

# ÉCART

## **Lieven Meyer with Brumby and fr.JPLA (Tiohtà:ke/Montréal and Berlin)**

*The German Club*

Variable schedule throughout the Biennial

Saturday 19.10.24 - 10pm closing event

Cabaret de la dernière chance's basement

The *Cab's* basement is the only place in Rouyn-Noranda that remains physically intact, having been known as a gathering spot for the German community. Apart from its address, little is documented about the German Club. The hostilities between the Great Allied Powers and the German-speaking empires between 1914 and 1945 had too adverse an effect on these communities in North America.

Although German immigrants had been present in Rouyn-Noranda since the 1920s, most didn't arrive until after the Second World War. In the 1950s, the club was a meeting place for some 800 German workers, mainly underground miners. According to oral tradition, they organized dances, bazaars, masked balls, language courses and skat parties.

After 70 years of absence, and for the duration of the Biennale, the *German Club* is returning to its last former location with electronic sound performances. This vibrant space, conceived as a living room, takes an experimental look at the many empty spaces that have marked this community from the beginning. It's not only about questioning what was once a so-called German club and what it might represent in the current context, but also about understanding the lasting impact such ethnocultural gatherings have on segments of the population that are not directly involved.

Lieven Meyer is a multidisciplinary practitioner of German origin established and working in Quebec since 2013. He holds a degree in contemporary sculpture from the University of Kiel and a master's degree in visual arts from UQAM. Developing an independent practice of sculpture, installation and intervention in public space, Meyer has been teaching in the visual arts program at UQO's School of Arts and Cultures since 2020. In 2021, he joined the board of directors of the artist centre AXENÉO7, and was appointed co-president in 2022.

### CREDITS

In collaboration with Reni Jordan