

interview with thomas hirschhorn ahead of engadin art talks 2019

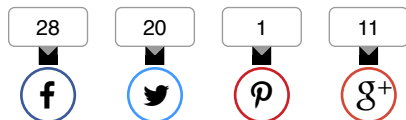


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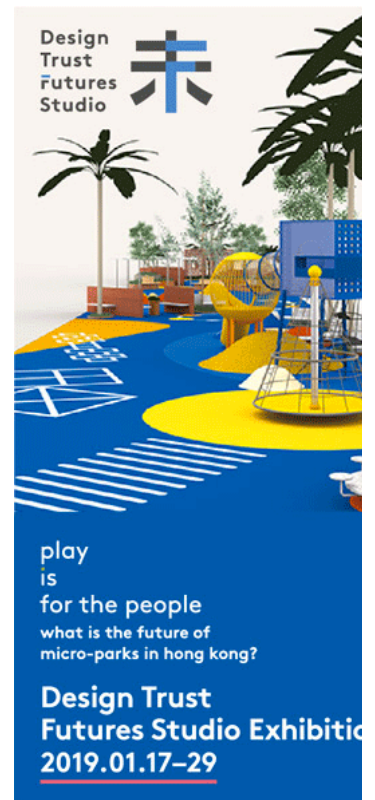


interview with thomas hirschhorn ahead of engadin art talks 2019



the year of art for 2019 begins with the eighth edition of the renowned engadin art talks (E.A.T.) (<https://engadin-art-talks.ch/>). the annual art, architecture, design, film, science, and literature forum and festival takes place on **january 26th and 27th, 2019** in zuoz, switzerland, and provides an interdisciplinary platform for global dialogue on a spectrum of creative fields and a catalyst for new ideas, discourses and trends. each year, a new theme determines the framework for the conversations led this year by curators francesco bonami, daniel baumann, bice curiger, hans ulrich obrist and philip ursprung.

since its inception in 2010, engadin art talks has invited more than 100 speakers to present their ideas and visions on socially-relevant themes that continuously seek to inspire and surprise.



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speakers from a range of creative fields will discuss the 2019 engadin art talks theme, 'grace & gravity'

this year, creative minds from a range of fields explore the theme of 'grace & gravity': how the contradictory forces define contemporary life in the digital age – with speakers including elizabeth diller (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/diller-scofidio-and-renfro/>), thomas hirschhorn (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/thomas-hirschhorn/>), charlotte rampling, tomás saraceno (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/tomas-saraceno/>), and jürgen teller.

how do gravity and grace define current-day life in the digital age? gravity and grace present a meeting of two conflicting forces: on one hand is the concept of mass and gravity with all the power that draws us earthwards. on the other is the unburdened fluidity of grace and elegance which brings the positive momentum of beauty into play. further to E.A.T, the zuoz region offers such cultural highlights as the outdoor sculpture park, 'art public plaiv' (see a [plan of the area below](https://engadin-art-talks.ch/en/exhibitions.html)). the exhibition program of artistic initiatives and venues is updated regularly [here](https://engadin-art-talks.ch/en/exhibitions.html) (<https://engadin-art-talks.ch/en/exhibitions.html>).

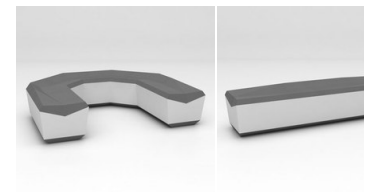
in advance of the forum, designboom spoke with swiss artist thomas hirschhorn regarding the spirit of his work and his involvement in the upcoming 2019 engadin art talks (<https://engadin-art-talks.ch/>).

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james turrell
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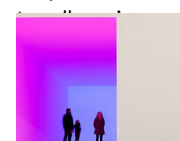
interview with the engadin art talks
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/engadin-art-talks-thomas-hirschhorn-01-21-2019/>)
Jan 21, 2019

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/engadin-art-talks-thomas-hirschhorn-01-21-2019/>)



james turrell and r for motown hotel
(<https://www.designboom.com/architecture/james-turrell-marina-abr-16-2018/>)
Apr 16, 2018

(<https://www.designboom.com/architecture/james-turrell-marina-abr-16-2018/>)

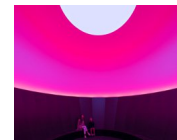


interview with jan inside people's 'the light inside pe'
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/james-turrell-interview-light-10-16-2018/>)
Oct 16, 2018

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/james-turrell-interview-light-10-16-2018/>)

designboom (DB): what are the creative strategies you adopt when working?

