

A NEW DAWN – The Revival of a Century-Old Berlin Bath

Dance performance with light show for the re-opening of Hotel Oderberger

The reopening of the Oderberger public swimming pool was a success, with over 700 visitors joining to celebrate the resurrection of this legendary Berlin icon. On 17 October 2016, the pool will officially reopen for the public.

In a spectacular display of skill, [Johanna Keimeyer](#) opened the newly renovated Oderberger Pool with a special aquatic performance on 29 September 2016. The artist was joined by five dancers (Christoph Viol, [Jadi Carboni](#), [Franka Marlene Foth](#), [Ayam Am](#), Olivier Ozier-Lafontaine) in her performance, which was enhanced by a light show by [Ioannis Mihailidis from \[Studio Farbraum\]](#). The German composer [Sven Helbig](#) provided the music and [Huong Nguyen](#) aka Mimi supported with live vocals. The performance took place in the swim hall – the beating heart of the building.

The Dance Performance:

Johanna Keimeyer entered the water. The spotlights were illuminated and Keimeyer created light reflections that danced on the walls and the ceiling by making waves in the water. The dancers stepped through the columns like ghosts. Once they reached the edge of the pool, they commenced with their water ritual. After a duet between Johanna Keimeyer and Olivier Ozier-Lafontaine, the other dancers joined them in the water for two further duets until they all joined together to create explosive movements in the water like a single dance entity, eventually melting together and sinking below the surface like a water lily. The lights were extinguished and darkness ended the 15-minute-long performance.

Each dancer was dressed in an athletic, form-fitted outfit with taping (by [Tapefactory24©](#)), leotards by [Wolford](#) and athletic wear from [Sportkind](#) and [Lululemon](#). These companies and [Alexander von Hausen](#) generously supported the artistic project.

The entire building had been carefully restored in the last four years, transformed into a hotel. The evening commenced with speeches by the hotel owners, Mr and Mrs Jaeschke, and the design critic Lucas Verweij.

About Johanna Keimeyer:

Water plays a huge role in Johanna Keimeyer's life, as she is a passionate free diver (diving with the natural breath, without using diving tanks).

The swimming pool is a familiar location of Keimeyer's. She staged her graduation piece, "Everything is illusion" (UdK, University of the Arts Berlin, 2012) - a large scale video projection with a photo exhibition - in the, at that time, still unrenovated swimming pool area.

You can see photography pieces from her underwater series, POOL AROUND ME, throughout the hotel - which she created with the kind support of Martin Nicholas Kunz. In this series she is underwater in 75 hotel pools worldwide. While the well-known photographer Ed Ruscha shows private pools in his photos, in order to show their uniformity as well as the uniformity of people, Keimeyer dives underwater in hotel pools to emphasize the awareness behind the physical body by showing it again and again. The body is just the surface. The beauty is within. The direct confrontation with the swimmer connects the series, and, in comparison to Ruscha, puts the human being in the foreground. The rooms of Hotel Oderberger showcase Keimeyer's photos, and they can be ordered directly there. Large scale works by the artist can also be seen in the sauna and spa area.

Johanna Keimeyer studied design and digital media at University of the Arts (UdK), Berlin, at Tama Art University Tokyo, and at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), USA. As a multimedia artist she creates audiovisual experiences with water.

press@keimeyer.com

[Downloadlink with high – res pressphotos here about the location:](#)

[art in the hotel:](#)

[Artist websites:](#) keimeyer.com
poolaroundme.com

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