



Announcing *Gift Rebels*

An Experimental Retail Concept & Design Collection by UdK Students in Berlin

Debuting July 2020

Berlin 9 July 2020 — Launching 16 July 2020 at Bikini Berlin, *Gift Rebels* is a new design collection and experimental retail concept designed and organized by five design students enrolled in the recent Talking Shop course in the Time of Corona at Berlin University of the Arts (UdK). Aiming for more than mere aesthetic achievement, this design project encompasses objects and furniture intended to be given as gifts while exploring the value of products and the prices consumers are willing to pay for them. At the same time, it intends to inspire purchasers and end users to reflect on the roles they play in making the world a better place. In the Times of Corona the course and project have been led entirely online by designers Ineke Hans and Maciej Chmara with an introduction by UK based designer [Tord Boontje](#) and communication workshops with [Anava](#) run by Berlin based Anna Carnick and Miami based Wava Carpenter.

Among the 15 new designs that comprise the *Gift Rebels* collection are a stool that encourages the user to listen more intently; brass brooches that help the user to recognize the trees Berlin, while also engaging in planting more trees in the community; and a portable torch intended for use in outdoor gatherings of friends and family. Each design honors an opportunity for connection — with a loved one, with the environment, even with one's self. At the same time, they're intended as gestures of altruism and come with a unique note that asks the users to reflect on what conditions make society more caring, sensitive, and green. For example: "What was the nicest gift you ever received?" and "What's the sound of quality time?"

Beyond these gifts and notes of reflection, the *Gift Rebels* project is an experiment in consumer culture, inviting every customer to "give a bit more" by adding an optional donation on top of the sale price. Charitable proceeds go to passthecrayon.com, a Berlin non-profit organisation that fosters self-expression through art workshops for refugee kids.

"I love this concept," notes Hans. "The students really believe, as do I, that now more than ever, it's imperative that we think about not just what we purchase, but how we participate in consumer culture. By offering an opportunity to gift on top of a gift, the students are disrupting the standard shopping experience with a fresh perspective and energy."

The public is invited to attend the *Gift Rebels* retail lab that will be installed at Bikini Berlin on the 16th and 17th of July. All designs are for sale, and the designers will be on location to discuss their work and to take orders that can be produced on demand. In addition, the project will be presented online at design.udk-berlin.de/gift-rebels.

Gift Rebels Retail Lab

Bikini House, west entrance (kino)

Budapester Str. 38-50, 10787 Berlin

16 July, 16:00-21:00

17 July, 10:00-16:00

For inquiries, please contact info@design.udk-berlin.de

Follow Gift Rebels on Instagram at [@udk_designandsocialcontext](https://www.instagram.com/udk_designandsocialcontext)

The *Gift Rebels* concept and collection is designed by Lisa Böhm, Xueqi Huangfu, Agnes Kelm, Anna Koppmann, and Isabel Meierkoll. Special thanks to Bikini Berlin for graciously hosting this event.

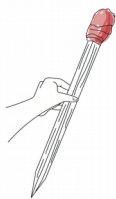
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About the Designers:

Lisa Marie Böhm — “I think it is important to feel comfortable in your environment and skin.” Böhm is a Berlin-based product design student at UdK. Her work focuses on natural materials and experimentation with simple, organic forms. Her practice is dedicated to creating objects that convey feelings through an imaginative, playful, and honest aesthetic. Her designs for the Gift Rebels collection include *Sense*, *Book Stool*, and *Wrap It*.



Xueqi Huangfu — “As I learn how to design products, I also gradually learn about myself.” Huangfu is a Chinese product designer studying at UdK in Berlin. After graduating with an industrial design major in China, she moved to Germany in 2016 to continue her design studies and enjoy the local culture. Her practice is dedicated to discovering beauty and inspiration in everyday problems. Her designs for the Gift Rebels collection include *Ciao Puzzles* and the *Sharing Stool*.



Agnes Kelm — “I want to create objects with impact that help people to actively adapt their environment in the best way.” Born in Berlin, Kelm is a product design student at UdK. Playful and well crafted, her work is influenced by considerations for the earth, culture, and society and is inspired by her regular walks through nature and the city. Her designs for the Gift Rebels collection include *Matchfackel*, *Bock Bank*, and *Sticking Birds*.

Anna Koppmann — “Products should be designed in such a way that they bring joy to both the consumer and our planet.” Born in Munich, Koppmann studies product design at UdK in Berlin. Understanding environments is often the starting point for her projects. Her aim is to create objects that inspire curiosity and promote knowledge while addressing urgent social and sustainable questions. Her designs for the Gift Rebels collection include *Leaf Brooches* and *Modular Candles*.



Isabel Meierkoll — “As a privileged person from the western hemisphere and as someone who went through a creative education, I feel a duty to use my skills to invest in a better world.” Born in Ulm, Meierkoll studies product design at UdK in Berlin. She originally planned to become a fashion designer, but eventually found textiles to be too narrow a focus and transferred to drama school. After ten years, he returned to design, preferring to make feelings and poetry manifest in physical objects. Her designs for the Gift Rebels collection include Love Rocks, Bambi Stool, Ritual Retreats, and PicPic.

About the Instructors:

Ineke Hans — Based in the Netherlands and Berlin, Hans designs furniture, products, exhibitions, and spaces while also exploring new design strategies. She is professor of Design & Social Context at the University of the Arts in Berlin, where, in 2017, she launched Design & Social Context, a program that explores the changing role and responsibility of designers against the backdrop of shifting local and global realities—and encourages designers to actively engage in future design processes to create products and projects with meaningful impact. Separately, Hans' design studio collaborates with an array of clients, communities, and leading international manufacturers, including Arco, Cappellini, Cooper Hewitt Museum, Iittala, Lensvelt, Magis, Offecct, Royal Ahrend, Royal Dutch Forestguard, Shorefast Foundation, as well as a number of Dutch governmental organizations.

Maciej Chmara — Chmara is one half of multidisciplinary design studio Chmara.Rosinke, along with his partner in life and work Ania Rosinke. Established in 2011, the studio creates work spanning tabletop objects and furniture to fully immersive experimental environments and functional interiors; their works are included in the permanent collections of multiple institutions, including MAK and Kunstgewerbemuseum Berlin. Alongside his own studio, Chmara is also Artistic Assistant in the Design & Social Context program at the UdK in Berlin, collaborating closely with Professor Ineke Hans.

About the Host:

Bikini Berlin — An urban oasis in the middle of our vibrant city, Bikini Berlin offers a unique space beyond conventional architecture, urban planning and conventional shopping malls. The revitalized destination in the city's West, beside the Berlin Zoo, houses the world's first concept shopping mall—a carefully curated and coordinated selection of stores and restaurants, including the recently added culinary highlight Kantini Foodmarket. Bikini Berlin hosts well-known brands and product debuts at the same time that it supports young design talents by presenting their creations to the public for the first time. For more info, visit www.bikiniberlin.de