



CHECK OUT OUR HOMEPAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS FOR IMPRESSIONS AND RECAPS



20. FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The 20th Festival of Lights wrapped up with record-breaking visitor numbers. Over 3.5 million people came together for ten unforgettable nights to celebrate freedom in a spirit of peace and joy. "Even the cold and rainy weather on some days couldn't keep the visitors away. They swarmed to the festival and enjoyed the emotional visuals and shows. This fills us with great joy and a sense of pride," said Birgit Zander, organiser and director of the Festival of Lights.

"The most gratifying part is that people really embraced this year's theme, Celebrating Freedom, and came together to experience the art of light in a peaceful and joyful way," Zander added.

This year's festival featured more than 100 artworks in 47 unique locations and spaces across the city. More than 50 artists from 20 countries contributed to a vibrant, diverse and often breathtaking programme, transforming the German capital into Europe's largest open-air gallery.

This year's Festival of Lights is under the patronage of the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Kai Wegner.

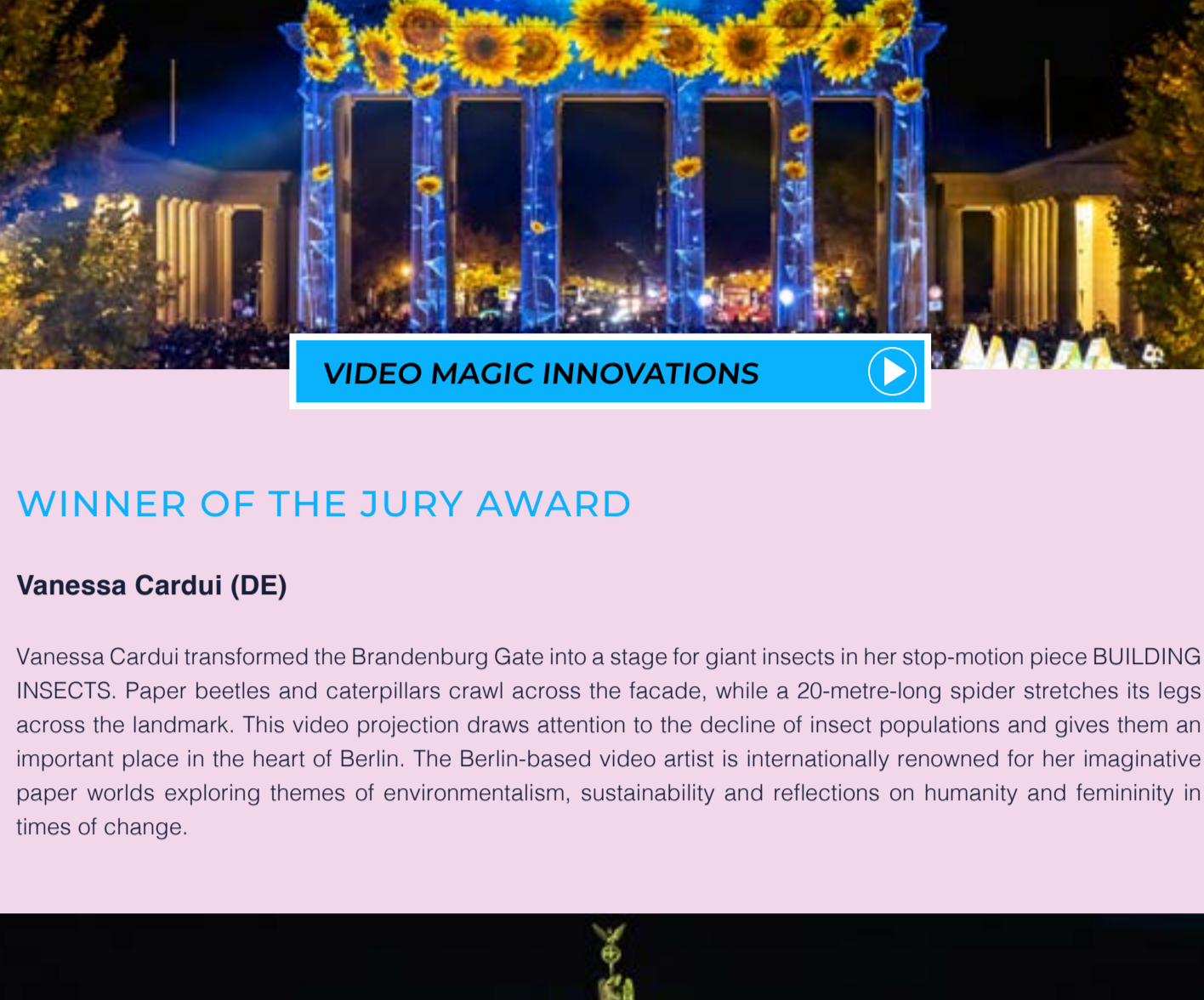
We look forward to illuminating not only Berlin, but also cities and metropolises internationally in the future and are already excited about next year!

Best regards,

Birgit Zander and the Festival of Lights Team

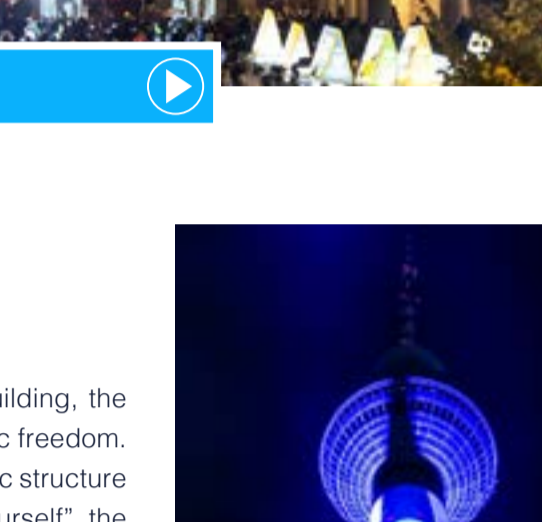
THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2024 more than 50 artists at 47 locations

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR BEST OF VIDEO 2024](#)



A DIGITAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE FESTIVAL

Couldn't make it to the festival in person, or want to relive the magic? Our host, @tammyngus.musk, has taken you through all the highlights of the Festival! With exciting interviews, fun quizzes, top tips and the best routes - everything you need to relive it all. And the best part? We've captured it all in the FOL 2024 Highlights on Instagram. Check it out and enjoy the festival on your screen!



DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE: OUR PHOTO CONTEST IS STILL OPEN

UNTIL
OCTOBER 31

Even after the Festival, you can share your personal impressions and collaborate with us—join in and let your photos shine! Enter our official photo competition by October 31st for a chance to win fantastic prizes.

For more information on how to participate, check out our website. Have fun and good luck!

📷 Official photo contest until 31 October

1st Place: A trip for two to the Festival of Lights in Zagreb, presented by the Zagreb Tourist Board

2nd & 3rd Place: Google Pixel 9

4th–10th Place: Festival of Lights Shop vouchers worth €50



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AWARD 2024

Each year the Festival of Lights holds a competition to honour the best video artists, and this year 16 international artists presented their visions of freedom on Berlin's most iconic landmarks: the TV Tower, the Hotel de Rome, the Brandenburg Gate and Charlottenburg Palace. We are delighted to announce this year's winners:

WINNER OF THE AUDIENCE AWARD

Magic Innovations (UAE/UA)

Magic Innovations captivated the audience with a truly magical and awe-inspiring show. Tiny worlds blurred like raindrops, revealing entire universes upon closer inspection. Fields of sunflowers and golden trees covered the columns of the Brandenburg Gate, bearing glorious fruit. The message was clear: together we can reach an energy as boundless and infinite as the universe itself.



VIDEO MAGIC INNOVATIONS

WINNER OF THE JURY AWARD

Vanessa Cardui (DE)

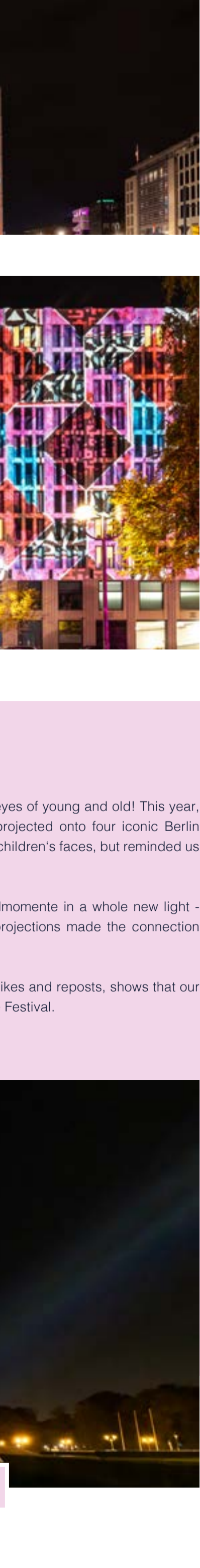
Vanessa Cardui transformed the Brandenburg Gate into a stage for giant insects in her stop-motion piece **BUILDING INSECTS**. Paper beetles and caterpillars crawl across the facade, while a 20-metre-long spider stretches its legs across the landmark. This video projection draws attention to the decline of insect populations and gives them an important place in the heart of Berlin. The Berlin-based video artist is internationally renowned for her imaginative paper worlds exploring themes of environmentalism, sustainability and reflections on humanity and femininity in times of change.



VIDEO VANESSA CARDUI

BEACON OF FREEDOM

As part of this year's Festival of Lights Awards, Germany's tallest building, the Berlin TV Tower, was transformed into a luminous centerpiece of artistic freedom. Six outstanding teams of artists from six countries transformed this iconic structure into a glowing canvas. Under the motto "Share your Light - Express Yourself", the TV tower served as a stage for avant-garde artworks, transforming the building into a dynamic light sculpture.



The participants were Captain Energy from the Netherlands, Jérémy Oury from France/Mexico, Kurbas Production from Ukraine, MOMAP Studio from Spain, Pani Pawlosky from Poland and studio eigengrau from Germany.

The Festival of Lights would not be possible without the support of our partner companies. We would like to thank our wonderful partners - the HauptstadtMachen campaign of the State of Berlin, Sparda-Bank Berlin, Renault, Kleinanzeigen, Wolt, LEGO and Estée Lauder Companies - for their moving creations on the Berlin TV tower.

LEGO sent a powerful message: play gives you superpowers. Wolt also took center stage, highlighting the artistic preparation of popular dishes, something that usually happens behind the scenes.

Berlin's HauptstadtMachen campaign called for contributions to work for the best city in the world and showed an impressive kaleidoscope of Berlin's most beautiful places. Sparda-Bank Berlin celebrated the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with a presentation that gave the East a major stage.

Visitors were also able to explore the world of Kleinanzeigen - a true showcase of possibilities that brought all kinds of goods to life. Renault captivated the public with an artistic creation based on the return of the cut car, the RS, now electric.

And from 4 to 6 October, the Estée Lauder Companies shone a bright light on their breast cancer campaign.

VIDEO TV TOWER

A 'PLAYCE' TO SHINE IN THE HEART OF BERLIN

Potsdamer Platz, a symbol of change and progress for decades, was once again the setting for spectacular light art. With its unique blend of history and modernity, this iconic square was the focal point of the Festival of Lights, showcasing the city's creative energy under the theme "Celebrating Freedom". Ten special locations in the city center were illuminated with breathtaking light displays.



The entire Potsdamer Platz offered a multifaceted experience, transforming the urban space into a walkable work of art. Projections on the Kollhoff Tower and the Forum Tower, as well as a large-scale floor projection, bathed the square in a vibrant mosaic of colours, punctuated by unique graffiti and street art elements.

Other highlights included a mesmerising light and sound installation and 'Luminary' on Alte Potsdamer Strasse, the neon-lit Huth Tunnel by Berlin art duo 'Lura', the immersive 'Quantum Jungle' installation by Robin Baumgarten and the floating 'Sterne' light installation by Illuminist at The Playce.

VIDEO POTSDAMER PLATZ

MAJESTIC ART AND ART DECO AT THE BEISHEIM CENTER

Right next door: the Beisheim Center. High above the festivities, a majestic tiger perched atop the P5 building of Commerz Real. This artwork by Otto Schade seemed to survey the square, what might it think of the colourful activities below? This piece is one of the highlights from 20 years of the Festival of Lights and made a stunning return this year.

