

Christian Jankowski

Location: On the roof of the Hotel Spannort

The poet and playwright Bertolt Brecht begins his poem *Questions from a Worker Who Reads* from 1935 with: "Who built Thebes of seven gates? In the books you will read the names of kings. Did the kings haul up the lumps of rock?" At the heart of his poem is the observation that the world is often seen far too much from the perspective of those in power, and far too little attention and appreciation is given to those who actually built it all.

In his works, conceptual artist Christian Jankowski playfully and profoundly explores the dynamics behind the visible world and transports them into another context. Whether he talks to fortune tellers about his future as an artist, organizes a Jesus casting with the Vatican, or transforms a sculpture park into a temporary golf course, Jankowski uses existing formats like the casting show, but fills them with new and unexpected content.

He has been working on his series of *Luftschlösser* [Castles in the Air] since 2022. We talk about castles in the air when we have plans that, realistically, may not come true. At the same time, we know that faith (whether in something or in ourselves) can sometimes move mountains. In other words: We need dreams if we want to make a difference. For his *Luftschlösser*, Jankowski asks construction workers on large building sites to draw a castle for him freehand. It is not about feasibility, but about the very personal, immediate realization of the most diverse ideas. The artist then realizes the drawing as a neon work and mounts it clearly visible on a building of his choice. If the work is sold, the designer receives a percentage of the sale, like an architect's fee.

As part of the *Backstage Engelberg* exhibition, we went with Christian Jankowski to the TITLIS construction site, where architects Herzog & de Meuron are building a new and spectacular mountain station on the summit of Mount Titlis. Christoph xy, one of the site managers working there, drew a castle in the air for Jankowski, an expressive new design that he is implementing as a light object on the Hotel Spannort:

Luftschloss Engelberg [Castle in the Air Engelberg] (ds)

Christian Jankowski, born 1968 in Göttingen, Germany, is a conceptual and performance artist working in various media. He is often interested in socio-political contexts. Jankowski has exhibited in renowned institutions such as Kunsthalle Tübingen (2022), Hamburger Bahnhof (2024) and Portikus in Frankfurt am Main (1998), Germany, as well as at the Biennials in Venice (Italy), Lyon (France) and Istria (Croatia). His works can be found in renowned collections.

Further information: christianjankowski.com