

Resume & Portfolio



Credit: Portrait by Brian Patterson

Nicodemus, aka Nico Andreas Heller, is a theatre director, producer (mainly of his own work) and artist. He also runs the Democracy School and is an experienced strategist, moderator and coach.

As an artist and director, he is primarily interested in collaborative practices that cut across disciplinary boundaries. His artistic output comprises live art performances and theatre productions, as well as site-specific and gallery installations.

Formal Education

1995 - 1997 London Business School (University of London) – London, UK

MBA Degree (Executive EMA Programme)

1991 - 1992 Ulster University, Faculty of Art and Design – Belfast, UK

MA Degree in Fine Art

1981 - 1987 Urspring Schule (Boarding) – Schelklingen, DE

Abitur (A Level Equivalent)

Professional Experience

2019 - today Self-Employed – Berlin, DE

Political Advisor & Coach (see nicoheller.de)

- Advises clients and their organisations on political issues
- Supports clients with the development of their political practice

2017 - today Democracy School gUG (haftungsbeschränkt) – Berlin, DE

Founder & Chief Executive Officer (see democracyschool.com)

- Develops Reboot2030, the Democracy School's [YouTube channel](#)
- Is in the process of establishing the School in Berlin as a non-profit organisation

2007 - today Nicodemus (Freelance) – London, UK & Berlin, DE

Producer, Director and Artist (see unruhe.eu)

- Works internationally as catalyst, artist and theatre director
- Develops the Devil's Kitchen, a 'Sprechoper' in five acts (devilskitchen.org)
- Convenes Silent Lectures (unruhe.eu/silent-lectures)

2003 - 2019 Democracy School Ltd – London, UK (dissolved Feb 2019)

Founding Director (a client list is available on request)

- Starts the ICR development process (democracyschool.com/refucom)
- Initiates the European Leadership Initiative (democracyschool.com/eulead)
- Supports politicians and activists as a consultant, mentor und coach
- Provides participation and engagement services for public sector clients
- Leads the Democracy School's faculty and pd (practice development) network
- Creates Narrative-Driven Action Learning, the School's core methodology
- Designs one of the UK's first civic participation websites

1993 - 2003 Self-Employed – London, UK

Management Consultant (Art, Media and Culture)

- Advises companies and associations such as Reuters UK Ltd and PACT (UK) in the area of digitalisation (focus: ePublishing and eLearning)
- Develops strategies for cultural institutions such as the Museum für Post und Telekommunikation (DE) and the Whitechapel Art Gallery (UK)

- 1990 - 1993 Nicodemus Productions Ltd – Belfast, UK
Producer, Director and Artist (A list of completed projects is available on request)
- Receives two ABSA awards for excellence in fundraising and marketing
 - Achieves critical acclaim as a producer, theatre director and artist
- 1988 - 1990 Eirene, Internat. Christian Service for Peace – Neuwied, DE
Project Manager (Volunteer, see eirene.org)
- Manages the day-to-day operations of the programme in Belfast (UK)
 - Secures funding for a 12-month drama school for workless people

Additional Information

- Fellowships: Royal Society of Arts (FRSA)
- Languages: German (native), English (fluent)
- Other interests: The unknown and the familiar
- Motto: Fail again, fail better.

Project Index (Curated)

Every index tells a story.

* Early Works

Nicodemus arrives in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in the summer of 1988 to set up and run a 12-month drama school for local people of all ages and religious backgrounds (see resume above).

The project is considered a great success and, thanks to the Arts Council and some other funders, allows him to stay on for another three years to produce and direct the projects included in this section.

- 1989 ***A Respectable Wedding***, one-act play by B. Brecht
Producer & Director: Nicodemus
Host & Venue: Old Museum Arts Centre, Belfast, Northern Ireland (N.I.)
No documentation available
- On the Surface***, dance performance
Producer, Director & Musician (Saxophone): Nicodemus
Host & Venue: Old Museum Arts Centre, Belfast, N.I.
No documentation available

In 1990 Nicodemus sets up Nicodemus Productions Limited (see resume above).

1990 ***A Symphony on Luther***, inter-media performance

Producer & Director: Nicodemus

Host & Venue: Belfast Civic Arts Theatre, Belfast, N.I.

