



STELLAR MERIS DOSSIER

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based in Berlin / Basel

Can you handle this?, 2025. 20-minutes lecture performance at Centrale Fies in Dro, Italy. Hosted by the Dutch Art Institute.

CV

Stellar Meris (*1990, CH) is a painter and performer based between Berlin and Basel. Their work explores queer and decolonial perspectives through storytelling and immersive happenings. Expanding on their research into the German Templers and the early colonization of Palestine, Meris is now pursuing a master's degree at the Dutch Art Institute.

Education

- 2024–2026 MA in “Art Practice”
at the Dutch Art Institute, Netherlands
- 2013–2019 BA and MA in “Fine Arts”
at the University of Arts Berlin, Germany
- 2016–2017 BA in “Fine Arts” (exchange program)
at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design,
Jerusalem
- 2011–2013 Preliminary Course for Art and Design,
School of Design, Basel, Switzerland

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 We Remember, We Resist, Spreefeld, Berlin
Now is the Time, Kasko, Basel
- 2023 The Sun Above All, Galerie Melbye-Konan,
Hamburg
- 2022 Nothing But Blue Skies, Villa F.F., Riehen
Flash Forward, Kunstraum DOCK, Basel
- 2021 Backup, Centre Bagatelle, Berlin
Fake It Till We Make It, Anahita
Contemporary, Berlin

Group Exhibitions

- 2025 The Sea Between Us, a collaboration with the
French Consulate and Institut français at
Galerie Melbye-Konan, Hamburg
- 2024 Striving for Common Access, Projektraum
M54, Regionale 25, Basel
À la limite, Garage COOP, with
somebody*ies, curated by Sophie
Kauffenstein, Strasbourg
Uncertain Realities, curated by Ana Vujic,
Voltage, Basel
A Summer of Perfect Brightness, curated by
Isabel Balzer, see you next tuesday, Basel
Mouvement, a collaboration with the French
Consulate and the Institut français at Galerie
Melbye-Konan, Hamburg
- 2023 Biennale für Freiburg 2, with somebody*ies,
curated by Paula Kommoss, Freiburg
BYOB – Bring Your Own Beamer, with
somebody*ies, curated by Benedikt Wyss,
TransBona-Halle, Basel
- 2022 Freie Gruppe Hochrhein, Villa Berberich, Bad
Säckingen
KantGarage 22, KantGarage, Berlin
This Is Our House, with somebody*ies,
Garage der Villa Renata, Basel
Here To Stay, with somebody*ies, Städtisch
Galerie im Stapflehus, Weil am Rhein
Sparkles of Joy, Pop-Up-Gallery, Basel
Reset, Kommunale Galerie, Berlin
Starkes Duo - Kunstprofessorinnen & ihre
Meisterschülerinnen, curated by Anna
Havemann, Haus Kunst Mitte, Berlin
- 2021 S*HEROES - Die Nomadinnen Persiens, Arts
of Asia & Anahita Contemporary, Berlin

2021 Walk Their Path, with somebody*ies,
Stadtjubiläum, Freiburg im Breisgau

2020 Proximity and Distance, Kunstraum LLC, NY
Atelier Régional - et le monde après, Salon
Mondia in the context of Regionale 21, Basel
Oslo Night, Atelier Mondial, Basel
A Room of Her Own 2, Anahita
Contemporary, Berlin
Junge Kunst Olten, Schützi, Olten
Werk im Werk X, ArtSpring, Berlin
Nebulous, Studio Baustelle, Berlin
Körper, ORI, Berlin

2019 Meisterschüler*innen, Kunsthaus Sans Titre,
Potsdam
Arts & Culture meets AGS Froesch, Froesch
GmbH, Grossbeeren
Take Me Back, Bark Gallery, Berlin
A Room of Her Own, Anahita Contemporary,
Berlin

2018 Wihajster Freiheit Swallow, Galeria Salon
Akademii, Warschau
Kein Capri, Bar Babette, Berlin
Where I end & You begin, with Bar Mayer,
FKK gallery, Berlin
Open Doors, with Bar Mayer, Voodoo55,
Berlin
Summer Seeds, Gate 3 Gallery, Haifa

