DIANE SEVERIN NGUYEN

Diane Severin Nguyen.
Powerless
20.11.26 – 16.5.27

Sigrid Eck
Media Relations Manager
+ 49 89 21127 115
eck@hausderkunst.de

Press Images
In the Download Area:
hauderkunst.de/en/presse

Content

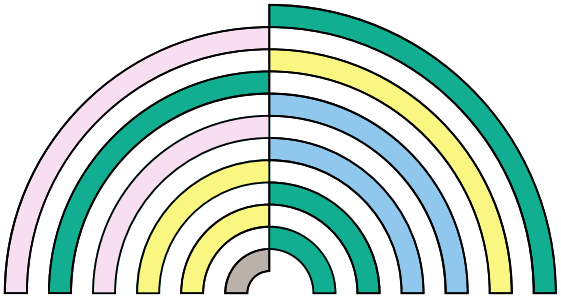
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Stiftung Haus der Kunst München, gemeinnützige Betriebsgesellschaft GmbH
Prinzregentenstraße 1, 80538 München
Directors Haus der Kunst: Dr. Andrea Lissoni, Bianca Knall
Chairwoman of the supervisory Board: Ministerial director Angelika Kaus,
Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst

AG München, HRB 100018
USt-ID: DE811612530
SWIFT: HYVEDEMM
IBAN: DE88 7002 0270 0038 0294 44



Fact Sheet

Organiser
Haus der Kunst
Prinzregentenstraße 1, 80538 München

Curators
Xue Tan with Lydia Antoniou.

Duration
20.11.26 – 16.5.27 | Südgalerie & Mittelhalle

Press
Sigrid Eck

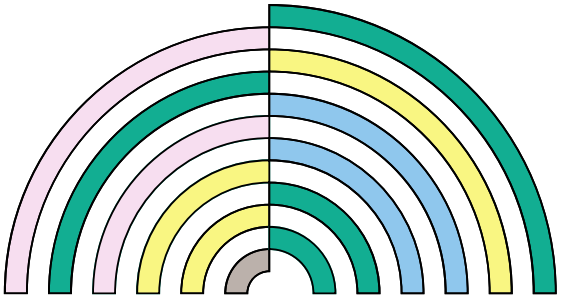
Press Conference
Wed, 18.11.26, 1 pm | Terrassensaal

Opening hours
Wed – Mon | 10 am – 8 pm
Tue closed

Open Haus
Every last Friday of the month admission is free from 4 pm – 10 pm.

Admission
Hausticket Large 15 € | 11 € reduced
Hausticket Large Family and Friends 35 €
Hausticket Small 10 € | 8 € reduced
Students and pupils age 12 and over 5€
(free admission for children under the age of 12)
Haus Club Engage 100 € Single | 180 € Partner
Haus Club Discover 50 € Single | 90 € Partner
Freunde HDK, Art students, ICOM, Severely disabled with ID free
For **press tickets**, please register via the press office presse@hausderkunst.de

Press Images
High res images available for download
hausderkunst.de/en/presse



Exhibition Realisation
The film installation *Powerless* by Diane Severin Nguyen is co-commissioned by Haus der Kunst München; The Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, New York; The Vega Foundation, Toronto; LUMA Foundation; Chisenhale Gallery, London; and the Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, Munich.

The film is produced by if…Productions Film GmbH.

Production Design: Renate Schmaderer
Production Design Team: Luzi Speth, Lukas Katholik, Yuki Tobiyama

Cinematography: Nikolai Huber
Music & Sound Design: Laszlo Horvath
Wardrobe: Katrin Bobek
Producers: Ingo Fliess & Jonas Egert
Line Producer: Luzie Lohmeyer

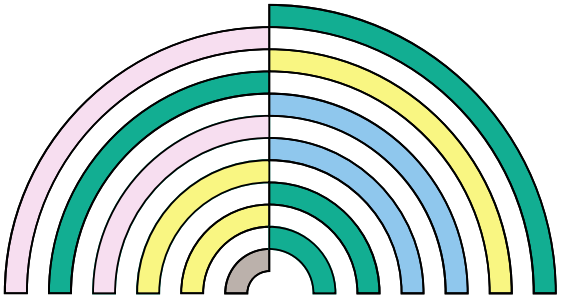
Starring Emilie Khanuengnit Phalamat, Laszlo Horvath, Janine Gierszewsky, Leona Grundig, Peter Thoma & Yuki Tobiyama
Voices: Corinna Harfouch, Pei Barthes Wu, Emily Schubert

