

● LUMINALE 2020
↳ PRESSEMELDUNG

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Robert Seidel brings the sublime back into urban space

Robert Seidel will be embellishing the façade of the future Deutsche Romantik-Museum for Luminale. Inspired by the collection of the Freie Deutsche Hochstift, his projection seeks to fragmentally visualize the creative process.

The scaffolding at Grosser Hirschgraben 17-21 has disappeared, offering an unobstructed view of the facade of the Deutsche Romantik-Museum, due to open in 2021. For Luminale 2020, Berlin-based artist Robert Seidel will be illuminating this façade. The Biennial for Light Art and Urban Design thereby marks the beginning of a series of events preludeing the opening of the new museum.

Creative processes have complex corollaries, whereby demand and realization are intertwined with an uncertain outcome. Robert Seidel's projection gathers the fragments of such a non-linear process and depicts it on the façade of the new Deutsche Romantik-Museum. Inspired by the extensive archives of Frankfurt's Goethe House and the Freie Deutsche Hochstift, the museum's supporting association, and the writings, manuscripts and drawings collected over centuries, Seidel's work "Obsidian" captures the artist's wandering gaze as an explorer creating something unseen from a veritable wealth of sources.

"An event like the Luminale invites one to 'occupy' locales in the urban space over and over again", Robert Seidel explains. "Buildings no longer perceived in daily life can thus be transformed and presented in a new light." With the aid of artificial fog and a soundtrack specially composed by Markus Popp (Oval) and the contralto of Stine Marie Fischer, "Obsidian" unfolds a crystalline network of associations, bringing the sublime and intangible back into the urban sensory world.

Robert Seidel works at the boundaries of abstract beauty through visual, technological and scientific methods. His projections, installations and experimental films have been shown at numerous international festivals and in such museums such as the Palais des Beaux-Arts Lille, ZKM Karlsruhe, Art Center Nabi Seoul, Young Projects Los Angeles and MOCA Taipei and won countless awards, including the Honorary Prize of the KunstFilmBiennale and the Visual Music Award Frankfurt.

"Digital Romantic" at the Deutsche Romantik-Museum

Even before the opening of the Deutsche Romantik-Museum in Frankfurt/Main, the Biennial for Light Art and Urban Design made the theme "Digital Romantic" its leitmotif. Light as medium and material unites the contrasts of these two concepts and it would thus seem appropriate to clarify the interaction and interplay and define the meaning of the digital and the romantic. Not only are creative aspects to be explored, but also the historical and social dimensions, the connections between the Romantic epoch and the current digital revolution.

Dr. Mareike Hennig, director of the art collections of the Freie Deutsches Hochstift: "To have won Robert Seidel as an artist for the facade of the Deutsche Romantik-Museum is a great stroke of luck. His works materialize that which already moved the Romantics: the desire to bring contradictions together without their levelling: Light and darkness, transience and conditionality, the abyss and happiness, the manifestation of beauty in the ephemeral. Without referring to a single, specific object from our collection, Robert Seidel traces the subtle course of the emergence of art. In so doing, he himself creates a work that is so beautiful and clever that, after centuries, it adds a further note to romanticism".

Robert Seidel's work, resulting from a cooperation between the Freie Deutsches Hochstift and Luminale, clearly shows that not only does light art change surfaces, but rather presents new levels of significance, opens perspectives and reveals layers of meaning that were previously hidden.

Further informationen under ↳ luminale.de

About the Luminale

Since 2002, the Luminale has been held in Frankfurt every two years. Originally initiated by Messe Frankfurt in close cooperation with the exhibiting Industry of Light + Building, the festival of lights has become one of the biggest cultural events in Frankfurt and the Rhine-Main region. Since 2018, as a biennial for light art and urban design, the Luminale has pursued the aim of creating a popular, artistic and high-quality program, as well as making a sustainable contribution to urban design. The city thus becomes not only a stage, but also the object of the festival. Projects that address urban visions at the interface of light, architecture, technology, ecology and social interaction in the city, or with its history and culture, make this tangible - accompanied by interdisciplinary dialogue on related issues. The Luminale 2018 presented 150 light productions in Frankfurt and Offenbach and attracted almost 250,000 visitors. The heart of the Luminale in the urban space is the Light Walk, linking places accessible by foot into a city tour and a public gallery of light art. The Luminale e. V. was founded in June 2017 as a non-profit organization to promote and organize the Luminale as a biennial for light art and urban design.

Press contact

Luminale – Biennial for Light Art and Urban Design
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