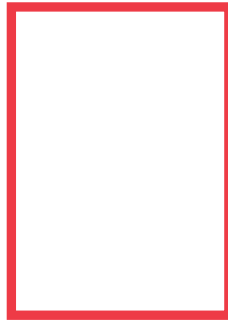


## IMMERSION

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# Berliner Festspiele

## Introduction

**“Go in instead of look at” – Allan Kaprow’s idea has been the leitmotif of our Immersion programme conceived over several years. Since 2016 we have presented pioneering artistic positions that break down established patterns that rely on juxtapositions between the work and the visitor, the stage and the auditorium, the object and the viewer. Five exhibitions at the Gropius Bau that have been developed and conceived specially for the series have engaged with the temporalisation of the exhibition form. Three further works have centred on the spatialisation of the time-based art of theatre, while simultaneously lending the term “world-building” a scenic form. Six artists or teams of artists have explored planetariums as sites for new art in a series of commissioned works. Various different types of “experimental society” were created in four artistic formats in which visitors were presented with the opportunity to choose their own perspective or whether or not to participate. Two VR-films created in collaboration with ARTE and a programme of conferences, discussions and campuses completed the programme while providing additional forms of inspiration. For us, the term immersion is an epistemological one that allows us to better understand many of the artistic, social and political developments of our time and also makes it possible to describe many changes in our classical institutions.**

## Retrospective 2016

### **Mona el Gammal** **RHIZOMAT**

NARRATIVE SPACE

FORMER TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE, PALISADENSTRASSE

19 OCTOBER 2016 TO 4 DECEMBER 2016

Stage designer Mona el Gammal transformed three floors of the former GDR telecommunications office into a building from the year 2060 in which she presented a play without actors for an audience of one – for twelve hours a day, every day for three months.

Funded by the Hauptstadtkulturfonds, the Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb and the Rudolf Augstein Foundation

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### **Lundahl & Seidl** **Symphony of a Missing Room**

IMMERSIVE MUSEUM TOUR

GROPIUS BAU, 27 OCTOBER TO 20 NOVEMBER 2016

Removed from the world outside through opaque glasses and headphones, visitors negotiated their way through real and imaginary spaces in the Gropius Bau with the aid of a combination of audio instructions and touches from trained guides. The visitors' book was filled with euphoric comments and most visitors felt they were right at the heart of things while also completely outside.

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### **Omer Fast** **'Talking is not always the Solution'**

EXHIBITION

GROPIUS BAU, 18 NOVEMBER 2016 TO 12 MARCH 2017

The video artist intervened in the classical exhibition form by installing three waiting rooms adjacent to the rooms in which his films were screened and performing unannounced performances there.

**Schule der Distanz**

LECTURES, PERFORMANCES, INSTALLATIONS

GROPIUS BAU, 18 TO 20 NOVEMBER 2016

One central aspect of immersive experiences is how the distance between the artwork and the audience is recalibrated and often disappears entirely. The weekend of discussion and performance 'Schule der Distanz' brought together experts in immersion in and emergence into artificial worlds.

**Retrospective 2017****Vegard Vinge / Ida Müller****Nationaltheater Reinickendorf**

THEATRE

1 TO 30 JULY 2017

Vegard Vinge and Ida Müller spent over six months building their total theatre in a former munitions factory. They then staged twelve hour live sets on ten nights, shifting in form between performance, concert, exhibition and walk-through installation while including the continuation of their "Ibsen saga", a Hamlet musical, the Panini cathedral and a submarine. The production was invited to the 2018 Theatertreffen.

With support from Norsk Kulturråd

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**LIMITS OF KNOWING**

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMME

1 TO 31 JULY 2017

**Arrival of Time**

EXHIBITION, GROPIUS BAU

The exhibition explored a new concept of time in collaboration with artists and scientists from LIGO CalTech who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2017 for measuring gravitational waves.

**Lundahl & Seidl**  
**Unknown Cloud on Its Way to Berlin**

DIGITAL ART WORK, TEMPELHOFFER FELD

People gathered on Tempelhofer Feld using a smartphone App in order to experience the cosmic phenomenon of the “cloud”, which makes a new form of community possible.