Post-production: ARTCORE
Visual Effects: Nikolai Huber
Conform, Colour Grading, Mastering & DCP Creation: Julian Nouveau
Sound Editing, Design, Mixing & On-site Sound Mixing: Yohann Henry
Original Music & Sound Design: Laszlo Horvath

Exhibition Team
Nora Kronemeyer, Sebastian Steinboeck, Stefan McDonnell, Anna-Lena Weiß, Lena Breitmoser (Exhibition Production, Haus der Kunst); Hans-Peter Frank, Ben Goossens, Michael Grudziecki, Christian Leitner, Andrea Snigula, Kaori Nakajima, Analía Martínez (Art Handling); Katharina Pils, Jonathan Werner, Paul Kloker & Luzius Kloker, Annamaria Leiste (Papierwerk Glockenbach), Till Rentrop & Patrick Matthews (Crafts).

Companies
Elsima Elektroanlagenbau GmbH, H&D Digitaldruck GmbH, Magic Event und Medientechnik GmbH, S. Strobl GmbH Artworks Metallbau.

Exhibition Graphics
Bureau Borsche



Thanks to
The Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung is the major supporter of Diane Severin Nguyen's exhibition.

For their annual support of the programme, we would like to thank our shareholders, the Free State of Bavaria, and the Gesellschaft der Freunde der Stiftung Haus der Kunst München e. V. Our special thanks go to our major supporter, the Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, for its generous support of our work. We also thank the Ulli and Uwe Kai-Stiftung for its long-standing commitment. In addition, we thank the Beisheim Foundation for funding the “Third Place.”

Press release
Diane Severin Nguyen. Powerless
20.11.26 – 16.5.27

Haus der Kunst presents “**Powerless**”, the most ambitious project to date by Vietnamese-American artist **Diane Severin Nguyen** (b. 1990, California, USA). The exhibition invites visitors into a world of seductive beauty and strange, unsettling contradictions. Centred on Nguyen’s new film installation *Powerless*, the exhibition unfolds across the Mittelhalle and the Südgalerie through a kinetic installation and a photographic environment, exploring the uneasy entanglement of intimacy, vulnerability, and power.

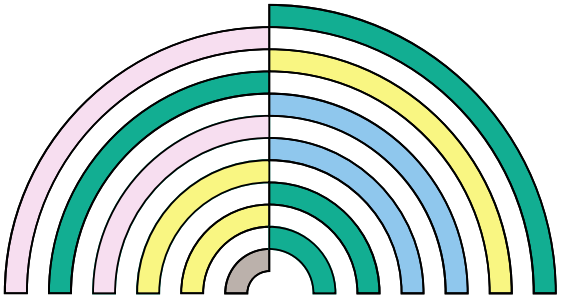
The new film installation forms the core of the exhibition. It is an international co-production and co-commissioned by Haus der Kunst München, The Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, New York; The Vega Foundation, Toronto, Munich; LUMA Foundation; Chisenhale Gallery, London, and the Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung. The film is produced by Munich-based if…Productions Film GmbH, whose productions was awarded Golden Bear in 2026 and an Academy Award-nomination in 2023.

Set in the Bavarian Alps and seen primarily through surveillance, drone and body-worn cameras, *Powerless* follows a child who leaves home against her mother’s wishes. As she moves through an idyllic landscape, a helicopter circles above. Carrying an American folk band whose wistful songs romanticise rescue, it offers both escape and recruitment. Nguyen’s “double bind of the sentimental gaze” describes how vulnerable subjects are both encouraged and punished for expressing their pain. Familial longing and military vision converge, entangling care with control.

The film’s tensions take physical form throughout the exhibition. In the Mittelhalle, the very centre of Haus der Kunst, music and synchronised lighting create the atmosphere of a dance hall. An automated structure launches soft, doll-like figures through the air towards a landing platform, where they accumulate throughout the day. Resembling the film’s child protagonist, each figure briefly hangs between departure and arrival, turning an image of vulnerability into a projectile. In the Südgalerie, new black-and-white photographs made with a body-worn surveillance camera bring the child’s silhouette onto handmade paper, her blurred forms resisting the camera’s gaze.

