

The Muthesius University of Fine Arts and Design in Kiel invited us to conduct a workshop as guest lecturers during the week of September 21–25, 2026. Its "ambitious" title "Spaceship NATURE FIRST - Setting Out for New and Forgotten Worlds" already hinted at the direction the journey would take.

The experiences and impressions we gathered during the resistance to save the Hambach Forest in 2018 served as the foundation; through our stories and photographic documentation, they provided a stimulating framework for the workshop. At the time, we declared the entire "Hambach Forest resistance" a contemporary "Gesamtkunstwerk" (total work of art) and titled it: "SPACESHIP HAMBACH FOREST: SETTING OUT FOR NEW WORLDS".

The treehouses were the spaceships that, along with their "crew," whom we called "Himmelskinder" (Children of the Sky), set off into the future. Behaviors such as sharing, egalitarian and non-hierarchical coexistence, preserving and protecting nature, waste avoidance and transformation, striving for a "Cradle to Cradle" circular economy, vegan nutrition, and so on, were to serve as the coordinates for a life worth living. Back in the studio during the winter of 2018/19, we created, among other things, 17 small sculptures that resembled poetic, dreamlike treehouses.

At the start of the workshop, the students were encouraged to gather materials from around the city to build a spaceship, either individually or collaboratively. The idea was to use both natural materials and inorganic matter, such as bulky waste. The collected items were piled in the center of the workshop space. From the very first moments of play, the process of deciding whether to work alone or together naturally shifted toward a contemporary desire for collaboration. The mound of materials in the middle of the room practically invited collective work. The group agreed to build a shared "dream spaceship" while allowing each person to contribute their own specific skills. The process of constructing a collective vessel and embarking on a journey through life and challenging worlds within it, served as the inspiring metaphor for the workshop. Almost automatically, a contemporary "modulation" emerged, a healthy balance between individual and collective effort, much like the themes explored at the most recent Documenta (2022)...

In the midst of the construction phase, the art school announced that the students themselves would be responsible for the fate of this object, this vessel embarking on a journey through worlds. "Where should it go?" Curiously, the finished piece could not remain at the art school; the students' studios were already overcrowded, and keeping it at home was out of the question due to the perennial issue of the "tiny student apartment." Thus, a question arose, initially awkward, but ultimately evolving into something interesting, which we solved together through a conceptual approach:

Preventing and transforming waste is a vital task in our society, one that requires constant attention. We collected bulky waste from the city area and transformed it into a work of art. We decided to return this transformed waste to the public urban space as an artwork for the city. The conceptual foundation was a careful and conscious approach to both inorganic materials (bulky waste) and organic materials from nature. The students intended to place the "spaceship" in the public realm the following week, as planned. Perhaps, while there, it might have sparked a moment of reflection for a passerby... before the municipal sanitation department inevitably transformed the artwork back into bulky waste ... everything is in constant flux; that is how it has always been, and how it will always be ...