

Sonia Leimer

Location: Pavilion Hotel Ski Lodge

Sometimes, even for scientists, a satellite image is initially just a row of dots that form a line and eventually the lines form an image, says Sonia Leimer in an interview. But we know what the Parker Solar Probe spacecraft is transmitting to Earth: It's images of solar storms. On December 24, 2024, the NASA spacecraft will come closer to the Sun than ever before. Then it will fly through the corona. Leimer likes to be where the action is with her works. In her new work *Speed of Light*, developed for the *Backstage Engelberg* exhibition, she explores this theme. On display are seven silkscreen prints of solar wind and dust particle images from NASA.

Sonia Leimer studied architecture and her interest in space led her to art. As a career changer, she often chooses unorthodox paths and takes nothing for granted. What do we see when we have dots in front of us that condense into lines, how do we perceive colors? The fabric on which she has printed *Speed of Light* is a thermoplastic material that is mainly used in space travel for satellites. It is produced by the Swiss company Sefar AG.

The work refers spatially to the octagonal pavilion with one door side and seven windows. Due to the permeability of the material, the colors of the outside world mix with the silkscreens, creating an atmospherically intense space. The four chairs are also a work by Sonia Leimer—they invite you to take your time and let your thoughts run free. (*ah/ds*)

Sonia Leimer was born in Merano, Italy in 1977 and lives in Vienna, Austria. She studied architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. In the course of her artistic career, Leimer's work has been shown internationally in important institutions. For example: Charles Jencks Foundation, London, Great Britain; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA; Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland; Leopold Museum, Vienna; Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy; Los Angeles Museum of Art; Ludwig Forum for International Art, Aachen, Germany; Mumok – Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna; Museion – Museion Bolzano, Italy; Museum der Moderne, Salzburg; Salzburger Kunstverein, Austria; and Moscow Biennale, Russia.