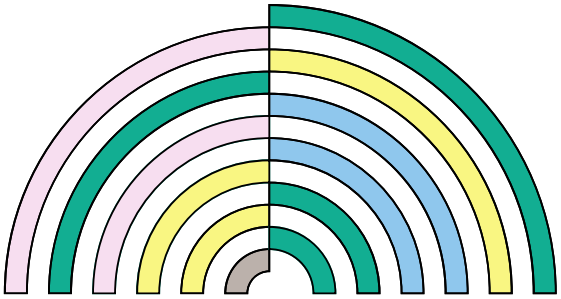
With a background in visual art and political science, Nguyen examines how individual memory and collective histories are understood through contemporary visual culture. She asks how images of war become part of everyday perception and contemporary selfhood. For Nguyen, the question is not how to escape images or history, but how to live through them. With her work, she challenges the machinery of image-making and creates new artistic languages, not as evasions of truth but as ways of reconstructing it.

This exhibition continues our programmes exploration of liveness in contemporary artistic practice, particularly through expanded forms of moving image, connecting previous projects by Cyprien Gaillard, Pan Daijing and Wang Shui. “Powerless” also introduces our 2027 programme focus: artists’ photography and image-making amid technological change.



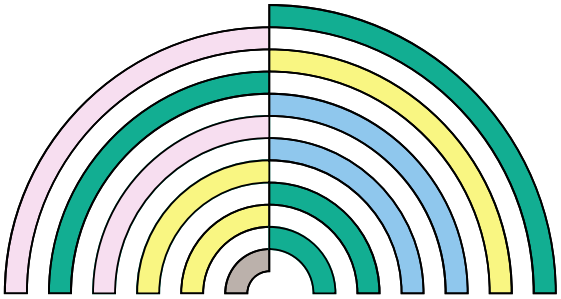
Curated by Xue Tan with Lydia Antoniou.

Diane Severin Nguyen. Powerless
20.11.26 – 16.5.27
Haus der Kunst Munich | Südgalerie & Mittelhalle
Prinzregentenstr.1, 80538 Munich
hausderkunst.de | @haus_der_kunst



About the artist

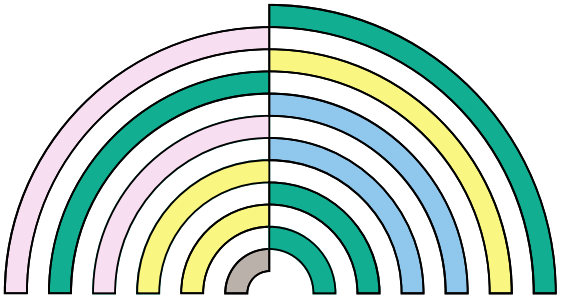
Diane Severin Nguyen (b. 1990, Carson, California, USA) lives and works in New York. Her films, photographs, performances, and installations create images where the intimate and the ideological converge. Nguyen's work often examines how representation produces identity and power, and the fantasies of nationhood and victimhood that sustain war and propaganda. Her work has been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), MoMA PS1 (New York), the Renaissance Society (Chicago), Jeu de Paume (Paris), and screened at Berlinale and the New York Film Festival. A 2023 Guggenheim Fellow, she continues to expand the possibilities of image-making and perception.



Events in the course of the exhibition

Opening
Thu, 19.11.26, 7 pm
Introduction by Andrea Lissoni, Artistic Director, followed by a conversation between Diane Severin Nguyen and Xue Tan.

International Presentations of *Powerless* in 2027
Chisenhale Gallery, London | 9.4. – 13.6.27
The Hessel Museum of Art, Bard | College, New York | Summer 2027
LUMA Foundation Arles | Summer 2027
The Vega Foundation, Toronto | Autumn 2027



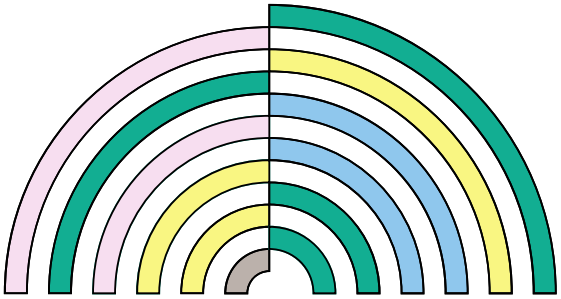
Learning and Engagement
Current education programme

Whit its education and participation programme, Haus der Kunst positions itself as a space for encounter – inviting experimentation, dialogue, and joy. In addition to established art education formats, projects are developed in collaboration with experts from various artistic disciplines for diverse audiences. The focus is on dialogue – with visitors, cooperation partners, and participants. We understand the programme as a continuous process, in which Haus der Kunst is developing more and more into an open, experimental place that facilitates encounters, learning, and collaborative creativity.

