



Press Release

Olaf Nicolai lights up the Kurtheater Baden Pavilion

On Wednesday, 11 June 2025 at 6 p.m., ART FLOW will inaugurate a new site-specific work by Olaf Nicolai in the presence of the artist: *MIR SELBST SO FREMD WIE MÖGLICH ...*

The internationally acclaimed conceptual artist has created a light installation for ART FLOW – Art in the Limmat Valley – on the roof of the pavilion behind the Kurtheater Baden. The point of departure is a sentence from the autobiography of the German playwright Heiner Müller: *“Until my death I must live with my contradictions, to myself as foreign as possible.”* Nicolai takes up these reflections on otherness, change and identity, transforming the pavilion roof into a glowing “subject” visible from the park. Along the striking roofline, LED letters will spell out the words *“MIR SO FREMD WIE MÖGLICH ...”*. In this way, the park itself becomes a stage and the space a site of reflection.

A little-known historical link between Heiner Müller and the Kurtheater Baden provided the impetus for the work: in 1985, 2000 and 2002, Müller’s plays *Philoktet*, *Heiner Müller Evening* and *The Mission* were staged here. A commemorative photo of Müller with actress and noted Brecht interpreter Vera Oelschlegel inspired Nicolai’s proposal to inscribe the pavilion as a “subject” into the “text” of the park, making questions of strangeness in a spa and industrial town in transition visible.

Olaf Nicolai (*1962, Halle an der Saale) is one of Germany’s leading conceptual artists. After studying German literature in Leipzig, Vienna and Budapest (PhD, 1992), he shifted his focus to the visual arts and is now based in Berlin. His works have been shown at documenta X (1997) and in the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2001, 2005, 2015). They are held in international collections such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Friedrich Christian Flick Collection, Berlin. Nicolai’s interdisciplinary projects – ranging from sculptural interventions to sound and performance works – challenge habitual modes of perception and translate scientific and literary references into surprising aesthetic contexts.

Opening

- Wednesday, 11 June 2025, 6 p.m.
- Pavilion, Kurtheater Baden, Parkstrasse 20, 5401 Baden
Welcome remarks: Uwe Heinrichs, Artistic Director Kurtheater Baden, and Christoph Doswald, Artistic Director ART FLOW

About ART FLOW

ART FLOW is an expanding art initiative engaging with diverse aspects of the Limmat Valley. By the end of 2025, around two dozen site-specific works will have been realised. The artistic interventions extend from Zurich’s Bellevue to the Aargau water castle and are freely accessible to the public. ART FLOW is curated by Christoph Doswald and takes place as part of Regionale 2025.

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