



**Silent Lectures**, as conceived and developed by **Nicodemus**, at their most basic, consist of people coming together in peace to jointly **contemplate in silence** something that matters to them: a loss, an injustice or a victory for example.

Each *Silent Lecture* is **delivered by a convener** whose task it is to name the 'thing' (injustice etc) that is to be contemplated and to act as a focal point for the group during their contemplation.

*Silent Lectures* can take place in almost any context, including at political demonstrations, cultural events or religious gatherings, but are in themselves **neither political nor religious**.

Anyone can give a *Silent Lecture*. All it takes is an issue and a place where that issue resonates so much it can be summarised in one word and still be understood by many, if not all.

## Example

Nicodemus convened his inaugural *Silent Lecture* at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin-Mitte (Germany) on 19 June 2022. The topic he invited people to contemplate was silence itself.

To promote this event, Nicodemus wrote to numerous arts organisations, NGOs and the press. He also engaged with the Jewish community and invited prominent members of that community to participate in the Silent Lecture.

On the day, he arrived early (wearing his white 'Art Nicodemus' baseball cap, so that people would recognise him), greeted the people who 'came for the lecture' and, once everyone had arrived, start with a brief introduction to get people settled in...

Afterwards, he invited everyone to participate in a discussion at the nearby Memorial to Homosexuals persecuted under National Socialism (in Tiergarten), thus enabling those who participated to share their experiences.

The documentation of this event is published in full at [unruhe.eu/notes](https://unruhe.eu/notes). A further example, our *Belfast Lecture on Compassion*, is described and documented at [silentlectures.org](https://silentlectures.org).

## Format

*Silent Lectures* are site-specific performance lectures and, as such, a minimalist form of live/performance art or postdramatic theatre, where no more than one word or, in exceptional circumstances, a phrase is whispered, shouted or otherwise voiced.

Beyond that, there is a lot of flexibility. For example, it is usually advisable to add a brief introduction, so that people know what to expect and to allow for a discussion afterwards, so that people can share their thoughts and feelings.