Open Haus
Monthly | Various locations
Every last Friday of the month, we open our doors free of charge from 4 to 10 pm. This monthly event offers a diverse and experimental programme including workshops, performances, tours, talks, and DJ sets. Since May 2025, the Munich-based music label Public Possession has been supporting the Open Haus programme with “BONUS”, a platform dedicated to sound, design, and togetherness.Open Haus is supported by Giorgio Armani and Armani/Silos.
Upcoming dates: Friday, 27.11.26 | 29.1.27 | 26.2.27

Open Atelier
Every Wednesday, 2pm & Sunday, 11am | Atelier
An atelier is a place where artists work, experiment and create new pieces. With the Open Atelier, just such a space – open, accessible and vibrant – has been created at Haus der Kunst. Here, you have the opportunity to work with a wide variety of materials and media and to bring your own artistic ideas to life. The Open Atelier is a workspace, a production facility and a meeting place at the same time, as well as a venue for exchange, collaborative learning and spontaneous improvisation. The Open Atelier offers a varied programme with thematic focuses based on current exhibitions and projects. This constantly generates new inspiration and points of reference for creative practice.
Upcoming dates: 18. & 22.11. | 25. & 29.11. | 2. & 6.12.26

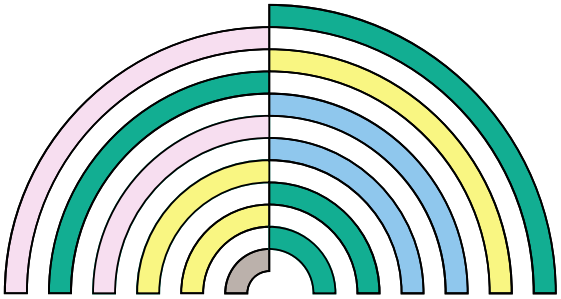
Community Garden Ostwiese
Since spring 2026, a community garden will be created on the lawn between Haus der Kunst and the Eisbach. The intention is to create a vibrant space for coming together, sharing and enjoying ourselves, one that will be built, shaped and maintained as sustainably as possible. During the course of several action days, we will learn about all aspects of the community garden and get together to take action. Together, we’ll take care of the seedlings, the construction of the raised beds and the planting. We also want to dig into how we’ll maintain it and what we need to build a sustainable community and practices.Would you like to get involved and become part of a gardening community? Then please feel free to join us on one of the action days! There you’ll have the chance to meet new people and get actively involved in the project.



Public Tours
Public tours of “Diane Severin Nguyen. Powerless” can be found in our calendar.
All dates are updated monthly at hausderkunst.de/en/whats-on.

Special dates
Curator’s tour on “Diane Severin Nguyen. Powerless” in English, 4.12.26 at 4 pm.

Guided tours for private groups
Guided tours for private groups – also in English and French – can be booked at any time.
Information and booking: fuehrungen@hausderkunst.de.



Upcoming Exhibitions and Events

Talk and Operator's *Act III* live from Whitney Museum, New York
Sat, 21.11.26, 5pm | Auditorium
What happens to art when it is performed and experienced across digital and physical spaces at once? And how does this change the way international art organisations can work together?

On November 21 at 7 pm, we invite you to experience *Act III* by artist duo Operator (Ania Catherine and Dejha Ti) live at Haus der Kunst, as the performance unfolds simultaneously across an international network of art organisations and publics.

For 80 minutes, computational choreography and spoken narrative come together in a theatrical work that makes the digital processes behind the performance visible. Presented as part of *artport: A History of Internet Art* at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the performance connects Haus der Kunst in real time with arts centers and museums including LACMA in Los Angeles, PHI in Montreal and OGR in Turin. The livestream is itself a work of broadcast art: a live-mixed transmission, edited in real time across multiple perspectives, unique to each performance.

