

Media release

Basel, November 7, 2024

Ghosts

Visualizing the Supernatural

September 20, 2025 – February 2026, Kunstmuseum Basel | Neubau

Curator: Eva Reifert

Ghosts are everywhere: in fiction, popular culture, and historic scientific inquiry. Whether friendly or threatening, spooky or harmless, they are an expression of a society's desire to grapple with the unknown and the ungraspable. For the more than eighty artists from the 19th century to the present day featured in the exhibition, the desire to explore the supernatural and the longing to render these elusive entities visible has been a keen source of inspiration.

Ghosts haunt all media: in classical painting or sculpture, in photography, or as specters within digital space. Artists have acted as mediums for spirits or, possessed by them, created works according to their instructions. Famous ghosts from literature have been given uncanny form and Surrealist visions have been made visible. This comprehensive exhibition mines both the history of art and the paranormal, creating an exploration of the poetic potential and disquieting power of ghostly apparitions.

William Blake, Heidi Bucher, Leonora Carrington, Thomas Demand, Charles Dickens, Johann Heinrich Füssli, Paul Gauguin, Madge Gill, Nicole Eisenman, Georgiana Houghton, Mike Kelley, Paul Klee, Glenn Ligon, Susan MacWilliam, Gabriel von Max, Edvard Munch, Meret Oppenheim, Tony Oursler, Cornelia Parker, Laure Pigeon, Sigmar Polke, Odilon Redon, Thomas Schütte, Toyen, Rosemarie Trockel, Remedios Varo, Rachel Whiteread, Gillian Wearing, Erwin Wurm and many others

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