

Aargauer Kunsthaus

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## Dishcomfort

An exhibition by NOF4 collective  
24.5. – 24.8.2025

Media Release  
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Food is much more than just nutrition—it conjures up memories, connects people, and it shows social differences. With *Dishcomfort*, we as *NOF4 collective* take a new look at this topic. Our exhibition was born from an open experiment: We did not even know each other one year ago. Upon invitation from the Aargauer Kunsthaus, we—a group of young people—came together to collaboratively design an exhibition. Starting in August 2024, weekly meetings, workshops, and discussions led us to form a collective, choose our topic, and implement it in collaboration with the Kunsthaus.

### What is the exhibition about?

Food can be comfort—but also discomfort. It reflects identity, origin, social structures, and personal histories. Who produces our food? Who cooks? Who gets nothing? How much energy is used to produce food? Why is it that in many families, the kitchen used to be the exclusive realm of mothers? These are the questions we explored, selecting works of art that broaden our perspectives. *Dishcomfort* shows food as a unifying element, as a biographical reference point, and as a social statement.

Our exhibition addresses the topics of gender identity, social injustice, and belonging based on social food practices, with the works of art bringing together personal, political, and aesthetic dimensions.

### The Artists

Binia Bill (\*1904-1988), Teresa Hubbard (\*1965) / Alexander Birchler (\*1962), Oz Oderbolz (\*1988), He Shen (\*1992), Francisco Sierra (\*1977), Andrea Sommer (\*1994), Doris Stauffer (\*1934-2017), Annelies Štrba (\*1947)

### Comfort Room—a Refuge in the Middle of the Museum

We developed this room despite the strict rules of exhibition halls. The *Comfort Room* is a refuge in the middle of the museum, allowing us to break through the usual sterility. Here is where you may linger, interact, be active, and where you have a chance to experience the Kunsthaus differently.

## Why We Are a Part of It

Each and every one of us joined the project for different reasons. Some wanted to know how an exhibition is developed, others wanted to find new access to the world of art. For some, it was the opportunity to meet new people, or to reconnect with art after a creative hiatus. Many of us approached the institution of the museum with critical questions—questions regarding access, representation, and elitist structures. We all share the curiosity and the desire to not only consume art, but to play an active part in creating it. *Dishcomfort* is our joint experiment—a space for critical questions, personal experiences, and new perspectives.

## Complementary Programme

### Exhibition Opening (Vernissage)

Friday, 23 May 6 pm

Preview for members of the Aargau Art Association

Friday, 23 May 5 pm

Artist Talk

with Oz Oderbolz, Andrea Sommer and He Shen

Thursday, 14 August 6.30 pm

### Workshops

Food is more than art—it is practice. This is why we invited artists from the *Dishcomfort* exhibition to share their work processes and perspectives in workshops and activities:

Mushroom Workshop, with Andrea Sommer

Saturday, 12 July, 1 pm to 5 pm

Tofu Workshop, with He Shen

Thursday, 7 August 5.30 pm

Pickle Workshop, with Oz Oderbolz

Thursday, 21 August 5.30 pm

### Finissage

To mark the closing of the exhibition, Oz Oderbolz's performance, *Mi casa, su casa*, creates a shared fondue meal for all participants and visitors.

Exhibition closing with performance by Oz Oderbolz, *Mi casa, su casa*,  
Friday, 22 August 5 pm

In addition, there will be ad-hoc formats such as sticker swaps and public tours with the collective, and spontaneous encounters in the *Comfort Room*.

### NOF4 collective

Ben Appelt, Anna Glaus, Vera Lang, Jana Rey, Jonas Schönenberger, Thapong Srisai

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