

Object Stage

“Club Kultur Bestand Aufnahme”

Opening: 22. Juli 2026, 18 – 22 Uhr

Duration: 23. Juli 2026 – 9. November 2026

The Object Stage, a focused presentation format within the Open Depot, offers space for collaborations, artistic interventions, and new perspectives on the collection. It opens up access to questions and gaps that have remained hidden until now.

Clubs are cultural venues, subcultural habitats, and safe havens. Clubs are temporary autonomous zones and sites of escapism. They can break open social norms; they are fleeting, physical, and communal. In clubs, people form relationships with one another and negotiate rules. In clubs, people work. Clubs are both a heterotopia and an economic factor.

In recent years, the awareness of club culture has shifted — not least due to the growing threat facing many clubs. Berlin’s techno culture has been recognised as Intangible Cultural Heritage, club culture is now the subject of academic research, and digital archives are emerging. This is where the presentation Club Kultur Bestand Aufnahme takes its starting point.

Following its closure in January 2024, the Berlin club Mensch Meier donated a box of objects to the Werkbundarchiv – Museum der Dinge for inclusion in the museum’s collection. This donation forms the basis of the presentation.

The presentation traces different approaches to documenting club culture: an archaeological excavation, interviews, an archive and a Clubkataster. Each selects, organises and, in doing so, changes what it seeks to preserve. But what actually remains when cloakroom tokens, signs, flyers, excavation finds, recorded voices or parts of a club interior enter the museum, while the music, bodies, labour, intoxication and shared experience are absent? What happens to club culture when it is historicised? And who actually collects it?

Recognising that none of these methods can fully capture club culture, Club Kultur Bestand Aufnahme is itself conceived as an experiment. It deliberately avoids immersive or reconstructive elements, seeking instead to show that every act of collecting, documenting and exhibiting it can only ever be an approximation. The exhibition invites visitors to reflect on the possibilities and limitations of scholarly and museological engagement with club culture.

Acknowledgements and Credits:

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Design: Justus Pfeifer

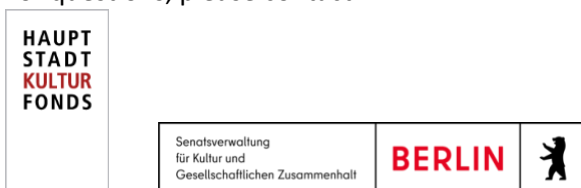
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With thanks to: Bianca Ludewig, Alexander Vehling, Archiv der Jugendkulturen, Clubcommission, Mensch Meier

The Werkbundarchiv – Museum der Dinge is an institution funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion.

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