



MAUMAUS
Residency Programme

Lumiar Cité

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Wednesday to Sunday, 3pm to 7pm

or by appointment

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PIANOWORK 2

20.06 – 27.09.2026

an exhibition by Ed Atkins

Curator and Artistic director: Jürgen Bock

Produced by Maumaus/Lumiar Cité,

in the framework of the Maumaus Residency Programme.

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Ed Atkins, *Pianowork 2*, 2023, video with sound

Lumiar Cité presents *Pianowork 2* by British artist Ed Atkins – his first exhibition in Portugal.

For the show, Atkins devised a large, extruded, hollow sculptural screen in black MDF that fills the upper gallery; the eponymous video is projected on its outer surface, while inside's a void.

For over a decade, Atkins has worked with computer-generated moving image, writing, and the staging of speech and gesture – examining the uncertain border between presence and likeness, sincerity and artifice, the body and its digital representation. His digital surrogates, at once intimate and uncanny, function less as illusions than as devices through which questions of feeling, interiority, and agency are tested against technologies that promise the wrong fidelity.

Pianowork 2 (2023) is a sixteen-minute animation in which a digital double of the artist performs Klavierstück 2 (2001), a minimalist piano composition by the Swiss composer Jürg Frey. To make it, Atkins played in a motion-capture suit with a camera mounted to his head; his head and hands were scanned separately for likeness. Driven by his gestures and rendered as faithfully as the medium allows, the avatar oscillates between accurate replication and the small failures that betray it: a hand that trembles, a breath that doesn't quite synchronise with the body, a gaze that holds just a fraction too long – realism persisting as residue, always almost achieved.

The exhibition revisits long-standing problems: how depictions of pain, concentration, and effort challenge the viewer; how interiority is granted to or withheld from figures on screen; how new technologies of digital likeness reactivate much older questions of portraiture, mourning, and the ethics of looking. As Ben Lerner has observed, Atkins's work asks ancient questions in newly pressing terms – setting in motion alternations between past and future, human and avatar, presence and likeness, automatism and invention.

The exhibition is accompanied by a pamphlet designed by the artist, which includes texts by him and Ben Lerner.

Biografia de Ed Atkins

(Oxford, 1982) is a British artist living in Copenhagen. In recent years, Atkins has presented solo exhibitions at Kunsthaus Bregenz; Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin; Castello di Rivoli, Turin; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; K21, Düsseldorf; MoMA PS1, New York; and Serpentine Galleries, London, among many other venues. In 2025, Atkins co-wrote the libretto for Rebecca Saunders's opera *LASH* at Deutsche Oper Berlin, while a mid-career retrospective opened at Tate Britain, London, in the same year. Alongside the poet Steven Zultanski, Atkins wrote and directed the play *Sorcerer* (2022) and the feature film *Nurses Come and Go, but None for Me* (2025).

He is the author of *A Primer for Cadavers* (2016), the epic anti-poem *Old Food* (2019) and the confessional nothing *Flower* (2025), all published by Fitzcarraldo Editions. He teaches at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf.

The artist and the artistic director, Jürgen Bock, are available for discussions, interviews and guided tours for members of the press.



Ed Atkins, *Pianowork 2*, 2023, video with sound, 16' 32".
Installation view, Lumiar Cité, 2026.
Photo: Daniel Malhão
Ed Atkins-1.jpeg



