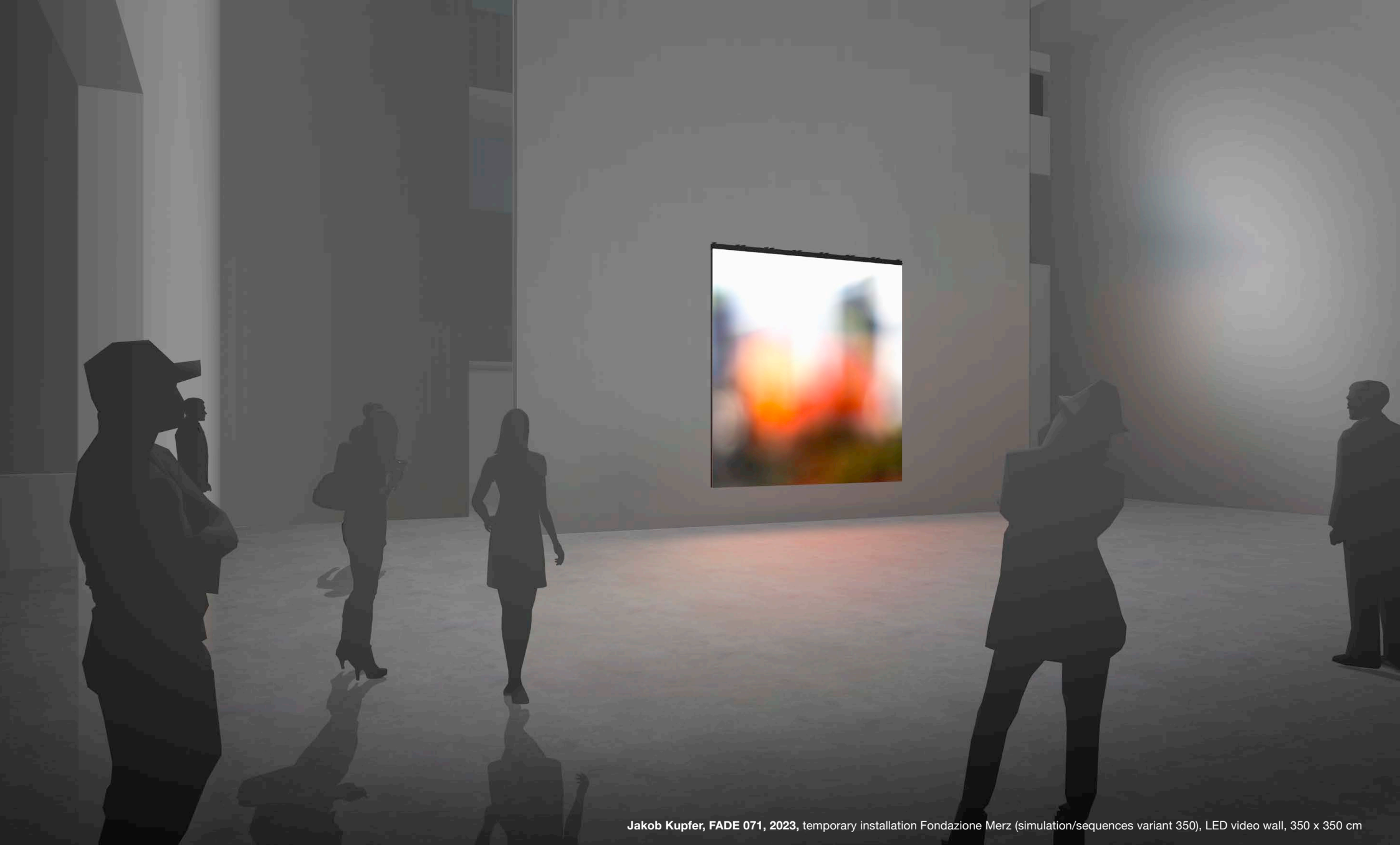


Art made of light and time
FADE by Jakob Kupfer



Jakob Kupfer, *FADE 071*, 2023, temporary installation Fondazione Merz (simulation/sequences variant 350), LED video wall, 350 x 350 cm



Art made of light and time

Jakob Kupfer is a painter of light in the best traditional sense. His medium and subject are light and the question of how light can become effective as a visual medium. He is guided by what the medium of light makes available to him and demands of him. By exploring the conditions and effects of light, he creates works which, in their non-representational nature, may represent nothing but themselves, but which reach far deeper in their perception.