2017 Trap House III, Torstrasse 111, Berlin

2016 Aurum, Lee Galerie, Berlin
Berlin School of Painting, Villa Renata, Basel

Performances & Happenings

2025 Can You Handle This?, performance at the
Dutch Art Institue/Centrale Fies in Dro, Italy
Shall we laugh or shall I cry?, performance at

2024 the Dutch Art Institute/NAC, Nida, Lithuania
Voices from Palestine: A Call for Solidarity, a
happening with Majed Abusalama, Sabreen,
Mousheera Jamal, and another speaker,
Projektraum M54, Regionale 25, Basel
From private to public, from personal to
political, performance with Bar Mayer, le
ventre, Hégenheim, France
Now Is The Time, a happening with a speaker
from the West Bank, Kasko, Basel

2023 Let the Rainbow Rain, a happening with
Rashad Alhindi (Palestine Speaks) and Udi
Raz (Jewish Voice for Just Peace in the
Middle East), Gallery Melbye-Konan,
Hamburg
Collective Transmutations, with Krys Huba,
Muthesius Kunsthochschule, Kiel

2022 Talking about Transmutations, with Krys
Huba, Kunstraum DOCK, Basel

2021 Some Body*ies, with somebody*ies,
Humbug, Basel
The First Super, with somebody*ies, Anahita
Contemporary, Berlin

2020 Some Body*ies, with somebody*ies, Salon
Mondial, Basel

2019 The Inofficial Part of My Graduation Show,
UdK, Berlin

Film Festivals

2022 Athens Digital Arts Festival, with
somebody*ies, Athen, GR

2019 Bad Video Art Festival, Moskau, RU

2018 African Smartphone International Film
Festival, Lagos, NG
Crossing the Screen International Film

2018 Festival, Eastbourne, UK
 Milano Mobile Film Festival, Mailand, IT
 Muestra Movimiento Audiovisual,
 Guadalajara, Jalisco, MX
 BIDEODROMO international experimental
 film & video festival, Bilbao, E
 Figueira Film Art, Figueira da Foz, PT
 Le Petit Cannes Film Festival, Cannes, F
 OtherMovie Film Festival, VideoArt Contest,
 Lugano, CH
 UOW Film Festival, Westminster, UK

Awards & Scholarships

2025 research grant, Atelier Mondial, Basel
 2023 studio scholarship, Deutsche Bank
 2022 scholarship, Hans and Charlotte Krull-
 foundation
 2020 nomination for the award, Junge Kunst, Berlin
 award, Maurer-Billeter foundation, Olten
 2019 nomination, Karl Hofer Stipendium, Berlin
 2018 first prize, Milano Mobile Film Festival,
 Mailand
 2016–2017 PROMOS-scholarship
 2015 2 min short award, Festival for Expanded
 Media, Stuttgart

Artist Residencies

2024 le ventre, with Bar Mayer, 3 months,
 Hégenheim (F)
 2022 Kloster Dornach, 2 weeks (CH)
 CRAC Alsace, with somebody*ies, 1 week,
 Altkirch (F)
 2020 Atelier Mondial, 9 months, Basel (CH)
 2019 Lokalen, 1 month, Lichtenvoorde (NL)
 2018 FK-Kollektiv, 1 Monat, Berlin (DE)

Publications

2025 Never never again and again and again,
 essay, Untold Magazine
 2023 Catalogue for the solo show The Sun Above
 All, Galerie Melbye-Konan
 Zine Nothing But Blue Skies, in dialogue with
 somebody*ies, Biennale für Freiburg 2
 2022 Catalogue for the solo shows Flash Forward
 and Backup, in cooperation with Kunstraum
 DOCK and Centre Bagatelle
 Zine Awwwwwwfully Aware & Awake, in
 dialogue with somebody*ies collective,
 Neustart Kultur
 2021 Catalogue for the solo show Fake It Till We
 Make It, Anahita Publication
 Catalogue for the group show Kuro Noir
 Schwarz Black, published by Salon der
 Unabhängigen
 2018 Article Beyond Documentary – A Cinematic
 Translation of Knowledge, Self Guide
 Becoming the Other, Æther, Sofia

PORTFOLIO

Installation view after the happening "Now Is The Time", KASKO, Basel, 2024.





Let the Rainbow Rain, 2023. Happening with Rashad Alhindi (Palestine Speaks) and Udi Raz (Jewish Voice for Just Peace in the Middle East), 120 minutes, Galerie Melbye-Konan, Hamburg, 8.9.2023.