Almost like a guardian of the night, a gigantic peacock adorned the facade of The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin. With its Art Deco plumage blending seamlessly with magnificent natural elements and refined stylistic features of the 1920s, it drew the gaze of onlookers like magic. This true masterpiece celebrated the opulent elegance of The Ritz-Carlton, Berlin, while also standing as a glowing work of modern art. And right next door: a radiant projection in vibrant Bauhaus style. The Berlin Marriott Hotel proudly celebrated the anniversary of '20 Years of Beisheim Center' with this dazzling display.

SMALL STONES - BIG STAGE

For the 20th anniversary of the Festival of Lights, LEGO brought a sparkle to the eyes of young and old! This year, the world-famous colourful bricks were transformed into breathtaking light art projected onto four iconic Berlin landmarks. With the message "Playing Together is Pure Joy", LEGO not only lit up children's faces, but reminded us all of the joy of playing and creating together.

A real highlight for friends-goers was the opportunity to experience #LEGOSpielmomente in a whole new light - literally! Whether with friends, family or simply as a bystander, these magical projections made the connection between art, creativity and joy palpable and unforgettable.

We've seen it: your incredible engagement on social media, along with the many likes and reposts, shows that our LEGO art has already found a special place in your hearts and in the history of the Festival.

VIDEO LEGO

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE: MAN IN THE CENTER AT POTSDAMER PLATZ

A captivating light art installation with an intellectual background has found its place in the center of Potsdamer Platz, designed to inspire reflection in these turbulent times. MAN is an impressive light art giant by Australian artist Amanda Paser, measuring approximately 12 metres high and 13 metres wide. Inspired by Auguste Rodin's 1880 sculpture 'The Thinker', the artwork symbolises mankind's pursuit of intellectual thought and philosophy.

Check out the hashtag #myfestivaloflightsphoto and discover the many beautiful moments captured with this impressive installation!

MONUMENTAL CANVAS FOR EXPRESSIVE ART

As one of our city's most prominent landmarks, the Berlin Cathedral once again carried an important message during the Festival of Lights: international artists showcased their visions of freedom through large-scale light art. All the artworks on the cathedral were marked by strong individual artistic expression.

The displayed motifs included works by MP-STUDIO (BGR), Daniel Margraf (DE), Maximilian Trapp (DE), Thierry Noir (DE), Otto Schade (CHL/UK), Archan Nair (DE), OKO (KR), and Susan Gurnee (USA).

VIDEO BERLIN CATHEDRAL

A MAGICAL ATMOSPHERE AND A COLOURFUL SEA OF SEA OF LIGHTS IN THE OLD NIKOLAI QUARTER

Berlin's historic quarter shone in a magical world of lights, featuring an impressive video projection on the corner building at Spandauer Str./Rathausstr., where the Kaufhaus Isara once stood. Colorful tree illuminations invited visitors to stroll through the area, while the giant, glowing "Crystal Flowers" by Austrian artist Markus Anders enchanted the scene. These highlights were made possible by WBM Wohnungsbaugesellschaft Berlin-Mitte.

Right in front of the Fischer & Lustig restaurant stood our visitors' favorite and a highlight of the last 20 years: the 4.5-meter-tall artwork WITH LOVE FROM BERLIN.

VIDEO NIKOLAI QUARTER

PALACE OF MEMORY

For the Festival of Lights 2024, the Palace of the Republic reemerged—this time as video art on the east facade of the Humboldt Forum, which has been open at the site of the Palace of the Republic since 2021. The projection "Palast der Erinnerung" by the media artist duo CyberRäuber is an extension of the mixed reality experience that will be showcased alongside the exhibition "Hin und Weg. Der Palast der Republik ist Gegenwart" at the Humboldt Forum until February 2025.

FULL SHOW HUMBOLDT FORUM

THE BEBEL SQUARE: A PLACE OF CREATIVE IDEAS AND VISIONS

This year, the historic buildings of Bebelplatz were illuminated in breathtaking splendour. The State Opera, St Hedwig's Cathedral and the Faculty of Law enchanted visitors with vibrant architectural displays.

Three outstanding artists, Ari Dykier, Hermes Mangialardo and The Fox, The Folks, brought their powerful visions of freedom to the facades of the Hotel de Rome under the theme "Freedom of Thought", creating an inspiring space in the heart of Berlin to celebrate freedom of thought and creative ideas.

It also featured artworks by Susan Gurnee (USA) and Gita Kurdpoor (DE/IRN). The installations on Bebelplatz were made possible by the "HAUPTSTADT MACHEN" campaign of the state of Berlin, together with Renault, LEGO GmbH and KIDDINX.

The special guest at the 20th festival was the beloved elephant Benjamin Blürchen. He hoisted the sails as a pirate and conquered the stars as an astronaut. "You can be anything you want" - a joyful message that showed that all adventures and dreams are possible!

To mark the opening of the 20th Festival of Lights and the final weekend of the festival, the Hotel de Rome was lit up in passionate red. Inspired by Giorgio Armani's Si Passione Eau de Parfum Intense, this impressive display of light symbolised elegance, strength and pure sensuality.

VIDEO BEBEL SQUARE

POWERFUL PORTRAITS

In "NO ROOM - Encounters with People Without Shelter", photographer Debora Ruoppert uses striking black-and-white photographs to shed light on those who often live on the margins of society. The high-contrast portraits, projected onto the facades of various buildings, emphasise the depth and dignity of individual stories and allow us to meet people without shelter on an equal footing.

This project by Caritas for the Archdiocese of Berlin is supported by Aktion Mensch. The expressive pictures were exhibited in five locations: St. Mary's Church, Leipziger Straße 64, Stresemannstraße 120, Memorial Church and Eberswalder Straße 16.

LUMINOUS SIGNS ON THE BRANDENBURG GATE

At Berlin's most famous landmark, the Brandenburg Gate, we presented stunning 3D video mapping shows by five outstanding artists and studios from four different countries: MP-STUDIO (BG), SKGPLUS (ON), Vanessa Cardui (DE), Magic Innovations (UAE/UK) and VAMOS Animation (DE).

For the Festival of Lights Award, under the theme "United We Shine", the artists transformed the Brandenburg Gate into a tribute to unity. Whether through vibrant colour displays celebrating the spirit of independence, or powerful narratives exploring the freedom of self-expression, each projection told a unique vision.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our main partner, LEGO GmbH.

