

# Paul Wallach: Down to the Ground

Until September 30, 2018

Paul Wallach deliberately lets an immense star fall into the landscape. Long rows of white concrete blocks extend across an area measuring 40x45 meters. Only when viewed from a bird's eye perspective, from the Hohensalzburg Castle, does the installation start to take shape, and the geometric composition reveals itself to be a four-pointed, star-shaped structure. Universal spatial conceptions are inversed as the star shines upwards from the ground. Thus in order to appreciate the full impact of the work, visitors must seek a higher vantage point.

The work for the Krauthügel is Wallach's hitherto largest project: Aligned vertically, its 320-meter circumference would reach to the top of the Eiffel Tower. Yet despite its monumental dimensions, this land-art installation is conceived on a human scale. Rising just 40 cm above the ground, the work extends an open invitation to be explored as a space in which to repose, linger, perform or play: for the artist's declared wish is to create a place of encounter.

On yet another level, however, "Down to the Ground" can also be experienced as an autonomous sculpture which redefines, and inscribes itself into, the landscape. Viewed from Hohensalzburg Castle, the concrete blocks ultimately resolve into lines, and the sculpture morphs into a "*land drawing*" (Wallach). Seen from above the 1.50-meter-wide dividing passageways become less and less visible and the full star configuration appears. In order to experience this, the visitors movement to a higher ground automatically involves collaboration with the artist's work.

Experiencing the installation on quite different (sensory) levels is of fundamental importance to the artist: *"The movement of the visitors, and the viewpoint of their observations lay at the core of the work's conception. For me the site of this work is not only the field, but also the space which unfolds between the field and the mountain. The observation of this space becomes perceptible through the physical movement of the visitor. How does the expanse of the field and the height of the mountain combine with my work in such a way as to render this space palpable?"* (Paul Wallach)

Paul Wallach was born in New York in 1960. He has become well-acquainted with the city of Salzburg since his *Artist in Residency (Leube)* in 1996. In 2003 he entered the competition for the World Trade Center Memorial. His sculptures have been featured in exhibitions from New York, Paris to Vienna and Berlin. Paul Wallach lives and works in Paris.

We are grateful to the

Members of the Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur Bonn (Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn)  
and for the generous support of private sponsors and friends.

A project organised by the Salzburg Foundation and the Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur Bonn  
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