

● LUMINALE 2020  
↳ PRESSEMELDUNG

Frankfurt am Main  
6.3.2020

Luminale TALK discusses - How do we want to live in the City? Globally, locally, interdisciplinary.

Can the city of tomorrow reconcile growth and sustainability? And what role do visions and utopias, art and culture play in shaping our urban environment? While light art lures visitors into the city every evening, during the day, the Luminale TALK program offers an opportunity for interdisciplinary dialogue and discourse on light, city and the future.

Frankfurt is growing dynamically. The population will hit the million mark in the not too distant future - which means that the current city would officially become a metropolis. Yet, how can growth and the quality of life of Frankfurt's residents be sustainably reconciled? How can the city locally master global challenges? And which players will have to pull together? Luminale TALK is dedicated to these topics - with a view beyond individual disciplines and a window into the city's history.

"As a biennial for light art and urban design, the Luminale combines the popular light festival with a debate about light, city and the future" says Isa Rekkab, festival director of the Luminale. "It is a great opportunity to involve the participating artists and creative minds in this discussion. Three theme days are planned with a total of 16 events and 40 participants - renowned personalities from the worlds of art, culture, science and urban planning. The program also includes exciting panel discussions as well as lectures, talks and a film screening."

## High-Rise City Frankfurt

Frankfurt is characterised by its landmark skyscrapers. In the high-rise, all matters of urban design are concentrated in one or more structures: densification, health, safety, climate and environmental issues. The Luminale TALK on Friday, 13th March, 2020, is dedicated to the "High-rise city of Frankfurt".

Philipp Sturm, freelance curator at the Deutsches Architektur Museum (DAM), reports on how and why Frankfurt grew into the sky. Simon Ruppert, partner and managing director at Bollinger + Grohmann Ingenieure, takes the audience on a journey of structural design "from the idea to the high-rise". Under the title "Luxury? Lifestyle? Love? Living in the Towers", six high-rise residents give their personal insights of their home environment.

A panel will discuss whether skyscrapers can point a way out of the housing crisis and, finally, Dutch architect Ben van Berkel, in his lecture "Scenarios for the city of the future", will illustrate how the development of skyscrapers and mobility could change our urban regions.

## Digital Romantic

The TALK on Saturday, 14th March 2020, goes more deeply into the Luminale's thematic focus: "Digital Romantic", which, in addition to design, will explore its historical, urbanistic and social dimensions. Lectures and discussions will focus on romanticism as a cultural-historical epoch, on new romanticism in urban centers, on the digital romance of online dating platforms and, finally, on the possible reconciliation of the digital and the romantic in the wake of the great social upheavals we are currently witnessing.

Artists whose Luminale projects have specifically addressed this year's thematic focus "Digital Romantic", will also have their say. Prof. Anne Bohnenkamp-Renken, Director of the Freies Deutsches Hochstift, will talk about the German Romantic Museum in Frankfurt, currently being built as an extension of the city's Goethe House.

"Romantic views of the city" is the theme of a panel discussion on current issues in urban design. Guests are Dr. Mareike Hennig, director of the Goethe House and the art collection of the Freien Deutschen Hochstifts, Nikolaus Hirsch, architect and co-designer of the German Pavilion at this year's Architecture Biennale in Venice, and Michael Guntersdorf, head of the Future Department of Frankfurt's City Theatres.

"Digital Romances" - online dating platforms - is the subject of an interview with Dr. Kai Dröge, Institute for Social Research at the Goethe University Frankfurt, and Robin K. Bieber, screenwriter, director and producer.

The concluding panel discussion, "Upheaval, new beginnings - Romantic 2.0?", examines the connections between the Romantic epoch and our current age of social transformation. On the panel: Prof. Melanie Jaeger-Erben, transformation researcher, Prof. Wolfgang Bunzel, head of the department of Romanticism Research in Frankfurt's Goethe Haus/Freies Deutsches Hochstift, and Prof. Matthias Wagner K, director of the Museum Angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt.

## (Urban)Nature

In cooperation with the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research, the Luminale TALK on Sunday, 15th March, is dedicated to the topic "(urban)nature". Why is biodiversity so important? What is the interaction between biodiversity and climate? What must be done to preserve species diversity? And what role does the city play with its colorful mix of habitats? And what is the influence of light?

The theme day begins at 11:00 a.m. with the screening of the 2015 documentary film "Racing Extinction" by award-winning environmental filmmaker Louie Psihoyos. With shocking and relentless images, the director draws attention to the worldwide extinction of species. Extracts from the documentary will also be shown in the Luminale's video installation "Facing Extinction" at the Campus Westend. The subsequent discussion revolves around the effects of the loss of biodiversity on the individual and on human society at large. Panel guests are Prof. Katrin Böhning-Gaese, Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Center, Dr. Marion Mehring, Institute for Social-Ecological Research, and Dieter Paulmann, OKEANUS Foundation for the Sea and producer of the documentary film "Racing Extinction".

"Frankfurt City Nature Originals" - people who care about the urban nature of the metropolis on the River Main, will present their work in a series of brief lectures. Speakers are Pia Ditscher,

BioFrankfurt Network, Dr. Katja Heubach, Palmengarten Frankfurt, Cornelius Hemmer, Initiative Deutschland hums, Volker Rothenburger, Lower Nature Conservation Authority of the City of Frankfurt, Dr. Christof Schenck, Frankfurt Zoological Society, and Prof. Dr. Georg Zizka, Senckenberg Research Institute.

The "loss of the night", will be discussed by Dr. Franz Hölker, head of the research project of the same name, and Prof. Jörg Stehle, a chronobiologist whose focus is on the diurnal-nocturnal rhythm and our inner clock.

Luminale TALK 2020 will conclude with a talk by Prof. Antje Boetius, Director of the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, who will report of the ongoing MOSAiC expedition. The scientist is taking part in the Luminale for the second time.

As part of a media partnership with the Luminale, Rainer Schulze, Michael Hierholzer and Mechthild Harting, all of FAZ, will be moderating the theme days. Participation in all Luminale TALK events is free of charge. An overview of the individual topics, lectures and panel discussions can be found at [www.luminale.de](http://www.luminale.de), or in the Luminale program booklet, available from 9th March in the Festival Centre at the Instituto Cervantes and at the Frankfurt Tourist Information Center on the Römerberg, among other places.

For further information: ↳ [luminale.de](http://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

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Katja Bund  
E-Mail: [presse@luminale.de](mailto:presse@luminale.de)  
T +49 (0) 172 3469 252  
↳ [luminale.de](http://luminale.de)