**Rimini Protokoll**  
**Nachlass – Pièces sans personnes**

SCENIC INSTALLATION, GROPIUS BAU

Stefan Kaegi and Dominic Huber created an installation consisting of eight rooms that, in the absence of their protagonists, tell us what remains of someone when they are no longer there – 21st century mausoleums which their subsequent owners designed themselves.

A production by Théâtre de Vidy, Lausanne

**Chris Salter + TeZ**  
**Haptic Field (v2.0)**

MULTISENSORY INSTALLATION, GROPIUS BAU

In this multisensory experience, the senses of touch, sight, hearing and smell fuse into a holistic experience. Visitors are guided through the hallucinatory spaces solely by vibrations, light and darkness.

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**Mona el Gammal**  
**RHIZOMAT VR**

360°-FILM / VR EXPERIENCE

MULTISENSORY INSTALLATION, GROPIUS BAU

The 360° film produced with ARTE and INVR.SPACE expands the world of Mona el Gammal’s narrative space into the digital space. It can be viewed free of charge using the ARTE 360VR App.

A production by INVR.SPACE GmbH in co-production with Berliner Festspiele/Immersion and ZDF in collaboration with ARTE. With support from The Fraunhofer Society

**Ed Atkins  
Old Food**

EXHIBITION

GROPIUS BAU, 29 SEPTEMBER 2017 TO 7 JANUARY 2018

For the Gropius Bau Ed Atkins exhibited his new video works on large videowalls and flat screens alongside a presentation of some 6,000 costumes from the Deutsche Oper Berlin's stores. He regarded the exhibition as a modern chamber play, whose choreography was provided by a composition by Jürg Frey.

Partner: Deutsche Oper Berlin

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**Jonathan Meese / Bernhard Lang / Simone Young  
MONDPARSIFAL BETA 9–23  
(VON EINEM, DER AUSZOG DEN „WAGNERIANERN DES  
GRAUENS“ DAS „GEILSTGRUSELN“ ZU ERZLEHREN...)**

OPERA BY BERNHARD LANG AFTER RICHARD WAGNER'S 'PARSIFAL'

HAUS DER BERLINER FESTSPIELE, 15, 16 AND 18 OCTOBER 2017

For Bernhard Lang's Wagner-overwrite Jonathan Meese designed both stage and costumes and made his debut as an opera director, providing a running commentary about this on a surtitle monitor. He also staged an installation in the foyers and under-stage area of the Festspielhaus. One small step on the road to the dictatorship of art: one giant leap for the artist.

A production and commission by the Wiener Festwochen,  
co-production Berliner Festspiele/Immersion

**Retrospective 2018****INTO WORLDS. The Craft of Blurring Boundaries**

CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

GROPIUS BAU, 19 TO 21 JANUARY 2018

For one weekend in January 2018 artists and researchers came together around a 110-metre-long table in the Lichthof at the Gropius Bau to enter an open exchange with the public. This focussed

not only on the mechanisms of immersion, but the ability to emerge and a reflective external perspective on worlds that no longer sanction any outside.

In co-operation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb  
Supported by ARTE and the JULIA STOSCHEK COLLECTION Düsseldorf/  
Berlin

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**Brigitte & Jonathan Meese**  
**Mutter und Sohn = Realität trifft Kunst**  
**(Z.U.K.U.N.F.T. der Unendlichkeit)**

360°-FILM AND INSTALLATION  
GROPIUS BAU, 21 TO 29 APRIL 2018

In the first virtual reality production by Jonathan Meese and his mother Brigitte Meese, viewers can experience the creation of a future 360° Gesamtkunstwerk in the artist's virtual studio. For its initial presentation from 21 to 29 April 2018 the room Jonathan Meese designed in the Gropius Bau was reconstructed. Following 'RHIZOMATVR' this film continued the collaboration between the Berliner Festspiele/Immersion with ARTE and can be viewed free of charge on the ARTE 360VR App.

A production by KOBALT Kreation in co-production with the Berliner Festspiele/Immersion and ZDF in collaboration with ARTE

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**Philippe Parreno**

EXHIBITION  
GROPIUS BAU, 25 MAY TO 5 AUGUST 2018

French artist Philippe Parreno interprets the exhibition medium as a living organism that can be set in motion through light, images and sounds. He controls his staged spaces through algorithms that synchronise the behaviour of the objects in the space. In this way performative moments are generated in which the objects produce more than the sum of their parts – a choreography of absence and presence that defy what we know about the synchronicity of things and their control. The exhibition won the award for "Best Exhibition of 2018" at the Leading Culture Destinations Awards in London in October 2018.