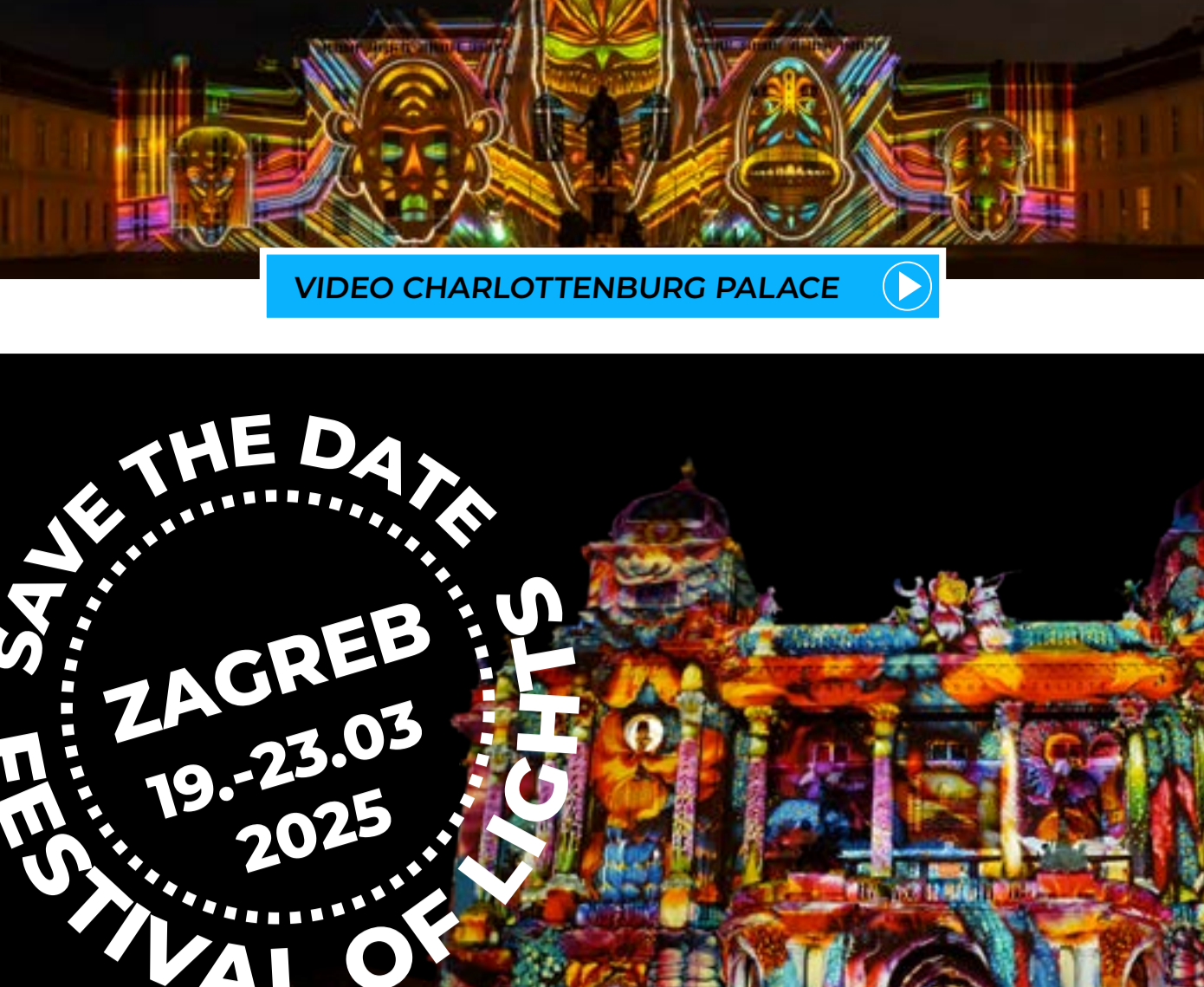
VIDEO BRANDENBURG GATE

DREAMS, NATURE, WANDERLUST: A MAGICAL TRIO AT CHARLOTTENBURG PALACE

Charlottenburg Palace is one of the most stunning backdrops for the Festival of Lights every year - and 2024 was no exception! The magnificent Baroque facade was transformed into a mesmerising light display that left visitors in awe. Under the theme "Dreams of Tomorrow", light artists Illuminos (UK), Segal Media (Dubai) and RE:SORB (DE) bathed the palace in a vibrant mix of colours and shapes, imagining visions of a brighter future.

Travel enthusiasts were in for a treat, as one projection took viewers to beautiful Tuscany. With dreamy landscapes and an invitation to a "Renaissance that never ends", the palace offered a visual escape that inspired a desire to explore Italy.

Nature lovers also had a reason to rejoice as the WWF gave a powerful reminder of how precious our flora and fauna are. Vibrant projections on the facade took visitors on a journey into nature. In close collaboration with our long-standing partner, the Zagreb Tourist Board, the presentation made it clear that we must do everything in our power to preserve biodiversity.