Installation view of the solo show "Now Is The Time" with the tent installation "Come As You Are", KASKO, Basel, 2024.



Installation view after the happening "Now Is The Time", KASKO, Basel, 2024.

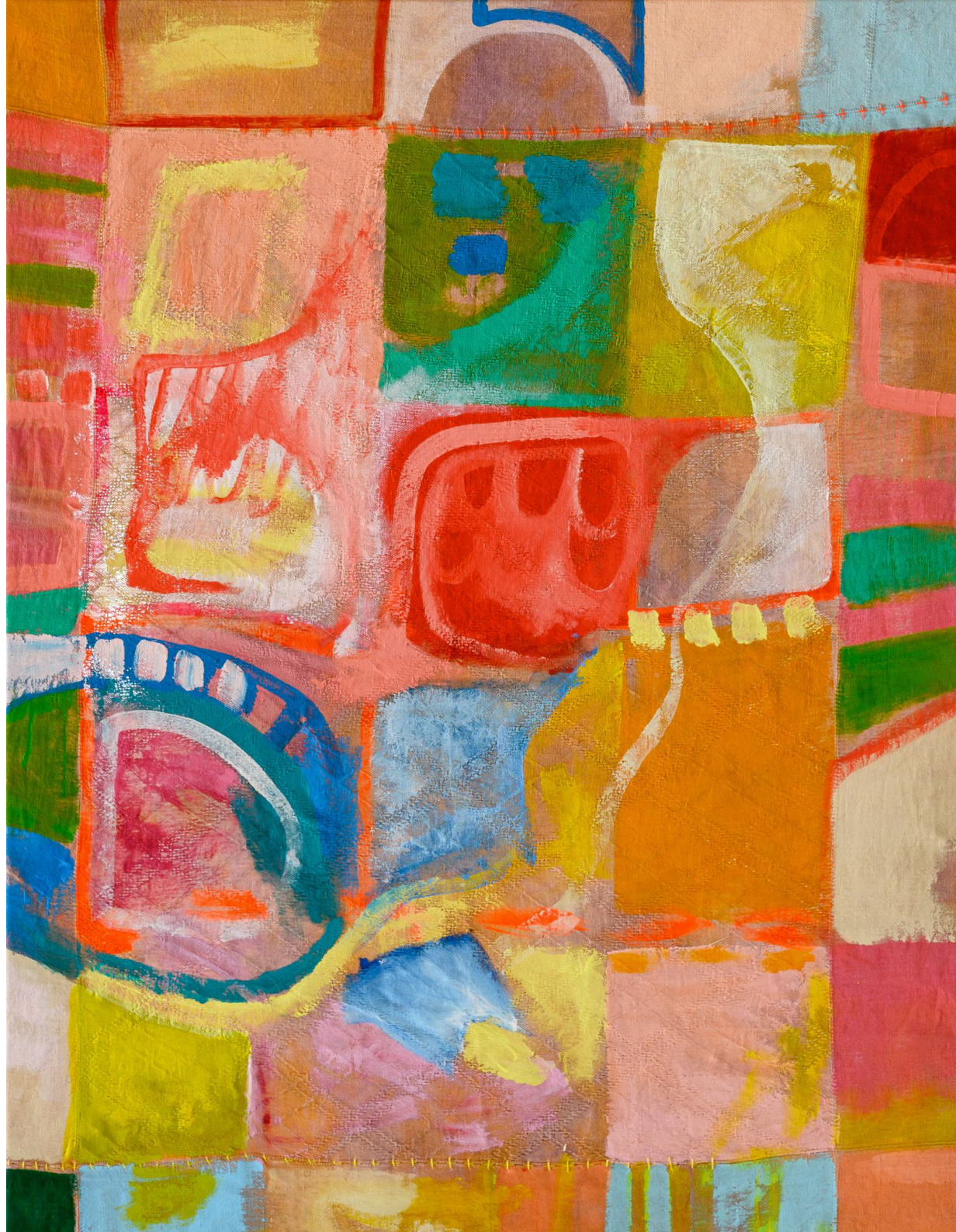


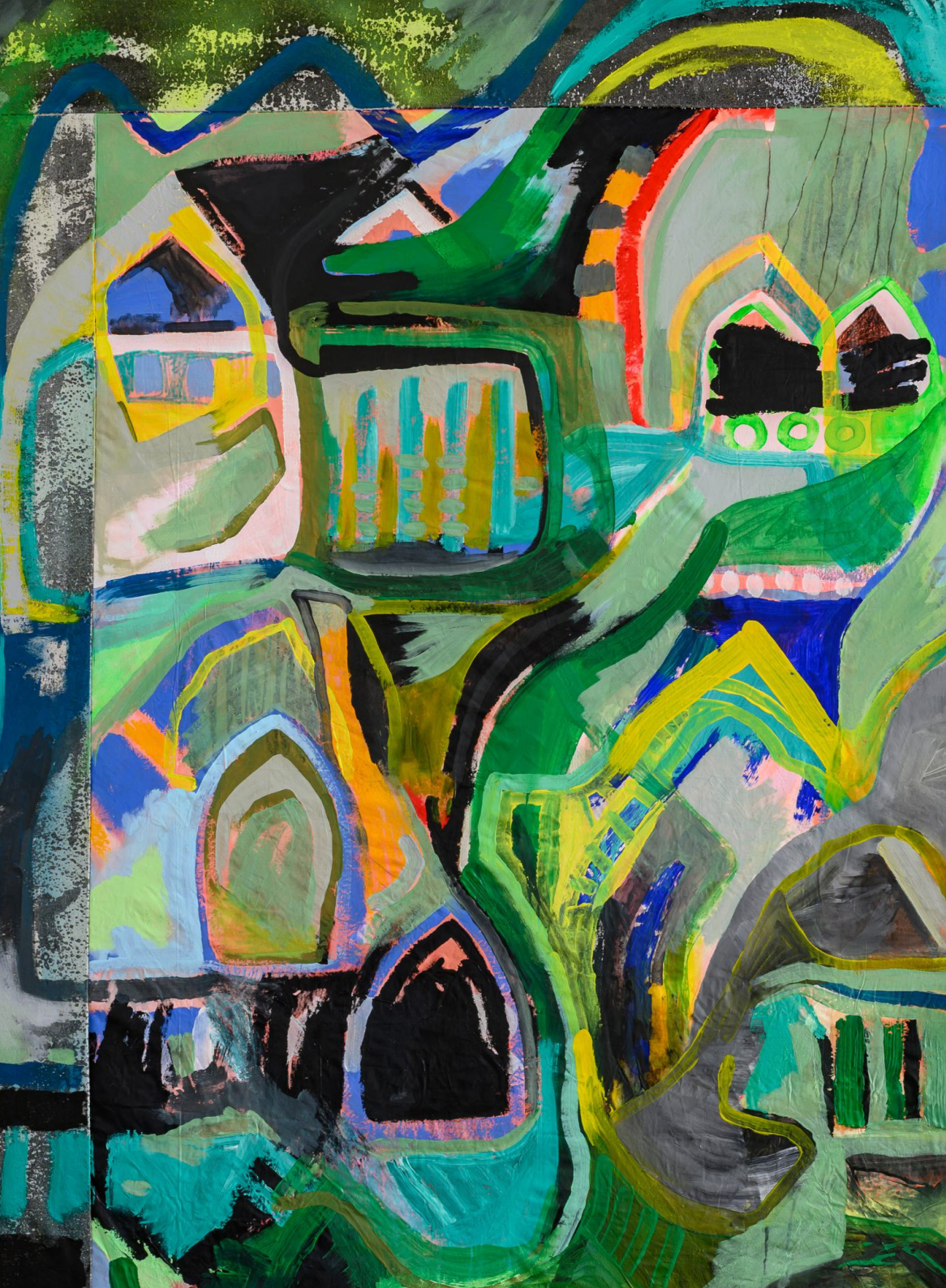
Mind Nap, 2022. Acrylic, oil pastel, colouring pencil, pencil, textile paint, charcoal stick and acrylic spray on textile, 293 x 500 cm.
Installation view of the group exhibition "Reset" at Kommunale Galerie Berlin, 2022.



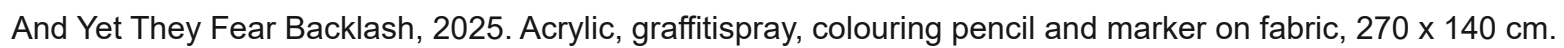
Common World, 2025. Acrylic, wax batik, graffiti spray, colouring pencil, acrylic marker, and textile paint on canvas. 170 x 250 cm.

