

**Press Release****New Exhibition from 8 May to 19 September 2021:*****Heinz Mack. Works in Light (1956–2017)***

The ZERO co-founder, painter and sculptor Heinz Mack has developed a staggering body of work over some 70 years of creative production. His pioneer work in the fields of Light Art, which he advanced in a series of visionary projects, exerts an unbroken fascination on us to this very day. Scarcely an artist of our times can, moreover, match up to him in terms of productivity and the diversity of his oeuvre. The sheer wealth of media he has explored – from Light Art, kinetic works and Land Art, to drawings, painting, and sculpture – is itself impressive. Yet despite this rich palette of expressive means, Heinz Mack has concentrated with remarkable tenacity on subjects he discovered early on in his art: investigations into light, and the dynamic power of structures.

Driven by the desire to be free of the dead weight of the past, and open to fresh new materials unencumbered by associations, Heinz Mack and his fellow ZERO artists ventured a radical new departure in the post-war period that still has a great resonance in art today. Already in 1958/59 he conceived his *Sahara Project*, and over the following years he realized, stage by stage, the various ideas that went into it. This spectacular project will be presented in depth at the exhibition; among other highlights, the film *Tele-Mack* (1968/69) will be shown, in which the artist is portrayed amid the desert expanses conducting experiments on the nature of light. And light is also the focal topic of the kinetic and sculptural works that will be exhibited. Alongside three-dimensional works using modern materials, such as stainless steel, aluminium, and ribbed or acrylic glass, a selection of small marble sculptures will be on view which underline the great importance the artist attaches to that classic genre. The exhibition is rounded off by Mack's paintings, in the form of quite recent works in inks and on large canvases. In these *Chromatic Constellations*, as he calls them, light manifests itself through subtle chromatic tonalities and painted structures that set the picture surface in vibration.

This exhibition marks Heinz Mack's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and pays tribute to one of the great artists of our times. It gives a wide-ranging view of his work and brings together some 60 works whose poetic beauty shines out in the light.

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