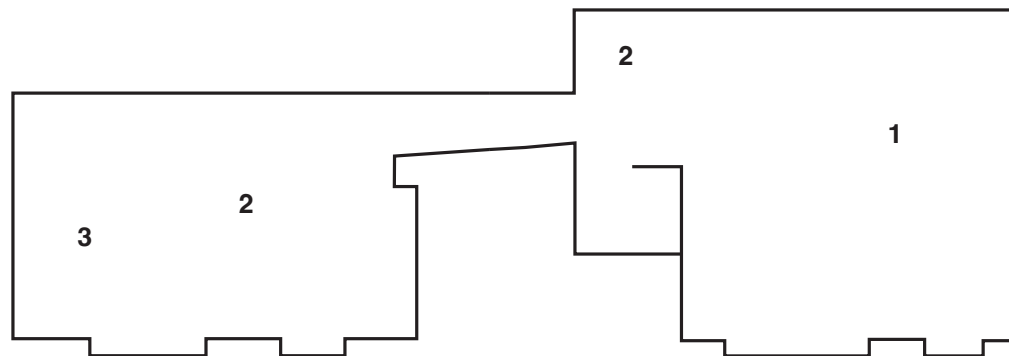


STIRNIMANN- STOJANOVIC



1

What if the walls were more flexible?

– Connecting through Collective Care and Redistribution (2024)

Stirnemann-Stojanovic X Vesna Stojanovic

Processual installation, 17 bricks (crocheted yarn layers and clay layers)

on display (anodized aluminium pipes) akin to an industrial roller conveyor

Dimensions Ø 332 cm

2

What if the walls were more flexible?

– Assemblage 2 (2024)

Stirnemann-Stojanovic

Ephemeral installation (5'441 mini clay bricks, some of them inscribed with

“Resist together for civil, social, cultural, economic, political and ecological rights.” and

“The freedom to leave one’s community, knowing that one will be welcomed in faraway places.”)

Dimensions variable

3

SoliSoliWaffle (2024)

Stirnemann-Stojanovic X SoliSoli

Custom-made waffle machine (the waffles mimic a brick wall inscribed with “Brick by Brick” and “Wall by Wall”)

Dimensions 37.5 x 50 x 27 cm

All donations collected in exchange for waffles go to the association SoliSoli which redistributes these amounts to two local humanitarian organizations – *Klikaktiv* in Belgrade and *Kompas 071* in Sarajevo – that support and protect the rights of people on the move at the EU buffer zones in the Western Balkans: www.solisoli.ch

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Connecting through Collective Care and Redistribution
15.12.24 – 02.02.25, WallStreet Fribourg
Stirnemann-Stojanovic

[ENG]

WallStreet presents the exhibition “Connecting through Collective Care and Redistribution” by the artist duo Stirnemann-Stojanovic, based in Zurich and composed of Nathalie Stirnemann (1990, born in Fribourg, CH) and Stefan Stojanovic (1993, born in Vranje, SRB).

Stirnemann-Stojanovic’s concepts are manifested and materialised in situations, performances, words and objects. Central themes in their artistic practice are bound to social and structural issues. Via transdisciplinary and collective approaches, by exploring the boundaries between art, activism, and society, Stirnemann-Stojanovic aim to thematise and demand sustainable living conditions.

This exhibition is connected to the residency of the “Swiss Cities Conference on Cultural Affairs” (CVC/SKK) in Belgrade, granted to Stirnemann-Stojanovic by the City of Fribourg in 2022.

[FR]

WallStreet présente l’exposition “Connecting through Collective Care and Redistribution” (traduit: se connecter à travers le soin collectif et la redistribution) par le duo d’artistes Stirnemann-Stojanovic, basé à Zurich et composé de Nathalie Stirnemann (1990, née à Fribourg, CH) et Stefan Stojanovic (1993, né à Vranje, SRB).

Les concepts de Stirnemann-Stojanovic se manifestent et se matérialisent dans des situations, des performances, des mots et des objets. Les thèmes centraux de leur pratique artistique sont liés à des questions sociales et structurelles. À travers des approches transdisciplinaires et collectives, en explorant les frontières entre l’art, l’activisme et la société, Stirnemann-Stojanovic cherchent à thématiser et à revendiquer des conditions de vie durables.

Cette exposition est liée à la résidence de la “Conférence des villes suisses en matière culturelle” (CVC/SKK) à Belgrade, accordée à Stirnemann-Stojanovic par la Ville de Fribourg en 2022.

[DE]

WallStreet präsentiert die Ausstellung „Connecting through Collective Care and Redistribution“ (übersetzt: Verbinden durch kollektive Fürsorge und Umverteilung) des Künstlerduos Stirnemann-Stojanovic, ansässig in Zürich und bestehend aus Nathalie Stirnemann (1990, geboren in Fribourg, CH) und Stefan Stojanovic (1993, geboren in Vranje, SRB).