Dissolving boundaries

Non-objectivity and permanent change are essential characteristics of light as we perceive it in everyday life. It opens up the world to us, determines our rhythm and influences the way we feel. Like music, the medium of light opens up the possibility for art to work both spatially and temporally - for example, to develop a painting that also takes place in time.

This duality runs through Jakob Kupfer's work on many levels and in many manifestations: he avoids the term light painter, but defines his light pictures as paintings because they are singular.

He uses film techniques for his time-based works, but then also frames the images set in motion as singular paintings. The play of light leaves the frame of the picture on the wall as an installation and interacts both with the surfaces and with the changing light situations in the room. Produced in part with filmic means, the result is nevertheless not a film, but rather light that continuously paints in space. Kinetic light objects appear as framed pictures but, like the light sculptures, involve the viewers and their movement and position in the room.

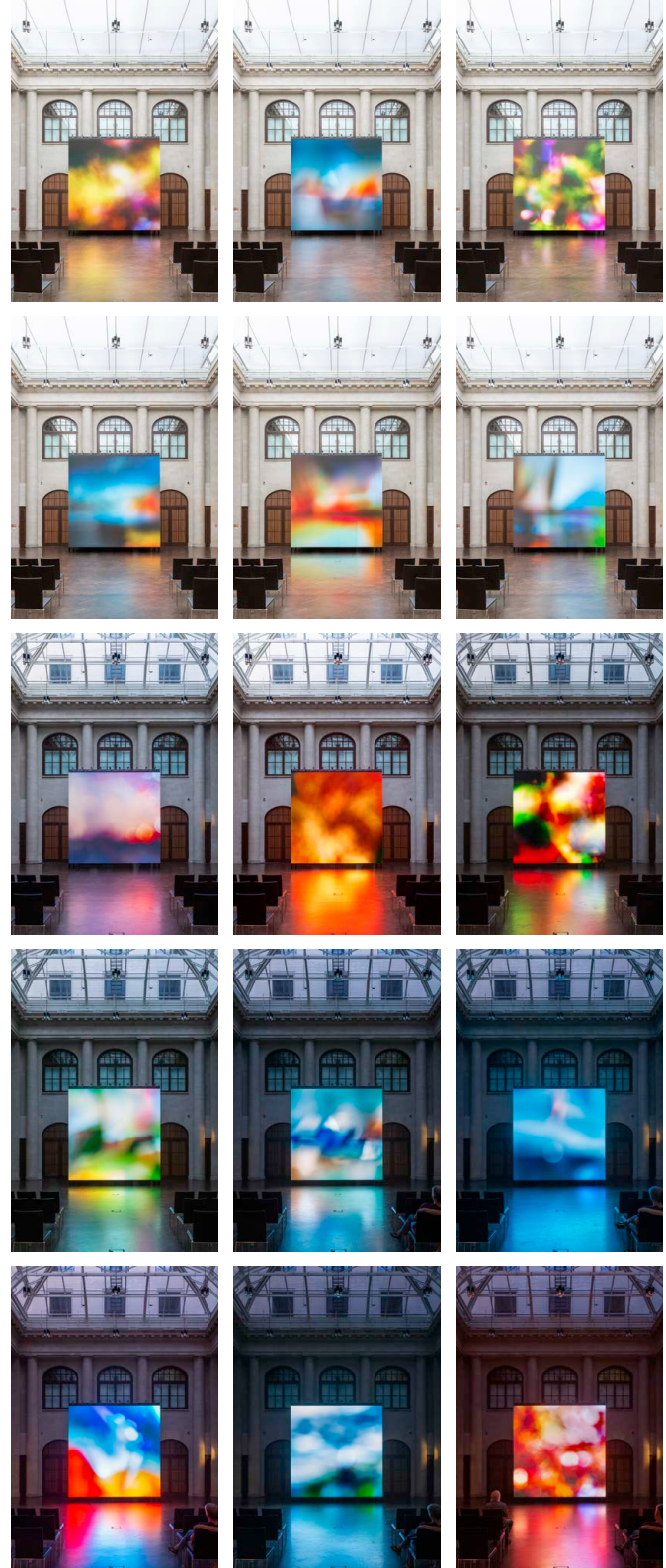
Observing perception

Jakob Kupfer not only dissolves the conventional genre boundaries, but also the demarcation between work and viewer and adds a further, time-related aspect: the invitation to pause, to take time, to actively perceive and to observe oneself while perceiving. For what viewers who engage with the work perceive has less to do with its appearance. It is essentially shaped by the moment and by the inner images, memories, fantasies and emotions of the viewer.

Release and let go

This aspect is essential to Kupfer's work: nothing should restrict individual perception and personal experience. No supposed pictorial content, but also no artist person with all the resulting expectations and judgements. That is why the person behind the works has consistently decided to remain invisible - behind the light, hidden in the pseudonym „Jakob Kupfer“. Characteristics such as gender, age, origin, religion, political home, social significance and many others that could influence perception are thus completely hidden.

It is not about making a secret of the person, but about freeing art and the perception of art from the artist, in other words, actually releasing and letting go of the work.



FADE 066, 2019, Humboldt Carré, Berlin, LED video wall, 500 x 500 cm (temporary installation)

FADE

Freeing the gaze

Jakob Kupfer's light pictures are snapshots of light in the space between us and things. You could also say that they visualise the light on its way from the reflecting object to the perceiving subject. The multifaceted traces of colour and light form resonance spaces in which we can experience what happens to our perception as soon as we engage with the pure flow of light without explanatory contours. Without objectivity, they bypass our filter of rationality and thus open our eyes to our own emotions, images and truths and to perception itself.

