Artists in Russia use unusual forms of protest to express criticism.

Martina Preiner was a journalist before she discovered her passion for research.

Marine brown algae provide information on the evolution of different sexes.

Clouds in the tropical trade-wind zone reflect sunlight and thereby cool our climate.
03 | EDITORIAL

06 | ON LOCATION
Utqiaġvik in Northern Alaska

8 | IN BRIEF

14 | VIEWPOINT
“Democracy can be dismantled more quickly than it can be restored”
Armin von Bogdandy and Dimitri Spieker examine how the democratic reform process in Poland might unfold.

20 | INFOGRAPHIC
Democracy is at stake

FOCUS
(Un)free

22 | The Art of Quiet Criticism
Since the attack on Ukraine, repressions and censorship have increased in Russia. That is why artists are using unusual methods to express their political convictions.

28 | In the Echo Chamber
Social media makes it easier for people to reinforce each other’s views and take on increasingly extreme positions. Researchers investigate this echo chamber phenomenon from the perspective of social science, law, and mathematics.

34 | Pure Freedom
Surveys show that many people in Germany feel they are not free to express their opinions. Legal experts investigate whether these feelings are justified.

40 | VISIT TO
Martina Preiner

46 | DOUBLE TAKE

KNOWLEDGE FROM

48 | A Gene for Maleness
Brown algae have a special place in the tree of life. That makes them interesting objects of research that can be used to investigate the evolution of the sexes.

54 | An Umbrella of Flower Clouds
Tropical trade-wind clouds reflect solar radiation and thus cool the climate. Researchers want to find out how anthropogenic global warming impacts the protective shield of clouds.

60 | The Digital Universe
Dark matter and dark energy cannot be observed. That is why astronomers use computers to simulate the role they play in the development of the universe.

66 | Packaging in Nature
There are versatile biomaterials in the plant kingdom that could be used as construction materials, for clothing, or for packaging. Researchers analyze the properties of bark and seed pods.

72 | POST FROM ...
The North Pole

74 | FIVE QUESTIONS
About European Security and Defense Policy

75 | PUBLISHER’S INFORMATION