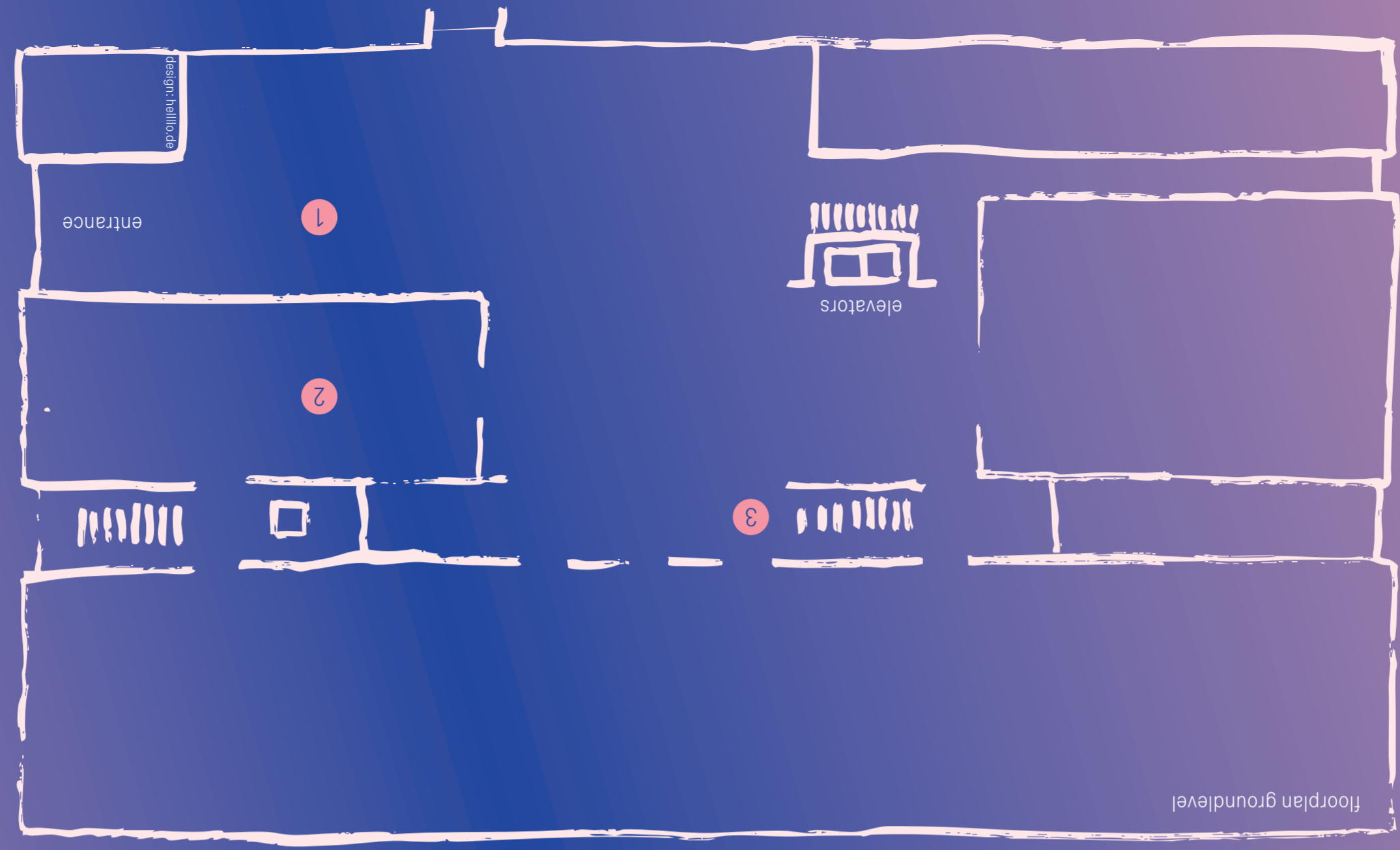
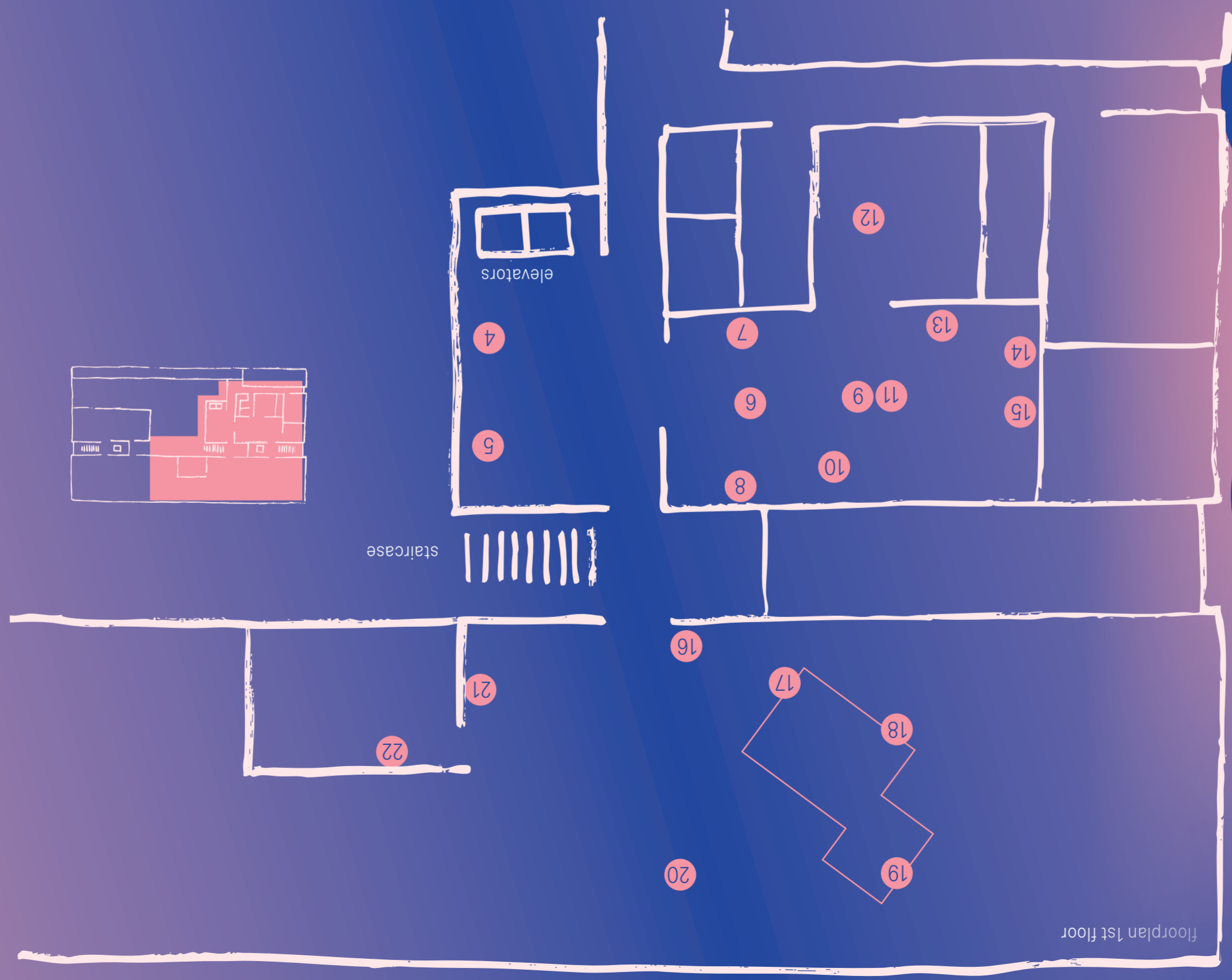
As part of the GASCA-Conference 2025 in Cologne, the Working Group Media(anthropology) curated the exhibition ›Out of Focus‹ for selected intervention spaces in and with the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum. From Tuesday, Sept 30th to Thursday, Oct 2nd, 22 selected works are on display at various locations in the museum. On Wednesday, Oct 1st, 2025, there will be an exhibition reception and a movement activation.