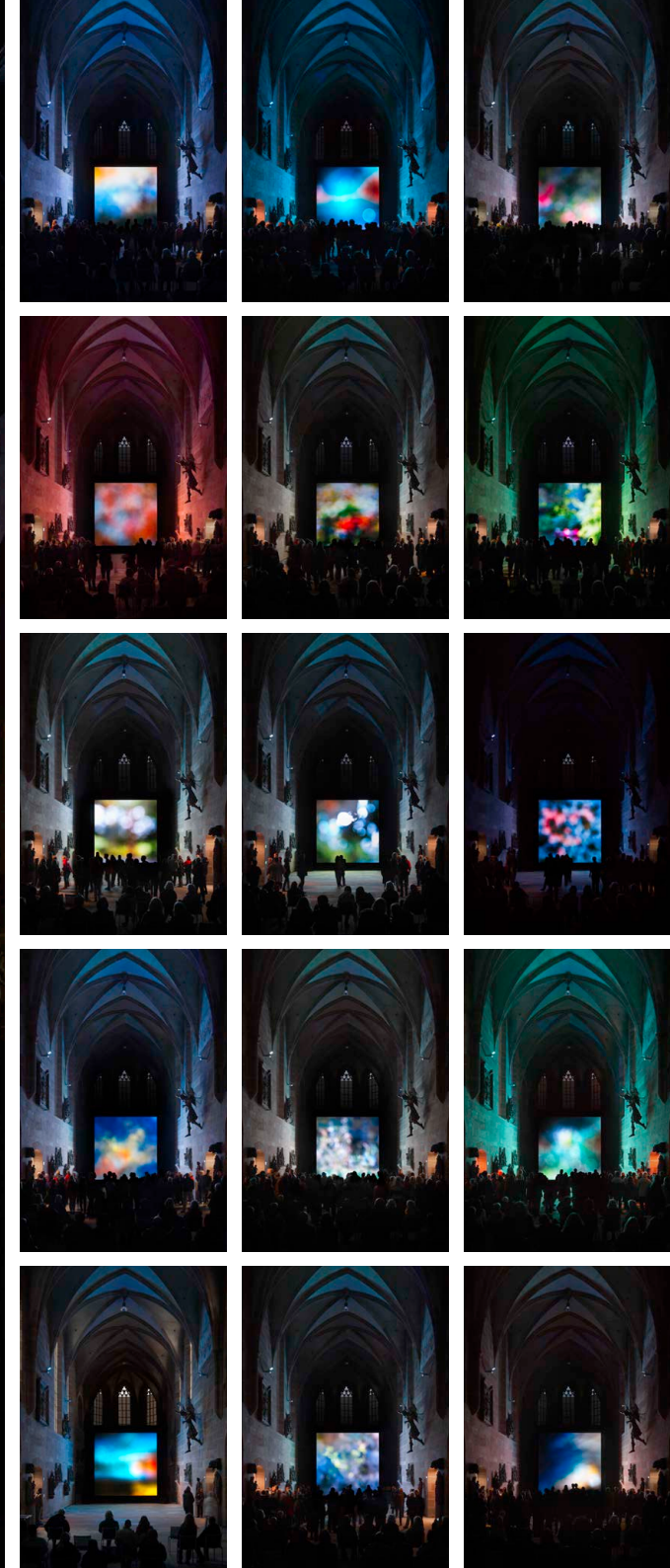
Visual music

From this light images, Jakob Kupfer also composes the multi-layered scores of the FADES thus adding a further dimension to the classic image as a space-related work: that of time. Like natural light, a FADE is constantly changing. The first impression of a framed, stable picture disappears in the next moment. But even the attempt to follow the transformation fails. It is so subtle that only the altered image, but not the change itself, seems perceptible.

The abundance of images that arise in the work and in the viewer allows us to experience transience as a gain and to rediscover the value of taking time to savour something unique because it is transient. And just as you cannot step into the same river twice, we always see a FADE with different eyes, even if it is technically repeated after a certain time. Our perception renews itself, changes and develops itself and the work further.

Experience time

But the concertante flow of images also brings questions of time into focus: How and with what do we perceive time? Does the eternal flow of time pass us by, or is it an infinite space through which we move? Does time exist at all? Does it pass? Or does it constantly emerge and form moments of apparent presence? How do we deal with the fleeting moment in which time arises and changes? The moment that is barely perceived before it is already in the past and becomes a memory? Can we lose time or can we only miss it?



FADE 015, 2014, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg, LED video wall, 550 x 550 cm (temporary installation)

