

## **In the Long Run, Only Power Helps!**

WKV Querungen

**February 25 – May 7, 2023**

Curator: Yvonne P. Doderer



### **Introduction**

The exhibition *In the Long Run, Only Power Helps!*, curated by the gender researcher and artist Yvonne P. Doderer as an expansion of *Defiant Muses*, sketches an overview of the history/ies of local feminist resistance. Through various materials and media — slogans, posters, pamphlets, maps, books, music, interviews, videos — the show makes visible a selection of feminist activism in Baden-Württemberg and beyond since the 1970s.

*In the Long Run, Only Power Helps!* only shines a spotlight on this history/these histories and the many themes, contents, and projects such as the struggle for equal rights, for psychological and physical self-determination, for the enforcement and recognition of rights, for equal pay and the redistribution of carework both in and outside the home, and the recognition of women and/or FLINTA\*s (Frauen, Lesben, intergeschlechtliche, nichtbinäre, trans and agender Personen / women, lesbians, intersexual, non-binary, trans and agender people) in the media, art, culture, and the writing of history.

The exhibition, which sees itself equally as an overall artistic-visual installation and a research platform, will be complemented by a one-day workshop and a public panel discussion.

The activism taken as a topic here is largely due to the personal and unpaid commitment of the participating FLINTA\*s, is dependent on individual time and life circumstances, and is often not funded — so that there is little energy, time, and space leftover for documentation and archiving. Most of the posters and pamphlets in this exhibition thus come from the holdings of the Bibliothek für Zeitgeschichte (Library of Contemporary History) of the Württembergische Landesbibliothek (Württemberg State Library) in Stuttgart. Even today, consolidating feminist activism into continuously working, partially or entirely professional projects and generating an economic basis is difficult — and often remains precarious. This is one reason why projects have disappeared, as can be seen in the movement map of the baf e.V. — Bildungszentrum und Archiv zur Frauengeschichte (Educational Center and Archive on Women's History) Baden-Württemberg —, or in the collective reflections on thirty years of the Frauenzentrum Stuttgart (Stuttgart Women's Center) in the video documentary *Wir wollen alles* (We Want It All, 2006), which is part of the film program in the exhibition.

The exhibition aims to draw attention both to the content, potential, and forces of the feminist movement/s as well as to gaps and problems that still exist.

### **Backgrounds**

As several books in the exhibition point out, the criticism of a women's movement largely dominated by white, middle-class women came to (West) Germany with some delay beginning in the mid 1980s, especially through the African American author Audre Lorde during her years in Berlin and then represented by May Ayim and Katharina Oguntoye. Sexism, racism, and classism as well as their interconnections — the key concept of intersectionality, a concern for the interaction of various forms of discrimination — remain, unfortunately, highly topical.

The struggle for recognition of the rights and lifestyles of lesbians and LSBTTIQ\* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, intersexual, queer) is also ongoing. In the beginnings of the Neue Frauenbewegung (New Women's Movement), lesbians had to fight for visibility first within their own ranks, since in public feminists were equated with lesbians and both were defamed equally. The question of trans women's or trans persons' access to women's spaces was also long a point of contention. Today many projects deal with this topic differently, as becomes clear, for example, in the interviews shown in the exhibition with representatives of the Feministische Frauen\*gesundheitszentrum (FF\*GZ, Feminist Women's Health Center).

From the perspective of society in general, any deviation from an ostensibly "healthy" norm still triggers aggression such as hate speeches, threats, and continuing attacks and assaults against so-called minorities that can currently be observed. Moreover, the

wrongs and injustices in the world of the apparently normal, on the other hand, can be seen in the data on forced prostitution, sexualized violence, and femicides.

Another aspect of feminist commemorative culture the exhibition looks at concerns the question of violence, which was sometimes heatedly discussed in (West) German feminist circles, especially in connection with the attacks (on sex shops, among other places) by the group Rote Zora. Two films revisit this history in the exhibition.

The exhibition does not claim to be exhaustive, nor is it conceived as a purely historically linear exhibition. It can trace neither the breadth of feminist practices — as they occurred for example in connection with the founding of various women's projects in Baden-Württemberg and in (West) Germany — nor the construction of feminist theories that has been taking place for over fifty years.

It is also beyond the scope of this exhibition to present the continuations of feminist debates and findings. These now take the entire system into consideration, including the various differences, which is why gender, sex and gender relations are discussed. Ultimately the goal is to break open the corset of gender/sex attributions and categorizations, and of the associated power relations in order to find new room to move — and to do so for all genders/sexes. Yet looking back can stimulate reflections about what we can learn from that time and what remains to be done.

Feminist theories and practices formed and continue to form the point of departure and the foundations for many emancipatory struggles almost everywhere in the world — for recognition, for redistribution — whereby a crucial feminist insight has been not to play these two aspects against one another. In view of this world's current conditions, whose destructive consequences are decisively caused and further promoted by sexism, racism, and classism, for the time being feminist-motivated struggles remain crucial for the urgently needed changes.

Because, in the long run, only power helps!

**With many thanks to**

baf e.V. – Bildungszentrum und Archiv zur Frauengeschichte (Educational Center and Archive on Women's History) Baden-Württemberg; Bibliothek für Zeitgeschichte (Library of Contemporary History), Württembergische Landesbibliothek (Württemberg State Library), Stuttgart; Feministisches Frauen\*gesundheitszentrum Stuttgart e.V. (FF\*GZ, Feminist Women's Health Center); Wildwasser Stuttgart e.V., and all the people who contributed to this exhibition!