Die Konzepte von Stirnemann-Stojanovic manifestieren und materialisieren sich in Situationen, Performances, Worten und Objekten. Zentrale Themen ihrer künstlerischen Praxis sind soziale und strukturelle Fragestellungen. Durch transdisziplinäre und kollektive Ansätze und das Erkunden der Grenzen zwischen Kunst, Aktivismus und Gesellschaft zielen Stirnemann-Stojanovic darauf ab, nachhaltige Lebensbedingungen zu thematisieren und einzufordern.

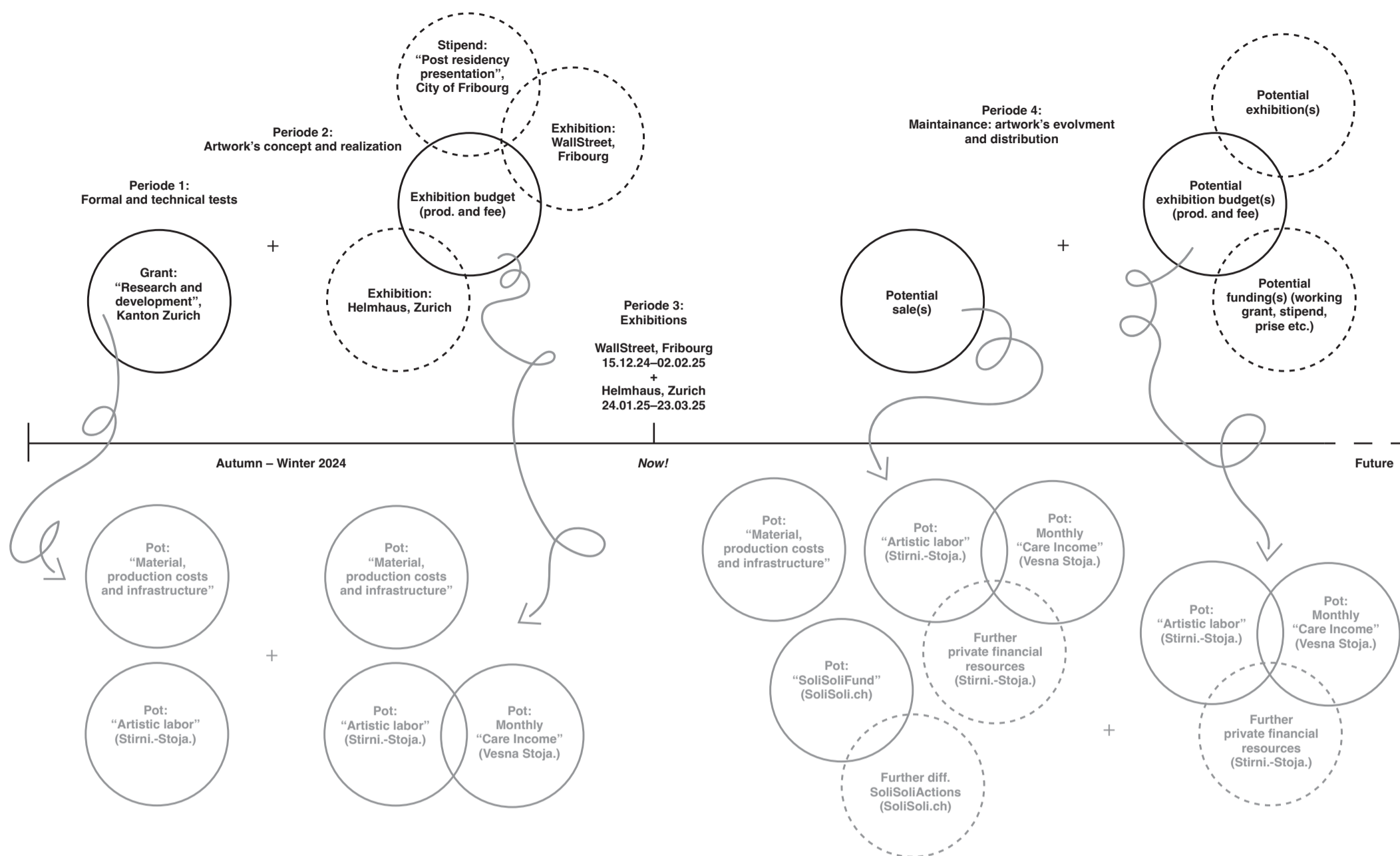
Diese Ausstellung ist mit der Residenz der “Städtekonferenz Kultur” (CVC/SKK) in Belgrad verbunden, die Stirnemann-Stojanovic von der Stadt Fribourg im Jahr 2022 gewährt wurde.

www.stirnemannstojanovic.com

Special thanks:

Ville de Fribourg; Conférences des villes en matières culturelles (CVC/SKK); WallStreet; Helmhaus (City of Zurich); and Canton of Zurich; Landis and Gyr Foundation; SoliSoli (with Alex Gaeng); Miloš Djordjević and Keng Chen.