Please Break Fast, 2025. Acrylic, wax batik, graffiti spray, colored pencil, acrylic marker, and fabric paint on canvas, 115 x 88 cm.





Jenin, 2025. Acrylic, wax batik, textile paint, graffiti spray, pencil and oilpastel on canvas, 130 x 94 cm.





Shall we laugh or shall I cry?, 2025. 20-minutes lecture performance at NIDAC in Nida, Lithuania. Hosted by the Dutch Art Institute.



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«I grew up in the heart of Christian Zionist ideology, I know it through my body. I know how it feels to be indoctrinated, brainwashed, abused, and manipulated by a system of high control that aims to dehumanize not only the other but also yourself. It's a black and white system of life and death. Either your in or your out, there is no middle ground. I left, and yet I am still struggling to move forward.»

How to become a sinfluencer, 2025.
Excerpt of an essay, unpublished.



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HOME 7
No Signal
We up 70% of your lamp power.
me to do your part in saving the planet.

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Stellar Meris

NEVER NEVER AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN

From Christian Zionism, Nazism, and Evangelicalism to Staatsräson

In November 2023, I was arrested by the Berlin police at an anti-colonial protest in front of the Federal Foreign Office for carrying the flag of Palestine. The officer stated, "Palestine has nothing to do with colonialism," and his colleague added, "It's forbidden to show the swastika too," thereby equating the flag of an oppressed people with a Nazi symbol. The consequence of my arrest was to pay a fine, nothing in comparison to what M., a Syrian refugee who was arrested for the same charge, had to fear. To him, the act of resistance could cost him his asylum status and lead to deportation from Germany.

As a Swiss-German citizen straddling a colonial family history in Palestine and a Nazi heritage, I was stunned by the blatant lies of the policemen. To say that Palestine has nothing to do with colonialism contradicts my own family history, and to equate the flag of Palestine with the Swastika portrays the victims of settler-colonialism as Nazi sympathizers. This of course is a false narrative that has been perpetuated by German media who claimed repeatedly that "Free Palestine is the new Heil Hitler." This gaslighting perpetrator reversal serve only one purpose: to deflect from Germany's responsibility for both the Holocaust and its involvement in the genocide in Gaza.

I grew up in Switzerland in a free evangelical congregation where our family history was kept from us. At the dinner table, I overheard conversations about Israel, terrorism, and Jesus. The message was always the same: "We are the good ones. We love Jews, but they need to be converted to Christianity. Muslims are barbaric. There will never be peace in this world unless the entirety of humanity accepts Jesus Christ as its saviour." This rigid doctrine was celebrated in rituals, prayers, songs, and festivities. But also it was built on the fear of ending up in hell, using guilt and shame as controlling tools. Whatever a critical mind wanted to discuss, in the end the answer always had to come back to reinforce the already existing dogma. It was impossible to question the system in its entirety. Doubts were seen as sins, even if one didn't express them. Public punishment such as humiliation and excommunication produced detachment from one's intuition, self-censorship, and a climate of existential fear and confusion. I participated in this faith system until age 17.

When a preacher told me that "homosexuals can be cured by prayers, but trans people are not even worth talking about—they are the worst of all," I realized I can never truly belong to the place I grew up in. It wasn't meant for me. But I realized that religious authorities would often make a bad example of those who left. I lost my social and financial security, and so

«The hypocritical attitude and moral superiority of German politicians reminds me of evangelicals who pretend to uphold ethical, universal values and speak of God's "unconditional love for everyone" while excluding queer people and non-Christians. Only those who devote their life to Jesus are able to access that love; queer people must undergo conversion therapy or exorcism to prove their faith in a system that negates their sexuality or gender. These methods often lead queer teens to self-harm or suicide.»

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Never never again and again and again, 2025.
Excerpt of an essay, published by Untold Magazine.

«According to evangelicals' belief, other cultures with their own spiritual traditions cannot access God's "unconditional love", reserved for born-again Christians alone. For centuries, European missionaries spread their racist and anti-LGBTQ+ ideas to other continents, laying the ideological ground for domination, so that imperialists could extract resources from land and indigenous people, and funnel the profits back to Europe. The connection between missionary work and colonialism is not mentioned in their Bible courses, of course, but it lives on until today.»

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