

PEDAGOGICAL CONCEPT, ARCHITECTURE, AND TARGET GROUPS OF THE MINISCHIRN

PEDAGOGICAL CONCEPT – CHILDREN AS EXPLORERS

An artistically designed space for experience, the MINISCHIRN offers its young visitors a secure haven where they may give free rein to their urge to move and their passion for discovering things and will find a counterweight to the restricted sensory and motor possibilities provided by most exhibition projects in the fine arts.

Aiming at a combination of creativity, playing, and the acquisition of knowledge, the Schirn centers its attention on the enormous potential of learning that may be brought to bear through aesthetic processes. Independent of the specific approaches and subjects of individual exhibitions, children visiting the MINISCHIRN will be able to dedicate themselves autonomously to the basic principles of artistic practice and theory, gather aesthetic experiences, and apply their newly acquired insights. By discovering, examining, and getting into touch with forms, colors, structures, and materials as well as by building, changing, and designing things, they deal with their environment and obtain basic skills as regards their aesthetic alphabetization. Playing with objects reinforces their perceptive faculties and makes them familiar with the expressive and creative possibilities their bodies are endowed with. Exploring complex contexts and patterns improves their problem-solving skills, and the children come to trust in their own powers. By interacting with others, they develop collaborative and communicative abilities. The program of the MINISCHIRN is based on understanding children as designers of their development, their knowledge, and their skills who actively open up the world to themselves. For only exploring, discovering, investigating, and testing will help children to unearth the phenomena of life and understand their interrelationship.

For children between four and eight, learning is mostly “discovery learning” and “inquiry learning” by means of which relationships between objects, persons, structures, and processes are interpreted. For children between six and ten years of age, who leave their day care centers behind and go to elementary school, the emphasis is clearly on independently exploring and studying their surroundings without the presence of adults and in dialogue with children of their own age. Decidedly challenging in character, the MINISCHIRN’s individual thematic stations allow free research approaches which do not necessarily call for an accompanying adult. The MINISCHIRN supervisory staff will be glad to answer the young visitor’s questions and provides impulses when necessary.

ARCHITECTURE AND SCENOGRAPHY

Developed with Atelier Markgraph, a Frankfurt-based agency for spatial communication, the three-dimensional layout of the MINISCHIRN is based on the idea of a treehouse. The architecture condenses several small rooms into an absorption area in the upper zone of the two-story premises. The extension of the free area accessible via a slide in the lower zone evokes a playground and offers room to move and, accommodating the first learning stations, marks the beginning of the experience-oriented course through the MINISCHIRN.

SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT

The mise-en-scène of the various spatial solutions combines artistic principles and strategies like irritation, transformation and participation to didactic stations posing creative challenges. Recalling Op art works, a room completely lined with mirrors, for example, invites the young visitors to examine geometrical relationships and to train their powers of observation. By freely conceiving and developing constructions with foam elements children become familiar with principles of order such as sequence, staggering, and agglomeration and learn that they can participate in creating their surroundings. A color lighthouse provides a fascinating station for experiments with color mixing, while kaleidoscopic effects can be explored thanks to a digital pattern generator. Further stations offer learning arrangements for subjects like perspective, color perception, variety of forms, and the performative in art.

MINISCHIRN TARGET GROUPS

While adults may visit an exhibition in the Schirn, their children set off on a tour of discovery in the MINISCHIRN. Admission to the MINISCHIRN is free, and the kids may stay for up to one and a half hours. The nuanced learning tour through the MINISCHIRN may also be booked by day care center groups and school classes in combination with an exhibition visit or a special workshop in other rooms of the Schirn. This special offer may also be used by private parent-child groups, daycare workers, or in the context of children's birthday parties.

VENUE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT Römerberg, 60311 Frankfurt **OPENING HOURS** for individual visitors from Tuesday to Sunday and on holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; for groups by appointment from Tuesday to Friday within the regular hours; children's birthday parties: from Tuesday to Friday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. **ADMISSION** free admission to the MINISCHIRN for children of visitors with a valid ticket and members of the societies of friends of the Schirn and the Schirn, Städel and Liebieghaus KinderKunstKlub **INFORMATION** www.schirn.de/minischirn **BOOKING** phone: 069-29 98 82-112, fuehrungen@schirn.de **ARCHITECTURE AND SCENOGRAPHY** Atelier Markgraph, Agency for Spatial Communication, Frankfurt **CONSTRUCTION SUPPORTED BY** Dr. Marschner Foundation and the City of Frankfurt **PROGRAM 2018 SUPPORTED BY** Willy Robert Pitzer Stiftung and Doris-Haag-Stiftung

PRESS OFFICE Johanna Pulz (Head Press/PR), Julia Bastian (Press Officer), Thea Stroh (Trainee) **SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT** Römerberg 60311 Frankfurt **PHONE** +49.69.29 98 82-148 **FAX** +49.69.29 98 82-240 **E-MAIL** presse@schirn.de **WEBSITE** www.schirn.de (texts, images, and films for download under PRESS) **ONLINE MAGAZINE** www.schirn-mag.com