Overall financial plan: timeline, source of financial resources and a system of “pots”



CONNECTING THROUGH COLLECTIVE CARE AND REDISTRIBUTION

This pamphlet highlights a specific artwork discussed below and includes a text by Jelena Vesić. It also provides details about the artwork's acquisition procedure, a price list (with a breakdown), and the overall financial plan for its production and ongoing maintenance. This includes a timeline, sources of financial resources, and a system of “pots”.

1

What if the walls were more flexible?

– Connecting through Collective Care and Redistribution (2024)

Stirmmann-Stojanovic X Vesna Stojanovic

Processual installation, 17 bricks (crocheted yarn layers and clay layers)

on display (anodized aluminium pipes) akin to an industrial roller conveyor

Dimensions Ø 332 cm

What if the walls were more flexible? – It is the question that the artist duo Stirmmann-Stojanovic persistently ask in their ongoing project of the same name (initiated in 2019), and whose main element is the symbolically charged object of a brick. Representing a variety of ideas, from emotional barriers and societal constraints to strength, resilience and rebellion, the symbolic currency of brick and its long political history are incorporated in Stirmmann-Stojanovic's work. In their social sculptures and performative scores developed within the project the bricks were big and tiny, solid and soft, made of clay and crocheted, manufactured and made by hand. Their function has always been multilayered – they were units of artwork, potentially aesthetic objects, they were multiples for the gallery sale, objects of exchange and collaboration, of support and care.

„Another brick in the wall“ – a rebellious song by Pink Floyd from 1979 – observed the symbol of a brick within the matrix of discipline and punishment, the XX century order of social control, the repetitiveness, standardization and averageness of human life and experience. In the music video, the society born out of the repetitive gestures of fordist production is represented by the image of a zombie-children choir standing and singing from the moving assembly line. As the protagonists of the rebellious generations of 1960s and 1970s they called for the destruction of the infrastructures of discipline and control – the schools, the factories, and the military apparatuses.

The symbol of a brick in the XXI century, as Stirmmann-Stojanovic imply by this project, became more soft and flexible. However, the outcome of the flexibility we are experiencing today was not the promised liberation of the human individual, but rather precarisation of life and labour under the destabilizing force of neoliberal populist authoritarianism. The artistic installation *What if the walls were more flexible? – Connecting through Collective Care and Redistribution (2024)* presented in this exhibition context is composed as a pattern of hard and flexible bricks made of clay or yarn, laying on industrial blue aluminum pipes that evoke the circular roller-conveyor display system, part of the factory assembly line. The flexible bricks are neatly crocheted pieces, shaped in the structuralist-realist manner, rather than in a

flamboyant and virtuous crafty style. They are made by the mother of Stojanovic, Vesna Stojanovic, who is signed as a collaborator of the project, and who has lost her previous job of a medical nurse since she rejected to conform to the clientelist logic of the right-wing authoritarian regime in Serbia. Vesna's crocheting invokes memory and transformation; it witnesses that the (human) life today is unfolding on precarious grounds and nothing is firm any longer, including the walls.

In our times the symbol of a brick loses its burden of association with the XX century state infrastructures and their representative edifications, usually destabilized and privatized in the meantime. The new brick of the XXI century signifies the building of new human relations and sustainable communities rising on the ruins of the previous public space and social infrastructure. The song „Brick by Brick“ by the popular music band Arctic Monkeys (2011) witnesses this shift, evoking the slow and uncertain building up of something, possibly a relationship or situation, in the simultaneous processes of building and un-building, of learning and unlearning. In the same way the artist duo Stirmmann-Stojanovic develops their art practice as „useful art“ – the art that is meant to produce real changes – brick-by-brick. Their complex diagram of economical, aesthetic, and labour relations, exhibited next to the installation, is the conceptual counterpart of the artwork and its real-life invention. It is an open model of artistic support and participation in micropolitical transformation in society and everyday life.

Text written by Jelena Vesić (curator, writer and scholar based in Belgrade), December 2024

Artwork's acquisition procedure

With an acquisition, you support Stirnimann-Stojanovic's practice by enabling future artistic production and labor and contribute to solidaric structures such as Vesna's monthly "Care Income" and the "SoliSoliFund" (solisoli.ch¹).

– What is to be acquired?

