

DOK Leipzig 2024 to open with “Tracing Light” by Thomas Riedelsheimer

Press Release
19 September 2024

This documentary looks at the phenomenon of light, bringing together scientific insights and artistic perspectives



DOK Leipzig 2024 | Tracing Light (director: Thomas Riedelsheimer)

“We all think we know what light is. But if we take a closer look, we realise that we don’t,” the film “Tracing Light” tells us. DOK Leipzig will open at the CineStar in Leipzig on 28 October with the world premiere of this latest film by Thomas Riedelsheimer (“Rivers and Tides”). This renowned German filmmaker previously opened the Leipzig festival in 2004 with his film “Touch the Sound”.

In “Tracing Light”, co-produced by ZDF/3sat, Riedelsheimer now explores the phenomenon of light, creating a dialogue between two disciplines – art and physics – that approach it in different ways.

From the Outer Hebrides in Scotland to the Advanced Research Centre at the University of Glasgow to the Max Planck Institute in Erlangen, the film accompanies leading scientists and such internationally prominent artists as Ruth Jarman, Joe Gerhardt, Julie Brook, Johannes Brunner and Raimund Ritz. Between super slow motion, laser table football, “firestacks” and quantum theory, they aim to find out: What kind of a material is light? How do photons behave? How do we perceive the world around us – and through what means?

“Thomas Riedelsheimer’s documentaries are a delightful celebration of light and sound,” says festival director Christoph Terhechte. “They sharpen our senses. Twenty years after opening our festival with ‘Touch the Sound’, we’re proud to be doing it again with ‘Tracing Light’.”

Thomas Riedelsheimer has received multiple awards, including the German Film Award and the Adolf-Grimme-Preis, for his work as a director and cinematographer. In 2008, he co-founded the production company Filmpunkt GmbH with Stefan Tolz, after having been a partner in the production platform Filmquadrat for several years. He is a member of the German and European Film Academies and has been a lecturer at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg since October 2006.

Since 2018, Riedelsheimer has overseen “dok.art”, a programme he devised to develop content for documentaries by first-time directors. He will discuss the programme during a public DOK Talk. Riedelsheimer will also hold a master class at the Ex Oriente Workshop at DOK Leipzig.

67th International Leipzig
Festival for Documentary and
Animated Film

28 October to 3 November

Publicists
Nina Kühne
Melanie Rohde
Sevara Pan
Tel. +49 (0)341 30864 1070
presse@dok-leipzig.de

Leipziger Dok- Filmwochen GmbH
Katharinenstraße 17
04109 Leipzig

Chairwoman of
the Supervisory Board
Dr. Skadi Jennicke

Managing and Artistic Director
Christoph Terhechte

Place of Performance
Leipzig

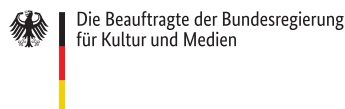
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Tracing Light

Documentary Film

Thomas Riedelsheimer

Germany, UK 2024 | 99 min, Colour

World premiere

Ohne Licht gäbe es kein Kino – und kein Leben. In seiner Suche nach dem Ursprung der Bilder taucht der Film in zwei Welten ein, die den Zauber des Lichtes ergründen: Die Physik und die Kunst. – *Without light, there would be no cinema – and no life. Searching for the origin of images, this film delves into two worlds that explore the magic of light: physics and art.*

Language English, German

Subtitles English, German
