

ART?QUEST

Berlin Studios
3 Months in Berlin

A friend of a friend is looking for a studio space in Berlin. There are no studios available to rent here in Milchhof Studios, on Schwedter Strasse in Mitte. According to one of this studios' administrators, it is now difficult to find studio space in an already existing artists' studio building in Berlin's city centre. He suggested three possible areas around the city, which may have existing artist's studio space available, Schöneweide, Wedding and Weissensee. He did not know the name of the organisations who run or administer studios in these areas.

Milchhof Studios, is a member of the The Kulturwerk des Berufsverband Bildender Künstler Berlins GmbH (Cultural Project of the Professional Association of Berlin Artists Ltd.) This organisation can provide access for some artists to subsidised artists' studio space in Berlin.

When making an application to BBK for a studio, you must submit your artistic résumé, catalogs, and/or copies or photos of your works. This is in order that a panel can assess the "determination of the level of professionalism." If you are deemed suitable for a studio the type and scale of the premises you are assigned will be in line with the type of artwork you make. (sculpture, painting, media art, etc.). They state on their website that Independently established and qualified studio assignment advisory boards first assess your application with regards to your professionalism, then if successful you are granted a studio according to how urgently you need it.

The BBK administration office, which looks after the studios, states that it is always interested in helping investors and landowners who are interested in art, to create affordable artist studio spaces. They provide advice and arrange investment-related and consumer-related sponsorship for studio projects. They can also advise on the interior design of professional artists' studios.

BBK also provides artists' with free or cheap access to sculpture and print workshops. The sculpture workshop in Wedding was established with government funds in 1995 in the former Arnheim safe factory, which is under protection as a his-torical monument. About 150 artists, from university graduates to national and international artists, visit it each year. There is a Metal, Wood, Stone, Plaster and Mold, and Ceramic Workshop. Their Print Workshop is in Kreuzberg and provides Silk-Screen Printing, Letterpress, Etching, Bookbinding, Paper Workshop, Offset Workshop, Computer Workshop, Photo and Lithography Workshops. They are currently working on providing access for artists to Media workshops, for the creation of digital and video artworks.

Before you move to Berlin, go to the website www.bbk-kulturwerk.de and look at what information and services they provide with someone who can read and translate German easily. Their offices for studio spaces are based at Köthener Straße 44, 10963 Berlin, which is near Mendelssohn-Batholdy Park U Bahn Station. These studio offices are open on Mondays 9 a.m.-12 p.m and on Thursdays 1 p.m-4 p.m. Phone Birgit Nowack on tel +49(0)30 230 899-22 or Johannes Winzek on tel +49(0)30 230 899-20. atelierbuero@bbk-kulturwerk.de

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