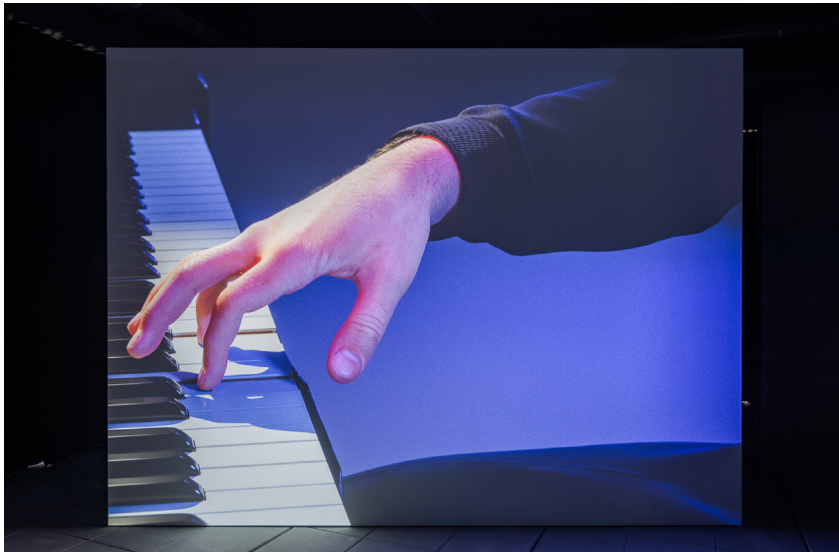
Ed Atkins, *Pianowork 2*, 2023, video with sound, 16' 32".
Installation view, Lumiar Cité, 2026.
Photo: Daniel Malhão
Ed Atkins-2.jpeg



Ed Atkins, *Pianowork 2*, 2023, video with sound, 16' 32".
Installation view, Lumiar Cité, 2026.
Photo: Daniel Malhão
Ed Atkins-3.jpeg



Ed Atkins, *Pianowork 2*, 2023, video with sound, 16' 32".
Installation view, Lumiar Cité, 2026.
Photo: Daniel Malhão
Ed Atkins-4.jpeg



Ed Atkins, *Pianowork 2*, 2023, video with sound, 16' 32".

Installation view, Lumiar Cité, 2026.

Photo: Daniel Malhão

Ed Atkins-5.jpeg



Ed Atkins, *Projection Screen*, 2026. Black MDF, plaster, wood, steel, video paint.

Installation view, Lumiar Cité, 2026.

Photo: Daniel Malhão

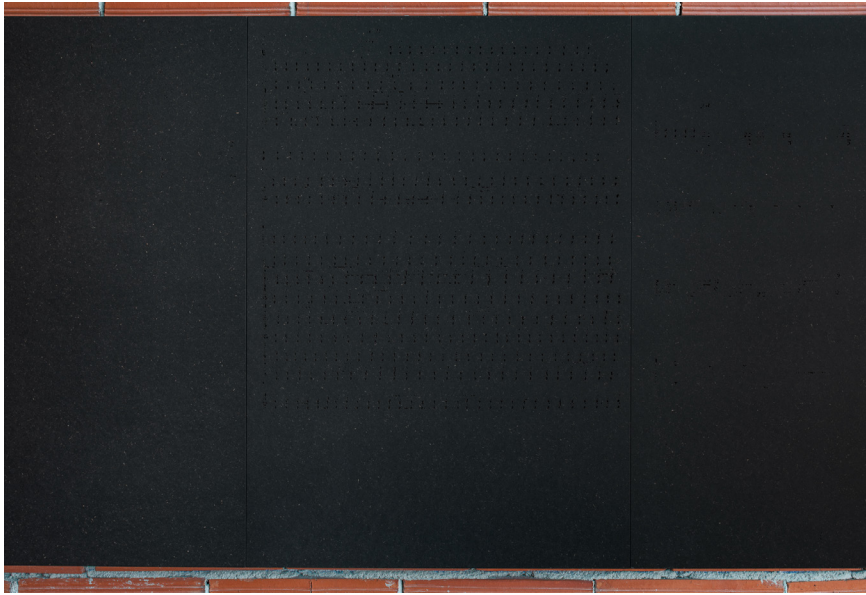
Ed Atkins-6.jpeg



Ed Atkins, *Projection Screen*, 2026. Black MDF, plaster, wood, steel, video paint.
Installation view, Lumiar Cité, 2026.
Photo: Daniel Malhão
Ed Atkins-7.jpeg



Ed Atkins, *Score*, 2026. Three laser-etched black MDF panels.
Lumiar Cité, 2026.
Photo: Daniel Malhão
Ed Atkins-8.jpeg



Ed Atkins, *Score*, 2026. Three laser-etched black MDF panels, detail.

Lumiar Cité, 2026.

Photo: Daniel Malhão

Ed Atkins-7.jpeg

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