

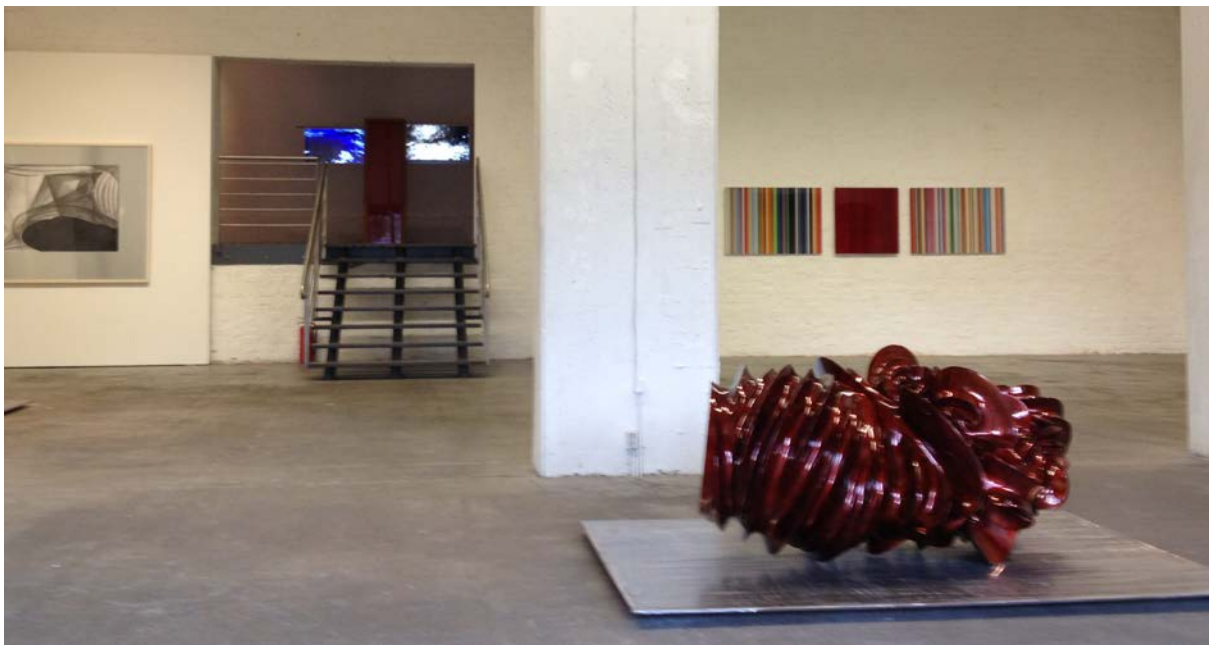
# TRANSITIONS

Martti Aiha  
Tobias Grewe  
Rainer Junghanns

June 20 to July 14, 2013

FORUM BOX  
Helsinki

The exhibition project TRANSITIONS was initiated by the Düsseldorf-based installation and conceptual artist Rainer Junghanns, whose work often involves the concept of participation. Conceived in cooperation with the internationally acclaimed Finnish sculptor and urban environment artist Martti Aiha and the Cologne-based abstract photographer Tobias Grewe, the exhibition is a “joint venture” in the truest sense of the term, i.e. as a common enterprise, the goal of which is the interconnection of the respective positions perceived through interaction, process and dialog.



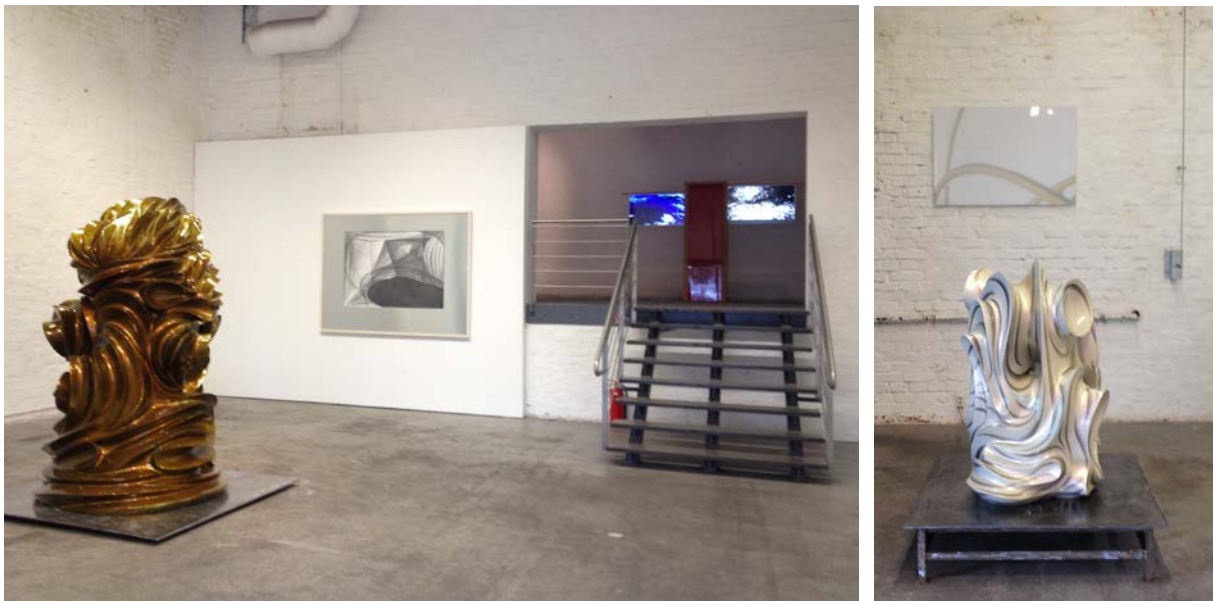
Taking the summer solstice on the 21st of June as its metaphorical point of reference, TRANSITIONS aims to shed light on various transitional processes within contemporary art and to investigate how the concept of time and our culturally determined interpretations of this effect how we see and perceive the world around us. At midsummer, night becomes day and the usual transition from one day to the next is temporarily suspended. The solstice is probably also one of the most misunderstood of all natural phenomena. Most people believe, for example, that during the summer solstice the Earth is closest to the sun, although the opposite is

