

Media Information

June 10, 2024

Es Devlin's new multi-media work *SURFACING* commissioned by BMW unveiled at Art Basel in Basel 2024.

A pioneering combination of sustainable energy and movement in an installation of water, light, sound and dance. A dance collaboration and a series of mobile sound installations within a pilot fleet of BMW iX5 Hydrogen vehicles.

Munich/Basel. Hydrogen as a sustainable source of energy and movement is the central theme of BMW's program at this year's Art Basel in Basel. BMW, which has been a partner of Art Basel for 20 years, has commissioned London-based artist Es Devlin to create a series of multi-media works which will be unveiled on 10 June. In Hall 1.1 of the art fair Devlin has created a booth displaying four works: *Surfacing* (2024), *Surfacing II* (2024), *Mask* (2018), and *Mask in Motion* (2018). As an opening chapter, Devlin and BMW also present a series of mobile sound installations within a pilot fleet of BMW iX5 Hydrogen vehicles* which have been enveloped in prints of Devlin's collaged paintings. Passengers are invited to listen in on the artist's conversation with BMW engineers about the potential of hydrogen.

"The works on innovation and mobility created by Es Devlin for Art Basel offer an impressive example of how technology can serve as inspiration for art," **says Michael Rath, Head of Hydrogen Vehicles, BMW Group.** "We are very proud of the radiance of the BMW Group's pioneering hydrogen technology."

The BMW iX5 Hydrogen: Pioneer and trailblazer of BMW's technological expertise.

As a versatile energy source, hydrogen will play a key role in the energy transition and thus in climate protection. The BMW iX5 Hydrogen combines the advantages of locally emission-free electric drive with the driving pleasure typical of the brand. Another advantage: the quick and uncomplicated refuelling process. The company is currently testing the vehicle with hydrogen fuel cell technology in selected countries under everyday conditions. The world tour of the pilot fleet will now make a stop at Art Basel 2024, where the innovative hydrogen vehicles will be available as a shuttle service.

For the BMW Group, the pilot project is an expression of its open-technology approach to the mobility of tomorrow. The hydrogen fuel cell technology provides an additional supplement to battery-electric drive systems.

The powertrain of the vehicle developed on the basis of the BMW X5 consists of an innovative combination of fuel cells with an output of 125 kW/170 hp, which uses energy from gaseous hydrogen to drive an electric motor from the BMW Group's Gen 5 programme together with a specially developed battery. This generates a maximum system output of 285 kW/401 hp. The hydrogen tanks of the BMW iX5 Hydrogen can be

Corporate Communications

Media Information

June 10, 2024

Date

Subject

Es Devlin's new multi-media work SURFACING commissioned by BMW unveiled at Art Basel in Basel 2024.

Page

2

refuelled within three to four minutes and enable a range of 504 kilometres according to the WLTP test cycle.

Es Devlin to create a series of multi-media works which will be unveiled on 10 June at Art Basel in Basel 2024.

In Hall 1.1 of the art fair Devlin has created a booth displaying four works: *Surfacing* (2024), an illuminated cube of rain penetrated by a line of light and *Surfacing II* (2024), a pair of painted televisions in which a dancing figure appears to displace pixels and pigment, are flanked by *Mask* (2018) a projection-mapped model city fusing hands and river, and *Mask in Motion* (2018) a revolving illuminated translucent printed city which meshes viewers within its kinetic shadow.

Each work continues Devlin's 30 year exploration of the entangled dance between humans and technology. The booth surprises visitors each hour as *Surfacing's* box of rain, like a magician's apparatus, conjures a 7 minute dance work by renowned Paris-based choreographer Sharon Eyal with music composed by London-based duo Polyphonia.

A meeting of artist and engineers.

Devlin has spent the past year engaging with engineers at BMW, learning the mechanics behind the hydrogen fuel cell technology and its implications for the future of sustainable energy systems. As an opening chapter to the works on view in Hall 1.1, she has created a simple soundscape drawn from their conversations and underscored by composers Polyphonia which is played to guests in the pilot fleet of BMW iX5 Hydrogen vehicles.

Devlin says: "I learned from the BMW engineers the beautiful symmetry of the system at work within the hydrogen fuel cell: the energy that is used to separate hydrogen atoms from oxygen is recreated when the oxygen is reunited with hydrogen within the car. The by-product is not only the energy which propels the vehicle, but water."

