

HOW TO SQUATFABRIK

ARTIST RESIDENCY



116, RUE DE LUXEMBOURG L-4221 ESCH/ALZETTE





KULTURFABRIK



soutenu par
œuvre
nationale



BRIDDERHAUS



Ministry of
Science and Culture



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Culture

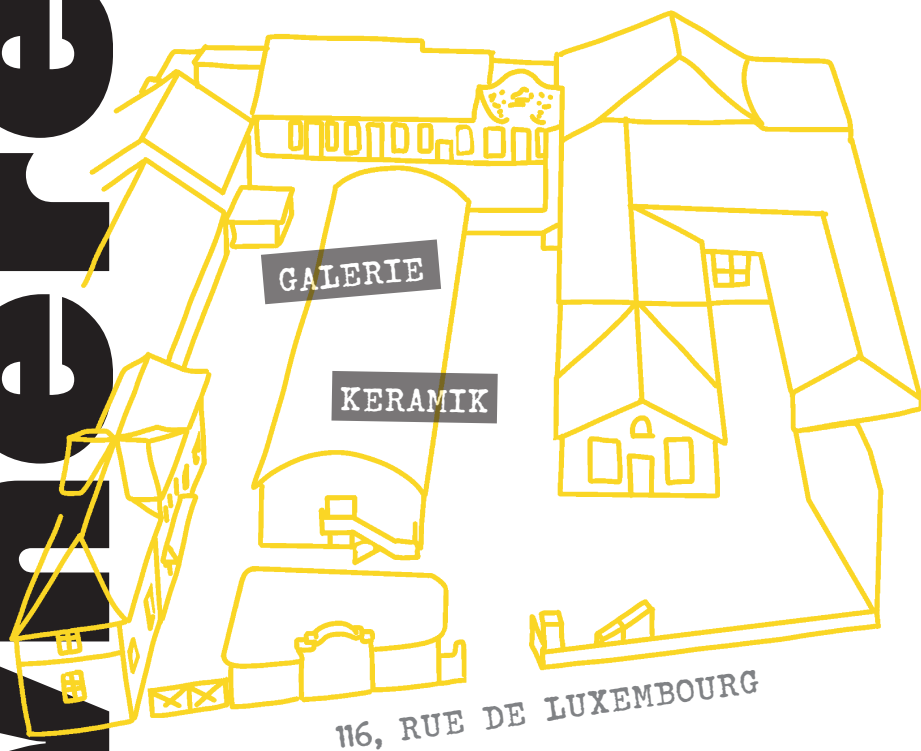


L'association Kulturfabrik bénéficie du soutien financier
du Ministère de la Culture du Luxembourg et
de la Ville d'Esch-sur-Alzette

what- fabrik?

Squatfabrik is a process-driven residency program that invites one local and one international artist to work individually on their projects within a shared space at Kulturfabrik. The focus of the residency is purely on research, serving as a creative hub for experimentation. Over the course of four weeks, the artists have the freedom to experiment, take risks, and explore new ideas without the pressure of delivering a final product. Squatfabrik does not measure success or failure. Instead, it embraces the process as an essential part of the creative journey. The goal is to provide artists with the time and space to explore unconventional perspectives and challenge societal norms through their artistic lens.

KULTURFABRIK



Squatfabrik residencies take place across 300m² of creative space within Kulturfabrik's central building, forming the vibrant heart of the project. This expansive area is divided into two distinct sections: the office space, Keramik, provides a quiet environment for research, reading, and conceptual work, while the workshop space, Galerie, is equipped for construction, manufacturing, and serves as a dynamic playground for hands-on creation.

The residency offers a wide range of possibilities, from woodworking to metalworking, with no limits to creative experimentation. Artists in residence are encouraged to immerse themselves in the atmosphere and history of the former slaughterhouse in Esch-sur-Alzette, exploring its artistic potential and engaging with the local community.

WHY?

At Kulturfabrik, we believe that artistic exploration requires time to develop ideas and personal expression, leading to a deeper artistic language that can have a lasting societal impact. Bold exploration needs space, not pressure. It should not be tied to market value or solely measured by the final result. Squatfabrik challenges the logic of return on investment by providing a space for open experimentation and research for artists in residence. Whether subtly questioning, boldly provoking, or implicitly challenging norms, Squatfabrik exists as a place where artists can break conventional rules, recognizing that art, society, and politics are deeply interconnected.