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actually the case. And the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere takes place on the same day as the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere. It is all very confusing – and absolutely logical at the same time. It is, in fact, all a matter of perspective and perception. Like Shakespeare's popular comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in which it appears that anything can happen and nothing is what it seems, the exhibition in the Forum Box in Helsinki is conceived to be surprising, challenging and entertaining, inviting the viewer to participate in the creative process on various levels.

The Forum Box itself is a vivid metaphor for transition. Housed in the head of a now non-existent bride, the brutal architecture of the contemporary art space refers back to its former usage, while at the time functioning as a kind of starting ramp for innovative artistic concepts from around the world. Its former function as an actual bridge, as well as its current use as a symbolic bridge between contemporary artists and the general public, thus stands at the center of the TRANSITIONS project. Each of the three spaces of the Forum Box will be dedicated to one of the three participating artists, whereby interventions between each of the artists and their works will form creative “interfaces” and highlight the participatory nature of this cooperative endeavor.



The gradual and fluid shifting from one physical form to another in the sculptures and drawings of Martti Aiha speak of the flow of time and the natural evolution of organic forms, as well as of the malleability of human emotions. Everything is in a constant state of transition. His works are simultaneously dynamic and static, monumental while also being based within a wholly human scale. Aiha's humanist approach to sculpture and the urban environment is evident in the way he perceives his work as being “an expression of the subjective transitions between different levels or states of emotions and mental positions”. In his most recent work, Aiha investigates the fascinating dialog between the two dimensional surface of drawings and the three dimensional form of sculpture.

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With his abstracted photographs of architectural details, Tobias Grewe literally captures a moment in time, while simultaneously revealing the transitional power of light in his conscious manipulation of the photographic image through aperture size and shutter speed. Nothing is as it seems. Grewe challenges the concept of visual objectivity and reveals the highly subjective nature of all visual experiences. Architectural details are isolated from their urban context, softened by over- or underexposure and thus transformed into enigmatic, non-definable fields of pure form and color. Three dimensional spaces become flattened into two dimensional color fields, while the boundaries between photography, painting and drawing become blurred and finally irrelevant.



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Rainer Junghanns also captures the passing of time with the help of his visual archive of images of the water that covers 70 percent of the earth's surface. Although shot during an extended artistic expedition around the world, the nearly abstract nature of the photographs negates their role as documentation. Presented as extractable light boxes stored within mobile archive unites, the photographs are an integral component of a process-based social sculpture that investigates the way we perceive the passing of time and vainly attempt to capture and contain it. For Junghanns, all art is part of a greater process of conscious perception and the sharing of visual and emotional experiences.

“Transitions” in the form of abstraction, the breaking down of both natural and artificial boundaries, the passage of time and the process of interaction thus lie at the core of each artist's oeuvre and are compounded by their participatory interplay within the exhibition. TRANSITIONS is a cooperative effort, which aims at opening new perspectives and challenges the viewer to call his or her own perception of the world into question.

The exhibition is organized by the Cologne-based curator and author Gérard A. Goodrow in cooperation with Forum Box, Helsinki and RAUM e.V., Düsseldorf.

## **TRANSITIONS** **Martti Aiha, Tobias Grewe, Rainer Junghanns**

Exhibition  
20 June – 14 July 2013

Meet the Artists  
11 July 2013, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Forum Box, Helsinki  
Tel. +358 96855 0080  
✉ [kultur@helsinki.goethe.org](mailto:kultur@helsinki.goethe.org)

### **Links**

- Forum Box Helsinki: [www.forumbox.fi](http://www.forumbox.fi)
- Tobias Grewe Homepage: [www.tobias-grewe.de](http://www.tobias-grewe.de)
- Rainer Junghanns Homepage: [www.rainer-junghanns.de](http://www.rainer-junghanns.de)

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