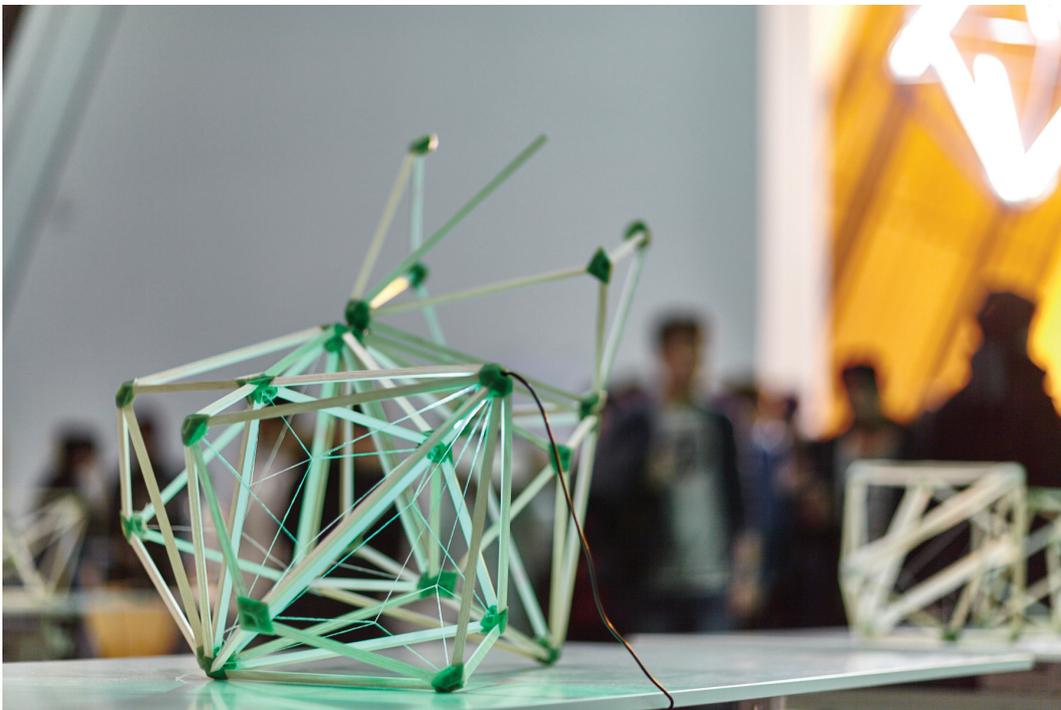


Olafur Eliasson
Green light – An artistic workshop
Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary–Augarten, Vienna
March 12–June 5, 2016

15 ACTS OF PARTICIPATION
Thursday, April 7, Noon–Midnight

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Olafur Eliasson – Green light |
An artistic workshop
Green light – Shared Learning,
TBA21–Augarten.
Photo: Sandro E. E. Zanzinger
/ TBA21, 2016

Following the unprecedented success of the exhibition **OLAFUR ELIASSON: BAROQUE BAROQUE**, organized by Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21) and the Belvedere at the Winter Palace of Prince Eugene of Savoy in Vienna, TBA21 presents **Green light**, a new socially conscious endeavor by Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson at TBA21–Augarten in Vienna.

Conceived by Eliasson as a metaphorical green light for refugees and migrants in Austria and beyond, the project testifies to the agency of contemporary art and its potential to initiate processes of civic transformation. **Green light** consists of an artistic workshop and learning platform surrounding the making of lamp modules designed by Eliasson. The lamps are assembled on-site from materials and components that are made available at TBA21–Augarten. In addition to Augarten's audience, young refugees, migrants, and university students are invited to take part in this process of collaborative artistic practice and learning, giving rise to a

space of exchange and encounter for contributors from a range of linguistic, social, geographic, and educational backgrounds.

The **Green light** project responds to a situation of great uncertainty, both for refugees, who are often caught up in legal and political limbo, and for the European societies that welcome them. Through its communal fabrication, **Green light** constitutes a dynamic space that elicits various forms of participation to migrate to other locations and contexts to initiate different specific engagements. By collapsing the categories of production and reception, performer and audience, and art and social action, the project aims to open up the contested terrain between art and society, probing the question of what constitutes the “public” and negotiating a field of difference and similarity.