HOW?

Squatfabrik invites us to explore how imagination, creativity, and art can reshape the spaces we inhabit and, at its best, facilitate the materialisation of utopian visions. The artistic projects at Squatfabrik challenge all of us – artists, cultural workers, activists, and members of civil society – to question our habits and ecosystems, providing tools to rethink our behaviours and relationships with one another and the natural world. By opening new perspectives, Squatfabrik helps us develop new ways of seeing, feeling, and thinking.

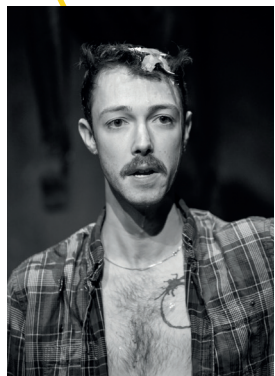
WHO?

Introducing the first two artist duos of **Squatfabrik 2025**

Squatfabrik #1

Raphaël Adams & Ren Loren Britton

07.04.2025 - 04.05.2025



Raphaël Adams is a multidisciplinary artist from Luxembourg based in Ireland working in theatre and performance art. He is a theatre maker, performance artist, and director who uses queer performance methodologies, audience delegation, and physical theatre to explore love and intimacy. By breaking as well as compounding traditional forms and conventions of theatre and performance art, he pushes witnesses of his work out of their comfort zones to invite reflections on what connection means in a neoliberal society.



Ren Loren Britton is a trans* disciplinary artist-designer who reverberates with trans* feminism, technosciences, radical pedagogy and disability justice. Trans* feminist technoscience in their work follows the long wiggle of cyberfeminism; focusing on trans*, as in, transgender and trans*, as in, crossing contexts with feminist concerns. They are interested in the ways that socio technical systems & media makes lives accessible and pleasurable. Departing from the understanding that we live in a deeply ableist white supremacist world, and therefore to be able to follow a justice-oriented direction, their work begins from the assumption that we must rethink the terms of who fits into institutions of all scales, with what friction (or not) and why.

WHO?

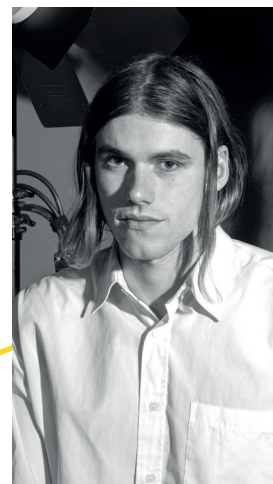
Squatfabrik #2

Cristina Picco & Harold Lechien

12.05.2025 - 07.06.2025



Cristina Picco is an Italian multidisciplinary artist based in Luxembourg since 2009, who graduated in 2021 in Textile Creation from the Academy of Fine Arts in Arlon (Belgium). Her practice, blending art and research, utilises visual and performative languages to offer immersive and collaborative experiences. She is interested in storytelling and develops artistic projects that explore human interconnections, aiming to encourage hybridisation through empathy and authenticity. Currently, her research focuses on themes of fear and grief at the societal and community levels.



Harold Lechien (born in 1995) is a multidisciplinary Belgian artist who lives and works between Brussels and Tourcoing, where he is currently a resident at Le Fresnoy - Studio National des Arts Contemporains (2023-2025). Through his installations, films, and visual artworks, Harold Lechien reinvents and subverts images and objects derived from industrial commerce, exploring the fetishism of commodities that defines contemporary consumers. His work offers a unique perspective on the emotions that emerge from the production and emotional reception of images and industrial products. His creations cultivate a constant ambiguity between the human and their visual and material environment.

GET INVOLVED?

This year, we launched our first open call for artists based in Luxembourg. Each of the selected artists brings their own distinctive artistic approach. Contemporary art can sometimes feel abstract, but if we take a closer look, we may be surprised by how closely it relates to our personal experiences.