The exterior of the BMW iX5 Hydrogen has been wrapped in a painted blue and white collage in which Devlin overlays paintings and text made in response to the prints and literature which populated her wall and bookshelves as a teenager. Painted gestures echoing the 1831 woodcut 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' by Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai, are superimposed over hand written extracts from literature's longest sentence about water drawn from James Joyce's seminal novel 'Ulysses'. Underlying the collage are excerpts from BMW Group publications on hydrogen fuel cell technology.

Corporate Communications

Media Information

June 10, 2024

Date

Subject Es Devlin's new multi-media work SURFACING commissioned by BMW unveiled at Art Basel in Basel 2024.

Page 3

SURFACING.Visitors can sign up to book their seat at the hourly rituals [here](#).

Thursday, 13 June - Sunday, 16 June 2024

Art Basel in Basel, Hall 1.1

Messeplatz 10, 4005 Basel, Switzerland

The BMW Group's Cultural Engagement, with exclusive updates and deeper insights into its global initiatives can be followed on Instagram at [@BMWGroupCulture](#).

Consumption and emission figures:*BMW iX5 Hydrogen:** Consumption combined in WLTP cycle: 1,19 kg H₂/100 km, CO₂ emissions combined in WLTP cycle: 0 g/km

Electric range: 504 km (313 miles)

If you have any questions, please contact:

Corporate Communications

Prof. Dr Thomas Girst
BMW Group Corporate and Governmental Affairs
Head of Cultural Engagement
Phone: +49 89 382 24753
Email: Thomas.Girst@bmwgroup.com

Lisa Aigner
BMW Group Corporate and Governmental Affairs
Spokesperson Hydrogen/Fuel Cell Technology, Overall Vehicle Sustainability
Phone: +49 151 601 30526
Email: Lisa.Aigner@bmwgroup.com

www.press.bmwgroup.com/globalEmail: presse@bmw.de

Erica Bolton
Bolton & Quinn
6 Addison Avenue
London W11 4LZ
Mobile: +44 (0)7711698186

Corporate Communications

Media Information

June 10, 2024

Date

Subject

Es Devlin's new multi-media work SURFACING commissioned by BMW unveiled at Art Basel in Basel 2024.

Page

4

SURFACING.**Es Devlin: an entangled 30 year dance between humans and technology.**

Devlin roots each of her works in personal recollection, mediated through technologies which range from the vast LED transmitters of the Sphere in Las Vegas, to the minute mechanics within an audience's eyes, which have been manipulated by conjurers since the nineteenth century. Her earliest memory, a line of light permeating dark water, has surfaced throughout her 30 year practice in collaborative performance and installation.

In *Surfacing* the memory is evoked in the artist's recorded voice while a very bright line of LED light is used to recalibrate each audience member's eyes. Their irises contract in response to the luminosity and reduce the diameter of their pupils, rendering the space perceptibly darker. The performance, featuring Sharon Eyal's distinctive sequences of meticulously sustained demi-pointe breaking into poignant evocative micro-gesture, is perceived through a mutating veil of illuminated falling water, circulating through a constantly recycling closed system.

Like the painted plasma screens of *Surfacing II*, the work evokes the entangled dance between humans and our designs and technologies. As Beatriz Colomina and Mark Wigley point out: we designed the flint, the flint redesigned our hands; we designed the smartphone, the smartphone redesigned us. The two *Mask* works fuse model cities within ovoid, mask-like frames, evoking the entanglement between the architectural and organic within the contemporary human brain. The hourly intervention of the dancers within *Surfacing* evokes Byung-Chul Han's observation that it is ritual that renders time habitable.

About Es Devlin

British contemporary artist Es Devlin (born London 1971) views an audience as a temporary society and often invites public participation in communal choral works. Her canvas ranges from public sculptures and installations at Tate Modern, V&A, Serpentine, Imperial War Museum and the Lincoln Centre, to kinetic stage designs at the Royal Opera House, the National Theatre and the Metropolitan Opera, as well as Olympic Ceremonies, Super-Bowl half-time shows, and monumental illuminated stage sculptures for large scale stadium concerts. She is the subject of a major monographic book, 'An Atlas of Es Devlin', described by Thames & Hudson as their most intricate and sculptural publication to date, and a retrospective exhibition at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum in New York. In 2020 she became the first female architect of the UK Pavilion at a World Expo, conceiving a building which used AI to co-author poetry with visitors on its 20 metre diameter facade. Her practice was the subject of the 2015 Netflix documentary series 'Abstract: The Art Of Design'. She is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Music, University of the Arts London and the Royal Society of Arts. She has been awarded The London Design Medal, three Olivier Awards, a Tony Award, an Ivor Novello Award, doctorates from the Universities of Bristol and Kent and a CBE.