## **Welt ohne Außen – Immersive Spaces since the 1960s**

EXHIBITION, PERFORMANCES, WORKSHOPS  
GROPIUS BAU, 8 JUNE TO 5 AUGUST 2018

Starting with the Light and Space Movement from the late 1960s and including the works of contemporary artists such as Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster and Cyprien Gaillard as well as empathic journalism in a virtual reality, this group exhibition spanned a broad panorama of very different immersive practices. For this the exhibition developed a specific dramaturgy that also integrated performances and workshops.

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## **The New Infinity 2018 New Art for Planetariums**

MOBILE DOME, MARIANNENPLATZ, KREUZBERG,  
26 SEPTEMBER TO 14 OCTOBER 2018  
PLANETARIUM HAMBURG, 25 TO 27 OCTOBER 2018

In the series 'The New Infinity' in co-operation with Planetarium Hamburg, Immersion devises new uses for planetariums. It placed a domed hall, fully equipped with audio and video technology, at the disposal of artists for the creation of new works. The series opened on 26 September 2018 as part of Berlin Art Week in a mobile dome on Mariannenplatz, presenting new works by David O'Reilly, Holly Herndon & Mathew Dryhurst and Fatima Al Qadiri & Transforma, among others.

In co-production with the Planetarium Hamburg

### **The New Infinity on Tour 2018**

13 & 14.10.2018  
Festival of Disruption. Curated by David Lynch, Los Angeles, California

30.10.–4.11.2018  
Nordische Filmtage, Lübeck

8.–10.11.2018  
MIRA Digital Arts Festival, Barcelona

15.–25.11.2018  
IDFA: International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam



29.11.–2.12.2018

Hyperspective: Inter-dimensional Dome Film Festival, Los Angeles,  
California

## Retrospective 2019

### **Rimini Protokoll (Stefan Kaegi) & Thomas Melle Uncanny Valley**

PERFORMANCE

HAUS DER BERLINER FESTSPIELE, 8 TO 17 MARCH 2019 & 28 DECEMBER 2019  
UNTIL 12 JANUARY 2020

For this performance an animatronic double of the writer Thomas Melle was constructed – a deceptively real robot that occupies the stage in place of the author. A future is projected on to the machine in which the human original is just as real as its technological double. How much of the human Melle is in this technology and how much technology is already there in the human version?

A Münchner Kammerspiele production. In co-production with the Berliner Festspiele/Immersion, donau festival (Krems), Feodor Elutine (Moscow), FOG Triennale Milano Performing Arts (Milan), Temporada Alta – Festival de Tador de Catalunya (Girona), SPRING Utrecht

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### **Palast der Republik**

ART, DISCOURSE & PARLIAMENT

HAUS DER BERLINER FESTSPIELE, 8 TO 10 MARCH 2019

The Palast der Republik was symbolically reconstructed for one weekend at the Haus der Berliner Festspiele. Artists, philosophers, activists, musicians and theatremakers performed all over the Festspielhaus, using it as one giant, open stage. Combined with critical reflections on the ambivalent significance of the original Palast der Republik, a “palace of counter-narratives” took shape that re-examined the events of the fall of the wall and the years that followed.

## **The New Infinity 2019 New Art for Planetariums**

PLANETARIUM HAMBURG, 13 TO 18 AUGUST 2019

MOBILE DOME, MARIANNENPLATZ, KREUZBERG, 5 TO 22 SEPTEMBER 2019

With new works by Agnieszka Polska, Metahaven and Robert Lippok & Lucas Gutierrez as well as audio-visual live performances by Dasha Rush and Robert Lippok & Lucas Gutierrez, the series that opened in 2018 was extended into a second year. Following the world premiere of the new works at Planetarium Hamburg in co-operation with the Internationales Sommerfestival Kampnagel, once again they were presented free of charge in the Mobile Dome on Mariannenplatz.