In this edition of the *How to Squatfabrik* zine, we invite you to explore the artistic worlds of Raphaël Adams and Cristina Picco, the local artists of our first two Squatfabrik residencies, through the following playful exercises:

Squatfabrik #1 (Raphaël Adams)

EXPLORING AFFECTION AND INTIMACY BEYOND THE ROMANTIC:

1. Turning touch into a conscious act rather than an automatic behaviour.

When you greet a loved one, a friend, sibling, or grandparent, notice how you touch them. Do you give a quick hug, a handshake, or a pat on the back? Similarly, notice the absence/lack of touch. Experiment with being more intentional. Reflect on consent and how you offer consent.

2. Reframing intimacy

Describe an intimate moment of your life that did not involve romance or sex? What made it feel intimate? If you feel comfortable, ask a friend the same question. Exchange thoughts and notice how different or similar your definitions of intimacy are.

3. Intimacy as a daily practice

At the end of each day reflect on a moment of intimacy and try to capture it within a sort of diary. This can take the form of text, drawings, audio recordings, poetry, etc. Trying to capture your feelings of intimacy within different mediums might help you understand your own relationship towards intimacy better.

Squatfabrik #2 (Cristina Picco)

FRAMING REALITY: PERCEPTION, ANXIETY, AND COLLECTIVE NARRATIVES

Instead of checking the news tomorrow, ask someone **“what’s happening in the world?”**.

Whatever they tell you becomes your “news” for the day. Was it personal? Was it political? Were the “news” you’ve gotten, a message of disaster or of hope?

Think about how news are also shaped by the way they are presented: Who tells it? What is left out and what is emphasised? Taking in consideration the different perspectives shows the multilayered construction of the world.

THE TEAM

INTERVIEW WITH THE MASTERS OF CRAFTSMANSHIP DENIS & DAWOD OF THE SQUAT-TEAM AT KULTURFABRIK

The technical department of the Kulturfabrik is here to assist and support artists in the realisation of their projects. We asked Denis & Dawod some questions.

What is your best memory from the past Squats ?

Denis : With Dawod, we enjoyed working with artists who reuse materials from the industry or the recycling centre. We really appreciate the approach of this kind of work.

What do you like in working with the artsits of Squatfabrik?

Denis: We both enjoy working on projects by Squatfabrik artists. There are often challenges for us, like finding

the right solutions to carry out their projects, and that gives us pleasure.

What would you appreciate ?

Denis: We like it when the artists involve us in the planning of their production and come to see us early enough so that we have time to offer them suitable technical solutions. The challenge is to ensure that everyone is satisfied.



NEWS FROM THE PAST

Miguel C. Tavares and José Alberto Gomes worked at Squatfabrik in June 2024, while Marta Zapparoli was in residency in September 2024. We asked them to share what has happened so far and reflect on their best memories from their time at Kulturfabrik.

News from Miguel C. Tavares & José Alberto Gomes

Where are you?

José: I'm on a train from Porto to Lisbon, working on the music and sound for a theatre piece. It's going to be an adaptation of Macbeth by Raquel S.

What do you remember about your first day?

José: The first day I was at Kufa was when we came to present the film East Atlantic Concert in 2023 already. I remember it well—it was

summer, the weather was great, with long days. I was delighted by how nice it was to be outside with a beer in my hand, chatting with the team.

Miguel: I remember a warm welcome from the Kufa team, when I arrived at the residency this year. José was already at Kufa when I arrived.

Your favourite thing at Cactus Supermarket?

José: For sure, it was the pain au chocolat. I know it's something simple, but I just couldn't go there without bringing one.

Miguel: Thüringer!!!

What was your best moment at Kufa Squatfabrik?

Miguel: The sunset at Ratelach with a beer.

Where was your favourite place at Kufa?

Miguel: Our atelier! The Squatfabrik office.

José: In general, Kufa is a really pleasant place. But this last time, the weather wasn't always great, so I fondly remember how cosy the sofa next to the books in the Squatfabrik workspace was. I spent many hours there, reading or taking a break with a mug of coffee or a beer.

News from Marta Zapparoli

How did you start the year?

Marta: In January, I spent two weeks in Chile in the Atacama Desert recording natural radio frequencies and performing in Santiago and Valparaíso! It was an intense and beautiful journey, also very emotional.

