



PHARUS

50 years of Neviges Mariendom

Media installation of sounds, images and light

8, 10 and 11 November 2018 at Neviges Mariendom, Germany

Under the patronage of the Economics Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Prof. Dr.

Andreas Pinkwart, and architect Prof. Peter Böhm

Questions & Answers

What is behind the media installation PHARUS?

PHARUS is a video-sound installation. It shows four stages of a journey or pilgrimage to the Neviges Mariendom. The recorded images and sounds for the installation had been taken inside the cathedral and in the immediate surroundings.

What is the meaning of PHARUS?

PHARUS is the Latin term for lighthouse. The artists have chosen this name because they want to make the Mariendom shine and make him the center of attraction for people of all denominations, who should thus find the way to this unique building.

Why did the artists choose the Neviges Mariendom?

The Neviges Mariendom, pilgrimage church of famous German architect Gottfried Böhm, is one of the most important church buildings of the 20th century. The extraordinary architecture in the style of brutalism, the color-intensive windows and the importance of Neviges as a place of pilgrimage have inspired the artists to intensively deal with this building.

In 2018, the cathedral celebrates its 50th anniversary. The premiere of PHARUS is a special highlight at the end of the celebrations.



When and where will PHARUS be presented?

On 8, 10 und 11 November 2018 at 20 h
at Neviges Mariendom, Elberfelder Straße 12, 42553 Velbert-Neviges, Germany

Who stands behind PHARUS?

The artist group »Area Composer«, consisting of Peter Hölscher (photography/liquid image), Ronald Gaube (composition/sound art) und Dorothee Pilavas (art projector).

Hölscher and Gaube have been working together for more than 30 years. With their installations, the internationally networked artists create a new perception of buildings. Their digital productions in public space have already been performed on numerous occasions in Germany and abroad.

Further information: www.area-composer.de

How did PHARUS come about?

The Area Composers have taken image and sound recordings of the building to capture its shapes, colors and sounds and to grasp all its facets. This resulted in more than 5,000 single photos with long exposure and over 14 hours of audio recordings.

Peter Hölscher transforms his photographs into a liquid image, a constantly changing composition of merging abstract and concrete forms of architecture. Ronald Gaube composes his sonic narrative on it. He dissolves his sound samples of the cathedral in abstract sound structures, adds historical sound documents and sets them in contrast to orchestral arrangements of new music.

Due to the elaborate staging, image and sound composition together with the architecture form an artificial body. Hölscher / Gaube call him »Area Composing«.

How will PHARUS be presented?

With the performance of the Area Composing PHARUS at the Neviges Mariendom, visual art, sound art and digital technology enter into an exciting dialogue with epoch-making architecture. The folded concrete wall of the sanctuary with its height of over 20 meter and its width of 36 meters becomes a mighty projection screen for the luminous images that slowly merge into one another. A mapping technique gives the impression that the wall disappears.

A specially composed soundtrack enhances the visual experience with the emotional power of the sound world. The sounds will be heard through a surround sound system. The church organ will also be used during the performance.



In addition, lighting planner Uta von Schenck will light up the color-intensive windows of the cathedral. Their lighting components react to the images and sounds.

Visualisation: www.pharus.area-composer.de

How can PHARUS be projected onto the 700-square-meter wall of the sanctuary?

For such a large projection surface made of gray concrete, a special technique is used. Three projectors with a luminosity of 60,000 ANSI lumens are distributed in the cathedral and controlled by a media server. The entire church space must be completely dark.

What effect will PHARUS have?

When PHARUS suddenly lights up from the darkness of the cathedral and fills the silence with unprecedented sounds, the audience will experience the Mariendom in a whole new way. But unlike most media installations, they are not flooded with hectic images and quick cuts. On the contrary. PHARUS is fascinated by slowness and takes the visitors on a contemplative journey that slows down and gives time for a meditative experience. Viewers and listeners can fully immerse themselves in the installation, and from their impressions and associations develop a personal relationship with this historically and spiritually significant place.

With PHARUS the Mariendom becomes a unique meeting place between man and cathedral, but also between the visitors themselves, who can exchange their experiences of this installation after the 40-minutes-performance. After this, the installation will be shown a second time.

Why can visitors experience PHARUS twice a night?

The special thing about Area Composer installations is that they are re-experienced every time they see and hear. This type of perception is completely new to most visitors. Only gradually, the senses become sharper for the many levels of perception, so that the audience and listeners need some time to get involved in PHARUS, to settle down and finally let go and experience it unfiltered.

In addition, depending on the seat, visitors will be able to see different details on the sanctuary wall and different light effects in the church room. Therefore, the installation is shown a second time after a conversation break and gives the visitors the opportunity to move freely in the room or to choose a different place to experience everything (new) again.



How will PHARUS be funded?

PHARUS is a non-profit project. In order to fill the enormous church space with light and sound, a special event technology is required. Funding was requested for the rental costs. Companies and private individuals have also agreed to support PHARUS financially.

How can I support PHARUS?

PHARUS is a cooperation project of the artist group »Area Composer«, the pilgrimage Neviges and the Velbert Marketing GmbH. Companies can contact Velbert Marketing directly to find out about sponsorship opportunities. Private persons can donate to the pilgrimage Neviges. Donations to the Catholic parish Neviges are tax deductible.

Donations account: DE40 3345 0000 0026 3404 06

Where are tickets available?

Tickets at the price of 15 Euro are available via the ticket system neanderticket.de and at the office of the [Pilgrimage Neviges](#).

Address: Elberfelder Straße 12, 42553 Velbert-Neviges, Germany

Opening hours:	Tuesday	9:00-11:00 h
	Wednesda	15:30-17:30 h
	Thursday	10:45-12:00 h
	Friday	9:00-11:00 h und 14:00-15:00 h

9 October 2018

Press contact:

Dorothee Pilavas

Art projector Area Composer

Tel. +49-231-337822, +49-1522-8619131

info@area-composer.de