

## **NatHalie Braun Barends: "P*Haradise*" ( *in memory of Aniela Braun* )**

A light installation in  
Kunsthalle Mannheim's Hermann Billing Building  
We would like to thank private donors for their generous support

On show: March 10, 2007  
Opening: March 9, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

For the dome of the Hermann Billing Building, NatHalie Braun Barends has come up with a lighting concept that engages in a comprehensive dialogue with James Turrell's light installation "Four Eyes" on the new building and with the new "sculpture park". The light installation on the old building, referred to as "P*Haradies*", "breathes" in the hours of evening to different rhythms and radiates cold white light to the outside and warm light to the hall.

In technical terms, the installation consists of illuminants installed in the old building's skylights and controlled by a computer program so that they initially fill the dome with a bright light which then pours into the two side wings of the old building. Because of the way the light moves from above sideways and downwards, the viewer perceives this as the architecture "breathing", or "pulsating". Thus, in symbolic terms, the museum, whose interior houses a collection with outstanding works from the 19th and 20th centuries, makes its cultural energy felt symbolically on its outside, too. The works and the collection form the same kind of unity as is the case with the multimedia and multi-dimensional light installation "H*Hole* (for Mannheim)" in its function as the "memory that is a museum".

From this location, "P*Haradise*", produced by Barends subsequent to the "H*Hole*" project's Phönix Raum (phoenix room) ([www.hhole.net](http://www.hhole.net)), and positioned in the museum building's roof area, offers a special light experience, envisaging the imaginary space between Heaven and Earth as a kind of symbolic link and allowing viewers to experience it as such. This interpretation was also taken into account, to a certain extent, by the architect of the Kunsthalle annex Hermann Billing. Visitors to Kunsthalle or any passers-by can also view this brightly-lit roof installation from various locations around the Kunsthalle buildings or from a greater distance and experience the evening museum as a clearly defined architectural structure in spatial terms. Finally, the telecommunications tower affords yet another special aspect of Kunsthalle in terms of perceptual aesthetics, since, from this perspective, the architecture can be perceived as a sculptural entity stretching out before us. Indeed, here, the architecture has become a sculpture in the public domain, so to speak.

This being the case, alongside its new presentation of the exhibition rooms inside the building, the museum has now implemented a changed presentation of its outside inventory in the redesigned "Kunsthalle sculpture park", with its unusual light sculptures by James Turrell, constantly shifting in modulations of colored light, and with NatHalie Braun Barends light installation which escalates into a particular experience of perceptual aesthetics. Old and new works have found new locations. After decades of external darkness for the old and the new building, from now on, light art, lit sculptures and an illuminated architecture form part of Kunsthalle's evening guide.

With "Four Eyes" by James Turrell, "P*Haradise*" by NatHalie Braun Barends and the "Kunsthalle sculpture park", Kunsthalle Mannheim is becoming, even more, a "living museum", a place that offers visitors a myriad of intense perceptual experiences. With the dialogue between the light installations by Turrell and Braun Barends, the old and the more recent architecture fuse to become a new entity such as is not to be found in any other museum in the world. Past and future flow together in the immediate present in a congenial unity. In this way, visitors can enjoy the harmonious experience resulting from the concept embarked upon four years ago, to implement an intensive dialogue between

old and new art, tradition and present as well as to realize a new presentation of the collection's inventory both inside the museum and in the newly laid out sculpture park in its grounds.

## Paradise

In Sanskrit *paradesha*, the all-highest place.

In Chaldean *Pardes*.

The birthplace of tradition.

The first spiritual CENTER.

The immovable center.

The heart of the world.

The point at which Heaven and Earth enter into communion.

The earthly paradise is inaccessible due to the breach of communion between Heaven & Earth.

Brahmaloka corresponds to 'The center of the world', which is the center of each being, a state of potential immortality.

Music, angels, the elect, hills trees, birds all combine to create the universal song of paradisiacal bliss.

Universally, the abode of immortality.

One moment in Paradise is worth many good deeds on Earth.

A place with essential Hs like Harmony, Health, Happiness, Halo, Heart, Humor, Humbleness, Honesty, Hope ...

And your idea of Paradise?