

# Kunstinstallation anlässlich 30 Jahre Mauerfall in Berlin "CHASING THE LIGHT"

von Maya Sanbar und „INVISIBLE SUN“ von Bobby Sager



Skizzen zur Installation „Chasing the Light“ von Maya Sanbar, Design von Martina Dimitrova

**Ort:** Innenhof der Factory Berlin, Rheinsberger Str. 76/77, 10115 Berlin, **Eröffnung:** Montag, den 4.10.2019, 11- 15 Uhr **Laufzeit:** 4.-10.10., tägl. 11-20.30 Uhr **Instagram:** #chasingthelightberlin

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

hiermit laden wir Sie herzlich ein zur Eröffnung der Kunstinstallation „CHASING THE LIGHT“ von Maya Sanbar (Konzept und Design von Martina Dimitrova) und der Fotografieausstellung „INVISIBLE SUN“ von Bobby Sager. Die Installation im Innenhof der Factory Berlin am Prenzlauer Berg, entstand aus Anlass des Berliner Mauerfalls, der sich in diesem Jahr zum dreißigsten Mal jährt.

Unweit des ehemaligen Mauerstreifens (Bernauer Straße) wird die öffentlich zugängliche Kunstinstallation der Künstlerin und Filmemacherin die Form eines Tunnels annehmen, in den die Besucher eintreten können. Gespickt mit unzähligen runden Spiegeln (Kontrollspiegeln) kann sich der Besucher selbst, im Tunnel, aus den verschiedensten Blickwinkeln beobachten. Dabei werden Fragen nach unserem Selbstbild, möglichen „blind spots“ und unserem Platz in der Welt aufgeworfen.

Begleitet wird die Installation von einer Fotografieausstellung des Amerikaners Bobby Sager (Fotograf und Philantrop). Der Titel seiner Werkserie „INVISIBLE SUN“ bezieht sich auf den Titel seines neuen Buches und den gleichnamigen Songtitel seines Freundes, dem Musiker Sting, der für das Buch eine Notiz geschrieben hat. Sagers großformatige Fotografien stehen in Zusammenhang mit seiner philanthropischen Arbeit und zeigen Portraits von Kindern aus Flüchtlingscamps und Slums aus Afghanistan, Syrien, Pakistan, Ruanda, Sri Lanka, Palestina und der Tibetischen Diaspora.

Das Projekt von Maya Sanbar und Bobby Sager entstand in Zusammenarbeit mit der dritten Ausgabe des World Frontiers Forum, das in diesem Jahr in der Factory Berlin stattfindet.

Pressebilder der Installation vor Ort stehen am kommenden Montag, den 4. November zur Verfügung.

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## CHASING THE LIGHT

"CHASING THE LIGHT" is an installation commemorating the 30 years since the fall of the Berlin wall. It will be placed in the courtyard of the Factory Berlin in Mitte close to the site of the former Berlin wall, for the duration of the Berlin Anniversary celebrations, between the 4th and the 10th of November. It will take the form of a tunnel, open to the public as a playful reflection on the walls of our human identity, within the boundaries of both the physical and digital world.

The installation is created by artist Maya Sanbar, with design and concept development by Martina Dimitrova, in association with the World Frontiers Forum ([www.worldfrontiersforum.org](http://www.worldfrontiersforum.org)). The forum unites leaders in industry, culture, and government with pioneering creators across frontiers from contemporary art and music to machine learning and biology. Established around an annual gathering, the WFF aims to catalyze audacious pioneering dreams into works that touch the lives of millions and improve the human condition. This year's gathering takes place at the Factory Berlin on the 8th and 9th of November, on the subject of the future of human digital identity.

### Brief Description:

The visitor is presented with 2 narrow walls on either side of a 10m long tunnel with open ground and open sky. He/she walks through a flood-lit misty floor (fog effect + shadow effect), to create the feeling of not being quite sure where your foot is going to land. On either side there are convex mirrors that allow you to see yourself but also behind you in your blind spot.

As you walk through, the mirrors that initially start at a lower place on the walls begin to multiply as they rise higher and higher culminating in an effect where you can see yourself and also the sky all around you in a single eye. It will be a daunting feeling, beauty of communion with the sky above, mixed with discomfort of self questioning.

After sunset "Chasing the Light" will appear surreal as the mirrors suspended on the deep black internal walls feel floating in the space around you, and the white lit low fog reveals

the presence and dance of the air around you, something that is usually invisible to the eye.

Concept:

The artist has chosen a tunnel installation for the 30th anniversary commemoration, as a reminder that although some walls like the one separating East and West Berlin have been taken down, other walls around the world are rising up, be it in Israel/Palestine, USA/Mexico, or in Europe's answer to the Refugee crisis. The tunnel also touches on the boundaries we have within our own minds and bodies, on a personal level, sometimes mental walls that we are not always conscious of.

The questions arising from this artwork are:

- our self image.
- our place within this world.
- the narrowing of walls and the space we have to move freely.
- what we see and our blind spots we do not usually see.
- the digital identity and digital footprint we are leaving behind us.
- the multiplication of "eyes" on us as our behaviour is ever more "watched" by others in the digital realm.
- the communion between ourselves and the sky/cosmos/nature.
- reconnecting awareness of our senses as a human being.
- identifying the forces of nature and in particular the element of air around us, something we breathe into our bodies, but do not ever usually see.

The tunnel is titled "Chasing the Light" in reference to the quest we all have, whether spiritual or practical, in our individual pursuits of happiness. Visitors will be literally chasing the light that exists within the fog, cast around their own shadows, and in the glint of the mirrors that reflect them back to themselves.

In this installation you are in fact chasing your own light that is within you, in between the "smoke and mirrors" (reference to the classic technique used in magical illusions that makes an entity appear to hover in empty space).

"Chasing the light" is also the very first thought experiment Einstein did when he was 16 years old, which later led to the theory of relativity. This is in homage to the fact that all things are relative.

## INVISIBLE SUN

By Bobby Sager



Bobby Sager: INVISIBLE SUN“

Alongside the Tunnel there will be an exhibition of large scale photographs taken by Bobby Sager. These images are from his upcoming book “Invisible Sun”, the title of which is borrowed from a song composed by his close friend Sting who has written a note in the book.

His compelling collection of photographs, taken between September 11, 2001, until December 2018, are gathered from his philanthropic encounters with children in alleyways, refugee camps, slums, and remote villages from Afghanistan, Syria, and Pakistan to Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Palestine, and the Tibetan Diaspora. They are orphans, child soldiers, refugees, and just plain kids dealing with war, conflict, natural disaster, abuse, displacement, or simply being born into an incredibly unlucky situation. Sager was face-to-face with them because he was there to help. That’s a big part of the connection you see in their eyes, that in themselves transcend the power of hope.

Bobby’s photographs are mounted on five 3m tall monoliths that represent fragments of the wall, deconstructed.

The story of "Invisible Sun" is in tune with the “Chasing the light” tunnel especially through their common intention to break down pre construed ideas and barriers. The photographs search for that smallest ray of light in the children’s eyes, and these are magnified by the echo of the mirror "eyes" in the tunnel, which is all about "seeing" yourself and others. The mirrors themselves multiplying are like eyes looking back at you, mark the fact that we are all accountable and being watched for our actions one way or another.

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