What applies to all FADES takes on particular significance in the site-specific installations: the actual work only emerges from the interplay of the work with the spatial and cultural framework of the location and the perception of each individual viewer. The time-based aspect of FADES means above all that the viewers are prepared to sacrifice their time to make the creation of the work possible. Those who allow themselves to do so can immerse themselves in the space between reality and actuality and experience that existence is not necessarily a prerequisite for effectiveness.

Unique composition

Like every single FADE, the FADE for the Fondazione Merz is a new and unique composition. The work itself consists of a file, the control software and the storage/playback device (currently a mini PC). The singularity of each individual FADES is guaranteed by the binding of the file to the registered playback device.

Site-specific performance

A digital screen - usually a high-resolution LED video wall - is required to reproduce the work. Darkening is not necessary. Interactions with the location, natural changes in light - e.g. day, night or weather - are even welcome. The size, resolution and construction of the installation is largely determined by the spatial conditions. The work can and should consciously enter into a unique connection with the location and the moment. Not only the spatial heights, but also the possible viewing distances, traffic areas and common areas play an important role. This is because the time-based nature of the work often means that visitors tend to stay for long periods of time. In past installations, visitors often stayed for hours or returned several times.

Technical framework

The size of the LED walls shown in the simulations corresponds to 350 x 350 cm or 500 x 500 cm. Depending on the size and statics of the building, the LED wall can be installed either suspended or free-standing, as shown in the simulations. The display technology is not an integral part of the work. It must be planned on a site-specific basis and is usually provided by the organiser and/or technical partners yet to be acquired.

