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JACOPO GODANI & DRESDEN FRANKFURT DANCE COMPANY

WOLFGANG WINTER &amp; BERTHOLD HÖRBELT

**DIE GROSSE ILLUSION**  
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PRESS RELEASE

## NEW OLD TOWN CELEBRATION

28.9.–30.9.2018

Press Preview: Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 11 am

The Frankfurter Kunstverein will take part in the New Old Town Celebration Frankfurt with two events, both of which allow a new perspective on the building and the surrounding Dom Römer neighborhood.

### Sculpture in Public Space

#### Winter/Hörbelt: Die Grosse Illusion (The Grand Illusion)

28.09.18 – 17.03.2019

The Frankfurter Kunstverein invited Frankfurt based artist duo **Wolfgang Winter and Berthold Hörbelt** to create the site-specific installation „Die Grosse Illusion“ (The Grand Illusion) on the occasion of the celebration of the new old town. The sculpture—specially designed for the exterior of what is now the oldest house in the new Altstadt—overlooks the new Dom Römer neighborhood and will be publicly accessible to the area’s visitors for half a year.

Artists Winter/Hörbelt are internationally known for their projects in public space, which make use of industrial materials and methods. Their artistic works refer back to and consciously seek to alter the viewer’s perceptions of the respective surroundings in which they are installed. The artist team—working together for twenty-five years—has shown their work at events including the Venice Biennale, the Skulpturprojekte Münster, the Yokohama Triennale, and the Liverpool Biennale. Moreover, they have realized over eighty works in public spaces worldwide. These include two large pieces in a newly landscaped park at the University of Cambridge as well as projects here in the region such as the accessible, large-scale sculpture Der Blaue Kran (The Blue Crane) at the Offenbach Port and the eighteen meter high wall relief Vertieft-Erhaben (Deepened Sublime) at the Zentrales Verwaltungsgebäude (central administration building) of the city of Frankfurt.

For the sculpture „Die Grosse Illusion“ on the exterior of the Frankfurter Kunstverein’s building, Winter/Hörbelt use polished steel plates, which underwent a process of folding and

overlapping that creates a shimmering effect. With its reflective surface, the two ton form achieves a sense of weightlessness, dissolving the outline of the sculpture and opening it up to its surroundings. The pixelated shell creates ever new fragmentary images of what stands around it.

The traditionally modernist sculpture forms an exciting counterpoint to the romanticism of the historically oriented neighborhood. The sculpture's reflection dissolves the Altstadt's reconstructed facades. A collage of different perspectives emerges, constantly changing with the movement of the passerby and time of day. The reflected realities lose their truthful character and break down into disconcerting refractions, rendering one's perception illusory. The newly constructed Altstadt with its desire for identity and security dissolves once again.

The sculpture is nine meters long, has a diameter of two and a half meters, consists of highly polished, one-and-a-half millimeter thick steel sheets, and weighs two tons. The elaborate installation on the building of the Frankfurter Kunstverein will begin on September 18. The sculpture will be transported to Römerberg with a twenty-one meter low-bed truck and lifted onto the building of the Frankfurter Kunstverein with cranes. It will then be affixed to the roof over the course of a multi-day installation process.

The static calculations were carried out by Klaus Bollinger and Horst Peseke of the structural consulting agency Bollinger & Grohmann. Till Schneider and Miriam Baake of Scheinder & Schumacher were responsible for the building application. The sculpture was made possible with the support of the Dom Römer GmbH and the Frankfurter Sparkasse Foundation. The planning department made an essential contribution to the realization of the project by actively supporting its implementation through a difficult approval process. The Frankfurt graphic design firm Nordisk was responsible for the graphic implementation of the communication campaign.

## Dance Performance

### Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company: Framing Reality

Friday, 28.09. and Saturday, 29.09.18, from 7.30 until 8.30 pm on both evenings

On the two evenings of the New Old Town Celebration, the Frankfurter Kunstverein building will become a transparent and lively art installation.

On Friday September 28, the performance „Framing Reality“ will celebrate its premier, presented by the Frankfurter Kunstverein in collaboration with the **Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company** under the direction of **Jacopo Godani**. At dusk, the Kunstverein's windows will serve as a venue for dance interventions, combined with a dramatic light show. The building's

austere, modernist architecture with its rectangular glass facade becomes an oversized light box and a unique stage that radiates into the new streets of the Dom-Römer neighborhood.

Seventeen dancers create *tableaux vivants*—living images. Directly behind the window facade, a sequence of movements unfolds in connection to a spectacular lighting concept, forming a high point of the evening event in the Altstadt. Human bodies, light, color, and movement are woven into a rousing performance that expresses Godani and the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company's precise choreographic vernacular. The rhythm of the sixty minute performance is structured through a sequence of lights and electronic music specially programmed for the piece. Godani modifies the transparency of the window facade with semi-transparent materials that make the dancers' bodies fluctuate between sharply defined and abstracted forms. The museum context is Godani's starting point for reinterpreting the dance-like choreographies into two-dimensional figures, allowing them to be seen as taking place within a framed composition and thus drawing moving pictures of flowing abstraction.

The dance performance „Framing Reality“ will take place on both evenings of the Altstadtfest.

We would like to thank the Tourismus & Congress GmbH for the realization of the dance performance.

## **COLLABORATIONS**

Both projects were initiated by the Frankfurter Kunstverein and resulted from cooperation with numerous Frankfurt firms and participants.

The Dom Römer GmbH and the Frankfurt Tourismus GmbH supported the realization of the sculpture as well as the dance performance. These represent an important contribution to the program of events, celebrating the opening of Frankfurt's new old town area. The Planungsdezernat and the Kulturdezernat have actively supported the project since its early phases.

The statics for the temporary architecture were supervised by the structural consulting firm Bollinger & Grohmann and the building application was supervised by the architecture firm Schneider-Schumacher. We would like to thank the Nordisk firm for implementing the visual communication campaign.

We thank:



**NORDISK BÜRO**

Strategic Design

The **Frankfurter Kunstverein** is an interdisciplinary exhibition house for contemporary art and culture in Frankfurt am Main. At the Frankfurter Kunstverein, art is understood as an intermediary between different fields: expert knowledge and social issues, philosophical discourses and lived realities, aesthetic experiences and the transfer of knowledge. The Frankfurter Kunstverein was founded in 1829 and is among the oldest and largest Kunstvereine in Germany.

Since 1962, the institution has been located at the Steinernes Haus directly in the city center. The building's extension, re-alized in the 1950s, has since officially been named a historical monument. With the redesign of the Dom-Römer-site, the exhibition house is centrally embedded in the structure of the new urban development. Through the addition of a second entrance, the Frankfurter Kunstverein has now opened itself up to the new district even more, reaffirming its commitment to being a venue designed with and for the city's residents.

**Social Media:**

Facebook: [facebook.com/FrankfurterKunstverein](https://www.facebook.com/FrankfurterKunstverein)

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