What do you remember about your arrival at Kulturfabrik?

Marta: On the first day, I met Inês from the team, who kindly explained everything I needed to know about entering and exiting the laboratories and gave me a guided tour of the entire building. It was a full day, and I treated myself to a little solo dinner on my first evening of residency.

What was your best moment at Squatfabrik?

Marta: In general, the best times were in the afternoon and evening, which were perfect for my research. I also remember having a great laugh with Inês during a lunch in the Squatfabrik courtyard.

One thing that surprised you?

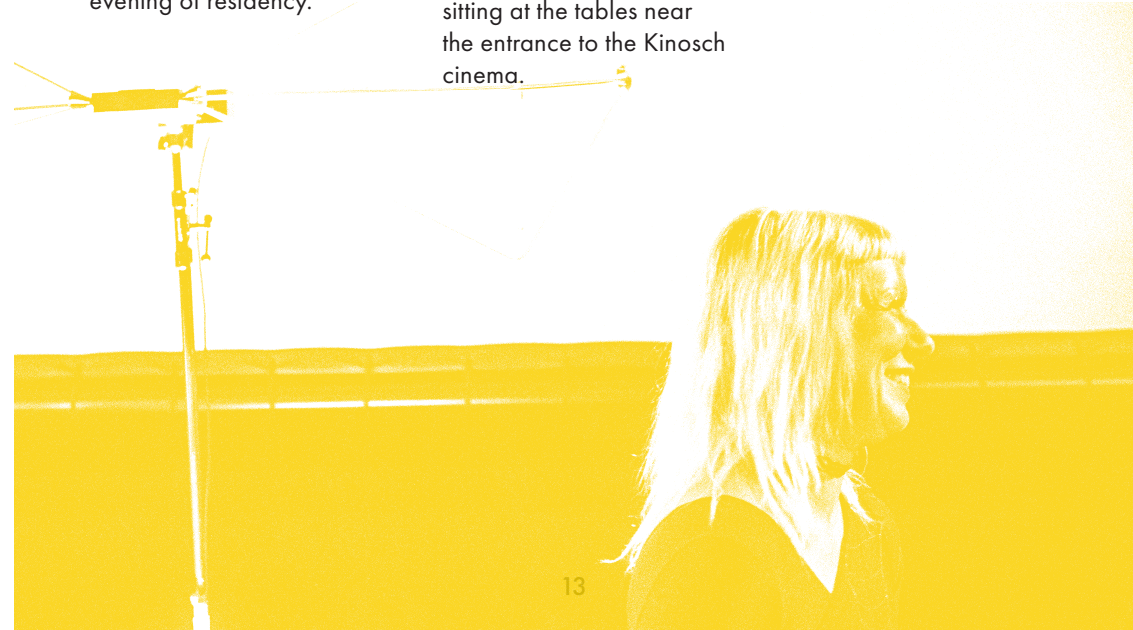
Marta: I was surprised by how the Squatfabrik team works in such harmony and serenity! I was really impressed by the collective spirit.

Where was your favourite place in Kufa?

Marta: My favourite place was more than one: I often sat on the metal stairs near the mural of Tahiti or tropical islands, in front of the atelier where I worked. I also liked sitting at the tables near the entrance to the Kinosch cinema.

Also, tell us where you are at the moment and what you are working on.

Marta: I'm currently between Berlin and Porto, organising the second part of my year by booking more performances with the project I finalised at Squatfabrik. I'm preparing a workshop for May at the Oscillation Fest in Brussels and a small residency in February in Portugal. For now, I'm working in the studio and also selecting recordings made in Chile for a duo performance with a guitarist. In short, multitasking...



AUDIENCE

Squatfabrik residencies come from the need to give artists space for work. That is what matters to us at Kulturfabrik. But these projects aren't just for the artists—they're meant to be shared, along with the experiences behind them. Squatfabrik fosters dialogue between artists and audiences, using art to spark debate and exchange. The audience is central to Squatfabrik, engaging in open conversations during the end-of-residency Get Out events and through a side program of workshops and screenings designed to offer new perspectives on the world.



«PATHS TO PERCEPTION»

– A PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP SERIES EXPLORING ART AND ITS IMPACT ON THE WORLD.

