

Posted:

October 16, 2012

Author:

[Kalia Laycock-Walsh](#)

Comments:

[1](#)

Spotlight on Mindpirates e.V.



Das Vereinsheim der Mindpirates Photo: Mindpirates Berlin

This Saturday [Mindpirates](#) will be the guest at Artconnect Berlin's [Networking Brunch](#). Which is not to be missed as it is two fabulous things – networking and brunch – rolled into one. I never thought I could be so productive while having such a leisurely Saturday morning. For a sneak peak of what's going to go down at the brunch I spoke to Mindpirate **Pauline Doutreluingne**. With a little bit of arm twisting she revealed that at the brunch they would give an overview of the variety of projects that they have done and show some of their short films. And who should come? She said 'everyone'. Let's see how many we can fit into Boddinstraße 62. Of particular interest to artists, and people that have project spaces, collectives and film makers.

Event

11# NETWORKING BREAKFAST BRUNCH with MINDPIRATES by ARTCONNECT BERLIN

From: 20 Oct 12:00 | To: 20 Oct 16:00
Location: Neukölln

Now it's time for one more from our beloved NETWORKING BREAKFASTS! But this time we decided to move it to a Saturday, so more people from our community can come...

★





Let the Sun Shine In, exhibition with Lionel Williams and 7-day Jam session, 2012, Photo: Katja Oortman, courtesy Mindpirates Berlin

We also spoke about what Mindpirates is, it's complex so it can take a bit to get one's head around it, and [of particular interest to everybody in their own collective]: how they give their diverse members a voice and the, oh so elusive, how to make money as an arts collective?



Mindpirates was founded in 2007 as a non-profit art and filmmaking collective based in Berlin. They are primarily interested in cultural developments that

foster new artistic practices and new ways of interacting with an active public. Pauline describes Mindpirates as a group of designers, cameraman, editors, curators, and artists, who do a variety of projects. Some go very public, others are less public or more like work. More on how Mindpirates earns it's daily bread later. She explained that Mindpirates always chooses work that inspires and challenges them, that's very important, even if it's a job to earn money.

On networking Pauline described the Vereinsheim [clubhouse] as a networking element that they have within their organisation. For example, they have an exhibition opening and it's really connected to a party and everyone stays around. She said 'We don't think it of always as networking; to have the friends and colleagues and people that we are inspired by or think are talented, to have them around you and create together events.'



Performance von Gordon W. Tabla im Wohnzimmer der Mindpirates, Photo: Mindpirates Berlin

Mindpirates inhabits a converted old mill, which provides two interesting and quite different spaces. The Projektraum is a sleek, white, gallery space; renovations have definitely been done, no trace of the mill remains. The Vereinsheim a higgledy-piggledy collection of odd shaped rooms on different levels, with strange little basements tucked away; machinery and contraptions still hanging from the ceiling. Pauline explains they function together but in the Projektraum are more exhibitions and artistic projects. The Vereinsheim opens as an interesting little club.



(Installation view) Global Revolutions, Local Contradictions, 2012, Photo: Mindpirates Berlin)
Film Jockey Poster, July 2012 Mindpirates Berlin

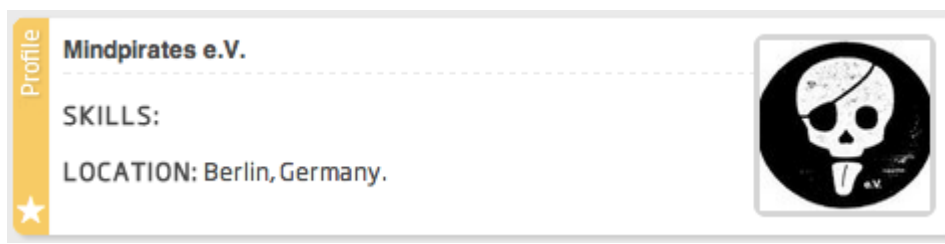
I asked how, with all this diversity all over the place, does the Mindpirates name stay consistent and cohesive? Is that even important? Pauline said *'I think yes. We do it more and more... It's about how the internal vibe between all of us works. Of course you think about your audience but first it's about whether it's challenging for us to work on it.'*

Again with this troublesome diversity, how do you give such different contributors a voice? Do they get a voice? Pauline says they try. She goes on to say something important [so listen up all you arts collectivists] *'somehow the key element is really to figure out what are people good at and let them develop that.'* She also said that Mindpirates has changed over the years as people have joined and brought their skills and ambitions.



Fracture, exhibition with Paradise Row and Gabriel Rolt, 2012, Photo: Mindpirates Berlin

And what's the secret... How do you avoid being starving artists? Pauline explains that Mindpirates doesn't receive any funding, although they plan to apply in the future. Rather it is self sustaining through paid work, which they access through their network [we keep telling you networking is important]. In particular through their connection with Atelier Ralph Schmerberg. Pauline explains that Ralph Schmerberg is one of the founders of Mindpirates; 'Sometimes he's in the role as a Mindpirate and of course he's Ralph Schmerberg himself. It offers a lot of possibilities in terms of commercial work.' However, they only take on work that is interesting, Pauline, reiterated the need for projects to be challenging on an aesthetic or artistic level.



Mindpirates is probably most well known for its interesting venues. However, it's more than that, as my talk with Paulin reveals. For that matter it's more any one of its facets. Rather it is as diverse and complex as the personalities, skills, and ambitions of those who make it up and drive its direction. Interestingly it spans the divide between an arts collective and a production company, which provides many interesting opportunities for the artistically minded. Those interested in finding out more, or feeling inspired to get involved, should join us for brunch on Saturday.