AGENCY ON AND OFF THE GRID

HKB

—HEAD
Genève

Kunsthalle Bern

FH B

The symposium aims to address pressing contemporary issues through the lens of solidarities woven within the art scenes. It seeks to imagine new spaces – both supportive and attentive in relation to ongoing international crises – within which imaginaries can be collectively constructed. To explore these questions, we have invited artists, theorists and practitioners whose work is situated in issues of international solidarity through culture, in the realm of NGOs, with and around activist networks, and other forms of practice. The participants are individuals and members of collectives who have moved across different fields related to coalition-building. They are artists and theorists who have worked within zones of possibility, building alternative networks of cooperation and critical reflection. Our guiding question will be how to (re-)connect and (re-)appropriate common territories and common grounds.

The symposium is open to anyone interested and of course includes students and colleagues from the two universities. It will start with an evening of readings at the Kunsthalle Bern, and will take place the next day at the HKB.

Readings:
Nelson Irsapoullé
Nora Osagiobare
Alex Gence
Asma Barchiche

Inputs and Workshops:
Candice Breitz
Kadiatou Diallo
Elisa Liepsch
Payal Parekh
Jonas Staal

A collaboration between Fachbereich GK – Design and Fine Arts Division, Bern Academy of the Arts HKB, Bern and CCC – Critical, Curatorial, Cybermedia, Geneva University of Art and Design HEAD.

Co-hosts:
Madeleine Amsler (HKB)
Federica Martini (HEAD)

Artistic Assistant:
Dîlan Kiliç (HKB)

Visual Design:
Murx Gertsch (HKB)

November 26, 2026

Kunsthalle Bern

18.00 **Welcome**
iLiana Fokianaki
Director Kunsthalle Bern

18.30 **Readings**
Alex Gence
bartleby_the_script_kiddie

Nelson Irsapoullé
1 lecture: extraits de textes du manuscrit Pré-texte en cours d'écriture

Nora Osagiobare
L'Espoir de l'Europe

Asma Barchiche
BRAVES

November 27, 2026

Hochschule der Künste Bern

10.00 **Welcome**
Felicity Lunn
Head of the Division of Design and Fine Arts, HKB

10.05 **Introduction**
Madeleine Amsler, HKB and Federica Martini, HEAD

10.20 **Kadiatou Diallo**
Everything Everywhere All at Once

10.50 **Elisa Liepsch**
The end of imagination? Reflections on alliances, imperfect solidarities and practices in the shade

11.20 **Break**

11.40 **Payal Parekh**
Going deep on solidarity

12.10 **Jonas Staal**
Morphologies of Assembly

12.40 **Lunch**

14.00 **Candice Breitz**
DEAR ESTHER

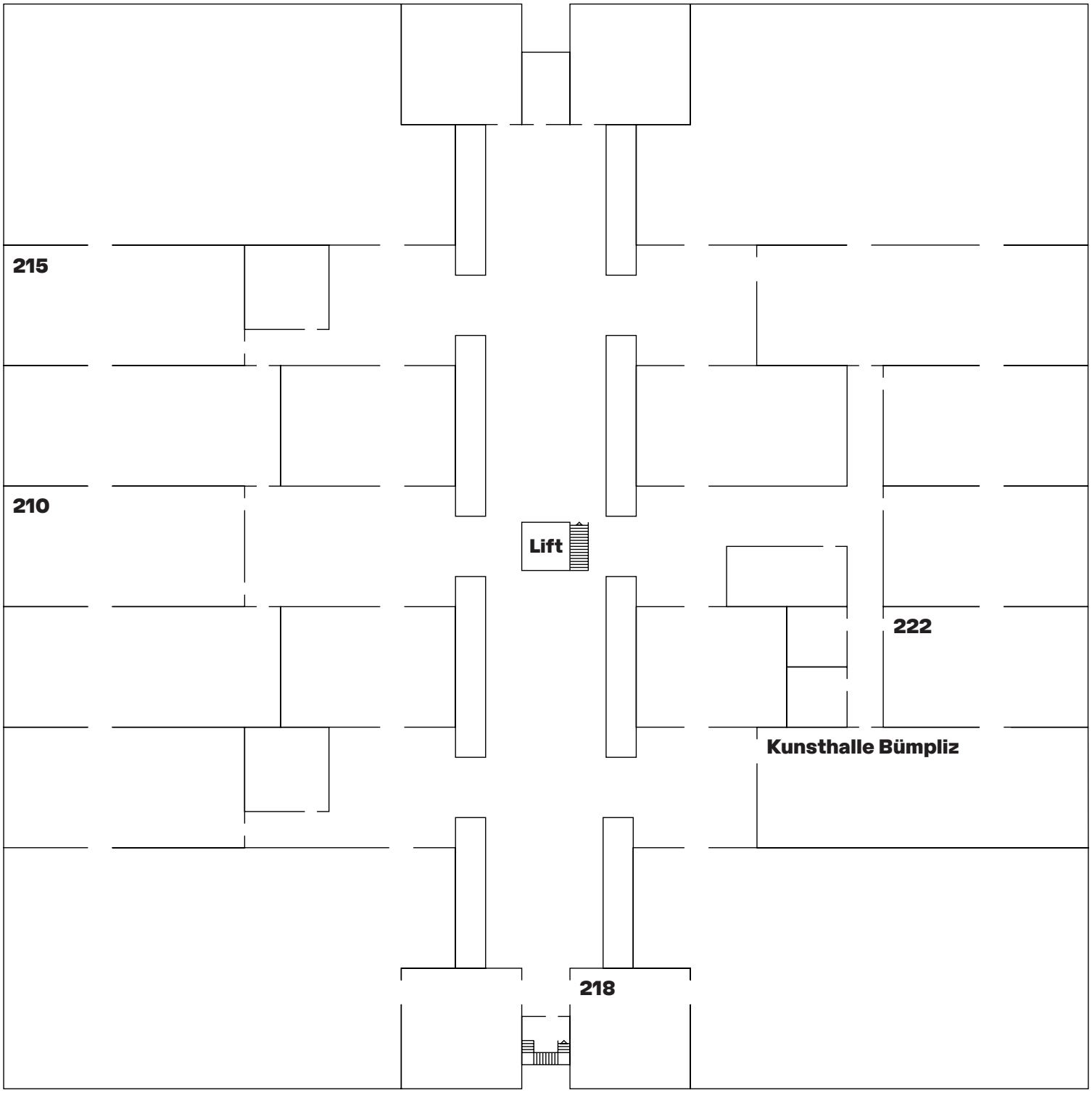
15.30 **Workshops**

17.00 **Get together for the last grid of the day, Apéro**

Kunsthalle Bern
Helvetiaplatz 1
3005 Bern

Hochschule der Künste Bern HKB
Fellerstrasse 11
3027 Bern

First Floor



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