

Press Release

June 2024

New exhibition

**BLACK FLAGS. Edith Dekyndt, William Forsythe,
Santiago Sierra**

Sat, June 22, 2024 – Sun, October 10, 2024

Press conference: Fri, June 21, 2024, 11 am
Exhibition opening: Fri, June 21, 2024, 7 pm

The new exhibition at ZKM | Karlsruhe "BLACK FLAGS" engages with the motif of the black flag, which is open to multiple readings, and showcases the artistic interpretations by Edith Dekyndt, William Forsythe, and Santiago Sierra. The exhibition is a collaboration project between ZKM | Karlsruhe, the A/POLITICAL Foundation, and the Forsythe Foundation. (BLACK FLAGS. Edith Dekyndt, William Forsythe, Santiago Sierra, 22.6.–6.10.24).

One Motif — Three Artists' Interpretations

The motif of the black flag can be interpreted in many different ways, both politically and aesthetically, and has a noteworthy history. The "BLACK FLAGS" exhibition picks up on this semantic ambiguity and presents three works with different yet interconnected approaches. The Belgian artist Edith Dekyndt, known for her performance works with everyday objects, references the pioneer of post-colonial cultural theory Édouard Glissant (1928–2011) with her video "**Ombre indigène, part 2, Martinique**" (2014), which shows a flag made of long black hair. During the Iranian protest movement in 2022, her video went viral on social media. With his installation "**Black Flags**" (2014), U.S. choreographer William Forsythe, whose archive has been housed at ZKM since 2023, has programmed a complex, contrapuntal choreography for two large black flags mounted on industrial robots. The capacity of the machines to provide limitless executions with no spatial or temporal deviation whatsoever, transfers their analog choreographic task into the exceptional territory of the absolute, situating the choreography in ideal, but machinic isolation. By contrast, the Spanish conceptual and performance artist Santiago Sierra documents in his immersive photo and sound installation "**Black Flag**" (2015) the raising of the black flag — the iconic and universal symbol of the anarchist movement — at the two the geographic North and South Poles in a gesture that rejects nationalist appropriation.

In view of the many challenges confronting us today, which are increasingly dividing our societies, this exhibition invites us to change our perspectives and take a new look at what unites us.

The exhibition is a collaboration project with the A/POLITICAL Foundation and the Foundation Forsythe.

BLACK FLAGS

**Edith Dekyndt,
William Forsythe,
Santiago Sierra**

Duration
Sat, 22.6.24–Sun, 10.10.24

Location
Atrium 8+9

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Founders of ZKM


Baden-Württemberg
MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT,
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STIFTUNG
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Curators

Alistair Hudson (concept), Margit Rosen (curator), Philipp Ziegler (curator)

Press conference

We cordially invite you to the press conference:

Fri, June 21, 2024, 11 am, Atrium 8+9

Please register in advance: Anne Thomé // presse@zkm.de

If you need any further information, please contact:

Anne Thomé, ZKM Press Officer // presse@zkm.de

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The press release and press photos are also available in our [press section](#).

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