In collaboration with the artist **COLLECTIVE ANTROPICAL** and residency partner **BRIDDERHAUS**.

The «Paths to Perception» workshop, hosted by the artist collective Antropical, offers a participatory exploration of art's impact on society. Through an exploration of significant artworks (including painting, film, literature, performance, and more), the workshop seeks to open new perspectives on the world and a deeper understanding of oneself.

Participants are invited to express and explore their personal questions, while the artistic team provides tailored recommendations of artistic and cultural works that resonate with their interests, concerns, and inquiries. The workshop provides a space for sharing experiences and discussing the impact art has on our lives.

Age Recommendation 15+
Language: English

SCHOOL CLASSES:

(Thursday 9:00 AM - 12:00 AM):

April 24 / May 22 / June 26

You want to join with a school class?

Sign up by sending us an email to → inscriptions@kulturfabrik.lu

OPEN WORKSHOPS:

(Saturday 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM):

April 19 / May 24 / June 28

The workshop is open to all (recommended for ages 15+).

Drinks and food will be provided by Bridderhaus.

Sign up by sending an email to → inscriptions@kulturfabrik.lu.

HOW IT WORKS:

You can anonymously submit topics and questions of interest to the artists from Antropical artist collective at least one week in advance. The artistic team will then shape these submissions into a common theme, which will inspire a curated program of short films, stories, songs, and paintings. The 3-hour session includes time for experiencing these art works followed by a group discussion. The workshop leaders also, separately, provide personalised artistic recommendations in response to your privately submitted topics or questions.

INTERESTED?

Sign up by sending an email to → inscriptions@kulturfabrik.lu
After registering, you'll receive a sign-up form for submitting your questions.

FOR THE RESIDENCY PROJECT OF RAPHAËL ADAMS

Multidisciplinary artist Raphaël Adams is exploring concepts of non-sexual intimacy during his Squatfabrik residency (07.04.2025-04.05.2025).

In an increasingly isolating world, it's easy to overlook the connections we already have, placing more emphasis on individual success and the search for a romantic partner as outlets for our intimate desires. Within his socially engaged art, Raphaël Adams invites people from every path of life to join him in his practice, exploring and questioning the ways we connect with each other. Through collaborative art-making, the participants will form new communities, foster meaningful connections, and reflect on the intimacies, affections, and care we experience in our daily lives.

Raphaël Adams will facilitate **4 open workshops** during his residency between the 10th of April and the 1st of May on Thursdays from **6pm to 8pm**. Participants are free to participate in however many workshops they would like.

The workshops are structured as follows:

1. Through a variety of task-based exercises, we will question and challenge our ingrained habits of showing love and affection towards each other.
2. In small discussion circles and potentially one-on-one conversations, we will reflect on the meaning of intimacy and explore why it holds significance for us.
3. Together, we will develop art projects and concepts that highlight the absence of intimacy in our everyday lives and actively work towards creating a communal counter-action.

- Languages: LU & ENG (translations to DE & FR possible)
- Age recommendation: 14+
- Dates: April 10 / April 17 / April 24 / May 1