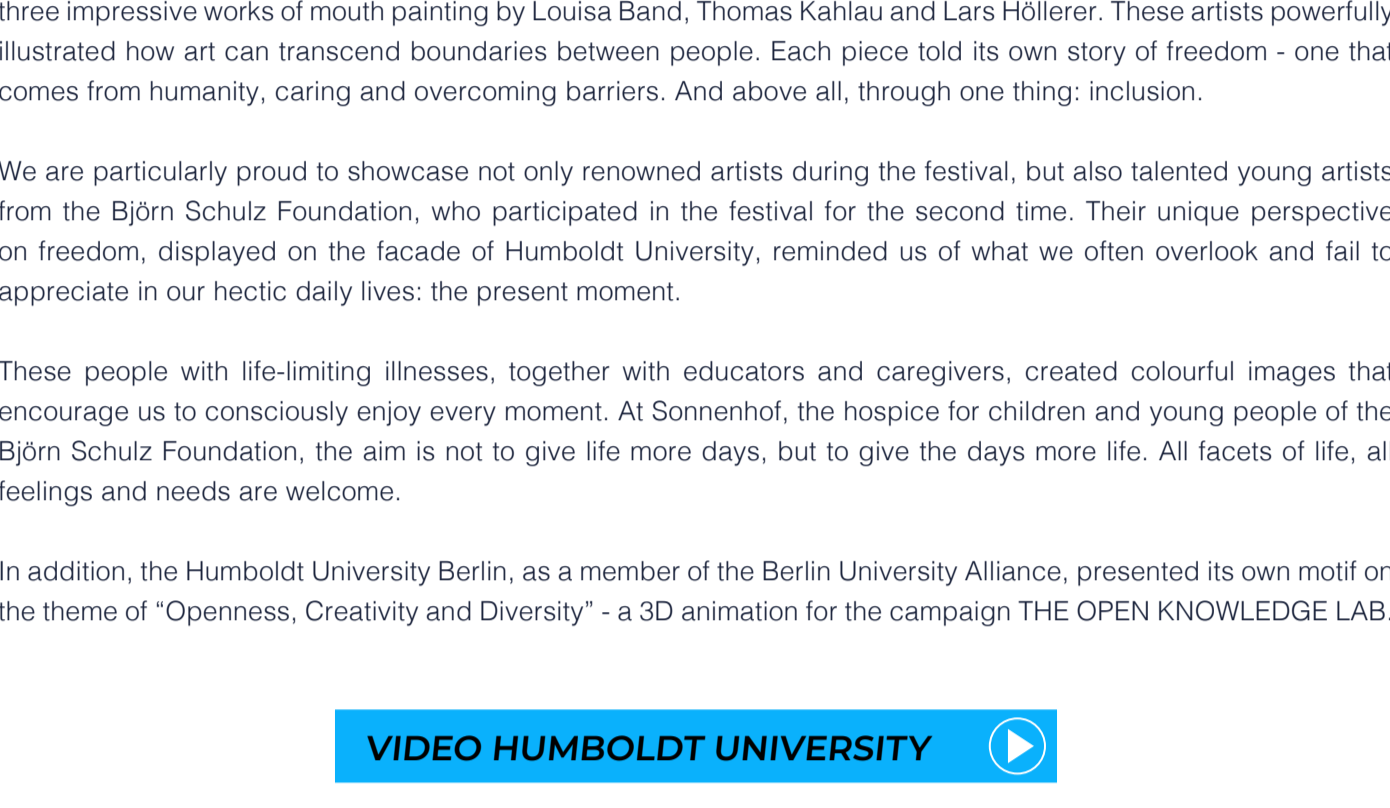
VIDEO CHARLOTTENBURG PALACE



DISCOVER UKRAINE. BITS DESTROYED

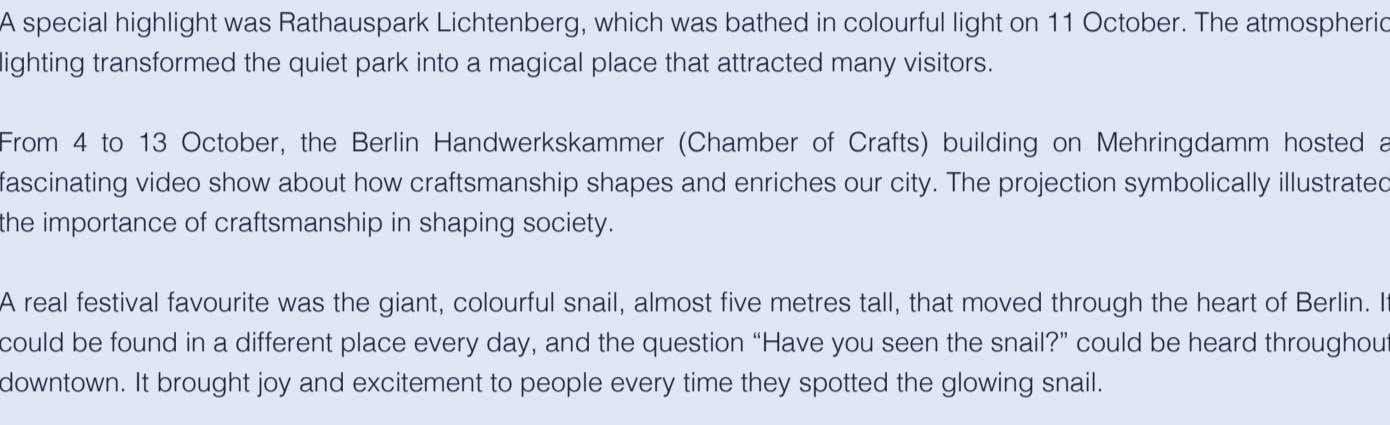
"Discover Ukraine. Bits destroyed" is an audiovisual artwork and shows images of 56 monumental mosaics from the 1960s and 1970s, more than a quarter of which have been damaged or destroyed since the beginning of the large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Produced by Tais Poda, Rock 'n' Light Studio and Ptakh, the projection, which was projected onto the James Simon Gallery, is intended to immerse viewers in the multi-layered world of Ukrainian monumental art and draw attention to its preservation. The revival of the mosaics in the digital artwork was made possible by the close collaboration with photographer Yevhen Nikiforov and his documentary project Ukrainian Soviet Mosaic (2013-2021). On display are animated mosaics by Alla Horska, Hryhory Pryshchek, Halyna Zubchenko, Ada Rybachuk, Volodymyr Melnychenko and many other Ukrainian artists.



VIDEO JAMES SIMON GALLERY

DIVERSITY, VISIBILITY AND DREAMS



Humboldt-Universität has been the site of some very special art this year. To mark our big anniversary, we presented three impressive works of mouth painting by Louisa Band, Thomas Kahlau and Lars Höllerer. These artists powerfully illustrated how art can transcend boundaries between people. Each piece told its own story of freedom - one that comes from humanity, caring and overcoming barriers. And above all, through one thing: inclusion.

We are particularly proud to showcase not only renowned artists during the festival, but also talented young artists from the Björn Schulz Foundation, who participated in the festival for the second time. Their unique perspective on freedom, displayed on the facade of Humboldt University, reminded us of what we often overlook and fail to appreciate in our hectic daily lives: the present moment.

These people with life-limiting illnesses, together with educators and caregivers, created colourful images that encourage us to consciously enjoy every moment. At Sonnenhof, the hospice for children and young people of the Björn Schulz Foundation, the aim is not to give life more days, but to give the days more life. All facets of life, all feelings and needs are welcome.

In addition, the Humboldt University Berlin, as a member of the Berlin University Alliance, presented its own motif on the theme of "Openness, Creativity and Diversity" - a 3D animation for the campaign THE OPEN KNOWLEDGE LAB.

