

## PRESS RELEASE

### Heinz Mack – Vibration of Light / Vibrazione della luce

#### Collateral Event of the 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

February 2022

Already 52 years ago, Heinz Mack, who is one of the most important representatives of kinetic art worldwide, represented Germany at the 35th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. In 2014, the artist of ZERO group, who developed his own language in light art in the 1950s, was on display parallel to the Biennale Architettura with his 7.5-meter-high installation *The Sky Over Nine Columns*, consisting of nine golden, light-reflecting pillars, in front of the Church of San Giorgio Maggiore. Now the German sculptor and painter, who turned 90 last year, returns to Venice with an extensive solo exhibition within the section Collateral Events of the Biennale Arte 2022.

From April 23 to July 17, 2022, the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana (Ministero della Cultura), located directly on St. Mark's Square, will present the Collateral Event with the selected works by the award-winning artist under the title "Heinz Mack - Vibration of Light / Vibrazione della luce". The curator of the presentation in the "Sale Monumentali" is Manfred Möller.

The Collateral Event shows in an imposing spatial installation an impressive cross-section of Mack's oeuvre of the last 60 years: beside large-scale paintings, a group of partly rotating light steles and a four-meter-high mirror sculpture, created especially for this exhibition, will be presented.

In what is arguably one of Venice's most iconic venues, the historical significant Sala Sansoviniana, accessible exclusively through the Museo Correr, Mack's works are set in an art-historically impressive dialogue with wall and ceiling paintings by Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese. As a further highlight, a 3.40-meter high stainless-steel stele by the artist is positioned in an inner courtyard of the Palazzo Reale, which adjoins the Biblioteca Marciana and is freely accessible from both St. Mark's Square and the Giardini Reali.

Heinz Mack, who in 1957 together with Otto Piene founded the internationally influential and until 1966 active ZERO group, which from 1961 on also included Günther Uecker, explores the theme of light in his work. As a pioneer of Land Art, Mack already installed his experimental light

steles and objects in pristine natural landscapes such as the Sahara and later in the Arctic with the aim of exploring light in its purity as such.

Now, in the atmospheric splendour of the Biblioteca Marciana, seven outstanding works on canvas, impressive for their size alone, as well as eight light-reflecting and partly rotating stelae made of polished aluminium and stainless steel are on display. Through the principle of rotation, which Heinz Mack also explores in his paintings, the light in the space is not only captured and reflected holistically, but the objects themselves become dematerialized at times as well.

The exhibition focuses primarily on paintings in black, grey and white, in which the artist rather deals with the theme of structure than colour. The show's highlight is certainly the six-meter-wide and three-and-a-half-meter-high painting entitled "The Garden of Eden."

Here the theme of light, which Mack has been rethinking repeatedly for over 60 years, culminates in an overwhelming, multi-coloured and monumental colour field painting whose hypnotic effect no viewer in the room can escape. With his imposing solo show, Heinz Mack makes the visitors to the Biennale Arte 2022 aware of one thing above all: how essential light is for our existence and the continuation of life on earth.

The entire conception of the exhibition goes back to an initiative by Dirk Geuer, Düsseldorf, and was extensively supported by him.

A catalogue and a portfolio consisting of three new prints by the artist will accompany the exhibition.

### **About the artist**

Born in Lollar, Germany in 1931, painter and sculptor Heinz Mack, who studied painting at the renowned Düsseldorf Academy of Fine Arts, is one of the most successful and well-known German-speaking artists of the post-war period. His works have been shown in over 300 solo exhibitions and numerous group exhibitions, and are represented in over 140 public collections worldwide. In addition to the Biennale Arte in Venice, Mack was also invited to officially participate at the documenta II, III and 6.

### **About the venue**

Founded in 1468, the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in Venice is one of the most important and largest libraries in Italy. Its holdings include important collections of Greek, Latin and Oriental manuscripts. In total, the storehouse of knowledge houses over one million objects, including incunabula, prints, maps and about 13,000 manuscripts. Among the library's many historical treasures and precious items are the testament of the famous Venetian adventurer and explorer Marco Polo and two editions of Homer's Iliad from the 11th and 12th centuries. In addition, the library shines with its magnificent "Sala Sansoviniana" with wall and ceiling paintings by Renaissance artists Titian, Veronese and Tintoretto. Today, this representative and monumental hall once used by great scholars, brilliant strategists and crowned heads hosts art exhibitions.

## General Information

### Press conference:

April 21, 2022, 11:00 a.m.

Sala Sansoviniana of the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana

Piazza San Marco, 13/a, I - 30124 Venice

Heinz Mack is available for interviews by appointment.

### Press contact:

ziererCOMMUNICATIONS

Annette Zierer

E-Mail: [annette.zierer@zierercom.com](mailto:annette.zierer@zierercom.com)

Tel.: +49 (0)176 / 23 40 40 40

### Collateral Event:

Heinz Mack – Vibration of Light / Vibrazione della luce

23 April to 17 July 2022

Sale Monumentali della Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana

Access to the exhibition via Museo Correr

Piazza San Marco n.52 - Ala Napoleonica

I - 30124 Venice

<https://bibliotecanazionalemarciana.cultura.gov.it/>

Opening hours: 10.00-17.00 (last admission 16.00) (due to the COVID-19 pandemic, opening hours may change at short notice. Please check the Museo Correr website in advance of your visit).

<https://correr.visitmuve.it/>

The exhibition is made possible by the kind support of:



Geuer & Geuer Art  
Düsseldorf

**Images:**

- 1.) The Garden of Eden (Chromatic Constellation), 2011, photo: Weiss-Henseler Werbefotografie /  
courtesy Archive Studio Mack
- 2.) Double-Rotor (Chromatic Constellation), 2000, photo: Weiss-Henseler Werbefotografie /  
courtesy Archive Studio Mack
- 3.) Heinz Mack in December 2021 in front of a Chromatic Constellation originated in the same  
year, photo / courtesy Archive Studio Mack

The photos may be published free of charge.