Before the livestream, at 5 pm, Isabel Lewis (Tanzquartier Wien) and Martine d'Anglejan-Chatillon (MDAC Productions) join Andrea Lissoni for a conversation on how performative artworks are made and circulate in an increasingly digital world, and how international art organisations can work together differently across borders.

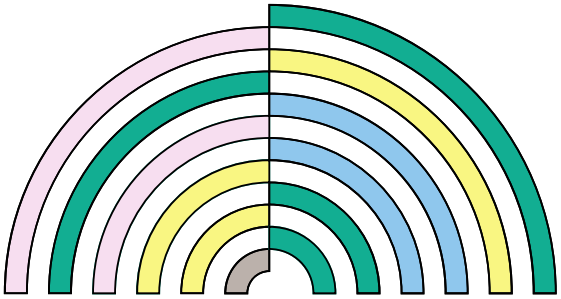
Open Haus | Neutrinos & Dark Matter
Fri, 27.11.26, 5 pm | Auditorium
Neutrinos & Dark Matter is an interdisciplinary research project bringing together emerging artists and early-career researchers. Conceived as a series of temporary interventions as part of Haus der Kunst's Open Haus, their recurring live programme invites visitors to engage with forms of knowledge, the unknown, and how we experience worlds beyond direct visibility.

The collaboration is an initiative by the Collaboration Research Centre 1258 "Neutrinos and Dark Matter in Astro- and Particle Physics" of the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and the Academy of Fine Arts Munich (AdBK), in collaboration with Haus der Kunst Munich, with contributions by the University of Basel. Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Curated by Katrin Bauer (AdBK), in dialogue with Elisa Resconi (TUM), Armin Linke (AdBK), and Andrea Lissoni (Haus der Kunst).

TUNE. Sound Paintings – The Music of Joan La Barbara. Performance
Fri, 4. & 5.12.26, 8 pm | Auditorium
For TUNE in December, Joan La Barbara will perform *Sound Paintings – The Music of Joan La Barbara* live at Haus der Kunst 4.12. and 5.12., and will also take part in an artist talk.

Composer, performer, sound artist, and actor Joan La Barbara is renowned for her pioneering experimental and extended vocal techniques, which have influenced generations of composers and singers. Her collaborations with Steina, *Vocalizations* and *Voice Windows*, both featured in "Steina: Playback", extend the voice into a dynamic audiovisual space, exploring the relationship between vocal performance and live electronic image processing



Lilly Lulay. Artificial Archives: From Hand-Tinted Photographs to AI-Generated Images
8.1. – 7.2.27 | Nordgalerie

What connects AI-generated images with hand-tinted photographs from the nineteenth century? The artist Lilly Lulay (b. 1985, Frankfurt am Main) traces how visual stereotypes travel across time and technologies, from nineteenth-century Japanese souvenir photographs to today's image-generating systems.

The starting point for Lulay's project is a collection of albums containing hand-tinted studio photographs from Japan held in the photography collection of the Münchner Stadtmuseum. Their carefully staged motifs and distinctive pastel colours helped shape European perceptions of Japan. Today, many of these images, now in the public domain, feed into the datasets used to train AI image generators, thereby perpetuating historical clichés in contemporary visual culture.

Through sculptures, collages, and textile work, Lulay examines how images are classified, circulated, transformed and misinterpreted. Historical captions such as 'samurai' reappear as contemporary search terms and prompts, while glitches and errors produced by machine vision become material for new artworks. For example, a hibachi stove, misread by an AI application as a small table, returns as a physical object in the exhibition. Through these translations, Lulay reveals how inherited visual conventions are reproduced and how digital misinterpretations take on a material form. Lulay's project was developed as part of the Münchner Stadtmuseum's 'Artists on Photography' programme, which invites artists and researchers to engage with its photography collection from contemporary perspectives, opening historical archives to new readings and interpretations.

Curated by Dr. Kathrin Schönegg.

This exhibition by the Münchner Stadtmuseum Photography Collection is part of the "Artists on Photography" fellowship programme, produced in collaboration with Haus der Kunst München.

Artists on Photography is an initiative offered by Münchner Stadtmuseum. The 2025/26 project is made possible by the Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung.

The complete programme is available at: hausderkunst.de