VIDEO HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY

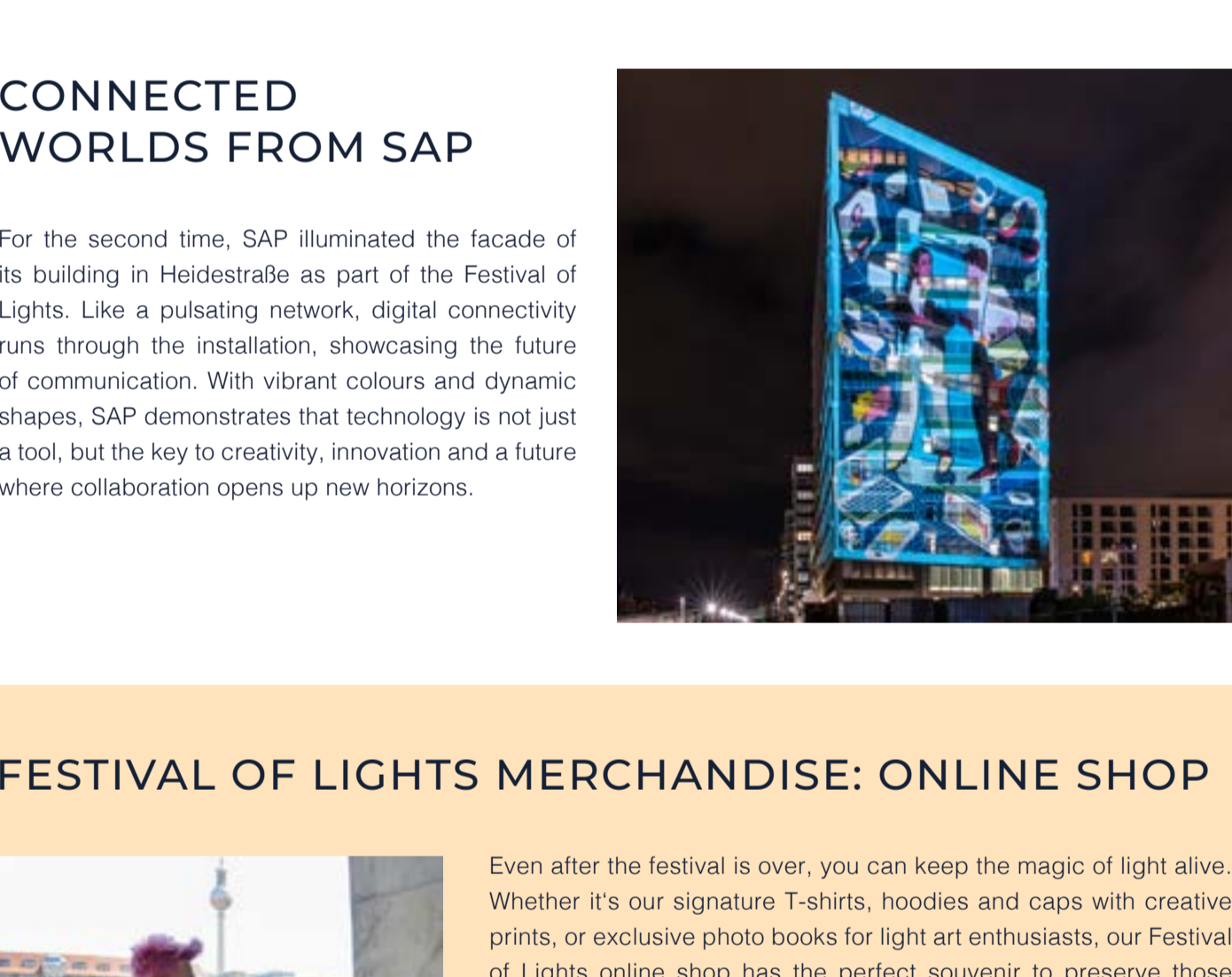
NEW LOCATIONS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This year's Festival of Lights once again revealed some new and exciting locations in Berlin - places that many of you discovered for the first time and fell in love with immediately!

A special highlight was Rathauspark Lichtenberg, which was bathed in colourful light on 11 October. The atmospheric lighting transformed the quiet park into a magical place that attracted many visitors.

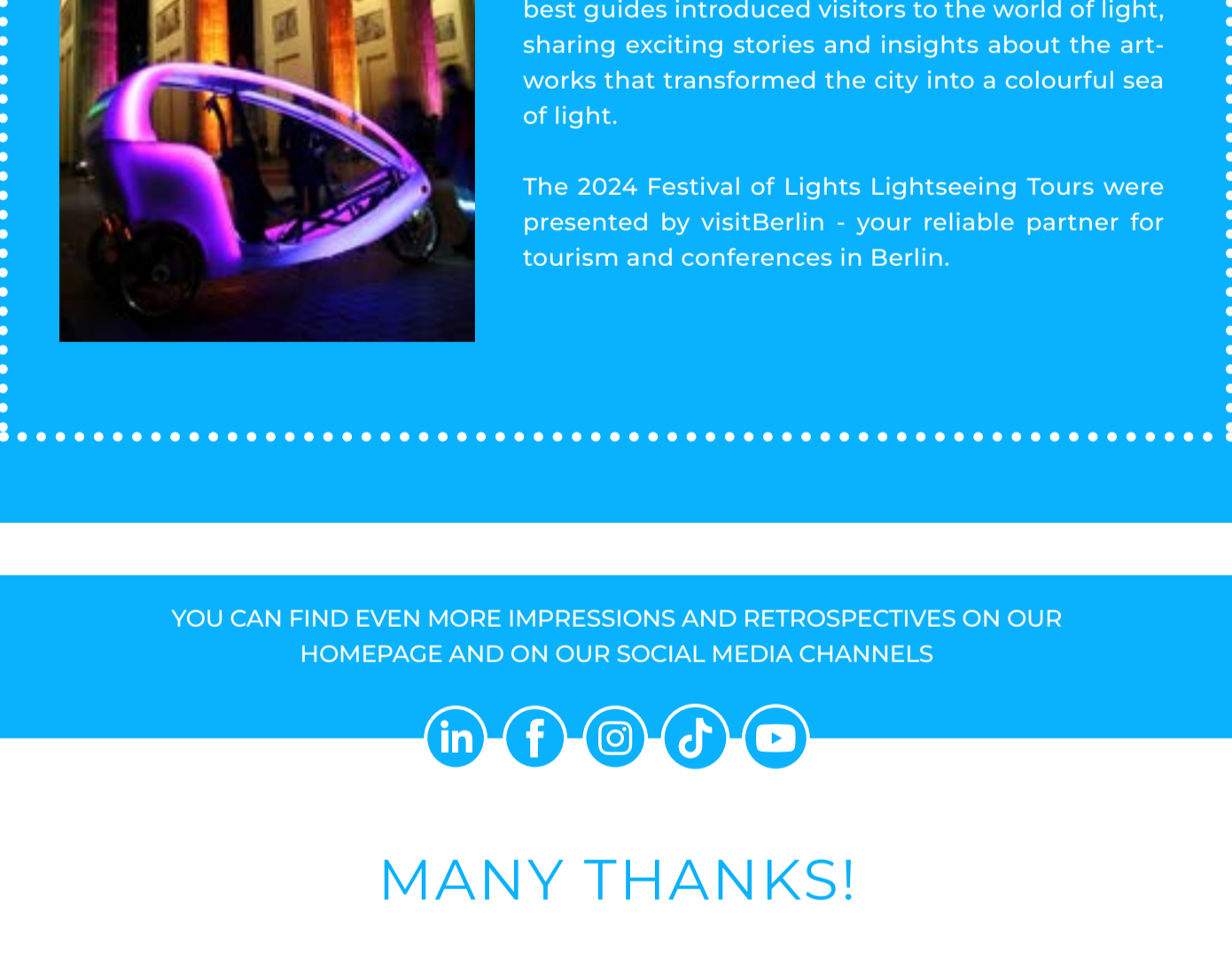
From 4 to 13 October, the Berlin Handwerkskammer (Chamber of Crafts) building on Mehringdamm hosted a fascinating video show about how craftsmanship shapes and enriches our city. The projection symbolically illustrated the importance of craftsmanship in shaping society.