For any more questions and subscribing feel free to reach out at Raphaël

→ raphael.adams19@gmail.com

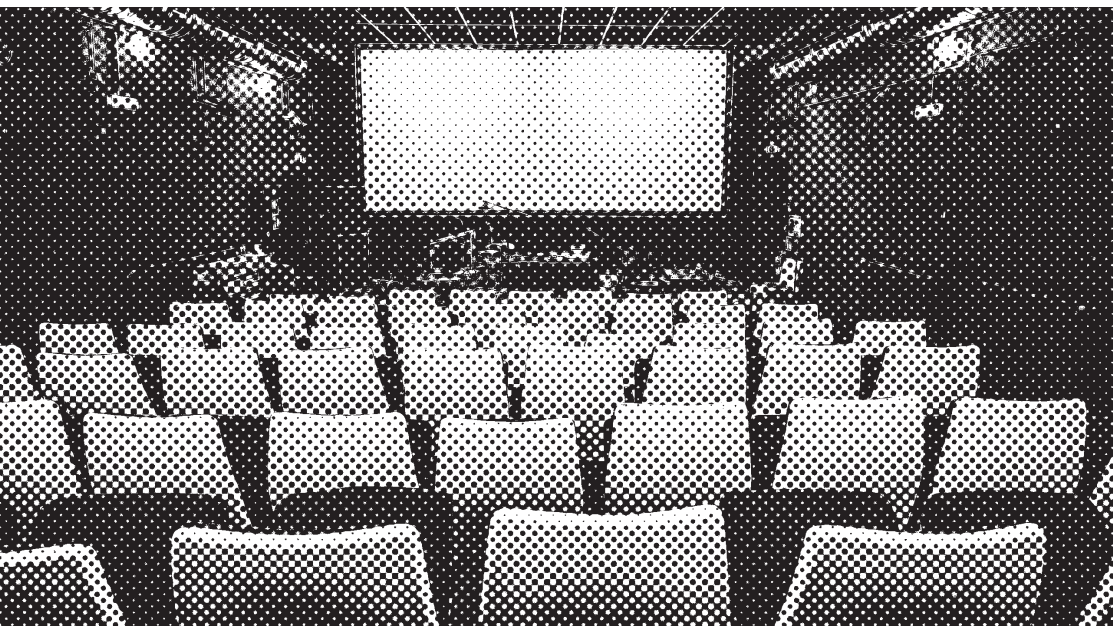
Booking via email is advised to estimate attendance numbers. Nevertheless, showing up on the day and bringing friends and family along is completely fine!

UNFRAMED MOVIES CYCLE

@ Kinosch

Artists push the boundaries of perception, transforming the way we see and experience the world. *Unframed* brings together three films that explore creation as a driving force for transformation. Each film focuses on an emblematic artist who has expanded the limits of artistic expression through radical gestures. Anselm Kiefer reimagines history from the remnants of destruction, layering materials and memory into monumental landscapes. Apolonia Sokol inscribes herself onto the canvas, navigating the fluid space between identity and artistic survival. Nam June Paik reshapes technology into an expressive medium, redefining the relationship between image, time, and language.

Rather than merely documenting these artists, these films become part of the creative process, offering new ways to perceive artistic practice beyond traditional frames. This film cycle, part of Squatfabrik's artist residency, positions cinema not as an observer, but as a space of invention, where art and film converge into new ways of seeing.



SQUATFABRIK #1

• April 9

NAM JUNE PAIK: MOON IS THE OLDEST TV

Amanda Kim, USA, 2023, 109'

A documentary about Nam June Paik, the pioneer of video art, whose work reshaped the way we understand media, time, and technology. His experimental approach to video, performance, and cybernetics adds a different dimension to the cycle, connecting to Wenders' immersive filmmaking and Kiefer's grand-scale artistic visions

SQUATFABRIK #2

• May 14

ANSELM

Wim Wenders, Germany, 2023, 93'

A portrait of German artist Anselm Kiefer, capturing his monumental and immersive approach to painting and sculpture. Wenders' use of 3D cinematography transforms the experience into an almost sculptural journey through Kiefer's practice, memory, and artistic philosophy.

SQUATFABRIK #3

• June 18

APOLONIA, APOLONIA

Lea Glob, Denmark and Poland, 2022, 116'

A deeply personal documentary following the life and artistic journey of Apolonia Sokol, a young female painter navigating the complexities of the contemporary art world. The film reflects on gender, self-determination, and the struggle of sustaining an artistic career.

AGENDA

SQUAT#1/25

April 7 to May 4

Raphaël Adams (LU) & Ren Loren Britton (USA)

Nam Junk Paik : Moon is the Oldest TV	April 09	movie @Kinosch
Workshop w/R. Adams	April 10, 17, 24 & May 1	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Public workshop 'Paths to Perception'	April 19	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM @Bridderhaus
School workshop 'Paths to Perception'	April 24	9:00 AM - 12:00 AM
Get Out	May 02	6:30 PM

SQUAT#2/25

May 12 to June 7

Cristina Picco (LU) & Harold Lechien (BE)