thomas hirschhorn (TH): I want to give form, my own form, my very own form. I want to do a work of art which creates a critical corpus. I want to work for a non-exclusive audience and I want to work with and in the institution, but also in public space. the strategy-definition — which I love and follow — is: 'to choose the points of application of my force.' my force is my form. I know it, therefore I decide to apply my force where it's necessary.



james turrell open
austrian mountain
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/james-turrell-skyspace-le-2018/>)
17, 2018

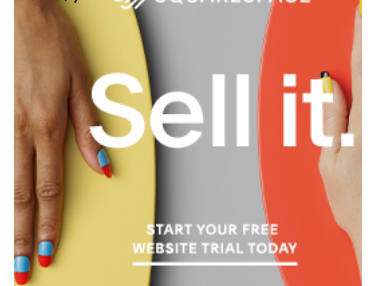
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you can now own
james turrell
(<https://www.designboom.com/architecture/james-turrell-marmol-radziner-las-vegas-05-28-2018/>)
29, 2018

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house-james-
turrell-marmol-
radziner-las-
vegas-05-28-
2018/)



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depictions of unity
cities
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/sketch-artist-creates-depictions-of-unity-cities-01-21-2019/>)
21, 2019

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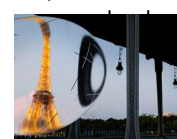
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(<https://www.designboom.com/art/facebook-interactive-book-story-01-18-2019/>)
18, 2019

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21, 2019

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/photographers-capture-legacies-of-the-1970s-01-21-2019/>)



vincent leroy disto
suspended bubble
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/vincent-leroy-slow-drop-in-bridge-paris-01-21-2019/>)
21, 2019

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/vincent-leroy-slow-drop-in-bridge-paris-01-21-2019/>)



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art-talks-thomas-
hirschhorn-
interview-01-21-
2019/)



portrait of thomas hirschhorn, a speaker at the upcoming engadin art talks

DB: what do you think is the role of an artist in society today?

TH: I can't speak for others, but I want to understand art as a tool. I want to understand art as a tool to encounter the world. I want to understand art as a tool to live in the time I am living, and I want to understand art as a tool to confront reality.

thomas hirschhorn
(<https://www.designboom.com/hirschhorn/>) (7 articles)



interview with the engadin art talks
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jan 21, 2019

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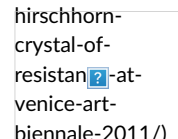
thomas hirschhorn
eternelle within p:
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-eternelle-within-p-05-21-2014/>)
may 21, 2014

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-eternelle-within-p-05-21-2014/>)



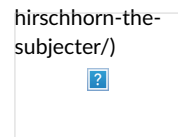
thomas hirschhorn
2011
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-crystal-of-resistance-06-15-2011/>)
jun 15, 2011

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-crystal-of-resistance-06-15-2011/>)



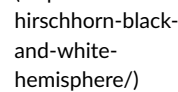
thomas hirschhorn
crystal of resistance
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-crystal-of-resistance-06-15-2011/>)
jun 15, 2010

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-crystal-of-resistance-06-15-2011/>)



thomas hirschhorn
hemisphere
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jan 29, 2010

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thomas hirschhorn
black and white hemisphere
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-black-and-white-hemisphere-01-29-2010/>)
jan 29, 2010

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-black-and-white-hemisphere-01-29-2010/>)





the zuoz region offers such cultural highlights as the outdoor sculpture park, 'art public plaiv'
james turrell (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/james-turrell/>) | skyspace, 2005 | no.6 on map below

DB: what is the common thread that underpins your work overall?

TH: the attempt to establish a critical corpus, the attempt to insist through form — in giving form — on the importance of 'form' as such, and the attempt to reach a non-exclusive audience.

DB: how does this year's engadin art talks theme 'grace & gravity' resonate with you?

TH: thanks to the proposed theme of the 'engadin art talks', I could encounter the thinking of the philosopher simone weil. for years, I have loved and have been using the notion of 'grace' that appears with my work. the theme 'grace & gravity' was a welcome invitation to develop, clarify and set the meaning and importance of 'grace' in and with my work.