A real festival favourite was the giant, colourful snail, almost five metres tall, that moved through the heart of Berlin. It could be found in a different place every day, and the question "Have you seen the snail?" could be heard throughout downtown. It brought joy and excitement to people every time they spotted the glowing snail.



RADIANT MESSAGES AT TACHELES

Under the motto "THE GREATEST FREEDOM. IS TO BE YOURSELF", CUPRA interpreted the Festival of Lights' theme of "Celebrating Freedom" in its own way. The challenger brand provided a platform for individuals to stand up for themselves and not be held back by convention, to simply be who they are. With the five themes "LOVE WHO YOU WANT", "CELEBRATE YOUR LOOK", "STAND UP FOR YOUR OPINION", "DO WHAT YOU LOVE" and "SHOW YOUR EMOTIONS", CUPRA showed big and small moments on the facade of the CUPRA City Garage "am Tacheles", where people express their freedom.

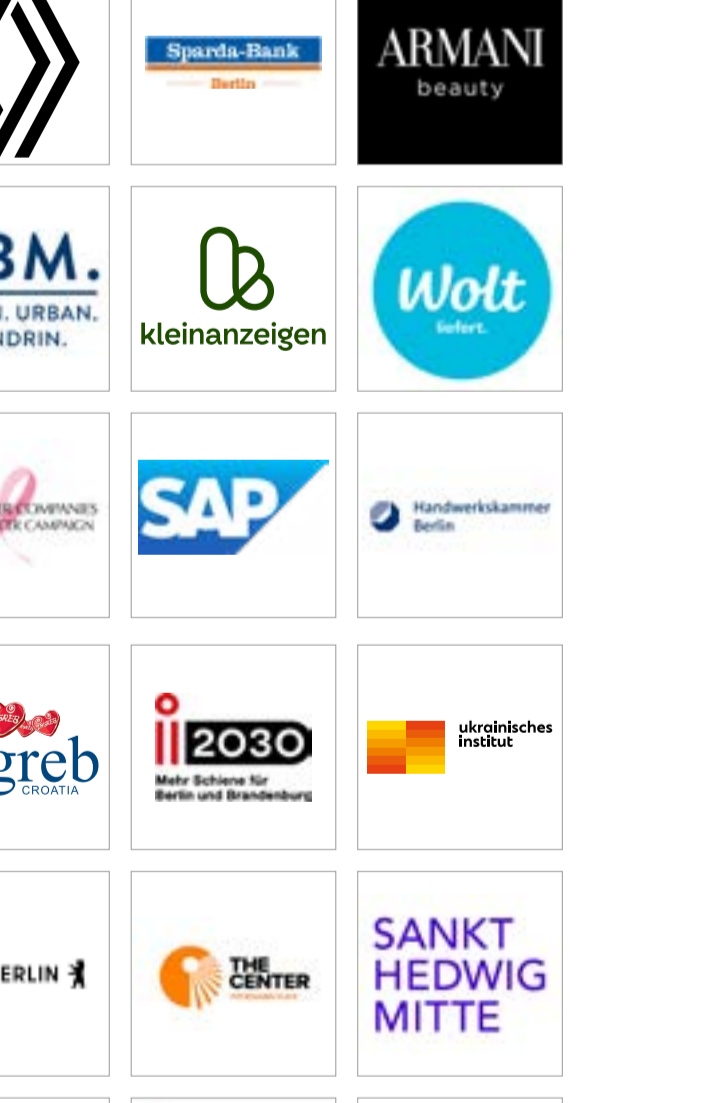


VIDEO CUPRA

THE PULSE OF BERLIN

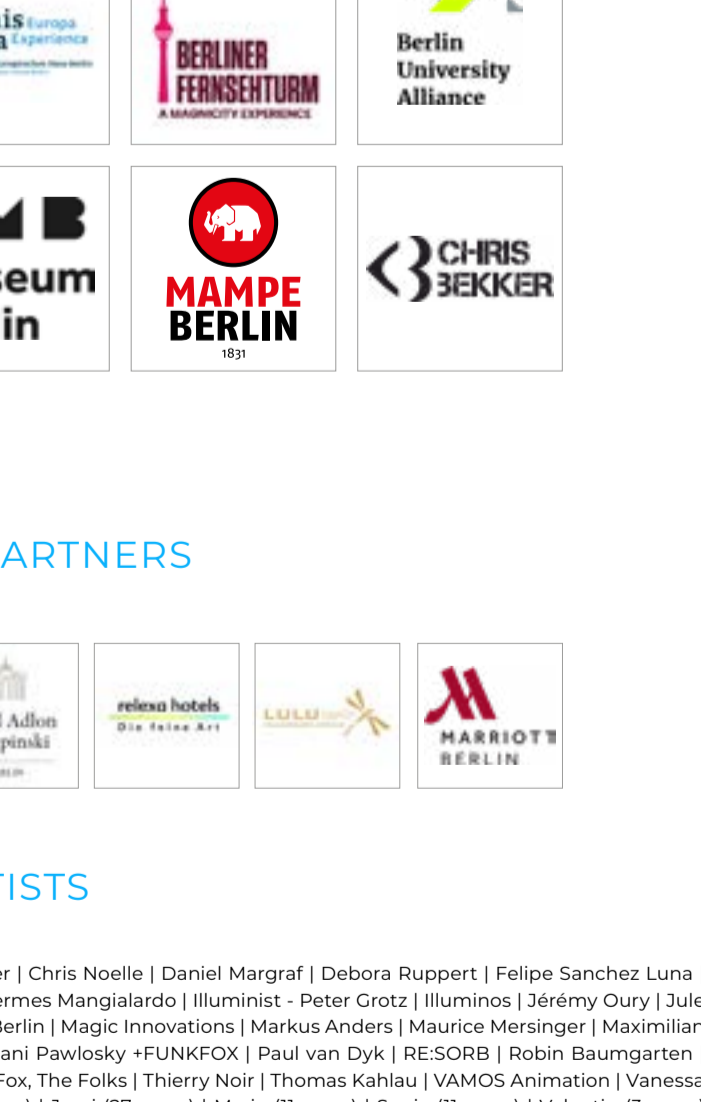
The 800 metre long steel viaduct of the historic Siemensbahn once stood tall in blue. An extraordinary light and sound installation in these shades of blue has brought this once forgotten part of Siemensstadt back to life. PULS is an artistic exploration of human mobility in the city. The audio-visual installation by Berlin-based creative studio KLING KLANG KLONG captures the dynamics of human movement and depicts a day in urban life - from morning to evening. At the center of the installation is a complex polyrhythmic sequencer whose patterns represent the dynamic and intricate flow of people. In this way, light and sound emerge from a single source, reflecting the pulse of the city.

The revival of the Siemensbahn is one of many important projects within the i2030 initiative that are contributing to a successful transformation of transport. From 2029, it will connect the new Siemensstadt district to the S-Bahn.



CONNECTED WORLDS FROM SAP

For the second time, SAP illuminated the facade of its building in Heidestraße as part of the Festival of Lights. Like a pulsating network, digital connectivity runs through the installation, showcasing the future of communication. With vibrant colours and dynamic shapes, SAP demonstrates that technology is not just a tool, but the key to creativity, innovation and a future where collaboration opens up new horizons.



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS MERCHANDISE: ONLINE SHOP