About Sharon Eyal

Born in 1971, Paris based choreographer Sharon Eyal danced with the Batsheva Dance Company between 1990 and 2008 and became the company's lead Choreographer in 2012. In 2019, she returned to create The Look. Eyal is now one of the worlds most sought after choreographers

Corporate Communications

Media Information

Date June 10, 2024

Subject Es Devlin's new multi-media work SURFACING commissioned by BMW unveiled at Art Basel in Basel 2024.

Page 5

globally, making new works each year including: 'Killer Pig' (2009) and 'Corps de Walk' (2011) for the Norwegian dance company Carte Blanche, 'Too Beaucoup' (2011) for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and 'Plafona' (2012) for Tanzcompagnie Oldenburg. From 2005, she has been working with Gai Behar, a multimedia curator, their first joint production was Bertolina for the Batsheva Dance Company. Eyal and Behar founded the dance company L-E-V, whose productions are staged at the most renowned theatres and festivals worldwide. As a guest choreographer, Sharon Eyal has worked for the Royal Swedish Ballet, the Staatsballett Berlin, the Norwegian company Carte Blanche and the Nederlands Dans Theater, the Bayerisches Staatsballett and GöteborgsOperan Danskompani. In 2023, Sharon Eyal was nominated as a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic and her work has been on the catwalks of Christian Dior.

Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, Hong Kong, and Paris. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through new digital platforms and initiatives such as The Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report. Art Basel's Global Media Partner is The Financial Times. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

BMW Group Cultural Engagement

State Opera for all Gerhard Richter **CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP** Kochi-Muziris Biennale BMW Art Cars Berlin Biennale Ólafur Elíasson Art Basel Max Hooper Schneider BMW Art Journey **INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE** Art D'Égypte Cao Fei Esther Mahlangu Zaha Hadid Les Rencontres d'Arles Jeff Koons Acute Art Tate Modern **LONGEVITY** Artsy BMW Open Work by Frieze **PARTNERSHIP** Andy Warhol BMW Guggenheim Lab Lu Yang Samson Young Bavarian State Opera BMW Welt Jazz Award **CREATIVE FREEDOM** Tefaf **INTERACTION** State Academic Bolshoi Theatre of Russia Kyotographie Premio de Pintura Garage Museum of Contemporary Art Paris Photo **SUSTAINABILITY** Leelee Chan Art Dubai Teatro alla Scala BMW Classics Jenny Holzer BMW Art Guide by Independent Collectors

Why Culture? Why not! Culture is knowledge, a sanctuary of beauty and depth, of meaning and peace. An inspiring escape. Tranquil at best, even unsettling sometimes. As corporate citizen, the BMW Group takes social responsibility seriously, as part of which it has been involved in hundreds of cultural initiatives worldwide for over half a century, both in the arts, music & sound, architecture as well as in design. As a long-term partner, creative freedom is key – and as essential for groundbreaking works as it is for major innovations within a business enterprise like ours.

Further information: www.bmwgroup.com/culture and www.bmwgroup.com/overviewFacebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BMW-Group-Culture>Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bmwgroupculture/>

@BMWGroupCulture

Media Information

Date June 10, 2024

Date

Subject

Es Devlin's new multi-media work SURFACING commissioned by BMW unveiled at Art Basel in Basel 2024.

Page

6

#BMWGroupCulture

#drivenbydiversity

The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2023, the BMW Group sold over 2.55 million passenger vehicles and more than 209,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2023 was € 17.1 billion on revenues amounting to € 155.5 billion. As of 31 December 2023, the BMW Group had a workforce of 154,950 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company set the course for the future at an early stage and consistently makes sustainability and efficient resource management central to its strategic direction, from the supply chain through production to the end of the use phase of all products.

www.bmwgroup.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BMWGroup>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/BMWGroup>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/BMWGroupView>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bmwgroup>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bmw-group/>