

07.03.2018 – ZK/U – CENTER FOR ART AND URBANISTICS – BERLIN

## PRESS INFORMATION ON THE "HACKING URBAN FURNITURE" EXHIBITION

**Hacking Urban Furniture: The ZK/U – Center for Art and Urbanistics is hosting an unique exhibition exploring urban furniture on an experimental way.**

### Hacking Urban Furniture

**16 to 25 March, opened daily from 12am to 8pm**

**Opening: 15 March 2018, 7pm**

Bus stops, city toilets, benches, trash cans, infoboards ... Urban furniture combined with outdoor advertising has determined the public space of metropolises for more than 30 years. The exhibition 'Hacking Urban Furniture' examines the previous handling with that and questions it. The exhibition is part of the long term, eponymous researching project 'Hacking Urban Furniture' which explores the history, present and future of urban furniture in collaboration with artists, urban explorers, administrators, politicians, activists and researchers, exploring the potential of spatial public service Design in the city and will present their results in the forms of art works, performances, workshops and talks.

Participating artists and artist groups are: Markus Ambach, Christian Hasucha, Umschichten, Raumlabor and KUNSTrePUBLIK. The complex projects have been established in Cooperation with AbBA (Alliance of threathend Berlin studio houses), Refunc, OpenBerlin and the Technischen Hochschule Wildau.

Following winners and participating artists and artist groups of the idea contest for new urban furniture concepts will also be exhibited with their works: Fiete Rhode & Team: *KIEZding*, Benoit Maubrey: *Arena: a Speakers Sculpture*, Andreas Templin: Berlin Dough, Extrapolation Factory: *Transition Habitats*, Josef- Matthias Printschler: *WTHUF*, Adam Page and Eva Hertzsch: *V.I.P. Box*.

Adam Page and Eva Hertzsch show their work in the outside area of ZK/U and will be activated as a long term installation until end of October and was part off he documenta X in Kassel in 1997. The "V.I.P.-Box" is shown to the public as "Case Study" within the framework of "Shared Cities: Creative Momentum (SCCM)" programme. SCCM aims to improve the life quality in european cities.

To be announced are also the two guests Initiative "Berlin Werbefrei" which discusses advertismment free cities as Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Grenoble (France) and Markus Binder from UdK with his project Safe&Urban. Both will present their works and concepts through performance lectures, film screening and documentation. To be announced is the guest adbusting-collective "Dies Irae", showing its work to the public. Additional, Fred Dewey will give a report about 'Portable Polis', a Hannah Arendt-working group which focussed on general issues last summer concerning the public on places where she has been shown.

The exhibition runs from 16 to 25 march 2018 at ZK/U – Center for Art and Urbanistics and is opened daily from 12am to 8pm.

The participants of the accompanying researching group are Laura Sobral, Benjamin Cope, Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse, Surfatial, Jan Bovelet, Joanne Pouzenc, Mobasher Niqui, Alireza Labeshka und Ali Reza Hemmat Boland and will also be exhibited.

An extensive accompaning programme including guided tours, workshops and talks aims to provide more in-depth. All informations here: <http://www.zku-berlin.org/de/timeline/ausstellung-hacking-urban-furniture/>  
<http://www.hackingurbanfurniture.net/>

The exhibition "Hacking Urban Furniture" is funded by Hauptstadtkulturfonds.

## **ZK/U – Center for Art and Urbanistics**

**XXXXXXX TEXT XXXXXX**

### **Biographies of participating artists, artist groups, researchers and guests**

**Markus Ambach** (\*1963, Darmstadt), lives and works in Düsseldorf

Markus Ambach is an artist, author and initiator of various art projects and exhibitions, focussing on public space. He studied at the art academy Düsseldorf and founded the project platform MAP in 2002. MAP produces, conducts and operates international contextual projects in urban space in subject specific exhibition spaces. Exhibitions like "B1/A40 Die Schönheit der großen Straße" dealt with artists, researchers, residents and other social groups in terms of art, society, urbanism and city. Markus Ambach teaches at various academies (Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart, UdK Berlin and RWTH Aachen).

