

Berlin, December 4, 2025

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

Dominik Lejman: Phantome

St. Matthäus-Kirche, Kulturforum Berlin, January 10 – February 15, 2026

Press Preview: Friday, January 9, 2026, 11:00 AM

Opening: Friday, January 9, 2026, 7:00 PM

For three decades, Polish artist Dominik Lejman has been on a ghost hunt. His art, shown worldwide, lets video images fall onto abstract painting. The paintings are temporarily inhabited by revenants – phantoms of short duration – a disturbing art of orientation, imprisonment, and fall. The exhibition, curated by Hubertus von Amelunxen, at the St. Matthäus-Kirche in Berlin presents around 20 works spanning from 1995 to the present.

The Epiphany season, during which the exhibition takes place, is the time of God's manifestation in the world: time and eternity interpenetrate. In Dominik Lejman's works, people fall out of time into the gaps of the present – a paradox. They are phantoms, belonging to no single time but recurring in every era. Viewing his paintings is like a haunting, revealing the ambivalence of the familiar and the uncanny; imprisonment and paradisiacal longing. »The time is out of joint,« says the ghost to Hamlet.

Dominik Lejman's work is obsessive; his aesthetic follows the movement of human existence and its orientation, with a careful mix of doubt, humor, and despair. His work swings like a pendulum between revelation and repulsion, exaltation and fall, Elysium and prison. Unique in combining content, media transmission, and aesthetics, Dominik Lejman has shaped the question of the possible in the absurd.

To be haunted by phantoms is to remember something we have never experienced in the present. Even more, however, Dominik Lejman's work asks us how we take responsibility for our presence, for our time.

DOMINIK LEJMAN (b. 1969) studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk and at the Royal College of Art in London. As part of a generation actively engaged in political change in Eastern Europe, his innovative approach to painting gained widespread recognition in 1999 through the landmark exhibition »After the Wall: Art and Culture in Post-Communist Europe« (Ludwig Museum, Budapest; Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin; Moderna Museet, Stockholm). Lejman combines painting with video projections, creating video wall paintings and large-scale projection works. He has had numerous solo exhibitions and is the author of many public projects (e.g., permanent installations in hospitals in New York and Cleveland). He has also participated in many group exhibitions, including the 2004 Venice Architecture Biennale, »Sanguine« at Fondazione Prada in 2019, and »Power! Light!« at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg in 2022.

His most recent retrospective solo exhibition, »Air Wants to Go«, was held in 2020 at OPENHEIM in Wrocław. Lejman's solo exhibition »Lunatics« was presented during the 59th Venice Biennale in 2022 at the Madnicity Pavilion on the island of San Servolo. His works are in renowned public collections such as the Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź, Kunsthalle Bremen, various public spaces including the Cleveland Clinic Collection, and many private collections.

He has received both Polish and international awards, including the Paszport Polityki Award (2001) and the Berlin Art Prize (2018). He is a professor at the II Painting Studio at the University of the Arts in Poznań, Poland, and lives and works in Poznań and Berlin.

The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive program of events including readings, choreographies, performances, and lectures.

Jan 13, 2026 **Phantome**

7:00 PM **Ulrich Loock, Anda Rottenberg, and Hannes Langbein in conversation with Dominik Lejman**, moderated by **Hubertus von Amelunxen** (in English)

Jan 20, 2026 **Schleier** (Veil)

7:00 PM »Schleier« is a **performance** by **Maria Colusi** exploring the fragile boundary between visible and invisible forces—the liminal space where matter becomes spirit, sound becomes silence, and the body dissolves into atmosphere. It is an encounter with the conditions of the ghost: how light, breath, and vibration themselves hold the potential for presence even in absence. Here, the veil is not a curtain separating worlds, but a living membrane—porous, trembling, and sensitive—through which perception itself breathes. Maria Colusi is an Argentine dancer, choreographer, and lecturer based in Berlin. A longtime member of Sasha Waltz & Guests, she creates choreographic works that integrate dance, music, and visual art. Her creations have been presented internationally at prestigious venues and festivals. She also teaches composition and improvisation worldwide.

Jan 27, 2026 **Der Schachspieler** (The Chess Player)

7:00 PM **Reading** of poems and prose by Howard Altman and Zbigniew Herbert with **Howard Altman, Michael Krüger**, and others (original texts and German translations)

Feb 3, 2026 **Ubu**

7:00 PM **Performance** by **Krzysztof »Leon« Dziemaszkiewicz**, born 1963 in Poland, a Berlin-based performer and visual artist. He began his career in the early 1990s in Gdańsk, Poland, as a dancer and choreographer at Teatr Ekspresji. In 1995 he founded his own company, Read My Lips Theatre. Since 1998, he has lived and worked primarily in Berlin and Gdańsk. His art has been presented in the USA, France, Germany, Turkey, Brazil, Canada, Italy, and many other countries.

Dziemaszkiewicz's transgenic and transsexual work aims to connect opposites and question the boundaries between animality and humanity.

Feb 10, 2026 **Geisterklang** (Ghost Sound)

7:00 PM **Concert** with jazz musician and composer **Mikolaj Trzaska**

Opening Hours & Admission:

The St. Matthäus-Kirche at Kulturforum Berlin (Matthäikirchplatz, 10785 Berlin) is open Tuesday to Sunday from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Admission to the exhibition is free.

Press Preview:

The press preview with artist Dominik Lejman, curator Hubertus von Amelunxen, and Hannes Langbein, director of the Stiftung St. Matthäus, will take place on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 11:00 AM. We look forward to your participation. Please register by Thursday, January 8, 2026, via email at: info@stiftung-stmatthaeus.de

Images:

Images for download can be found on our website in the press section:

<https://stiftung-stmatthaeus.de/pressebereich/pressemitteilungen/>

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