



KUNST MERAN

im Haus der Sparkasse

MERANO ARTE

edificio Cassa di Risparmio

The Design of Collaboration **STUDIO OTHER SPACES, BERLIN**

19 September 2020 – 17 January 2021

Opening: 18 September 2020

Curated by Christiane Rekade

In the first institutional exhibition by Studio Other Spaces (SOS), KUNST MERAN MERANO ARTE presents comprehensive insights into the studio's recent projects, portraying their unique project development process and research-based approach to architecture and design.

Studio Other Spaces is an office for art and architecture founded in Berlin in 2014 by artist **OLAFUR ELIASSON** and architect **SEBASTIAN BEHMANN**. After years of collaborating at Studio Olafur Eliasson, Eliasson and Behmann established Studio Other Spaces in order to explore new methods for designing space. Through an experimental approach, SOS seeks to expand the boundaries of architecture and art.

SOS's main objective for this exhibition is to re-evaluate the possibilities of exhibiting architecture: How can form-finding processes, research, digital developments, and discussions between the various collaborators, which all ultimately characterise SOS projects, be visualised and presented? As a result, the exhibition at KUNST MERAN MERANO ARTE is a novel, sustainable, and highly contemporary way of presenting works.

Whether working on experimental building projects or artworks for public space, Studio Other Spaces begins by analysing existing environments and surrounding conditions. The studio's work incorporates local craftsmanship and materials available in the respective region and is always based on collaborations with local experts, while data from the natural elements, such as vegetation and the local climate, inspire the creative process. These key aspects and approaches become visible in the exhibition's structure and its range of subjects.



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The exhibition is divided into three parts, all of which are dedicated to collaboration: In the first part, visitors are invited to move virtually through a digital setup of the buildings, pavilions, and landscape of **Meles Zenawi Memorial Park** in Addis Ababa (2013–2020) by means of VR projections. This project for Ethiopia's capital, based on a collaboration between the two cities Berlin and Addis Ababa, consists of an extensive landscape that visitors can explore by foot. Inspired by the former prime minister Meles Zenawi's accomplishments and struggles, the park is dedicated to the country's recent history as well as visions for the future. In close collaboration with local craftspeople, designers, engineers, architects, and artists, SOS has developed methods that enable traditional forms and materials of local Ethiopian architecture to merge with new concepts of space and light.

The second part of the exhibition addresses SOS's material-research-based fabrication and form-finding processes. Various models and prototypes designed for **Lyst Restaurant** (2019), located on the first floor of Fjordenhus in Vejle (Denmark), are on display, representing the studio's experimental and collaborative working methods. The iconic Fjordenhus building (2009–2018), an architectural landmark in southern Denmark, was developed by Olafur Eliasson, Sebastian Behmann, and Studio Olafur Eliasson, and its completion led to the founding of Studio Other Spaces. For Lyst Restaurant, the architecture of the building acted as a catalyst for the cuisine, and the food, in turn, inspired the design of the restaurant. The space, furniture, lighting, and eating utensils aim to emphasise the relationship between the fjord, the building, the food, and the way people use the space. Through several interdisciplinary workshops with the owner, the chef, and his dedicated kitchen team, SOS formulated a design language based on basic materials and production methods and inspired by the way cooking with simple ingredients can achieve unique results.

With the support of the **Talking Waters Society**, an essential feature of Lyst Restaurant will be on display and in use during the exhibition at KUNST MERAN MERANO ARTE: An adapted version of the restaurant's barbecue – the original is positioned on one of the restaurant's balconies and used by the kitchen staff as well as guests in a participatory experience – will be installed on the terrace of KUNST MERAN MERANO ARTE for the duration of the exhibition and used for various accompanying events.



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For the third part of the exhibition, located in KUNST MERAN MERANO ARTE's atrium, Studio Other Spaces is collaborating with local facade engineering specialist **Frener & Reifer**, Brixen. Inspired by the project *Common Sky*, which SOS is currently developing for the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York, the piece for KUNST MERAN MERANO ARTE will depict an adapted mockup section of the kaleidoscopic canopy. Thanks to Frener & Reifer, the delicate mesh of steel tubes and triangular glass and mirror surfaces will reflect Meran's sky into the museum's entrance hall.

Here too, ideas and concepts are being exchanged and developed, so as to adapt to local conditions. Experienced craftspeople and apprentices at Frener & Reifer are in constant contact with the design team at SOS to create this custom-made sculpture.

Studio Other Spaces aspires to create works that are sustainable, ecological, and collaborative, in which an open dialogue with local craftspeople, fabricators, engineers, architects, and artists is essential, while aiming to keep CO₂ emissions as well as travel and transport costs as low as possible.

Studio Other Spaces

Studio Other Spaces, founded by artist Olafur Eliasson and architect Sebastian Behmann in Berlin in 2014, connects art and architecture through interdisciplinary and experimental building projects and artworks for public space. Recent projects include the design of Lyst Restaurant in Fjordenhus in Vejle, Denmark; the reinvention of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York, forming a new public space connecting the existing Bunshaft Gallery, the surrounding park, and the new master plan and addition designed by OMA; a permanent work of art for the 15th and 16th floors of the Morland Mixité Capitale building in Paris; and across the Mediterranean in Addis Ababa, the Meles Zenawi Memorial Park – a campus comprised of five buildings and a park – which is currently under construction.

www.studiootherspaces.net



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Olafur Eliasson

Artist Olafur Eliasson (Iceland/Denmark), born in 1967, works in a wide range of media, including installation, painting, sculpture, photography, and film. Since 1997, his solo shows have appeared in major museums around the world. As part of his practice, he engages with arts education, policy-making, and issues of sustainability and climate change. Eliasson's architectural projects include the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007, designed together with Kjetil Thorsen; Your rainbow panorama, a 150-metre circular, coloured-glass walkway situated on top of ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Denmark (2006–2011); and the Facades of Harpa Reykjavik Concert Hall and Conference Centre (2005–2011), created in collaboration with Henning Larsen Architects, which won the Mies van der Rohe Award in 2013.

www.olafureliasson.net

Sebastian Behmann

Sebastian Behmann heads the department of design at Studio Olafur Eliasson and is co-founder of the architectural firm Studio Other Spaces. Born in Germany in 1969 and educated in architecture at the TU Dresden, Behmann began collaborating with Eliasson in 2001. Together the two have designed numerous architectural works. These include pavilions, installations, international exhibitions, and, most recently, Fjordenhus in Vejle, Denmark (2009–2018), the first major building designed entirely by the architectural team at Studio Olafur Eliasson. Behmann was the responsible architect for the facade design of the Harpa Reykjavik Concert Hall and Conference Centre (recipient of the 2013 Mies van der Rohe Award), whose shimmering glass facades were developed by Studio Olafur Eliasson in collaboration with Henning Larsen Architects. Other architectural projects have included Cirkelbroen (The circle bridge) in Copenhagen (2015); Your rainbow panorama, for ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum (2011), Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007 in London (with Kjetil Thorsen), and The blind pavilion, shown as part of the Danish Pavilion at the 50th Venice Biennale (2003).

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