

WHY KÄFELE?

Nowadays, *you are what you do* . After “what is your name?”, we ask “where are you from?” or “what do you do?”. That pushes people into their roles and makes communication often more difficult because priors [and prejudices about certain roles] have to be overcome. We all have feelings, hopes and fears, but these deeply human aspects often have to be excluded when fulfilling a role, which creates the emotional distance we seem “professional”.

Amanitas was fascinated by the idea of being able, for the duration of an authentic conversation:

- to dive into foreign worlds,
- to be allowed to ask sincere questions about [world] views we do not understand,
- and, in turn, to share candidly what is currently moving us.

We live in an increasingly anonymous, digitalized world. Smart algorithms make sure that we get in touch only with the kinds of opinions, people, and experiences of which we approve. Within this context, we sense it might become an essential precondition for a healthy living together that we get more opportunities to learn:

- how to listen to someone without wanting to convince that person of your own ideas,
- to practice how to get involved in engaging conversations with someone with whom at first sight you have nothing or only little in common,
- to find the courage to go beyond your comfort zone and get to know your neighbours.

That is why we are meeting up! Every month or so, usually in the evening from 6.30 PM onwards in gardens, living rooms, and soon maybe in real cafés as well:

- to have dinner and a coffee [or another drink of your choice] with “strangers”
- to discuss what we dream of, what scares us and what lights our eyes on fire,
- what nature, friendship, family, health, wealth and happiness mean to us,
- and of course always why we *are* and *do* so.

After our conversations, we gather to think with you about the future potential of such gatherings, of how to spread it across the entire city and beyond. Our hope is that we might be able to put a “virus of connection” into circulation to offer unknowns a place in the world, away from the status of “nobodies” towards “somebuddies”.

In short, create more opportunities for having a meaningful coffee with a stranger [or friend] and be dazzled by what happens next.