



ALL ALONG THE WATCHTOWER

A MEMORIAL, ARTISTIC AND CIVIC PROJECT FOR THE 30TH

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

PROMOTED by the EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON MEMORIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA and the BERLIN
WALL FOUNDATION

With the support of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION and
KULTURPROJEKTE BERLIN

“Music Theatre Performance”

November 8, 2019

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACEFULL REVOLUTION OF 1989 FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, EUROM proposes a free event inspired by Bob Dylan's song "All along the watchtower" with the aim to better understand the challenges of the migration waves that Europe is experiencing today.

The action will take place on **November 8 2019** at the Zion Church in Berlin in the framework of the commemorative program organized by [Kulturprojekte Berlin](http://www.kulturprojekte-berlin.de).



THE PROJECT

Taking the emblematic song by Bob Dylan as inspiration and the Berlin Wall as a symbolic representation, the project aims to connect citizens' memories with a sharpened view of the present time. Launched by the European Observatory on Memories of the University of Barcelona and the Berlin Wall Foundation, it is being developed since the beginning of 2018 in collaboration with a group of local artists and cultural managers from Berlin who have lived in the former GDR.



Picture: Robert Conrad

The belief that borders should be completely sealed is based on an erroneous understanding of the relationship between border and migration. In that sense, the purpose of this project is to analyse the current borders' crisis with memorial lenses, to illustrate this critical situation with a public event focused in the Berlin Wall as an expression of a political situation in the past that is being repeated in the present time.

The Berlin Wall started to be built in 1961 by the GDR and would be modified several times. It was a guarded concrete barrier that physically and ideologically divided Berlin during the Cold War. Until it was thrown down, in 1989, over 100,000 people attempted to escape it; it is estimated that around 5,000 people succeeded in escaping over the Wall in and around Berlin, and more than 200 died.

When the Schengen Convention came into force in 1995, Europe became a single area of security and justice without border controls. This situation started to change after the terrorist attack in the USA in 2001, and since then the world has been increasingly confronted with the radical movements of Islamic fundamentalism. The attacks of Paris, Brussels, Nice, Berlin, London or Barcelona, together with the growing number of refugees have also made it clear how important it is to establish a cross-border dialogue.



Borders nowadays are considered death places. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that in 2016 more than 4,700 migrants and refugees died or disappeared in attempting to cross borders only in the Mediterranean. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, an unprecedented **65.6 million** people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly **22.5 million refugees**, over half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also **10 million stateless people** who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. Nearly 20 people are forcibly displaced every minute.

Live music: **Nora Buschmann** and **Rex Joswig – Herbst in Peking!**

Texts and reading: **Inés Burdow**

Projection Photos, Image and Film: **Robert Conrad**

Coordination: **Margrit Köhl, Stella Flatten**



THE TEAM

The group of professionals leading this initiative gathers different professional profiles.



[Nora Buschmann](#) is a concert guitarist and music professor of international repute, currently teaching at the conservatories Hochschule für Musik and Theater Rostock und Musikhochschule "Carl Maria von Weber", in Dresden. Born in East Berlin, she joined master classes with Monika and Jürgen Rost in Weimar, and with Hubert Käppelin Cologne. With a lively interest in foreign languages and music cultures, which she integrates into her repertoire, she spent five years as a music teacher in Greece. Later, she traveled on several concert

tours and worked as juror and mentor in competitions throughout Europe, United States, Brazil and Argentina. Latin American folklore, such as Tango, Milonga, Bossa Nova, and modern classics such as Villa-Lobos and Piazzolla focus on her current program. Her published work includes the CDs "Live in Bern", "Suite orientale" and "Appassionata Latina".

[Rex Joswig](#) is a German singer and producer for the bands Herbst in Peking and The Same & The Hidden Sea. In early 1990, he founded [Peking Records](#), the first independent record company of the GDR. He also produces music for theatre and documentaries and since 1992 runs his own radio show [GRENZPUNKT NULL](#) for several radio stations.



[Ines Burdow](#) is an actress, speaker and author. She was engaged in the Berliner Ensemble, played leading roles in the opera, works for the Kulturradios of the ARD-Anstalten as a freelance feature author and director. In 2009 she was a town clerk of the North Sea resort Otterndorf. In 2015, Burdow received the Arts Promotion Prize of the state of Brandenburg in the field of literature. 2016 scholarship holder of Villa Decius / Krakow-Poland and Pirosmanni scholarship in Georgia. Since 2018 Inés Burdow has been on the management team of the Other World Stage Strausberg.

The photographer [Robert Conrad](#) grew up in Greifswald, moved to East Berlin in 1986, and studied art history and architecture in Berlin from 1990-98. In 1996 he co-founded the [Virtual Museum of the Dead Places](#). Photographer for the construction administration of the Berlin Senate and the Federal Property Administration, since 2000 he works as a freelance architectural photographer and architectural historian. Currently living and working in Berlin and Oldenhagen / Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.





Margrit Kühl is an architect and architectural culture historian, she studied architecture and building history in Berlin and works for her dissertation researching on architectural history at the Universität of Greifswald. Her research projects focus on the history of refugees and exiles during the European dictatorships of the 30s and 40s. The most recent projects she's been involved with include monument review and the theory of urban planning of the early modernity in Ciutat Lineal in Madrid, the Plan Obus in Algeria, the former sea bath on Rügen in North Germany and the *Ciutat Repòs i Vacances* at the coast near to Barcelona (Spain).



The historian Jordi Guixé is the founder director of the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) of the [University of Barcelona](#) Solidarity's Foundation and associate professor. With a Ph.D. in Contemporary History from both the University of Barcelona and the University of Paris III (Mención Prêt d'Honneur du Ministère de la Culture), he is currently a member of several research groups. In 2016, he was elected vice chair of the Board of the International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of the Victims of Public Crimes (IC-MEMO-ICOM). From 2007 to 2010, Guixé participated in the creation of the Memorial Democràtic de Catalunya, being responsible for the heritage area and international relations.

Oriol López-Badell is the coordinator of the European Observatory on Memories, which is supported by the University of Barcelona Solidarity Foundation. Among other projects, he launched the research project [Memoria BCN](#), designed to disseminate information about sites of memory in the city of Barcelona. He is the author of several articles and the book "Transitioning: Five Citizen Initiatives to Achieve Full Democracy". He is a graduate in History and postgraduate in History and Communication from the University of Barcelona and was a Visiting Scholar at the Columbia University (New York) in 2014.



Contact

European Observatory on Memories (EUROM)

www.europeanmemories.net

Coordinator Oriol

López

o.lopez@ub.edu

Press and communications Fernanda

Zanuzzi fernanda.zanuzzi@ub.edu

+34 685821203

About the EUROM

The [European Observatory on Memories](http://www.europeanmemories.net) (EUROM) is a transnational network that aims to analyse and understand historical and memorial processes of recent past. It is led by the University of Barcelona's Solidarity Foundation with the support of the Europe for Citizens program.