[Documentation](#) | [Press](#)

1990 - 1991 ***The Land of Milk and Honey***, inter-media performance

Producer & Director: Nicodemus

Hosts & Venues: Limerick City Gallery of Art (Premier), Limerick, Rep. of Ireland,
Old Museum Arts Centre, Belfast, N.I., Granary Theatre, Cork, Rep. of Ireland

[Documentation](#) | [Press](#)

In 1991 Nicodemus gains recognition as a professional theatre director, joins the [Director's Guild](#) and is accepted into the [MA/MFA course at UU](#).

1991 ***Work Presentation***, participatory performance

Artist: Nicodemus

Host & Venue: Ulster University (UU), Faculty of Art and Design, N.I.

[Documentation](#)

No-Myth Exhibition of Consumer Art, gallery installation

Artist: Nicodemus

Host & Venue: Orpheus Gallery, Belfast, N.I.

[Documentation](#) | [Press](#)

1992 ***Revolution-Revelation***, durational performance & installation

Artist: Nicodemus

Host & Venue: Just Books (Bookshop and Café), Belfast, N.I.

[Documentation](#)

Curation-Duration, performance & installation

Artist: Nicodemus

Host: Ulster University, Faculty of Art and Design, N.I.

Venue: Temporary exhibition space

[Documentation](#)

Directing Performance – Art of the In-Between, installation

Artist: Nicodemus

Host: Ulster University, Faculty of Art and Design, N.I.

Venue: Temporary exhibition space

[Documentation](#)

* Disengagement

Ready to move on, yet exhausted and without any clear idea of what to do next, Nicodemus leaves Ireland in the winter of 1992/3 and moves to London where he remains based until he relocates to Berlin in 2018.

Whilst the projects included here only capture a fraction of the ideas he explores during his early London years, they tell an interesting story and offer valuable insights into his state of mind at the time.

1996 ***A Step at a Time***, installation dedicated to Eamon McCaffrey

Artist: Nicodemus

Curator: Dr Slavka Sverakova

Host & Venue: Context Gallery, L'Derry, N.I.

[Documentation](#)

1996 - 1997 ***Road Piece***, permanent installation (transplantation)

Artist: Nicodemus

Proposed Host: Context Gallery, L'Derry, N.I. and Museum für Post und Telekommunikation, Berlin, Germany

[Documentation](#) (Berlin declined - the project was never realised)

1997 ***The Deserter (Der Deserteur)***, installation

Artist: Nicodemus

[Documentation](#) (the project was never realised)

1997 - 1998 ***Gold and Mortality***, an installation of 'machine gun paintings'

Artist: Nicodemus

Proposed Host: White Cube Gallery, London, UK

[Documentation](#) (the project was never realised)

1998 ***Early Exposure***, installation

Artist: Nicodemus

[Documentation](#) (the project was never realised)

In 2003 Nico Andreas Heller (aka Nicodemus) sets up the Democracy School.

* RE-engagement

One evening in October 2007 Nicodemus was out with Democracy School clients in London when, on his way home, he suddenly feels a powerful urge to take pictures of other passengers on the train.

So, he gets his phone out and 22 minutes later completes his first **work of art** in about five years (see *Public Intimacy* below).

Whilst it then takes him another eight years before he begins collaborating publicly with other artists again, these 22 minutes set in motion a 'slow-burning' process of critical re-engagement that eventually leads to him creating a whole cluster of collaborative artistic interventions in 2015.

2007 ***Public Intimacy***, performance & installation

Artist: Nicodemus

Location: London Underground (train, station and online)

[Documentation](#)

2015 - NOW ***WePolter***, international network of interventionist artists

Initiator: Nicodemus

Location: Various

[Project Page](#) | [Calls for Contributions](#)

2015 ***B/reach***, durational performance & installation

Artist: Nicodemus

Locations: Streets of London & online

[Documentation](#)

We (UK), interdisciplinary collaboration

Artist & Curator: Nicodemus

Location: Online

[Documentation](#)

I Am Here, event & collaborative performance

Producer & Director: Nicodemus

Host: Democracy School

Venue: Kohlenquelle, Berlin, Deutschland (DE)

[Project Page](#) | [Documentation](#)

We (DE), interdisciplinary collaboration

Artist & Curator: Nicodemus

Location: Online

[Documentation](#)

2015 - 2030 ***Museum of the Future + The Human Condition,***
durational project

Producer, Artist, Curator & Director: Nicodemus

Hosts & Locations: Various

[Project Page](#) | [Collection](#)

In 2018 Nicodemus relocates to Germany after 30 years in the UK.