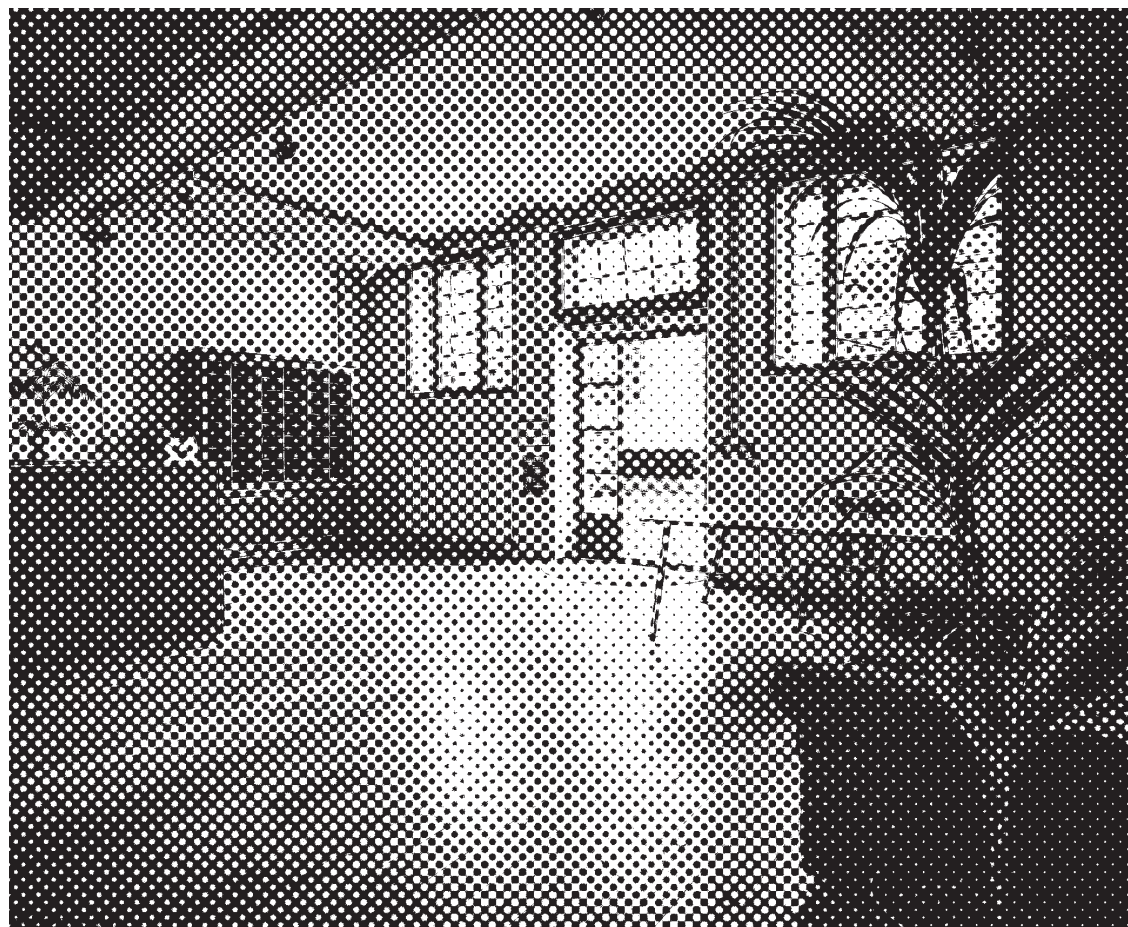
Anselm	May 14	movie @Kinosch
School workshop 'Paths to Perception'	May 22	9:00 AM - 12:00 AM
Public workshop 'Paths to Perception'	May 24	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM @Bridderhaus
Get Out	June 06	6:30 PM

SQUAT#3/25

June 16 to July 13

Tania Soubry (LU) & Naomi Feigelson (FR)

Apolonia, Apolonia	June 18	movie @Kinosch
School workshop 'Path to Perception'	June 26	9:00 AM - 12:00 AM
Public workshop 'Path to Perception'	June 28	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM @Bridderhaus
Get Out	July 11	6:30 PM



**Come visit us!
More information
on Squatfabrik
here**
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Centre culturel Kulturfabrik
116, rue de Luxembourg
L-4221 Esch-sur-Alzette
Tel +352 55 44 91-1
mail@kulturfabrik.lu
kulturfabrik.lu