He is author of various texts and editor of several publications.

[www.markusambachprojekte.de](http://www.markusambachprojekte.de)

**Christian Hasucha** (\*1955, Berlin-Neukölln), lives and works in Berlin

Christian Hasucha studied Fine Arts from 1975-81 at Hochschule der Künste (HdK), Berlin. He was Master's student of Prof. Rudolf Kügler in 1980 at the HdK in Berlin und finished his study from 1981-82 as a Master of Arts (M.A. Degree) in the Sculpture-department at the Chelsea School of Art,

London. Since 1978, Hasucha's works have been exhibited in various exhibitions in Germany and abroad. The project series "Öffentliche Interventionen", 1981 deserves particular mention. In 1991-92, the expedition LT 28E followed, consisting of a one year working trip in a workshop van through the border regions of Europe and Asia Minor. In 1999, Hasucha was an initiator of "areale Neukölln", a organisation through which city art projects have been realised. A second expedition, called "RumBulTürGeo" followed in 2014 - a half year trip between Berlin- Georgia and back.

Since 1981 Christian Hasucha is guest professor at Bauhaus-University, Weimar and at GhK (now University Kassel).

For his work, Hasucha received several grants, awards and prizes, for example the a DAAD-grant in London in 1986, a working grant from the Senator of Cultural Affairs Berlin in 1986 and the working grant of Kunstfonds e.V., Bonn in 1990. In 2012 he was awarded the art prize of Sparda-Bank West. Over the course of the past years, several works today found themselves at/ in public space: for example at „Skulptur Biennale Münsterland“, "Horizons Sancy", Auvergne and "FELD II" at Primary School Dolgenseestraße, Berlin-Lichtenberg.

[www.hasucha.de](http://www.hasucha.de)

**Eva Hertzsch** (\*1965 Esslingen) & **Adam Page** (\*1966, Bedford, UK) live and work in Berlin

Eva Hertzsch studied Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts (AdBK) in Karlsruhe from 1986-91. Adam Page studied Fine Art at Loughborough College of Art & Design from 1986-89, at the AdBK Karlsruhe from 1989-91 and at the University of East London from 1992-93. They have worked together since 1997. Their long term, artistic work in public space, schools and neighbourhoods includes participation in documenta X in Kassel (only Page) (1997), 4. Werkleitz Biennale (2000), "Okkupation", Berlin-Neukölln (2006), their contextual project "Info Offspring Kiosk" in Dresden (2000-06) as well as their co-founded neighbourhood arts centre „IDEE 01239 e.V.“ in Dresden-Prohlis (2006-12). They ran the projects "Die 12 Veränderer" (2011-13) and "Die Adresse. Nachbarschaft trifft Schule" (2014-15) at Albert-Schweitzer School and "Die Hofhelden" (2012-15) at Carl- Friedrich-von-Siemens School in Berlin. Recent collaborative projects include "Neue Agenda?" at Kunstverein Hildesheim (2016), as well as "Was ist draußen?" (2014-15), "Mitte in der Pampa" (2016-17) und "station urbaner kulturen" (since 2014) with the working group „Art in the Underground“ for nGbK in Berlin-Hellersdorf.

**KUNSTrePUBLIK** (Matthias Einhoff, Philip Horst and Harry Sachs) → überarbeiten

KUNSTrePUBLIK have worked since more than 10 years in public space. Their praxis investigates the potentials and boards of art as means of communication and representation of different interests in public space.

In Uljanovsk, Russia, KUNSTrePUBLIK built an oracle, which allowed freedom of speech. They maintained a mobile protest fountain in Washington D.C. They produced an iconic cube, to strengthen the interests of small retailers at a market in Jakarta. They reinterpreted well known Operas and presented them in burnt cars, marking an upcoming gentrification. They formed a street parliament made of the hymns of soccer fans and the life vests of refugees. They built a car wash to receive work(ing) migrants with welcome songs and a rite of baptism in the Ruhr.

KUNSTrePUBLIK have also curated several project series with the approach of signing a more comprehensive idea of the social. For example the two year project series "Archipel Invest", in which micro-economic future scenarios were established in the post- industrial northern Ruhr, the "Sculpture park Berlin\_Zentrum" or the project "Hacking Urban Furniture".