Even after the festival is over, you can keep the magic of light alive. Whether it's our signature T-shirts, hoodies and caps with creative prints, or exclusive photo books for light art enthusiasts, our Festival of Lights online shop has the perfect souvenir to preserve those glowing memories. Browse our shop now and get your own personal keepsake from the Festival!

TO OUR ONLINE SHOP

LIGHTSEEING



A heartfelt thank you to all our guides and Lightseeing partners who made it possible to discover the best of the Festival of Lights on guided tours.

Whether on foot, by boat or by bus, working with trained and local guides and providers allowed visitors to experience the illuminated highlights of the Festival from a whole new perspective. Berlin's best guides introduced visitors to the world of light, sharing exciting stories and insights about the artworks that transformed the city into a colourful sea of light.

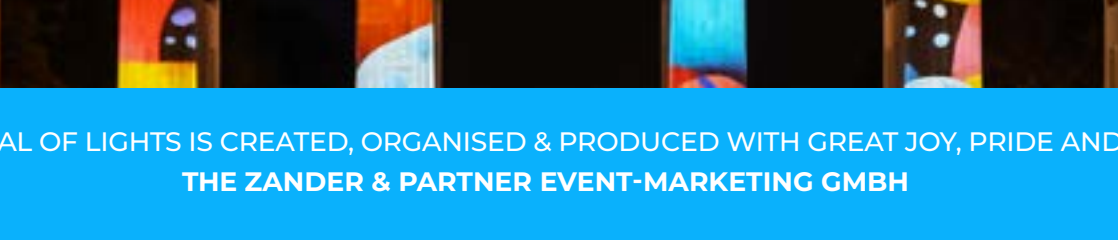
The 2024 Festival of Lights Lightseeing Tours were presented by visitBerlin - your reliable partner for tourism and conferences in Berlin.

YOU CAN FIND EVEN MORE IMPRESSIONS AND RETROSPECTIVES ON OUR HOMEPAGE AND ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



MANY THANKS!

Our special thanks go to all our staff and especially to our sponsors, partners and friends, as well as the countless supporters who share our vision.



HOTEL PARTNERS

ARTISTS

Archan Nair | Ari Dykier | Benjamin Vogel | Captain Energy | Chris Becker | Chris Koelle | Daniel Margraf | Debora Ruppert | Felipe Sanchez Luna | Fernando Knof | Frank Herrmann | Gita Kurdpoor | Hans Schmelzer | Hermes Mangalardo | Illuminos - Peter Crotz | Illuminos | Jérémy Oury | Jule Amelie Epirinder | Kurbas Production | Lars Höllerer | Louisa Band | Lura Berlin | Magic Innovations | Markus Anders | Maurice Mersinger | Maximilian Trapp | MOMAP Studio | MP-STUDIO | OKO | Otto Schade aka OSCH | Pani Pawlosky | FUNKFOX | Paul van Dyk | RE:SORB | Robin Baumgarten | Segal AV | SKG PLUS | studio eigengrau | Susan Gurnee | Tais Poda | The Fox, The Folks | Thierry Noir | Thomas Kahlau | VAMOS Animation | Vanessa Cardui | Anni (21 years) | Charlotte (5 years) | Erni (9 years) | Ilay (17 years) | Jessi (27 years) | Marie (11 years) | Sunja (11 years) | Valentin (3 years)

See you in 2025!

THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS IS CREATED, ORGANISED & PRODUCED WITH GREAT JOY, PRIDE AND LOVE BY THE ZANDER & PARTNER EVENT-MARKETING GMBH