Contributors

- 14 Anna Lisa Rammella & Ben Bernhard *Leftovers*
- 15 Selen Göbelez & Yann Le Crohennec *Contemporary Archaeology*
- 16 Kivlim Zäfer Teoma *Four Weeks*
- 17 Suzana Jovicic *Out of Funding*
- 18 Mirjam Kislät Löwen, Götter
- 19 Caterina Sartori *Living Room*
- 20 Christoph Balzar *Resonanzraum #*
- 21 Claudia Liebelt, Ilke Imer & Mays Tokel *Thinking with Scents*
- 22 Isabel Breidenbröcker & Adam Pultz *Queer Sonic Finger Prints*

All works and descriptions:

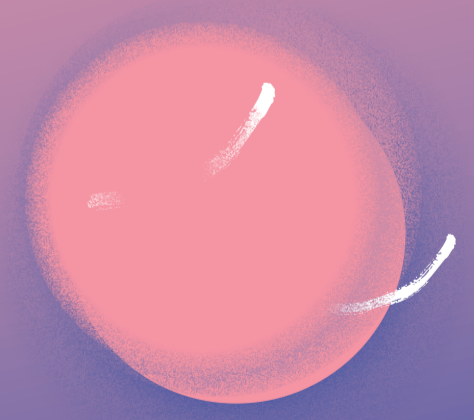
- 1 Sebastian Ritter Choquehuanca, Kathrin Schilbach, Viola Cantü, Sevi Bayraktar *Moving Bodies — Moving Relationships*, movement activation, Wednesday Oct 1st, 6:30 pm
- 2 Gregory Gan *Empathy for Concrete Things*
- 3 Beatrix Hoffmann-Ihde *Emmeshed and Entwined*
- 4 Luca Bruls *«Is Sharing Caring?»*
- 5 Sadaf Biglari *A Guide to Dance for Adult Children*
- 6 Felicie Kertudg *Bodies of Water*
- 7 Dafina Gashi *Lost in the Light*
- 8 General Assn. Art/Anthropology *Collective 52 Stones: Redescriptions of a Colonial Archive*
- 9 Sarcia Robyn Balsari *Living on the Edge*
- 10 Arang Omrani, Tahere Abootazelli & Simone Pfeifer *WE ARE NOT CARPETS*
- 11 Corinna Duschl *Hot Coals*
- 12 Anja Dreschke & Michaela Schäuble *Santu Paulu Meu Falla Quarre*
- 13 Rebecca Carlson & Maximilian Schrade *Tracing the Rhine*



Out of Focus

of

Footprints



30.9. — 2.10. 2025
Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum
Cologne

Out of Focus:
Un/Commoning Curatorial Practices through
Multimodal Engagements

Curatorial Team: Anja Dreschke, Simone Pfeifer,
Anna Lisa Rammella, Beatrix Hoffmann-Ihde together with
Nanette Snoep and Kristina Hopp;
Curatorial assistant: Romy Berthold

Tuesday, Sept 30th, 10 am — 6 pm,
Wednesday, Oct 1st, 10 am — midnight,
Thursday, Oct 2nd, 10 am — 10 pm

Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum – Cultures of the World
Cäcilienstraße 29 — 33, 50667 Köln

Exhibition reception and movement activation:
Wednesday, Oct 1st 2025, 6 — 8 pm



Out of Focus

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Mirjam Kislak
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Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie



Media Anthropology
Working Group