Beside the artistic direction of several project series at ZK/U (CityToolBox, Hacking Urban Furniture, Artist-Displacement, Ständige Vertretung), KUNSTrePUBLIK is participating in selecting residency artists and partners together with a advisory council.

As a founding member of Initiative Haus der Statistik, KUNSTrePUBLIK got involved in the formation/ creation of spatial infrastructure in the city.

In July 2012, KUNSTrePUBLIK opened the Centre for Arts and Urbanistics (ZK/U) in Berlin Moabit. The ZK/U sees itself as a laboratory for inter- and transdisciplinary, activities centered on the phenomenon of "the city". Working with local and international partners, ZK/U residencies brings together critical minds at the cutting-edge of artistic production and urban research.

[www.kunstrepublik.de](http://www.kunstrepublik.de)

## **Raumlabor**

Raumlabor is based in Berlin and works at the intersection of architecture, city planning, art and urban intervention, using the term urban practice for it's hybrid way of working. Raumlabor are Francesco Apuzzo, Markus Bader, Benjamin Foerster-Baldenius, Frauke Gerstenberg, Andrea Hofmann, Jan Liesegang, Axel Timm, Christof Mayer, Florian Stirnemann, Matthias Rick († 2012), coming from an architectural background.

Raumlabor address in their work the city and urban renewal as a process. They are attracted to difficult urban situations, torn between different systems, time periods or planning ideologies and/or struggling to adapt. These are Raumlabor's laboratories. Such sites offer potentials which they try to reframe and activate. This opens new perspectives for alternative usage patterns, collective ideals, urban diversity and difference.

Raumlaborberlin also works in the field of urban interventions. It transforms urban spaces into something completely different, far from all expectations and visions. Raumlabor moves programmatic narratives into urban spaces, install new atmospheres and create a sense of new potentials. Through the participation of local actors, in cooperation with experts from all creative disciplines, new fields of action are discovered, tested, and projected into the future.

Examples of these works are: the dynamic masterplan for Tempelhof Airfield, based on civic engagement and cooperative city-making (2007-08), the “Fountain House”, a utopian prototype for urban infrastructures realised in Montréal in 2014, Canada as well as “Happy Plurality” (2018), which is part of the exhibition.

[www.raumlabor.net](http://www.raumlabor.net)

### **Umschichten**

Umschichten was founded in 2008 by both architects Lukasz Lendzinski (\*1975, Kattowice) and Peter Weigand (\*1974, Stuttgart). The artist- architecture-collective works as a build & design praxis. Their work operates at the interface of architecture, art and public space. Umschichten stands for a sustainable dealing with material and space. The resulted buildings function as a corset of forces, ressources and apparent impossibilities. They visualize theories, problems or constellations and enable new perspectives on consisting situations. They also constitute subject matters which trigger as rethinkable city identities and the presentation of different social and cultural groups in a city.

Lukasz Lendzinski and Peter Weigand have a professional craft training (both carpenters since 1999). Both studied architecture at the Staatlichen Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart until 2007 and got scholarships i.e. from state Baden-Württemberg (2007) and Schloss Solitude (2011/13). Lehraufträge and at Centre for Contemporary Art/ Ujazdowski Castle Warschau (2013/14). Both were academic staffs and teach at Staatlichen Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart, Hochschule für Technik Stuttgart, at the Zeppelin Universität Friedrichshafen and at the Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien.

### **Berlin - free of product and service advertising**

The city is being flooded with more and more ads in the form of posters, lights and displays. Public space is being trivialized. None can avoid the advertising messages in public spaces, an advertising that is increasingly intrusive and aggressive. Children and adolescents are being exposed to, and threatened by, questionable ideals.

The referendum-initiative Berlin Werbefrei stands up to this trend by proposing a concept of a bearable use of advertisement within the public space. Event advertising and charitable postings will stay. But how can they be integrated in the future urban furniture debate and what is realistic, concerning the draft law? Berlin Werbefrei will discuss these questions and the proposed referendum in the framework of the exhibition Hacking Urban Furniture.