The exhibition is dedicated to Hella Böhm (artist) and Marie Luise Stöger (founder of Wildwasser Stuttgart), two important Stuttgart champions who died much too early.

## Program

Feminist Workshop

Saturday, April 1, 2023, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

***In the long run only power helps ... !?***

By and with Yvonne P. Doderer

Language: German

Feminist theories and practices have expanded in many ways since the beginnings of the Second or New Women's Movement in the 1970s. The associated questions, insights and activist strategies affect almost all social fields, spaces and discourses, including the respective subjects and actors. On different levels and in parts, social changes could be set in motion. In other areas, however, prevailing gender relations – especially when intertwined with other social categories and classifications – prove to be extremely persistent and hardly changeable, especially with regard to the necessities of structural and social transformations. Against this background, this workshop will focus on the question of whether there were theoretical as well as practical-activist approaches in the early days of the New Women's Movement that are not only possibly still relevant in the 21st century, but could also provide further impulses for thought and action and be made productive.

Panel

Thursday, April 6, 2023, 7 p.m.

**Discussion with representatives of Wildwasser Stuttgart e.V.,**

**FF\*GZ - Feminist Women's Health Center Stuttgart e.V. and others.**

Moderation: Yvonne P. Doderer

## Film program in the exhibition

### *Eröffnung Frauencafé- und Kulturzentrum SARAH e.V.*

(Opening of the Women's Café and Culture Center SARAH e.V.), 1978

(founded November 11, 1978)

Excerpt, SDR November 13, 1978

### *Wir wollen alles (We Want It All), 2006*

By Julia Preuschel, Gabriele Reitermann

Documentary film, 55 min

Commissioned by the Feministische Frauen\*gesundheitszentrum Stuttgart e.V.

(Feminist Women's Health Center Stuttgart e.V.) and Wildwasser Stuttgart e.V. and with the kind support of the Frauenzentrum Stuttgart e.V. (Women's Center Stuttgart e.V.)

“Thirty years of the women's and lesbian movement in Stuttgart. Women who fight, militantly, creatively, passionately, with joy and desire, for their visions, dreams, and goals. Enthusiasm, persuasive power for the cause against the background of the social reality of women's lives around the world, a knowledge of connectedness and solidarity, and not least tenacity helped to overcome resistance point by point. Successfully! Women-specific projects, offerings, and institutions were created, and laws were amended. Even today, true equality and genuinely equal status for women and girls has not been achieved. Protection and freedom alone are not enough — we want it all! The documentary deals with public actions and focuses on the topic of women's health using the example of the FFGZ Feministisches Frauengesundheitszentrum Stuttgart (Feminist Women's Health Center Stuttgart e.V.) and violence against women using the example of Wildwasser Stuttgart.

### Cast

Women's Health: Brigitte Schmalzl, Vita Rittenauer, Micha Schöllner, Silvia Koziolok, Doris Braune, Greta Schuler, Nicola Lang, Ulrike Rebstock, Anne Schmidt, Christin Wegener; Women Against Violence: Christa Bosler, Renate Karcher, Marlene Reißle, Marie-Luise Stöger; Women's Forum: Fri Votteler; Additional cast: Bergit Falter, Gertrud Moll, Inge Neidhardt, Brigitte Schumm, Sony Specht, Uta Wagner; Thanks to: Hella Böhm, Camera: *Fraueninfotage*, Cora Schäfer, Camera: *Frauenstreiktag*

### Music

Burning Batter, *what if* (Christine Marie Krüger, Susanne Paulus, Runa Reineke, Sibylle Wals, Fender Schrade); Always Ultra, *cleo punk* (Susi Brändle, Kathrin Kipp, Moni Nagler, Birgit Neugebauer); Schneewittchen, *Unter dem Pflaster, Die Emma* (Angi Domdey, Anka

Hauter, Bruni Regenbogen, Rotraut Colberg); Lieder von Frauen, *Frauenzentrumslied*,  
*Frauen auf die Barrikaden*

Thanks to

Verlag Frauenoffensive

*Die Rote Zora (Red Zora), 2000*

Video, 28 min

German with subtitles

Concept, camera, editing: Oliver Ressler

Interviewees: Corinna Kawaters, Erika Feyerabend

Narrator: Marian Schönwiese

Translation: Lisa Rosenblatt

*Frauen bildet Banden. Eine Spurensuche zur Geschichte der Roten Zora.*

*Dokumentarfilm zur feministischen Militanz der 1970er und 1980er Jahre in der  
BRD*

(Women, Form Gangs.Tracking the History of Red Zora. Documentary film on the  
feminist militancy of the 1970s and 1980s in the Federal Republic of Germany), 2019

By FrauenLesbenFilmCollectif LasOtras

Documentary film, German with subtitles, approved for ages 12 and older, 75 min

“Rote Zora (Red Zora) was a clandestinely organized militant women’s group in the Federal Republic of Germany in the 1970s and 1980s. The feminist group grew out of the context of the Revolutionary Cells. Its activities were directed, among other things, against everyday violence against women, genetic and reproductive technologies, population policy, and international conditions of exploitation as the expression of patriarchal domination. Central were the self-empowerment of women-lesbians and a break with the peaceableness attributed to them. Accounts by various contemporary witnesses and interviews with a historian and former Zoras bring the history of Red Zora and the women’s movement of the time back to life. Historical recordings of the women’s and students’ movement in the Federal Republic of Germany bring back memories of the struggles of the time. Women-lesbians from other countries tell of their encounter with these politics today. The film shows that many of Red Zora’s themes are highly topical today and offers an abundance of stimulating material for discussing present-day treatment of this history.”