

## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

**The ufo University is looking for you  
for six months of world improvement and utopias!**

**Why utopias?** Unemployment, terrorism, the financial crisis and tax increases – our lives are full of conflict. Restraints affect us, hold us to ransom and create inner conflict. This is because these conflicts do not originate in the private sphere and also appear not to be solvable on a private level: ideologies cannot replace our daily bread, freedom cannot heat our apartments and we cannot camp on memorials. The fields of economy, politics, culture or the military are permanently thrusting their way into our biographies.

On the other hand, are politics, economy, culture and the state not circumstances in which we have been immersed and which are also man-made? Why should it not be possible and feasible to criticize these at times severely adverse circumstances and behave critically towards them? And what should our reaction be if current circumstances are so difficult to comprehend? Is this due to the circumstances themselves or due to us, or is it due to our adopted strategies that these circumstances are so difficult to change? How do we wish to live and what world are we willing to fight for?

**What und how utopian?** The *ufo University* will place these conflicts with a direct reference to yourself, your environment and the city of Halle on the agenda. The *ufo-University*, a forum for education, discussion and confrontation beginning in February 2010 and continuing for six months, aims to discuss problems with the aid of scientific and artistic methods and bring them to prominence. In conjunction with a micro-conference, workshops, lectures and plenums, the *ufo University* aims on the one hand to operate within the social environment and on the other hand – with your help – aims to expound the problems of social processes and at the same time interact on them. The term “university” is not utilised here in its narrower scientific and discipline-prejudiced sense, but on a broader level: open to all, free in its methods, committed to understanding and developing a political practice. Throughout the “semester” – accompanied and advised – you will be able to find your topics and organise and develop your projects. In July 2010, these projects will be presented within the scope of a small festival.

**Where?** For this purpose, the rooms of the ufo gallery and art space will be made available as an operative base and will provide venues for meetings of participants and guests. Furthermore it will serve as office, studio and theatre space, as an info-café and a conference location. The *ufo University* will also cooperate with institutions within Halle – the Werkleitz Centre for Media Arts, Radio Corax, and the Martin-Luther-University. The *ufo University* will additionally offer a network of local and regional experts who will hold consultations on content and practical implementation.

**Who?** True to the maxim: “You should not be made stupid due to the power of others and not made stupid due to your own powerlessness” (Th. W. Adorno quoted by Alexander Kluge), the *ufo University* invites everyone who has already looked into the area of social criticism or is interested in pursuing this subject area, whether in a team or as an individual, professionally or in your own free time, with or without a profession, with or without academic qualifications or training. A number of artists and scientists from Germany and abroad have already been invited to expound on problems and put these into perspective. But above all: you are all very welcome to come and listen, discuss, participate and develop your own projects!