

Press release

Malte Taffner | A Fragment of Eden

12 September 2021 to 9 January 2022

The artist Malte Taffner (* 1994 in Rinteln) is concerned with processes and infrastructures that enable the coexistence and exchange of plants, animals, humans and machines. To explore this coexistence, he develops the vision of a synthetic Eden: a large playground with living architectures made of plants and mycelium. Traffic routes made of electricity-generating floor panels. Huge glass domes that create artificial climates for a diverse variety of plants. Animals roaming around. Algae pools as large oxygen generators. Electronic gadgets writhing everywhere, fungi proliferating and insects frolicking, fertilizing each other and growing together.

In the installation „A Fragment of Eden“, which will be created and grow on the square in front of the Kestner Gesellschaft, a section of this utopian fiction will be brought into reality and made tangible. The circular area of earth under the large tree will be transformed into a flower meadow. This is combined with accessible levels of gratings, which are arranged in different sizes and heights on the meadow. The grid structure of the grates allows light and air to pass through the levels unimpeded, thus not hindering plant growth and allowing plants, animals and people to coexist. In this way, a stage of interaction and exchange is established. The different levels not only allow a different perspective on the small ecosystem of the flower meadow and the tree, but also on the entire surrounding square. The small garden acts as a contrast to the otherwise rather grey square, which with its openness and the adjacent street is more of a transit area for passers-by. The growing greenery thus becomes a fragment of Eden that invites people to linger.

Malte Taffner studied at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig (HBK) and Kyoto Seika University, Japan, from 2014 to 2020. In 2020 and 2021 he was a master student with Raimund Kummer at the HBK. Taffner's work has been shown in solo exhibitions in Braunschweig and Kyoto and in numerous group exhibitions, including "Soft Capsules" at Kunstverein Braunschweig (2021), "Jeep Ronaldo 7" in Hannover, and "ANTHROPOSCENE" at Kunstraum 53, Hildesheim (2020). Malte Taffner has received several scholarships, including from the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes.

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