In co-production with Planetarium Hamburg

### **The New Infinity on Tour 2019/20**

22.–31.3.2019

Festival Internacional de Cine Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

29.6.2019

Wisdome Immersive Art Park, Los Angeles, California

12.–14.7.2019

Sudekum Planetarium, Nashville, Tennessee

26.9.2019

Planetario Galileo Galilei, Buenos Aires

18.10.–26.11.2019

Space Camp, Seconde Nature, Aix-en-Provence

7.–9.11.2019

MIRA Digital Arts Festival, Barcelona

20.11.–1.12.2019

IDFA: International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

21.–23.11.2019

DIVE Festival, Bochum

29.11.2019–05.01.2020

Winter Wonders, Brussels

**Taylor Mac — A 24-Decade History of Popular Music**

PERFORMANCE

HAUS DER BERLINER FESTSPIELE, 10 TO 20 OCTOBER 2019

Covering 240 years of American history in 240 pop songs: Taylor Mac's monumental show tells an alternative history of the USA. The 24 hour work could be experienced in the Festspielhaus over four evenings and presented a dazzling and opulent revue with around 100 performers which gives a platform to voices that are rarely heard in the history books.

Funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media

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**Mariano Pensotti / Grupo Marea****Diamante**

THEATRE

HAUS DER BERLINER FESTSPIELE, 16 TO 24 NOVEMBER 2019

Mariano Pensotti puts grand narratives on stage in a blend of fiction and reality that adopt a special form of Gesamtkunstwerk of acting, lighting and film. For his play 'Diamante' he built a village in the Haus der Berliner Festspiele. In this six hour production, the audience saw this village turn in the course of a year from a flourishing capitalist utopia into a horror story.

World premiere produced by the Ruhrtriennale 2018. The performances in Berlin are a production by Berliner Festspiele/Immersion in co-production with the Wiener Festwochen and the Grand Theatre Groningen

## Publications

### **Catalogue 'Limits of Knowing'**

Edited by Thomas Oberender & Joanna Petkiewicz.  
Contributors include; William Basiski, Evelina Domnitch & Dmitry Gelfand, Thomas Macho, Rimini Protokoll, Isabel de Sena

Format: 160 mm x 240 mm  
Length: 232 pages  
Material: woven soft cover  
Printing: colour  
Languages: German/English  
German Publisher: Kerber Verlag 2017  
ISBN: 978-3-7356-0402-6  
Price: € 17

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### **Catalogue 'Phillipe Parreno'**

Edited by Thomas Oberender & Angela Rosenberg.  
Contributors include; Emanuele Coccia, Esther Leslie, Thomas Oberender, Angela Rosenberg & Zoe Stillpass

Format: 230 mm x 330 mm  
Length: 72 pages  
Printing: colour  
Languages: German/English  
German Publisher: Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König 2018  
ISBN: 978-3-96098-390-3  
Price: € 16,80

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### **The New Infinity**

Visual Art and Music in Planetariums

Edited by Thomas Oberender. Contributors include; Ulrike Bergermann, Michaela French, Metahaven, Thomas Oberender & David O'Reilly. With illustrations by; David O'Reilly, Holly Herndon & Mathew Dryhurst, Fatima Al Qadiri & Transforma, Agnieszka Polska, Metahaven, Robert Lippok & Lucas Gutierrez

Format: 230 x 330 mm  
Length: 84 pages  
Material: paperback  
Printing: colour  
Languages: German/English  
German Publisher: Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König 2019  
ISBN: 978-3-96098-664-5  
Price: € 16,80

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### **Occupy History**

Conversations in the Palast der Republik thirteen years  
after its disappearance

Edited by Thomas Oberender. Thomas Oberender in conversation with Gabi Dolff-Bonekämper, Bénédicte Savoy, Bernhard Schlink and Gabriele Stötzer

Format: 135 mm x 195 mm  
Length: 110 pages  
Material: paperback  
Language: German  
German Publisher: Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König 2019  
ISBN: 978-3-96098-721-5  
Price: € 14,80

## Further Information

Further information about the Immersion series and individual projects and publications can be found on the Berliner Festspiele website.

**About Immersion:**

<https://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en/immersion/reihe/allgemein/allgemein.html>

**Project Archive:**

<https://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en/immersion/programm/archiv/start.html>

**Publications:**

<https://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en/immersion/reihe/publikationen/start.html>

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