Olafur Eliasson says: “It is my hope that **Green light** will shine light on some of the challenges and responsibilities arising from the current refugee crisis in Europe and throughout the world. **Green light** is an act of welcoming, addressed both to those who have fled hardship and instability in their home countries and to the residents of Vienna. It invites them to take part in the construction of something of value through a playful, creative process. Working together in an artistic context, in dialogue with the regular visitors of the Augarten, participants build both a modular light and a communal environment, in which difference is not only accepted but embraced. **Green light** attempts to question the values of similarity and otherness in our society and to help shape our feelings of identity and togetherness.”

The crystalline **Green light** lamps are polyhedral units fitted with small, green-tinted light fixtures. Made predominantly from recycled and sustainable materials and designed to be stackable, the modules can function either as single objects or be assembled into a variety of architectural configurations. At TBA21–Augarten, the lamps will form a steadily expanding environment in the exhibition space that carries the narratives of its making.



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TBA21, 2016

The **Green light** lamps can be ordered with a donation of € 300 on www.tba21.org/greenlight or participate in the artistic workshop at TBA21–Augarten, Vienna and benefit from a production price of € 250. The donation supports the Green light educational project and TBA21’s partner organizations and charities: Red Cross Vienna, Caritas Vienna, and Georg Danzer Haus.

Green light – Shared Learning

Over the course of the three-month **Green light** project at TBA21–Augarten the participants and students will partake in a multifaceted curriculum of shared learning initiated by TBA21. An evolving sculptural environment made from hundreds of modular **Green light** lamps will accommodate a multidirectional weekly program. Within the framework of this program, artists, thinkers, students, refugees, migrants, and collaborating organizations are invited to host and to be part of a series of workshops, seminars, performances, screenings, lectures, and artistic interventions responding to socio- and geopolitical, cultural, and personal issues and narratives of migration and arrival through collaborative creative activities and critical discourse.

This participatory platform engages with practitioners from diverse educational and professional backgrounds and tests out ways in which artists and organizations can be deeply invested in political and social models of transformation, and thus the production of kinship, civic engagement, and sharing. Creating a space of exchange and encounter, this integral part of **Green light** tackles issues that matter to each of us.

This weekly program at Augarten is composed of a variety of initiatives and activities within a flexible educational structure that fosters engagement from all participants, those enrolled in the program, university students from Vienna, as well as visitors.

For detailed information on the changing weekly program of **Green light – Shared learning**, please visit our website www.tba21.org/greenlight.

About the artist

The Danish Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson (born 1967) works in a wide variety of mediums, including installation, painting, sculpture, photography, and film. Awarded with the 2016 Crystal Award for creating inclusive communities, Eliasson is also known for his environmentalist and socially-engaged projects. Since 1997 his critically acclaimed solo shows have appeared in major museums around the world, such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Tate Modern, London, and in major international exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale. In 2003 *The weather project*, installed in the Turbine Hall of Tate Modern, was seen by more than two million people. Eliasson's projects in public spaces include *Camera obscura für die Donau*, Austria (2004); *Your black horizon*, commissioned by TBA21 and installed in a pavilion designed by David Adjaye at Lopud, Croatia (2005); *The New York City Waterfalls* (2008); *Your rainbow panorama*, a 150-meter circular colored-glass walkway situated on top of ARoS Museum in Aarhus, Denmark (2006–11); and *Cirkelbroen* (The circle bridge), Copenhagen (2015).

Established in 1995, Eliasson's Berlin studio today employs about ninety craftsmen, specialized technicians, architects, archivists, administrators, and cooks. They work with Eliasson to experiment and to develop and produce artworks and exhibitions, as well as to archive and communicate his work, digitally and in print. In addition to realizing artworks in-house, the studio contracts with structural engineers and other specialists and collaborates worldwide with cultural practitioners, policy makers, and scientists. It regularly hosts workshops and events in order to further artistic and intellectual exchanges with people and institutions outside the art world.