<https://berlin-werbefrei.de/>

**Markus Binder** (1990\* Göttingen) lives and works in Berlin

Martin Binder's artistic interest is in the critical analysis of perceptual patterns, which he tries to analyse against the backdrop of social and cultural conditions. Martin Binder studied product design at Freien Universität Bozen (IT) and finished his M.A. "Kunst im Kontext" at the Universität der Künste, Berlin. Binder is member of "Datei für Kunst im Öffentlichen Raum" of bbk berlin und helped design as part of Hirschfeld AG, the "Monument for the First Homosexual Emancipation Movement" in Berlin Mitte.

Safe & Urban – an innovative supplier of street furniture

We take the fears of the citizens seriously. We would like to contribute to make cities safer and more peaceful. Our city furniture addresses all who noticed, that conflicts emerges at places where people with completely different origins and attitudes coincide. An often celebrated diversity brings disturbance, violence and barbarization. We ask you to take the safe way with us with the aim of orderly circumstances. Whether you want to try out our portfolio with the single products purchases or if you decide to switch completely to Safe&Urban- it is a step in the right direction.

[www.bindermartin.com](http://www.bindermartin.com)

### **Benjamin Cope**

Benjamin Cope, Ph.D, director of the Laboratory of Critical Urbanism and lecturer, teaching courses on Critical Cartography, Localised Cultural Industries and Gender and Space. His research interests focus on socio-spatial change in Eastern Europe, with a particular interest in multi-scalarity, cultural events and critical cartography as a methodology for researching post-socialist spaces. He divides his time between Vilnius and Warsaw, where he works as a cultural activist in the Association "Stowarzyszenie My", conducts vegetable orchestra Paprykalaba and occasionally plays in Belarusian band Nagual.

### **Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse**

Dr. Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse (\*1982 Princeton, New Jersey, USA) is a Berlin based, independent urban researcher and political affairs consultant for integrated city development. She is a founding member of the Urban Research Group.

Dr. Dellenbaugh-Losse is an expert in integrated post-industrial urban development, specifically in the culture and creative industries, real estate market dynamics, the intermediate and adaptive reuse of vacant buildings, bottom-up urban development and urban commons. In 2007, she relocated to Germany to pursue her MA in Landscape Architecture at the Hochschule Anhalt. In 2013, after three years of independent interdisciplinary research, she successfully defended her doctorate in urban geography at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) on the political, symbolic, and normative aspects of architecture after German reunification in Berlin.

Dr. Dellenbaugh-Losse is co-editor of the Bauwelt-Fundamente-Series ‚Urban Commons: Moving beyond State and Market‘ (2015) and, since 2017, has been validated by the EU program URBACT. Her newest publication ‚Städtewandel durch Kultur‘ was published autumn 2017. Currently, she is working on a follow-up publication to ‚Urban Commons‘ and a monograph on architecture, politics and identity in post-reunification Berlin.

<https://urban-policy.com/>

### **Mobasher Niqui**

Mobasher Niqui (\*1984 Tehran, Iran) is an architect and educator with a focus on urban transformations and the geneology of space. He practices at mbnq.studio, a Tehran-based project space, and co-founded Kuh in Tehran.

Mobasher Niqui founded mbnq.studio upon his return to Tehran after a diploma in architecture at EPF Lausanne, Switzerland, in 2012. mbnq.studio is a project space, an experimental practice and an observatory. Recently he has co-founded Kuh as a new office for executing architectural projects and establishing strategies for turning architectural thinking into performance.

In addition, Mobasher has initiated various projects (UTP and Fablab II at University of Tehran, Interaction Evolver Studio) and also co-initiated the project Mosha (later, Framing the Common), in collaboration with WorkNot!. Since 2013 he has been teaching architectural design studios at various universities and institutions in Tehran. His writings have appeared in San Rocco Magazine, published in Milan, and the Hacking Urban Furniture Conference. Recently he was architect in residence at ZK/U, Berlin, where he exhibited the piece ‚Leave me my Tempelhof‘.

