

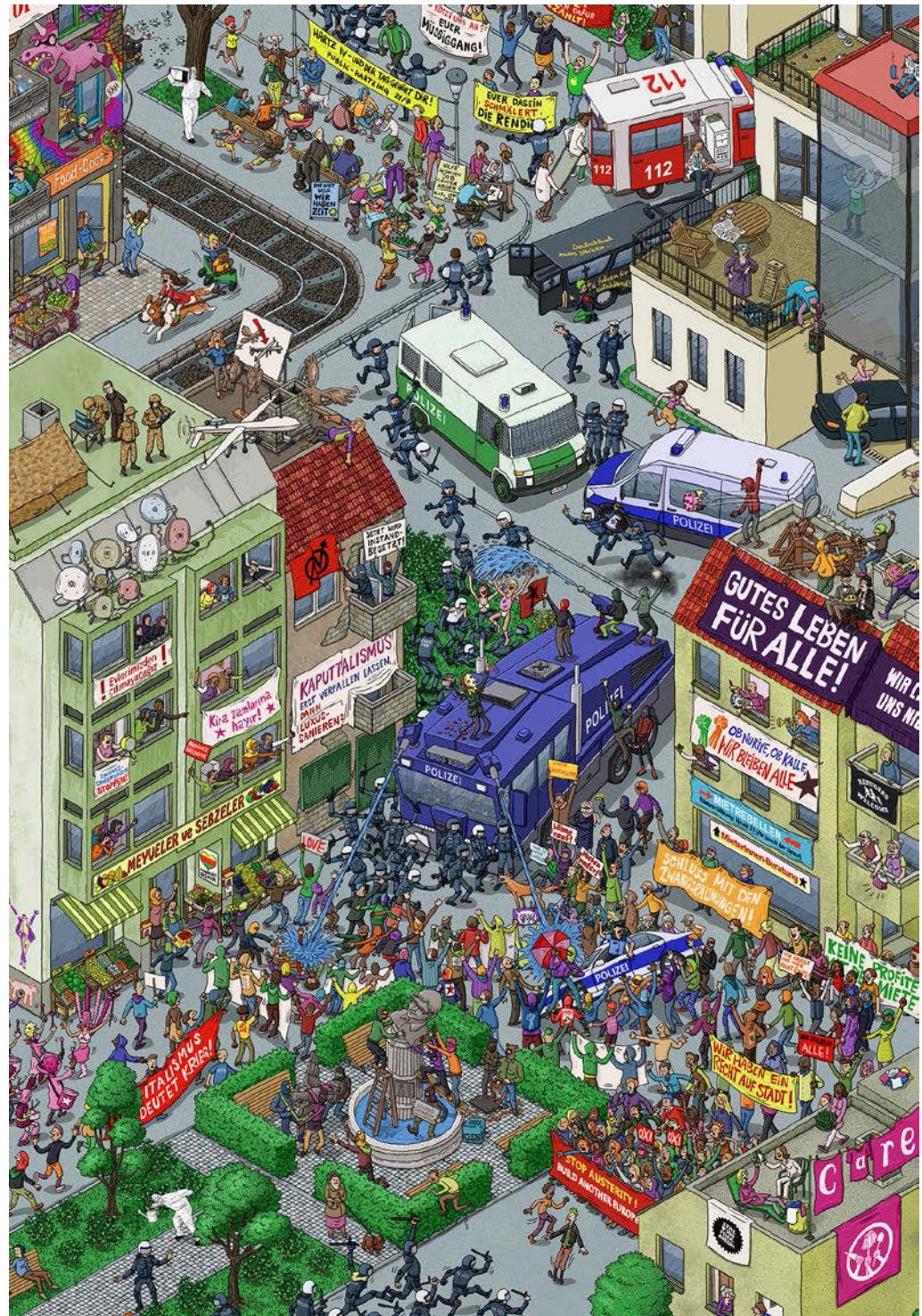
Protest Map, Cartoon and Propaganda¹

The Hidden Object Map Right to the City

Marc Amann, Markus Wende

marcamann.net

animationsfilm.de



The city from above. Birds-eye view. Comic style. Streets, buildings, places, gardens, 2000 characters. One big scene comprised of many small places and situations. A construction site of an expensive large-scale project, a gated community, a biotech laboratory. Protest actions against rising rents and displacement, for feminism, against capitalism. Alternative economies, a community-supported vegetable plantation, housing projects, a factory occupation, an anti-racist protest camp. Struggles for the commons and a good life for everyone.

The image is an invitation for rediscovering and recognizing, for smiling and smirking, for questioning. It is a little bit of propaganda and a little bit of cartoon. It is chaotic and dynamic. For children and adults.

In the last few years the hidden object format has experienced a revival and uncountable hidden object maps, books in different drawing styles and on different topics have come out. The format opens up a lot of possibilities: Many scenes and stories can be incorporated in a condensed space, stimulating searching, finding and one's imagination by creating connections between characters and scenes as well as one's own stories. The hidden object map Right to the City hereby portrays a concentration of urban conflicts and struggling for a good life. The picture represents fiction just as much as it represents the truth. It is inspired by encounters, events and struggles. Most of the scenes are the result of places, events, projects and interventions that really exist or took place. The fare-evasion metro in Stuttgart, the riot dog Louk from Greece or the squatting elders from Berlin. Known motifs, logos and also some real people can be recognized.

Often the portrayed protests, events and projects are not shown in a common context they are not told as one coherent story. This leads to the impression that there are many different unconnected struggles as well as protests and forms of resistance on the one hand but also alternatives and possibilities on the other hand. What connects everything, though, is the bird's-eye perspective. As a map, the hidden object map connects the portrayed places and social struggles with each other. Leading through streets and places, the hidden object map leads past the demands of refugees



for social participation just as it does for the disabled, the unemployed, queer or transgender people. The wealth on the one side of the street is opposed by the poverty on the other side of the street. The title Right to the City refers to a self-designation of many urban initiatives all around the globe that demand the access and participation of all residents – and most of all the socially disadvantaged – to the resources of urban society and the right to self-organization and the ability to try new forms of living.

The hidden object map Right to the City was published online, printed and distributed freely in 2016. It is decoration and entertainment as well as educational material and propaganda at the same time. It is put on the walls of kitchens co-tenants share as well as in offices, on the bulletin boards of repair cafés and in the community greens. It can be found at critical mass network meetings as well as in open workshops. Teachers and educators use it in schools, kindergartens or day-care centers. Activists use it in workshops to explain protest forms and alternative approaches of social movements. Some parents have put it on the walls of their children's rooms in order to explain to them which great actions and projects they have participated in (hopefully their children don't find this boring).

But the best way to explore the picture is being at leisure and looking at it on the wall of a restroom – or online where you can zoom into a detailed view of all the scenes and characters: wimmelbild.animationsfilm.de/wimmelbild-recht-auf-stadt/

Endnotes

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Illustrations

Hidden object map by Markus Wende based on the idea of Marc Amann