Organisation and project contact

Fürcho GmbH in Berlin supports and advises Jakob Kupfer and the various organisers and partners in the realisation of the exhibitions and temporary installations. Nikolaus Fürcho is the personal contact and coordinator for all those involved.

Fürcho GmbH
Nikolaus Fürcho
T +49 30 6914794
fuercho@fuercho-gmbh.de
www.fuercho-gmbh.de

Draft of the planned installation as a video

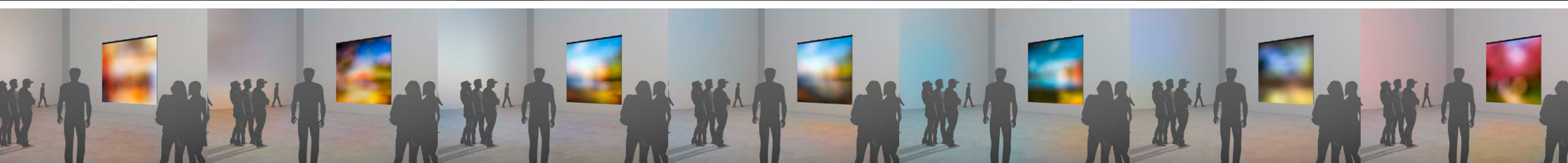
www.jakobkupfer.com/FMT.php
Password: FADE

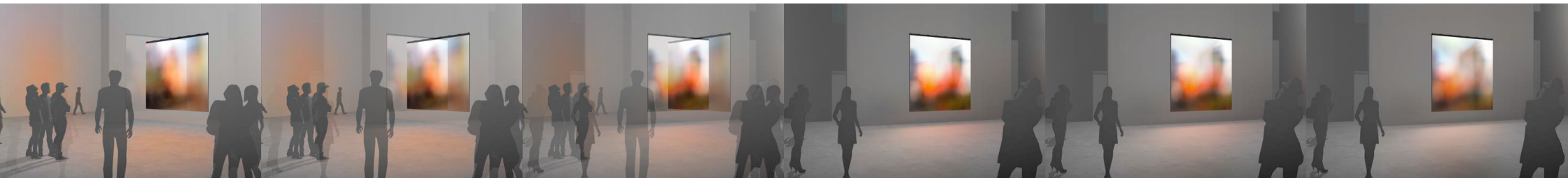
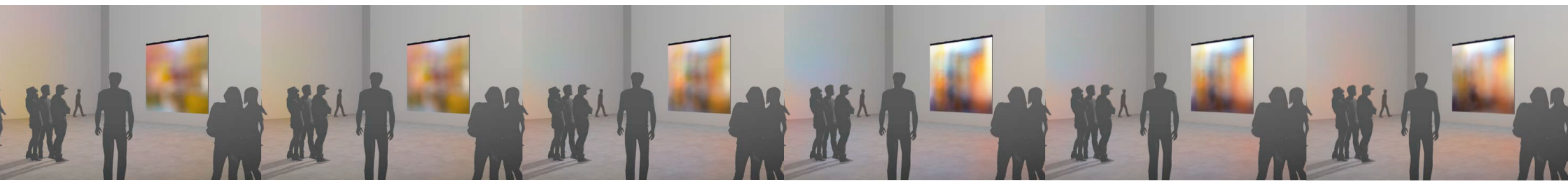
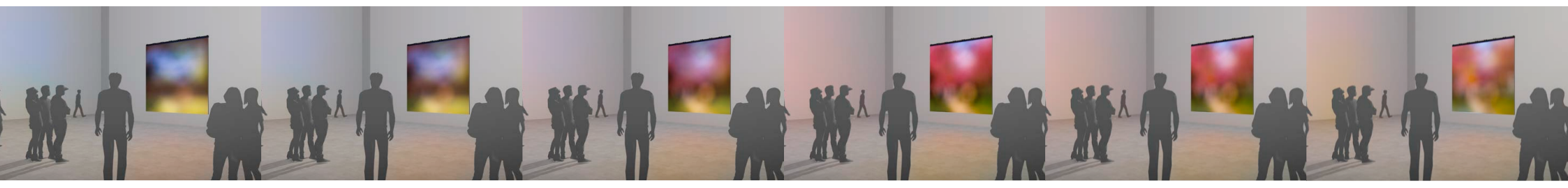
Video of the temporary installation at Humboldt Carré Berlin

www.jakobkupfer.com/ausstellungen/HUC.html



Jakob Kupfer, FADE 071, 2023, temporary installation Fondazione Merz (simulation/sequences variant 350), LED video wall, 350 x 350 cm