[http://mbnqu.com/wp/?page\\_id=1029](http://mbnqu.com/wp/?page_id=1029)

### **Joanne Pouzenc**

Joanne Pouzenc (1981\* Toulouse, France) is a French architect, curator and educator based in Berlin. She works at the intersection of design, curation, writing, photography and thinking.

After ten years of architectural practice in southern France, Joanne Pouzenc entered the Bauhaus postgraduate programme in Dessau and launched her curatorial career. Her projects: City Inc, Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, SAM Basel (2011); Post Capitalist City, International Competition for Society Design (2012); Berlin Unlimited, First Festival for Arts, Architecture and Urban Research, Berlin (2014); Co-curator of Make City Festival, Berlin (2015); Atelier d'Architecture Itinérant, Venice Biennale (2016); Communication Manager, German Pavilion, Venice Biennale (2016); Co-curator of Fights and Fictions / 36h Factory of Thoughts, Akademie der Künste, Berlin (2016, with the support of the Goethe Institut). Conception/ construction of the Ständige Vertretung at the ZK/U with constructLab and Refunc (2017); Artistic direction and program coordination in cooperation with ARCH+ of projekt bauhaus: Vorkurs at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt.

Since 2006, she teaches at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture, Toulouse, France. She is also lecturer at NODE Center for Curatorial Studies, Berlin, Program Coordinator of projekt bauhaus: Werkstatt at the Floating University, Associate Curator of the Make City Festival, a freelance writer and co-founder of the Campus for Collaborative Practices.

### **Laura Sobral**

Laura Sobral is an architect, urbanist and cultural producer who focuses on public life, social construction and the co-management of the urban commons.

Laura Sobral (\*1985 Sao Paulo, Brazil) is a Brazilian urbanist and architect. She has a BA in Architecture and Urbanism from the University of Sao Paulo (USP) and completed an exchange program at Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, in 2008. Since 2007, Laura has been researching and organizing urban interventions and temporary architecture projects in public spaces with the intention of fostering active citizenship by linking culture and city. One of the results was the creation of the initiative ‚A Batata Precisa de Você‘ (The Potato Needs You), an occupy movement that encourages the regular and collective usage of an empty square in São Paulo, Largo da Batata, thereby reconnecting citizens with this space by creating a sense of belonging. Laura is currently pursuing a MSc in Social Foundations of Urbanism at USP, where she is researching the social production of public spaces. She is a co-founder of the Instituto A Cidade Precisa de Você (The City Needs You Institute), an NGO that aims to improve public spaces by social actions through publications, projects and seminars. Laura is German Chancellor Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung, a foundation established by the Federal Republic of Germany to promote international academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from Germany and abroad. She is based in Berlin and is being hosted by ZK/U Berlin, Center for Art and Urbanistics for the development of her project ‚From Public Spaces Temporary Uses to a Co-Created City‘.

### **Surfatial**

Surfatial is a translocal collective that operates through the internet.

Conceptualised in 2013 and started operating in 2014, the three member Malavika Rajnarayan, Prayas Abhinav and Satya Gummuluri use conversations to aid learning outside established structures. The collective is concerned with enabling disinhibition through the internet, for expressing what may not be feasible in physical reality. They organise internet-based audio conferences called study-groups where they deal with philosophical questions and a self-reflective exchange of individual experiences.

Prayas Abhinav is artist and teacher. He has worked in the last few years on pieces of speculative fiction, software, games, interactive installations, public interventions and curatorial projects. Abhinav has shared his work at festivals including Transmediale, 48c, Futuresonic and Wintercamp.

Satya Gummuluri is a vocalist, composer lyricist originally from Bombay currently based out of Ulm. Her work is informed by her Carnatic classical training and a deep interest in jazz,



Brazilian and experimental music. She also works with activist groups engaged with feminism and urban issues in India and the US.

Malavika Rajnarayan is an artist based in India. Her paintings use the human figure to explore larger issues of collective consciousness. Her background in Indian classical music as well as her interest in the progression of Asian art and knowledge traditions form the conceptual basis for her art, writing, teaching and workshops.