2019 - NOW ***Thinking in Public,*** performance & discussion

Producer & Artist: Nicodemus

Available for booking >> [Project Prospectus](#)

* Recent Works

Throughout his life Nicodemus, aka Nico Andreas Heller, has kept his practice as an **artist and director** completely separate from his practice as a **strategist, moderator** and **coach**. From about 2017 onwards, this division increasingly becomes an impediment to his development and so, in 2020, he decides to integrate these two strands fully. This section lists all the art-related projects he has initiated since.

2020 - NOW ***Unruhe,*** archive & blog

Curator & Editor: Nicodemus

[Archive](#) | [Blog](#)

2021 - NOW ***The Devil's Kitchen,*** a spoken opera in five acts

Producer & Director: Nicodemus

Hosts & Locations: To be confirmed

[Project Page](#) | [Website](#)

The Silent Lecture Series, performance & discussion

Producer & Artist: Nicodemus

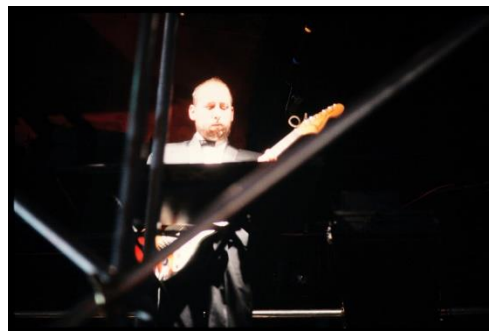
Hosts & Locations: To be confirmed

[Project Page](#)

Core Themes and Constants

There are a number of core themes Nicodemus has been preoccupied with throughout his life. These include the relationship between faith and knowledge, between the familiar and the unknown and between freedom and responsibility. The below documentation places them within the context of his work.

1 of four examples
A Symphony on Luther

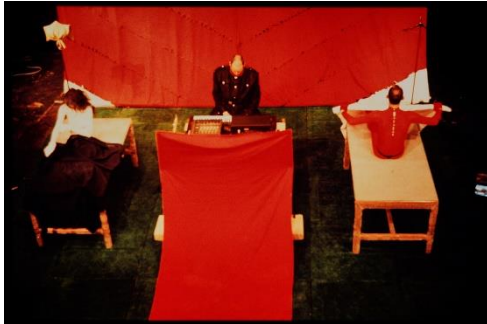


On Religion



A full documentation, including programme notes and promotional materials, is available online at unruhe.eu/luther. See also unruhe.eu/press.

2 of four examples
The Land of Milk and Honey




On Fascism



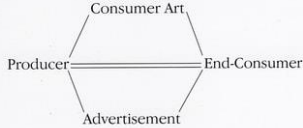
A full documentation, including programme notes and promotional materials, is available at unruhe.eu/milk-and-honey. See also unruhe.eu/press.

3 of four examples
No-Myth Exhibition of Consumer Art



The material possibilities today appear unlimited. Consumer Art places a strong emphasis on pushing the limits even further.

As proposed by Nicodemus®, Consumer Art intervenes, engages and challenges both *end-consumer* and *producer*, not only within but also beyond the confines of 'the artistic space', by communicating with the *consumer*, through the artistic use of materials, services or technologies, of a *producer*.



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graph TD;
  CA[Consumer Art] --- P[Producer];
  CA --- EC[End-Consumer];
  P --- EC;
  A[Advertisement] --- P;
  A --- EC;
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On Capitalism



A full documentation, including promotional materials, is available at unruhe.eu/no-myth-exhibition. See also unruhe.eu/press.

4 of four examples
B/reach



On Populism



A full documentation is available at unruhe.eu/breach-uk.