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PRESS RELEASE

A K Dolven: four hundred million years of sunrise from the dark

Exhibition at St. Matthäus-Kirche, Kulturforum Berlin, Matthäikirchplatz, 10785 Berlin

18 September 2026 – 31 January 2027

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 11 am – 6 pm, admission free

Press preview: Thursday, 17 September 2026, 11 am

Opening: Thursday, 17 September 2026, 7 pm

The Norwegian artist A K Dolven presents works at St. Matthäus-Kirche in Berlin that explore time, touch, memory and transformation. The exhibition seeks to bring geological timescales into dialogue with personal experience.

The starting point and inspiration for the new work **»four hundred million years of sunrise from the dark«** is a found piece of rock from the Norwegian Lofoten Islands. A K Dolven cut and polished one side of the stone, revealing its inner layers of pink, turquoise and grey, alternating with dense black formations. The stone becomes a compressed archive of geological time. The sculpture invites touch. Visitors can climb onto the stone, sit on it or run their hands across its polished surface.

Marble is formed when rock recrystallises under intense heat, high pressure and chemical transformation. Its characteristic veins and structures emerge through the distribution of components such as clay, sand and iron oxides during this process. The coloured lines in **»four hundred million years of sunrise from the dark«** are therefore not merely aesthetic features, but traces of chemical processes, pressure and transformation. On the polished surface, the story of a profound transformation becomes visible – one in which destruction gives rise to beauty. In this way, geology tells a biography.

In the sound work **»please return«**, A K Dolven calls out the word **»Come!«** into the landscape of the Lofoten Islands. Her voice travels across a lake and returns as an echo from a distant mountain. In this echo, different emotions of longing, anticipation, grief, urgency and hope become condensed. The landscape itself becomes a counterpart, receiving the voice and returning it transformed.

The series **»One Day More«** comprises paintings in A4 format, each created in a single day, thereby documenting an ongoing daily practice. The series was produced during the pandemic, when familiar structures of time and perspectives on the future were disrupted. A K Dolven uses aluminium as the support for the paintings. Unlike paper, its surface reflects light and lends the applied oil pigment a particular luminosity. The colour appears neither fully transparent nor opaque.

Touch connects the works. A hand resting on the stone, the brush moving across a surface, and the voice reaching the bodies of those listening make the present moment immediately tangible.

The exhibition thus brings millions of years of geological transformation into dialogue with personal memory and the fleeting experience of the present moment. A K Dolven directs attention to the traces left behind by time and to the question of how we experience our own present.

A K Dolven (*1953) lives and works in Oslo and on the Norwegian Lofoten Islands. Since the 1980s, she has developed a multidisciplinary body of work encompassing painting, photography, performance, installation, film and sound. Dolven's practice moves between the monumental and the minimalist, the universal and the intimate.

Dolven's work has been presented internationally at major museums and exhibition venues, including Kunsthalle Bern, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, IKON Gallery in Birmingham, the National Museum of Art in Oslo, KIASMA in Helsinki and the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art. In Berlin, her work has, among other venues, been shown at Hamburger Bahnhof. In 1999, she became the first female painter to receive the Fred-Thriller Prize at the Berlinische Galerie.

The artist's connection to Berlin dates back to the 1980s. In 1986, she was already represented in the exhibition »Borealis« at the DAAD Galerie Berlin. In 1987/88, she came to Künstlerhaus Bethanien as an artist-in-residence and subsequently received a DAAD scholarship, which extended her stay in Berlin. Dolven lived and worked in the city until 1997. During this period, she produced numerous works and exhibitions, including presentations at the Akademie der Künste and various Berlin galleries.

After almost three decades, A K Dolven now returns to Berlin with a solo exhibition. The exhibition at St. Matthäus builds on her long-standing connection with the city and offers a concentrated insight into her work for the first time in many years.

Works by A K Dolven are held in numerous international collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Arts Council Collection, KIASMA, the Hoffmann Collection, the Goetz Collection, the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Norway and the Kupferstichkabinett Berlin.

Accompanying programme

19 November 2026, 8 pm

noch ein tag – one day more

Concert performance with **A K Dolven** and **Stian Westerhuis**, guitar

Dates for the artist talk and further events will be announced on the website.

St. Matthäus Stiftung

Press preview

The press preview with the artist **A K Dolven**, curator **Clara Meister** and **Hannes Langbein**, Director of the Stiftung St. Matthäus, will take place on Thursday, **17 September 2026**, at **11 am**. We look forward to welcoming you. Please register by email by Wednesday, 16 September 2026 at: info@stiftung-stmatthaeus.de.

Press images

Press images are available for download on our website in the press section:

<https://stiftung-stmatthaeus.de/pressebereich/pressemitteilungen/a-k-dolven-four-hundred-million-years-of-sunrise-from-the-dark/>.

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The exhibition is supported by:



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