They have previously presented their work at *Soundphile 2016*, Delhi; *play\_book* (in collaboration with Thukral & Tagra), Gurgaon; CONA, Mumbai, Mumbai Art Room, Mumbai, The Centre for Internet and Society, Bengaluru and Banner Repeater, London.

<http://www.museumofvestigialdesire.net/offices/surfatial>

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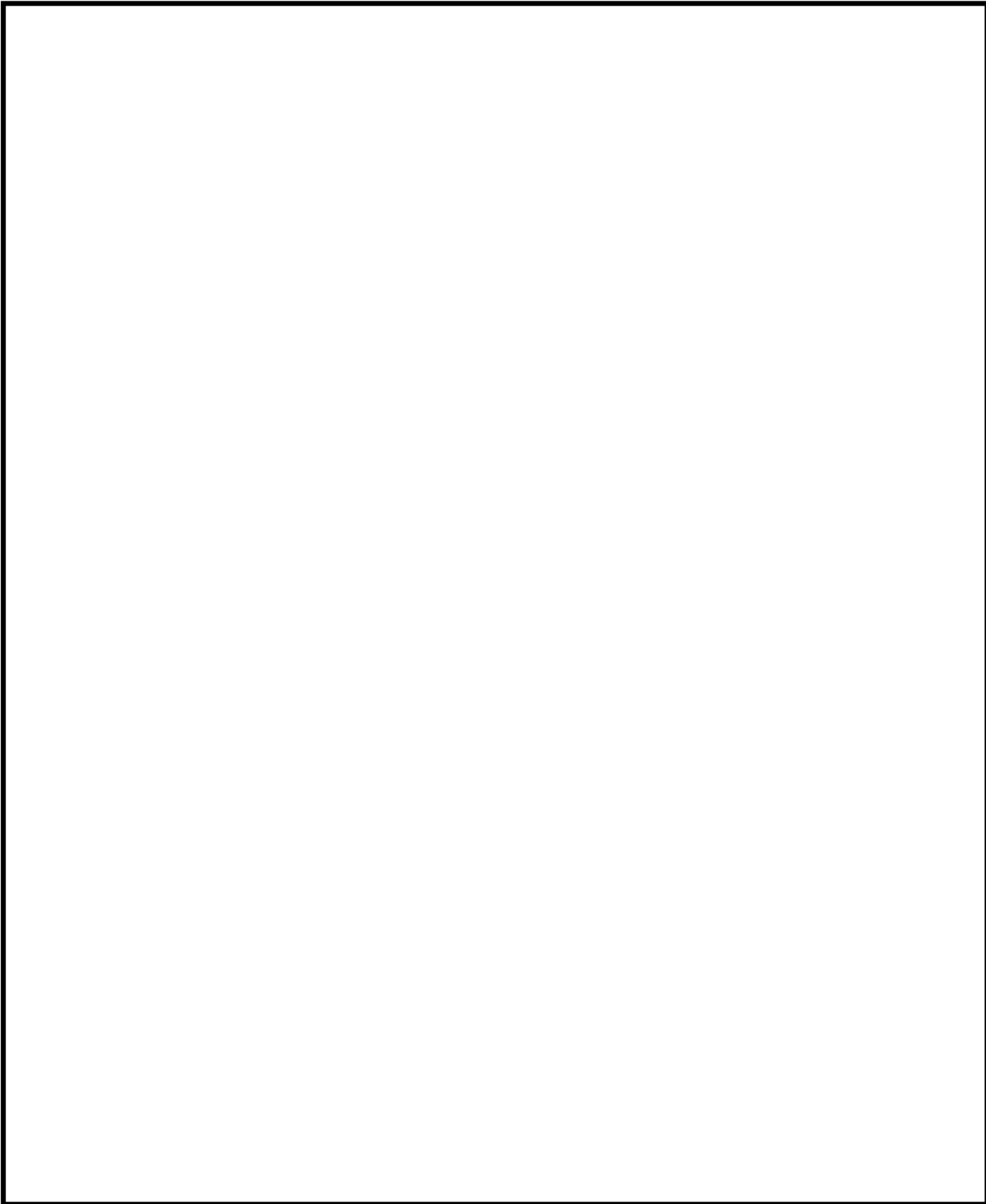
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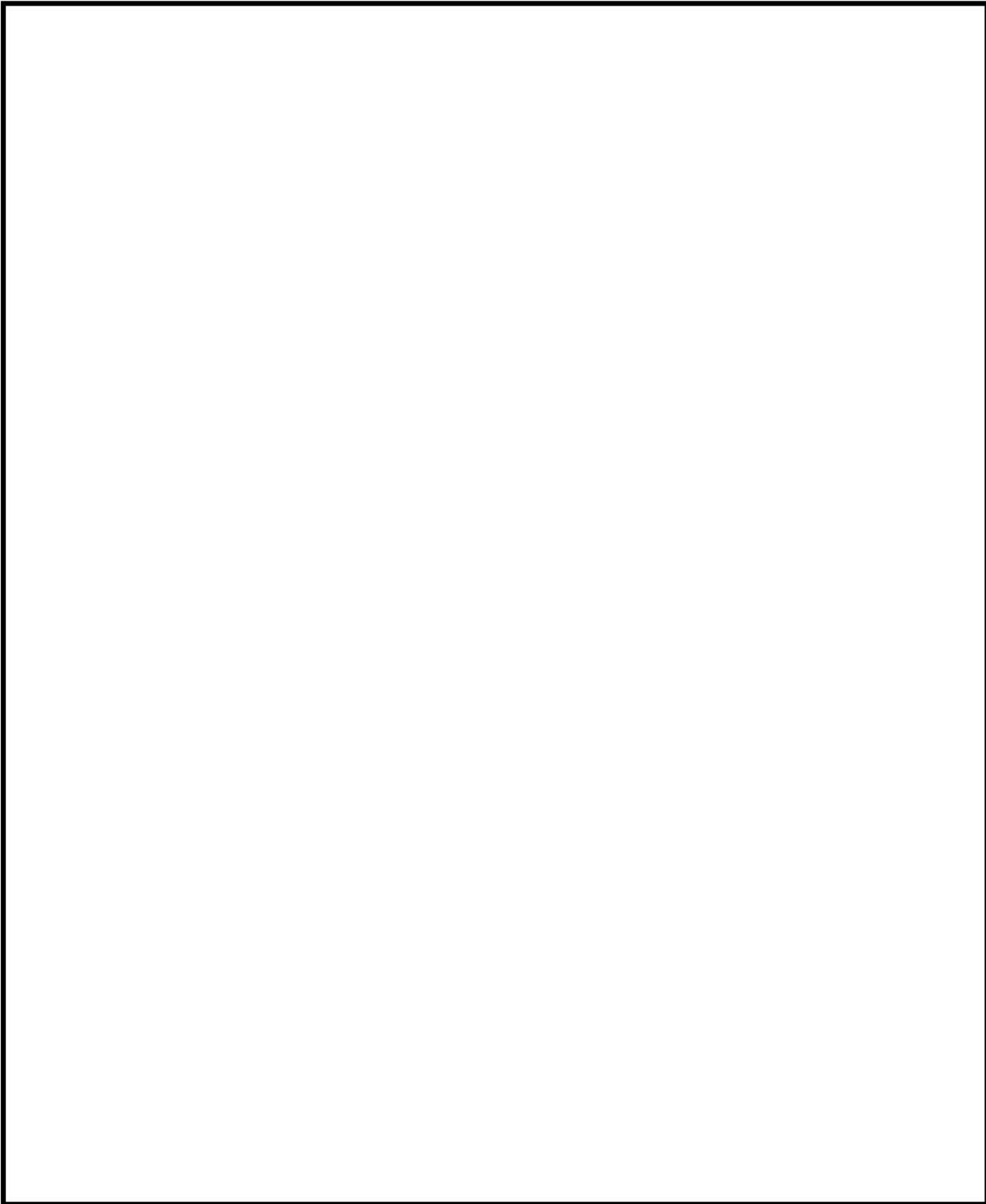
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