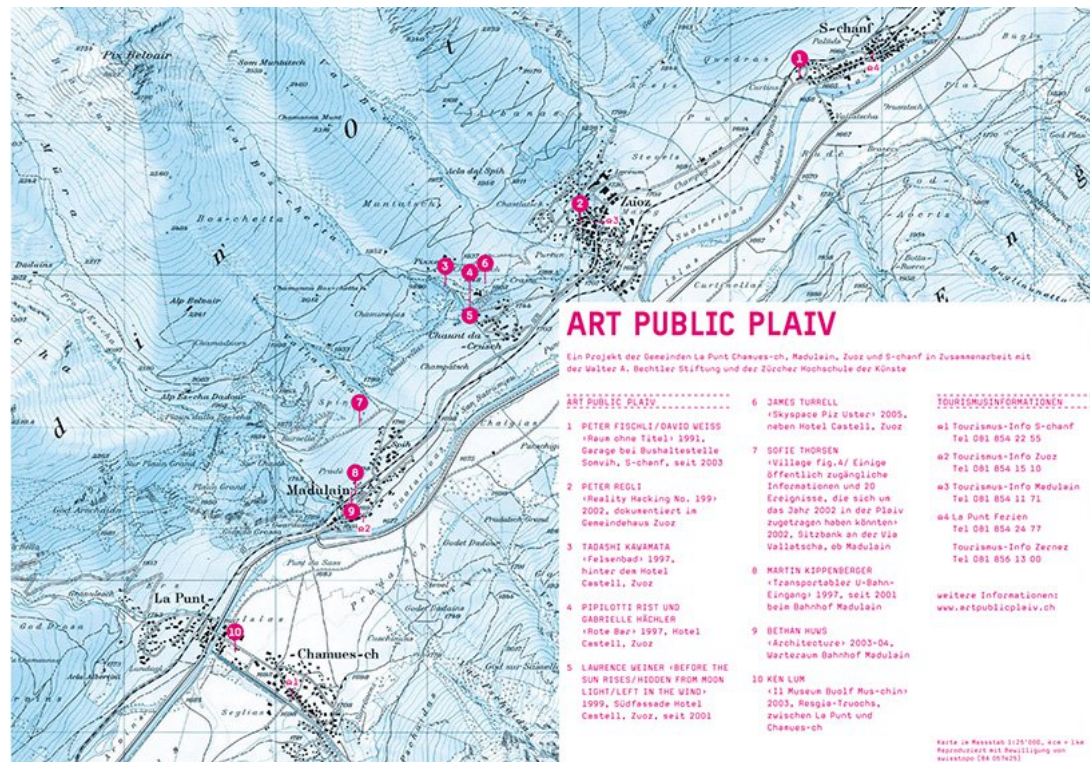
martin kippenberger (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/martin-kippenberger/>) | transportabler u-bahn eingang, 1997 | no.8 on map below

DB: can you recall some moments of grace that you've encountered while working?

TH: I will do this in my lecture at the 'engadin art talks.'

DB: what are the themes you hope your most recent work provokes a discussion about?

TH: the themes — my themes — are: energy — yes! quality — no! the essentiality of form and how to give a form which — as such — is.



'art public plaiv' site map

a project in cooperation with the walter a. bechtler foundation (<http://www.bechtlerstiftung.ch/>) and the zurich university of the arts (<https://www.zhdk.ch/>)

DB: what role do you want an audience to play in encountering your work?

TH: I want the audience to get implicated in my work. when someone says: 'I feel involved in your work!' this makes me happy.

DB: what are you afraid of regarding the future? what are you optimistic about?

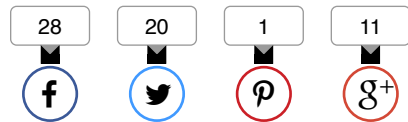
TH: I am not afraid of the future. I work beyond pessimism or optimism. a notion I do agree upon is the notion of hope: 'hope' as the principle of taking action, of having a dream, of being passionate.



E.A.T. / engadin art talks (<https://engadin-art-talks.ch/>) is an annual forum and festival for art, architecture, design, fashion, film, science, and literature which takes place in zuoz, switzerland. E.A.T.'s mission is to provide an interdisciplinary platform for a global dialogue on the arts and different creative fields. internationally recognized for its line-up of leading artists, architects, writers, scientists, and disruptive minds from all over the world, E.A.T. has invited so far more than 120 speakers that have presented their ideas and visions on challenging social relevant themes since its inception in 2010. E.A.T. was founded by cristina bechtler together with hans ulrich obrist.

kat barandy | designboom

jan 21, 2019



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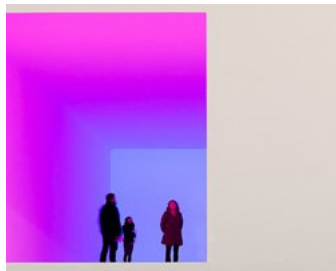


