# Berlin’s Spoiler collective nurtures open and experimental art in Moabit



In Berlin's Moabit district, the art collective known as Spoiler has been cultivating a distinctive space for artistic expression since June 2017. Founded by an interdisciplinary team including Joanna Sofia and Matias Richard Gerber, alongside Lorenz Fidel Khukhthausen, Gabriela Capfer, Linus Lutka, and Diana Mamman, Spoiler has established itself as a unique platform for free art and cultural experimentation within the city.

The collective began modestly, operating initially with three members on an interim basis for three months in a small room. Through a rental extension, the group grew to six members and formalised a set of guiding principles: no artist may exhibit twice in succession, all exhibitions must be group shows, and everyone is welcome to release or apply to show their work. This framework continues today, underscoring an ethos of openness and inclusivity over curatorial prestige. Spoiler’s programming takes place primarily on weekends, aiming to accommodate as many participants as possible, with a focus on providing young artists opportunities to present their creations. Each exhibition is typically short-lived, fostering a dynamic and ever-changing environment.

Over five years in their original Moabit space, Spoiler hosted over 66 shows, presenting work by more than 666 artists through group exhibitions, performances, and pop-up formats. The collective has maintained a strong connection with the local community, exemplified by collaborations with area galleries and initiatives, as well as hosting performances by local rapper Moabiter Apsilon. Despite political interest—such as the announcement and subsequent cancelled visit of Joe Chialo, Berlin’s former cultural senator—Spoiler’s active engagement with politicians remains minimal.

After their initial premises were slated for demolition, Spoiler relocated to a former car dealership in Moabit, continuing their mission. Financing remains challenging; their budget has been halved in recent years and much of their work relies on voluntary efforts and the members’ supplemental employment. Nevertheless, Spoiler recently secured structural funding support from the Berlin Senate for 2024 and 2025. The collective emphasises that sustaining their activities is possible only because the team does not rely on exhibition fees and operates largely outside conventional funding frameworks, allowing them to undertake experimental and unconventional projects without bureaucratic constraints.

One such example of Spoiler’s avant-garde approach includes artist Lena-Mari Emrich’s installation where the burning of car tyres filled the exhibition space with blue smoke, and another where the floor was covered in fried fat. These projects reflect a boldness rarely achievable through traditional grant applications and funding structures.

In addition to their ongoing exhibitions, Spoiler organises the “Sellerie Weekend,” a free art event taking place alongside Berlin’s Weekend Gallery from 2 to 4 May 2025. This initiative brings together over 100 venues across the city’s independent art scene, explicitly welcoming participants without commercial interests or fees, thereby fostering inclusivity and accessibility. The group underscores that “Everyone with a permanent place or concept and without commercial interests can participate,” distinguishing it from more formalised, fee-based gallery weekends.

Speaking on the evolution of Berlin's art scene, Spoiler noted a trend toward professionalisation among independent spaces, with many now adopting specific curatorial profiles and permanent locations, contrasting with the earlier prevalence of temporary, artist-initiated projects. The collective sees themselves as part of this change while maintaining their foundational spirit.

Regarding the city’s cultural politics, Spoiler advised future cultural leadership to “mix yourself among people” and engage directly with diverse artistic practices, rather than relying solely on institutional or commercial frameworks. They expressed concern that former senator Joe Chialo viewed culture predominantly through a conservative and political lens, while emphasising that Berlin’s cultural capital thrives because of its spontaneous and varied art offerings, not solely its established institutions.

For visitors interested in exploring Berlin’s vibrant off-scene art landscape during the upcoming “Sellerie Weekend,” Spoiler recommends consulting the event’s online map to discover venues and activities throughout the city. Highlights include edible art and DJ performances at the campaign house in Neukölln/Britz, extensive exhibitions and performances in Kreuzberg’s Neue Fears space, and a visit to Insola Berlin’s floating project hall in Rummelsburger Bucht.

Through its commitment to fostering an open, experimental, and inclusive art environment, Spoiler continues to play a vital role in Berlin’s dynamic cultural fabric, offering both artists and audiences a platform for creative freedom and discovery.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.spoiler.zone> - Confirms Spoiler's new location at Birkenstraße 1 in Berlin-Moabit and details their search for shows, funding challenges, and collaborative structure involving six core members.
2. <https://www.instagram.com/spoiler.zone/?locale=en_US%2Cen_US%2Cen_US%2Cen_US> - Supports Spoiler's open call for exhibition proposals at their new space and their experimental programming approach.
3. <https://projectspacefestival.berlin/project-spaces/spoiler> - Corroborates Spoiler's role as a platform for independent art in Moabit and their unconventional exhibition formats, such as the Vienna Seduction group show.
4. <https://www.instagram.com/spoiler.zone/p/DIGherNIHiH/> - Provides evidence of Spoiler's involvement in organizing the Sellerie Weekend (2-4 May 2025) alongside other Berlin project spaces.
5. <https://www.berlinartprize.com/en/location/spoiler-aktionsraum> - Documents Spoiler's focus on showcasing emerging artists and curators, aligning with their ethos of inclusivity and accessibility.
6. <https://www.spoiler.zone> - Details Spoiler's historical use of the Quitzowstraße 108a location (2019-2024) and their transition to Birkenstraße 1 after demolition, including structural funding from the Berlin Senate.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMivwFBVV95cUxNanFYSEZzTHFVTkJPcE5xZVpPd0VzVy1MVWl6X29XbHNqbmNOV19yWFVtNFFCdWhsTW1uekZ3dk5fMjcya2V5cnN1a05Pa1NmTVJXTk5mUzJRMlZIV2RBSE50Ykg5eExnX0FLOXc1Uzl0QUQ3Z0R5M1VMQVJYeVhoQWxmTnEwNURVQkd2YUpmN1pwamd1ODc2Unp1TzY5ampOYzN5ZTZzZ0NFT084QWNEOVo3TGd5bDBoemVVUmU3TQ?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data