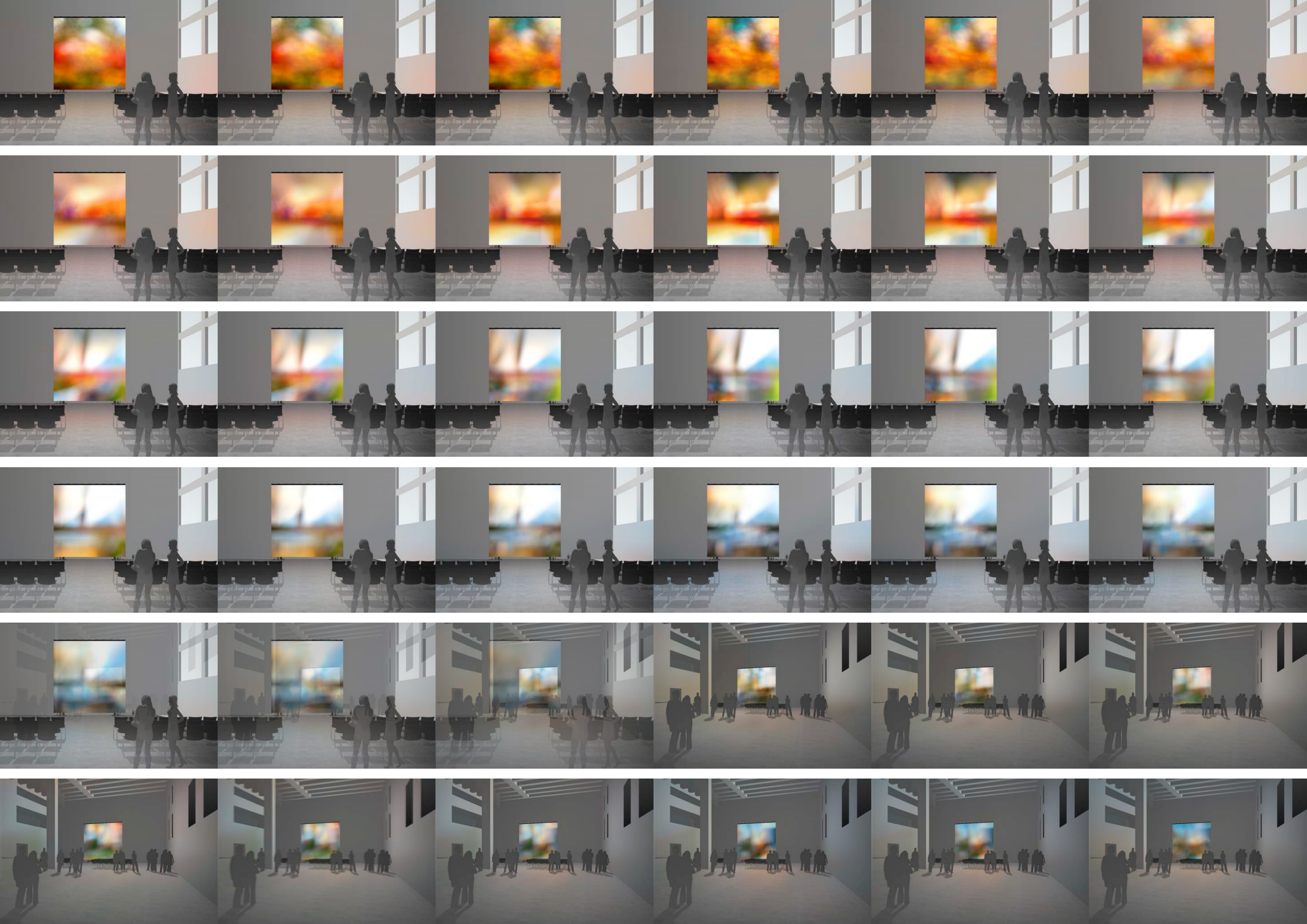






Jakob Kupfer, FADE 071, 2023, temporary installation Fondazione Merz (simulation/sequences variant 500), LED video wall, 500 x 500 cm







