

Hot car!

The KW Institute in Mitte is showing a Mercedes that has become a sauna



A team of five cut, glued and sewed the wooden balls for three weeks

Photo: Ufuk Ucta



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In Berlin traffic you can quickly work up a sweat. In the car of Ines Kaag (51) and Desiree Heiss (50), the occupants get hot when parking.

The Berlin designer duo "Bless" had a Mercedes 500 SEL converted into a sauna. This weekend, "Sauna-Rider BLESS N°72" invites you to a 30-minute sauna session (10/8 euros) in the inner courtyard of the KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Mitte.



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The Sauna Mercedes 500 SEL in the KW Gallery, Auguststrasse 69 (Photo: Ufuk Ucta)

The conversion of the noble sled built in 1993 took three weeks. The artists and a whole team glued thousands of wooden beads to the interior paneling.

For the seats, the beads were sewn onto an imitation leather mat. "Of course you still have to put a towel underneath for the sweat - just like in the real sauna," says Ines Kaag. For the technical conversions, the designers brought the architect Sam Chermayeff into the team. He installed a sauna heater in the trunk of the S-Class, which in future can be operated with electricity or via the car engine.



Infusions can be poured onto the heated stones of the sauna heater in the trunk (Photo: Ufuk Ucta)



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"The oven reaches up to 100 degrees, and infusions can be made," say the "situation designers", as they both call themselves, enthusiastically.

The sauna rider rounds off her work on an artist's apartment in the works of art. Since December, Ines Kaag and Desiree Heiss have been converting a two-room apartment there, which is available for artists and guests, but can also be used by the around 50 employees of the cultural institute for work.



The designers also redesigned the apartment in the artworks (Photo: kw bless)

The unusual design of the duo is already visible at the entrance: the vacuum cleaner is covered with denim, thick chains of wooden beads serve as wardrobe. In the bathroom, strings with pearls, natural soap and the toilet paper roll hang from the ceiling, and a mop of hair grows out of a brush.

When looking at the bed, the visitor initially gets a little shock: there is a couple in it. But at second glance, it becomes clear that heads and feet are printed on the bed linen in a deceptively real way. "We enjoy changing ordinary things in such a way that they are initially irritating, but then are useful," both explain their concept.



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The hot air comes into the interior via a fan through a hole in the back seat (Photo: Ufuk Ucta)

So if you see a Mercedes with fogged-up windows parked at the side of the road in Berlin in the future: don't be surprised if people suddenly jump out with sauna towels to cool off...

Until Sunday, Auguststraße 69, ☎ 243 45 90, [more information](#)

