



Geschäftsbereich Berliner Festspiele mit Martin-Gropius-Bau
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1. Press release

Olafur Eliasson: Innen Stadt Außen (Inner City Out)

29 April – 9 August 2010

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Organizer:

Berliner Festspiele

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Innen Stadt Außen (Inner City Out) is the first solo exhibition by the Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson in a Berlin institution. The central theme of the show, which has been curated especially for the Martin-Gropius-Bau by Daniel Birnbaum, is Berlin, the city in which the artist has lived and worked for many years. Here he has set up his multifaceted studio, which combines research, experimentation and production; and as a professor at the Berlin University of the Arts founded the Institut für Raumexperimente (Institute for Spatial Experiments) in April 2009. The exhibition concerns itself closely with the relationship between museum and city, architecture and landscape, and space, body and time. The site-specific investigations within the museum are amplified through various projects in public space, thus linking the Martin-Gropius-Bau to other places within the city. The entire project includes 28 works, most of which have been created especially for this occasion.

In the words of Daniel Birnbaum:

Innen Stadt Außen is based upon Eliasson's close relationship with Berlin, but perhaps it is also the other way around: the life of Berlin is integrated into Eliasson's work. Similarly, while the Martin-Gropius-Bau is a place in the city, in this exhibition, the city is brought into the museum. Large slabs of granite from the sidewalks of Berlin, for instance, form a pedestrian space inside the galleries.

The impression sometimes arises that Eliasson's art is mostly about nature, and, more precisely, about powerful natural phenomena such as wind, water, fog, and light. However, he uses these merely as means to make artworks whose construction is often laid bare to visitors, as when the structural support of a lawn, 'flying' outside a first-floor window, is left in full view. Focus is on the very process of seeing and experiencing the world. Your experience.

The mirror recurs throughout **Innen Stadt Außen** and turns insides into outsides and vice versa. Bicycles with oddly dematerializing mirror wheels appear across Berlin, as do mirrors in unexpected corners. In one work, a van with a very large mirror attached on one side drives slowly through the city, thereby streaming its live, ephemeral filmic portrait. The mirror introduces a surprising split-screen effect where the actual and the reflected surroundings coexist, simultaneously but differently. It brings into motion the static houses and buildings through gliding distortions. This offers not just a doubling of space, but reversed extensions of space *into* space, carrying the brief imprints of pedestrians, cyclists, and cars, as they make their way through the city.

Eliasson's capacity to double, extend, and turn inside out is nowhere more visible than at the heart of the Gropius-Bau. He eclipses the ornaments of the interior facade by installing a gargantuan kaleidoscope, reaching to the skylight, that catapults the viewer into a perplexing architecture of infinite reflections. With simple means, the artist stages the visible illusion of a crystal palace where the visitors, enveloped in this porous architecture, are suspended between inside and outside.

Opening hours:

Daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Long Gropius-Bau-Nights on the occasion of the Gallery Weekend Berlin:
29 April – 1 May 2010, from 10 a.m. until midnight**

Admission:

€ 11 / € 8 reduced

Online ticket: € 12 / reduced € 9, to be booked at www.gropiusbau.de

Groups (of 10 or more persons): € 8 per person

School and student groups (of 5 or more persons aged over 16): € 4 per person

Admission free for children up to the age of 16

As part of the exhibition Innen Stadt Außen, Olafur Eliasson's The blind pavilion can be seen on the Pfaueninsel, Berlin, until October 2010 (free entrance).

Further information and image material:

www.innenstadtaussen.de / www.olafureliasson.net / www.gropiusbau.de