Jakob Kupfer, FADE 071, 2023, temporary installation Fondazione Merz (simulation/sequences variant 500), LED video wall, 500 x 500 cm





Vita

Works by Jakob Kupfer have been shown at numerous international fairs, exhibitions and temporary public installations and are in collections in Germany, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands and Italy, among others.

Website of the artist

www.jakobkupfer.com

Gallery website

www.mianki.com

Solo exhibitions

- 2023 Jakob Kupfer – Reflexion mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2021 Jakob Kupfer – Lichtbildner, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2019 Jakob Kupfer FADE, Humboldt Carré, Berlin (D)
Licht Raum Zeit, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2018 Jakob Kupfer & Katharina Schnitzler,
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2017 contempo, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2015 LICHTSPIEL, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2014 EMOTIONS – Kunst aus Licht und Duft
Installation by Jakob Kupfer & Christophe Laudamiel
Schloss Wannsee, Berlin (D)
- 2014 FADE, temporary light art installation, Kartäuserkirche
Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg (D)
- 2014 EMOTIONS – Kunst aus Licht und Duft
Jakob Kupfer & Christophe Laudamiel
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2013 FADE, temporary light art installation
Facade of the o2 World (Mercedes-Benz Arena, Berlin (D)
- 2013 Ich sehe was, was Du nicht siehst
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2011 Plastiken Tina Heuter – Jakob Kupfer Lichtbilder
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)

Group exhibitions & fairs

- 2023 art KARLSRUHE, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2022 mianki & friends, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2022 art KARLSRUHE, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2021 art KARLSRUHE, selection, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2020 POSITIONS Berlin Art Fair, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2020 Light Art Festival Karlsruhe (D), FADE 066
- 2020 mianki & friends, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2020 Zeichnung, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2020 art KARLSRUHE – One-Artist-Show
mianki.Gallery, Karlsruhe (D)
- 2019 art KARLSRUHE, mianki.Gallery, Karlsruhe (D)
- 2018 gleich – anders #03, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2018 art KARLSRUHE
mianki.Gallery, Karlsruhe (D)
- 2017 POSITIONS BERLIN Art Fair, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2016 POSITIONS BERLIN Art Fair
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2016 gleich – anders #02, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2016 Exhibition for the 4th International Evard Prize
Kunsthalle Messmer, Riegel am Kaiserstuhl (D)
- 2015 Charity auction in favour of the foundation
Telephone counselling Berlin, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin (D)
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)

- 2015 Proud Collector Edition#3, The Grand, Berlin (D)
- 2015 POSITIONS BERLIN Art Fair
Special exhibition for the 2015 Charity auction in favour
of the foundation Telephone counselling Berlin (D)
- 2015 Karlsruhe Art and Culture Night
»Kreativquartier Alter Schlachthof«, Karlsruhe (D)
- 2014 Keine Systeme, Guest exhibition at the BlackBox Aarau
Forum Schlossplatz, Aarau (CH)
- 2013 Charity auction in favour of the foundation Telephone
counselling Berlin (D), Berlinische Galerie, Berlin (D)
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2013 POSITIONS BERLIN Art Fair
Special exhibition for the 2013 charity art auction
Telephone counselling Berlin (D)
- 2012 Charity auction in favour of the foundation
Telephone counselling Berlin, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin (D)
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2012 gleich – anders, mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2011 Charity auction in favour of the foundation
Telephone counselling Berlin, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin (D)
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)
- 2010 Charity auction in favour of the foundation
Telephone counselling Berlin, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin (D)
mianki.Gallery, Berlin (D)

