

MEDIA RELEASE

24.10.2026 31.01.2027**Dominik Zietlow**

Nur die Berge begegnen sich nie

Manor Kunstpreis Zentralschweiz Luzern

Dominik Zietlow (*1988) is being awarded the Manor Art Prize, one of the most important Swiss promotional prizes for the fine arts. *Nur die Berge begegnen sich nie* (Only the mountains never meet) is the title of the exhibition in which the filmmaker is showing his latest works related to Lucerne. The exhibition title references an old saying: mountains cannot alter their position, whereas people are in a position to encounter one another—also in a metaphorical sense. This approach distinguishes Zietlow as a filmmaker: he creates a space of exchange, listens attentively and observes with empathy.

Zietlow grew up in Lucerne, his place of birth, however, is merely the artist's point of departure for his kaleidoscopic city portrait *Holz, aus dem die Menschen sind* (Wood which people are made of), 2026. On the one hand, the title takes up a sentence by the German philosopher Immanuel Kant: "Out of the crooked timber of humanity, no straight thing was ever made." On the other hand, the title of the work alludes to turns of phrase suggesting that someone is cut from the same, from a different, from good or from hard wood. In this work, Zietlow takes both a performative and a documentary approach: a fictional jester-like figure holding a clapper guides us through Carnival. This instrument once warned against people with the plague; now it shapes the film's soundtrack. As the figure walks through the city, the takes of the triangular paintings in the Dance of Death cycle between the rafters of the Spreuer Bridge in Lucerne draw attention to the fact that we all are equal in the face of death. The rattling sound therefore works in a similar way to the images on the bridge—as a memento mori. The scenes featuring the fictional character were filmed using an analogue 16 mm camera, which was wound by hand, with the result that the speed of the film varies, while the independently recorded soundtrack continues. Zietlow is interested in this asynchrony between sound and image. For the photography series *Sieben Stillstände* (Seven Standstills), selected verses from the Dance of Death from the Spreuer Bridge have been laser-engraved directly onto the negatives by a Lucerne clockmaker. The clockmaker's craft represents attention to detail; it is about the idea of time and its constant passing, rendered visible, for example, in the water flowing down the Reuss.

In the multi-part work *Le rouge dans le bleu* (The Red in the Blue), 2026, we see people having a phone conversation in the public domain. Their anxieties, worries and thoughts become superimposed with the respective scenes, creating a social portrait of the city of Paris.

Zietlow's works are characterized by existential questions: Who are we? Where do we come from? How do we position ourselves in the world? A precise choice of means and reflections on the media always play a role in Zietlow's works. In the artist's own words: "Observing the world with a camera means focussing on one aspect. *Fuoco*—the Italian word for fire—is the focal point of a magnifying glass, where concentrated rays of light set something alight. My aim is to ignite reality, release energy and reflect on it artistically."

curated by Eveline Suter

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DATES

Media Preview

Friday, 23.10., 10.15 am

Opening

Friday, 23.10., from 6 pm

Greeting and introduction

Fanni Fetzler, Director Kunstmuseum Luzern

Pierre-André Maus, Administrative Council Member of Maus Frères SA, representative of the Manor Art Prize

Eveline Suter, curator

Der Sound zum Film

Wednesday, 11.11., 6 pm

Concert with Mara Micciché and Marco Mercuzio Peron, sound designers, followed by a discussion with Dominik Zietlow, artist, and Eveline Suter, curator

Dokumentation oder Fiktion?

Thursday, 14.01., 6.30 pm

Film screening at the statkino Lucerne, followed by a discussion with Dominik Zietlow, artist, and Dominic Schmid, freelance film journalist

Publication

Dominik Zietlow. Nur die Berge begegnen sich nie, with essays by Margot Nguyen, Giuseppe Di Salvatore and Eveline Suter, e/g/f, ed. by Kunstmuseum Luzern, Vexer Verlag, ISBN 978-3-907690-40-6, CHF 35.- / for members KGL CHF 30.-

Opening hours during the holidays

24./25., 31.12. closed

26.12. and 01.01., open from 11 am to 6 pm

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