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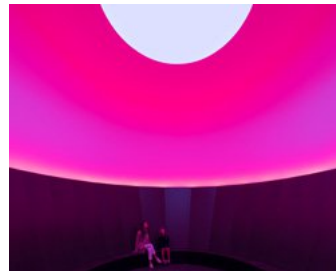
james turrell (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/james-turrell>) (19 articles)



james turrell and marina abramović to design spa for motown hotel in australia (<https://www.designboom.com/art/james-turrell-marina-abramovic-spa-motown-hotel-hobart-tasmania-12-14-2018/>)



james turrell interview on 'the light inside people' (<https://www.designboom.com/art/james-turrell-interview-light-10-16-2018/>)



james turrell opens skyspace in the austrian alps (<https://www.designboom.com/art/james-turrell-skyspace-lech-austria-09-17-2018/>)



you can now own this vegas desert dream home with its own james turrell



james turrell's skyspace in china continues to awe visitors to beijing's temple



james turrell + schmidt hammer lassen reveal design for ARoS aarhus

skyspace

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-skyspace-james-turrell-2017/>)

of wisdom

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-of-wisdom-2017/>)

museum extension

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-museum-extension-2016/>)

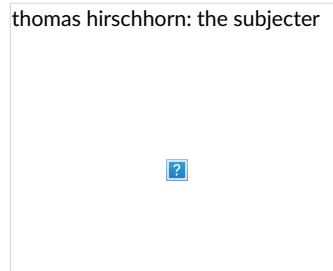
thomas hirschhorn (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/thomas-hirschhorn>) (7 articles)



thomas hirschhorn constructs flamme éternelle within paris' palais de tokyo (<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-flamme-eternelle-paris-palais-de-tokyo-2014/>)



thomas hirschhorn: crystal of resistance at venice art biennale 2011 (<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-crystal-of-resistance-at-venice-art-biennale-2011/>)



thomas hirschhorn: the subjecter (<https://www.designboom.com/art/thomas-hirschhorn-the-subjecter/>)

tomás saraceno (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/tomas-saraceno>) (10 articles)



tomás saraceno composes a sundial of solar umbrellas + floating sculptures in miami beach (<https://www.designboom.com/art/tomas-saraceno-audemars-piguet-miami-albedo-art-basel-solar-umbrellas-2018/>)



tomás saraceno suspends sundial for spatial echoes at aker brygge in oslo (<https://www.designboom.com/art/tomas-saraceno-sundial-for-spatial-echoes-aker-brygge-oslo-2015/>)



tomas saraceno's solar bell floating sculpture takes flight (<https://www.designboom.com/art/tomas-saraceno-solar-bell-floating-sculpture-takes-flight/>)

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art news



(<https://www.designboom.com/art/candida-hofer-mexico-photography-sean-kelly-gallery-new-york-01-17-19/>)

candida höfer's architectural photography in mexico exhibits in new york city

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/candida-hofer-mexico-photography-sean-kelly-gallery-new-york-01-17-19/>)

#art (/art)

known for her rigorously composed, large-scale color 'portraits' of architectural interiors, höfer's exhibition at sean kelly gallery features works drawn from »

#architectural photography (<https://www.designboom.com/art/candida-hofer-mexico-photography-sean-kelly-gallery-new-york-01-17-19/>)

#candida höfer (<https://www.designboom.com/art/candida-hofer-mexico-photography-sean-kelly-gallery-new-york-01-17-19/>)

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(<https://www.designboom.com/art/vanessa-barragao-coral-garden-installation-01-14-19/>)

vanessa barragão's 'coral garden' addresses effects of the textile industry on the coral reefs

(<https://www.designboom.com/art/vanessa-barragao-coral-garden-installation-01-14-19/>)

#art (/art)

all the materials used in the tapestry installation are drawn from the deadstock of an artisanal rugs factory in beiriz, portugal.

#ocean awareness and activism (<https://www.designboom.com/art/vanessa-barragao-coral-garden-installation-01-14-19/>)

816



(<https://www.designboom.com/art/nasa-funahara-masking-tape-paintings-nasa-funahara-01-14-2019/>)

nasa funahara uses japanese masking tape to recreate famous paintings
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/nasa-funahara-masking-tape-paintings-nasa-funahara-01-14-2019/>)

#art (/art)

no longer paintings but instead intricately made compositions of small adhesive pieces.



(<https://www.designboom.com/art/virgil-abloh-louis-vuitton-art-installation-sculpture-new-york-01-10-2019/>)

virgil abloh's 12-story sculpture for louis vuitton pays homage to wizard of oz
(<https://www.designboom.com/art/virgil-abloh-louis-vuitton-art-installation-sculpture-new-york-01-10-2019/>)

#art (/art)

the holographic figure forms part of a technicolor, conceptual retail experience.

#louis vuitton (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/louis-vuitton/>)
#public art (<https://www.designboom.com/tag/public-art/>)

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