Artist: Julian Irlinger
Exhibition Title: Verplant
Duration: 21 August – 18 October 2026
Location: Kunstverein Siegen
Kornmarkt 20, 57072 Siegen
Curated by: Jennifer Cierlitza
Photos: Simon Vogel

A telephone rings unanswered. In an architecture and urban planning office, employees sleep over their designs while, outside, cranes move to a mechanical rhythm. People lose control, yet the systems continue to operate undeterred—as if the city had long since broken free from its planners.

In Verplant, Julian Irlinger presents the animated films The Curtain of Time (2025) and Chronotopia (2026) alongside lanterns created specifically for the exhibition. Conceived as seamless loops, the films do not follow a linear narrative. Rather than the characters, it is grids, interiors, and architecture that determine the action and shape the films' distinctive visual language.

Irlinger's visual worlds modify the forms and structures of postwar animated and instructional films. Clear lines, flat colours, and restrained movements stood for progress, orientation, and social renewal. At the same time, this visual language was employed in educational films, advertising, and propaganda. What appears light, playful, and immediately comprehensible therefore always conveys a particular notion of how society should be shaped.

In The Curtain of Time, modernism's visions of the future give way to a longing for familiar, historically reconstructed urban landscapes. Within the film's loop, planning, demolition, and reconstruction become a continuous movement. Chronotopia likewise presents the city not as a completed plan, but as a site of permanent transformation where different ideas of progress converge.

The lanterns created for the exhibition extend this exploration into the physical space. Their forms draw on various housing typologies while also referring to the educational making of lanterns with children for St Martin's Day. Pedagogical instruction and individual design are brought together with traditional notions of what a house should look like. The lanterns, too, demonstrate how seemingly simple forms and familiar images convey social values.

Julian Irlinger (b. 1986 in Erlangen) is an artist based in Berlin. He is participating in Manifesta 16 Ruhr (2026). His recent solo exhibitions include Portikus, Frankfurt am Main (2025), Kunstverein Schwerin (2025), and the Wende Museum, Los Angeles (2022). His work has recently been presented in international exhibitions at PalaisPopulaire, Berlin (2025), and Art Basel Parcours, Basel (2023).

As part of the exhibition, oxfordberlin will develop a screening programme. Drawing on its own practice, the programme explores the connections between urban space, architecture, and the infrastructures of artistic production, examining how existing sites can be used and reinterpreted as exhibition spaces.

21 August, 7 pm: Opening
Welcome by the Mayor of the City of Siegen
Introduction by Jennifer Cierlitza

1 October, 7 pm
Salon: Screening programme by oxfordberlin

16 October, 6 pm
Guided tour of the exhibition

The exhibition is funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.