Individual bricks, sequences of multiple bricks, or the entire installation can be acquired. The acquisition of a single brick includes x crocheted layers, y clay layers, and six blue anodized aluminum pipes.

Any number of bricks can be pre-ordered, even if they are not currently displayed. The realization time of pre-ordered pieces may vary, as will the waiting time.

The installation is never truly "finished" or "unfinished" but remains adaptable and continuously evolving, keeping the artwork — and its collaborators — alive through an ongoing artistic process. The duo and Vesna prioritize balancing well-being and productivity, with their collaboration built on mutual trust. Vesna contributes to the project when able, supported by a consistent monthly "Care Income", independent of the number of crocheted yarn layers, allowing her to avoid the pressures of precarious work.

– How much does it cost? And why?

The defined price for each brick reflects the amount necessary for its reproduction and replacement within the installation. This amount includes costs for materials, production (including transportation and logistics), the artistic labor of the artist duo, a contribution to Vesna Stojanovic's monthly "Care Income," and an additional 20% (surplus value) allocated to the solidarity fund "SoliSoliFund" (solisoli.ch).

The costs associated with the current visible version of the installation have already been covered thanks to diverse resources.

The future of the artwork *What if the walls were more flexible? – Connecting through Collective Care and Redistribution* (2024) will rely on future potential sales, additional funding, and exhibition budgets, which the artist duo will continue to pursue.

– Interested?

For further inquiries or to make a purchase, please contact the artists directly at info@stirnimannstojanovic.com

– "Thank you in advance for your support and for becoming an active part of this collective journey", Stirnimann-Stojanovic X Vesna Stojanovic X SoliSoli



¹ The association SoliSoli supports two local humanitarian organizations – *Klikaktiv* in Belgrade and *Kompas 071* in Sarajevo – that support and protect the rights of people on the move at the EU buffer zones in the Western Balkans: www.solisoli.ch

Price list and breakdown

Brick n°	Crocheted layers (grey) Clay layers (black)		Pot: "Material and production costs" for crocheted yarn layers (row material, packing material and transport)				Pot: "Artistic labor" (Stirmi.-Stoja.) for clay layers (creating & firing) (hour rate per person)		Pot: "Artistic labor" (Stirmi.-Stoja.) for display (machining & preparations) (hour rate per person)		Pot: Monthly "Care Income" (Vesna Stoja.) linked to the crocheted yarn layers (flat rate contribution) +20% of overall price (= surplus value)		Price per single brick	Price of the entire installation
	1/17	2/16	3.–	22.50	125.50	35.50	233.50	129.50	70.–	124.–	CHF 742.–			
2	2/16	2/16	5.50	21.–	125.50	35.50	220.–	129.50	140.–	135.50	CHF 811.–			
3	3/15	3/15	8.–	20.–	125.50	35.50	206.–	129.50	210.–	147.–	CHF 880.–			
4	4/14	4/14	10.50	18.50	125.50	35.50	192.50	129.50	280.–	158.50	CHF 949.50			
5	5/13	5/13	13.50	17.–	125.50	35.50	178.50	129.50	350.–	170.–	CHF 1'018.50			
6	6/12	6/12	16.–	16.–	125.50	35.50	165.–	129.50	420.–	181.50	CHF 1'087.50			
7	7/11	7/11	18.50	14.50	125.50	35.50	151.–	129.50	490.–	193.–	CHF 1'156.50			
8	8/10	8/10	21.–	13.50	125.50	35.50	137.50	129.50	560.–	204.50	CHF 1'225.50			
9	9/9	9/9	24.–	12.–	125.50	35.50	124.–	129.50	630.–	216.–	CHF 1'295.–			
10	10/8	10/8	26.50	10.50	125.50	35.50	110.–	129.50	700.–	227.50	CHF 1'364.–			
11	11/7	11/7	29.–	9.50	125.50	35.50	96.50	129.50	770.–	239.–	CHF 1'433.–			
12	12/6	12/6	31.50	8.–	125.50	35.50	82.50	129.50	840.–	250.50	CHF 1'502.–			
13	13/5	13/5	34.–	7.–	125.50	35.50	69.–	129.50	910.–	262.–	CHF 1'571.–			
14	14/4	14/4	37.–	5.50	125.50	35.50	55.–	129.50	980.–	273.50	CHF 1'640.50			
15	15/3	15/3	39.50	4.–	125.50	35.50	41.50	129.50	1050.–	285.–	CHF 1'709.50			
16	16/2	16/2	42.–	3.–	125.50	35.50	27.50	129.50	1120.–	296.50	CHF 1'778.50			
17	17/1	17/1	44.50	1.50	125.50	35.50	14.–	129.50	1190.–	308.–	CHF 1'847.50			

ps: shipping box and delivery costs are not included (custom pricing)

CHF 22'011.50