From 2009 to 2014 Eliasson led the Institut für Raumexperimente (Institute for Spatial Experiments), a five-year experiment in arts education affiliated with the Berlin University of the Arts. He is currently adjunct professor at the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Since 2012 Eliasson has directed the social business Little Sun, together with the engineer Frederik Ottesen, which produces and distributes solar lamps for use in off-grid communities.

In 2014, Eliasson and collaborator Sebastian Behmann founded Studio Other Spaces to focus on interdisciplinary and experimental building projects and works in public space. Eliasson lives and works in Copenhagen and Berlin.

On November 21, 2015, the Winter Palace of Prince Eugene of Savoy in Vienna opened its doors to thousands of visitors to the exhibition OLAFUR ELIASSON: BAROQUE BAROQUE, bringing together a significant selection of artworks by Eliasson from the private collections of Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary and Juan and Patricia Vergez. The exhibition is open until March 6, 2016.

www.olafureliasson.net | www.studiootherspaces.net | www.littlesun.com

Twitter: @Olafureliasson

Instagram: @Studiolafureliasson and @Soe_kitchen

Facebook: /StudioOlafurEliasson

Support the Green light project by purchasing a lamp

Green light is an attractive sustainable LED lamp produced in a collaborative three-month artistic workshop by refugees and visitors at TBA21–Augarten.

Each **Green light** consists of a wooden frame made from certified ash, nodes of 100% recycled PLA, twine made from used plastic bags, cable ties of 100% recycled nylon, and a green LED.

The lamps come in eco-friendly packaging.

The donations support the **Green light** project, TBA21's partner organizations Red Cross Vienna, Caritas Vienna, and Georg Danzer Haus.

The **Green light** lamp can be ordered through the TBA21 web shop for a donation of €300 or directly at TBA21–Augarten for €250.

The mail order edition comes with a certificate of authenticity in partly prefabricated flat-packs.

INFORMATION

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Location

TBA21–Augarten, Scherzergasse 1a, 1020 Vienna, Austria

Free admission

Visitor Information

Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary–Augarten

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augarten@tba21.org

www.tba21.org/greenlight

www.facebook.com/tba21, www.twitter.com/tba21, instagram.com/tba_21

You may place your orders for the *Green light* at:

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About TBA21

Founded in 2002 by Francesca von Habsburg in Vienna, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21) represents the fourth generation of the Thyssen family's commitments to the arts. After more than 14 years of collecting, commissioning projects, and engaged exhibition practice, TBA21 has established a highly respected collection of more than 700 contemporary artworks in the field of new media, including film, video, light, sound and mixed-media installations, sculpture, painting, photography, and performance. TBA21's unique collection is the result of its ongoing commitment to commissioning and disseminating numerous art projects, including multimedia installations, sound compositions, endurance performances and contemporary architecture. This has led to its pioneering reputation in the art world. The foundation sustains a far-reaching regional and international orientation through a number of collaborations with other cultural partners around the world, and explores modes of presentation that are intended to provoke and broaden the way viewers perceive and experience art. In 2015 Francesca von Habsburg decided to dedicate the foundation's ongoing program to becoming an agent of change by focusing on the complexities and urgencies of the "age of anthropocene", as well as today's pressing challenges caused by climate change, with a special focus on the marine eco systems.

Supported by

As one of the leading insurance groups in Central and Eastern Europe, the Vienna Insurance Group and its main share holder clearly perceive its social responsibilities and have been reliable sponsoring partners for Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary and other cultural projects for many years. Numerous museums and galleries have insured their collections with Vienna Insurance Group. The main objective for cooperating with cultural institutions is to promote the international exchange in the field of arts and culture.



Project Partners

Georg Danzer Haus Vienna is a small humanitarian initiative accomodating and taking care of unaccompanied young refugees from 14–18 years, mainly from Afghanistan and Syria. Through cooperations with cultural initiatives such as **Green light** the Georg Danzer Haus aims to integrate these young people into the social and cultural matrices of their new homes and to offer future perspectives.

Caritas Vienna acts as the mediator between Green light and two full-time project coordinators, project mentors and translators. In addition, ***peppa** is an ongoing project offered by Caritas focusing on the supervision and mentoring of girls and young women participating in the **Green light** project.

Red Cross Vienna is responsible for recruiting a group of young asylum seekers, fully enrolled in the **Green light** project Shared Learning.

