

PRESS RELEASE

fjk3 – Contemporary Art Space

PASSANTS PARMI LES PIERRES

curated by Thomas Demand

Tina Barney • Sibylle Bergemann • Martin Boyce • Mohamed Bourouissa • David Claerbout • Tacita Dean • Cai Dongdong • Haris Epaminonda • Omer Fast • Peter Fischli David Weiss • Jens Franke • Ljubiša Georgievski • Luigi Ghirri • Esther Hovers • Jürgen Jürges • Boris Mikhailov • Yoshinori Mizutani • Lucia Moholy • Daido Moriyama • Akihiko Okamura • Daniel Postaeer • Denise Scott Brown • Clemens J. Setz • Thomas Struth • Unknown photographer • Anna Viebrock • Jeff Wall • Carrie Mae Weems

Press tour:

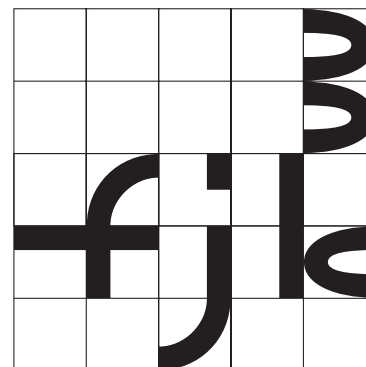
Tue, May 26, 2026, 12 noon

Opening:

Thu, May 28, 7 – 10 pm

Exhibition:

May 29 – September 20, 2026



Contemporary Art Space

Passants parmi les pierres, the group exhibition curated by Thomas Demand, revolves around images that do not merely present the reality they reference but, by the same token, bring it into being. Perception is seen as a construct, memory as montage, and the image as a form of history. This movement renders the work itself a space of thought—not as a reflection, but as an arrangement of visibility.

The show takes as a point of departure a photo by Omer Fast showing the set of *Schindler's List* (1993). It presents us with cheerful extras in front of a replica of a concentration camp—a place that is both a historical reference and a cinematic reconstruction. The picture documents an event, albeit not the one it appears to depict at first glance. It marks a shift between document, staging, and memory. This distance from reality indirectly touches on Thomas Demand's own artistic practice as well. Based on images passed down through various media, he reconstructs places and situations using paper and cardboard, which he then captures in photographs. In the process of translating a three-dimensional model into a two-dimensional image, reality comes to be experienced as a construction.

From this starting point, *Passants parmi les pierres* proceeds to bring together works by a range of artists, including Luigi Ghirri, Sibylle Bergemann, Tacita Dean, Jürgen Jürges, Peter Fischli and David Weiss, Mohamed Bourouissa, Jeff Wall, and Carrie Mae Weems, as well as other artistic positions from photography, film, and sculpture. All of these works navigate the space between reportage and reconstruction, the observed moment and the staged image, as well as historical events and their representation.

The twenty-seven works selected for this exhibition are related to one another in various ways. They share aspects of pictorial composition, spatial arrangement, and, in many cases, the seemingly casual, hardly noticeable presence of the camera. Figures frequently appear against architectural backdrops, often turned away from the camera. They seem to suggest a relation to the spaces that surround them, which, upon closer inspection, proves to be more of a conjecture than a verifiable connection.

In preparation for the exhibition, Thomas Demand combed through archives, collections, and bodies of works in his artistic environment and communicated directly with most of the participating artists to discuss their contributions. Some of the exhibits were produced specifically for this occasion, while others appear in a new, sometimes surprising context. Relationships emerge between them that read less as narrative and more structural in nature, as correspondences between perspective, space, memory, and staging.

The captions penned by **Clemens J. Setz** form a distinct textual layer within the exhibition space. Far from explaining images, sculptures, and films, they accompany them with openly subjective commentary—in the form of associations, memories, observations, or brief narratives. In doing so, they invite viewers to come up with their own reading of the works, instead of presenting a supposedly objective set of facts.

The exhibition is designed as a spatial movement through the fjk3 venue. Transitions, narrow passages, and sightlines encourage visitors into a form of sauntering in which seeing and thinking merge—as passersby among the stones.

Thomas Demand (born in Munich in 1964) is recognized globally as one of the most influential artists who explore the relationship between image, memory, and reality. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich, Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, and Goldsmiths College in London.

His work has been exhibited at numerous prestigious institutions around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Serpentine Gallery, London; Jeu d'Paume, Paris; MOT, Tokyo; Fondazione Prada; Venice; mumok, Vienna. Demand represented Germany at the 26th São Paulo Biennial and has participated in the Venice Biennale several times.

Thomas Demand has served as a professor at HFBK Hamburg since 2011. He lives and works in Berlin and Los Angeles, and alongside his artistic practice, he has worked as a curator of several exhibitions.

Clemens J. Setz (born in Graz in 1982) is a writer and translator living in Vienna. He studied mathematics and German studies and has received numerous awards, including the Leipzig Book Fair Prize (2011), the Wilhelm Raabe Literature Prize (2015), the Georg Büchner Prize (2021), and the Austrian Book Prize (2023). His texts are distinguished by a particular sensitivity to perception, language, and associative connections—qualities that are also reflected in his contributions to *Passants parmi les pierres*.

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We extend our heartfelt thanks to:

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Parallel to the exhibition **Passants parmi les pierres**, the artist Thomas Demand is represented at the MAK – Museum of Applied Arts with the solo exhibition **THOMAS DEMAND. Rooms That Dream of the Past** (27 May 2026 – 24 January 2027).

Press conference:

MAK – Museum of Applied Arts

Tue, 26 May 2026, 10 a.m.

Press tour:

fjk3 – Raum für zeitgenössische Kunst

Tue, 26 May 2026, 12 noon

Press contact fjk3:

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Opening:

Thursday, 28 May 2026, 7 p.m.

Exhibition:

29 May–20 September 2026

Opening Hours:

Wed–Sun, 12 noon–6 p.m.

Fri, 12 noon–8 p.m.

Expert-Guided Tours of the Exhibition:

Fri, 12 June 2026, 6 p.m.

Fri, 10 July 2026, 6 p.m.

Fri, 24 July 2026, 6 p.m.

Fri, 28 August 2026, 6 p.m.

Sun, 20 September 2026, 4 p.m.

For individual guided tours (max. 25 visitors), please contact: info@fjk3.com

Further information:

fjk3.com