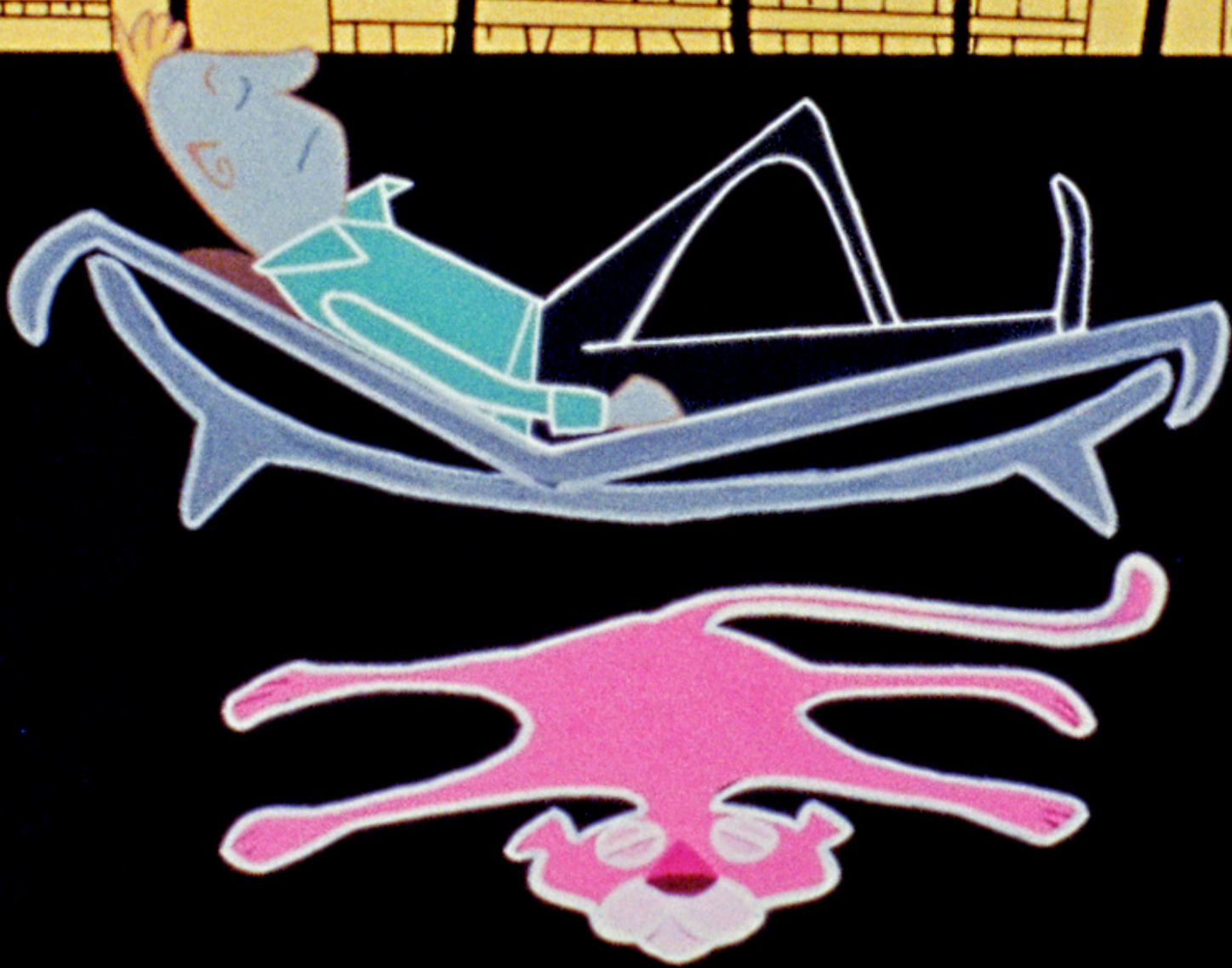


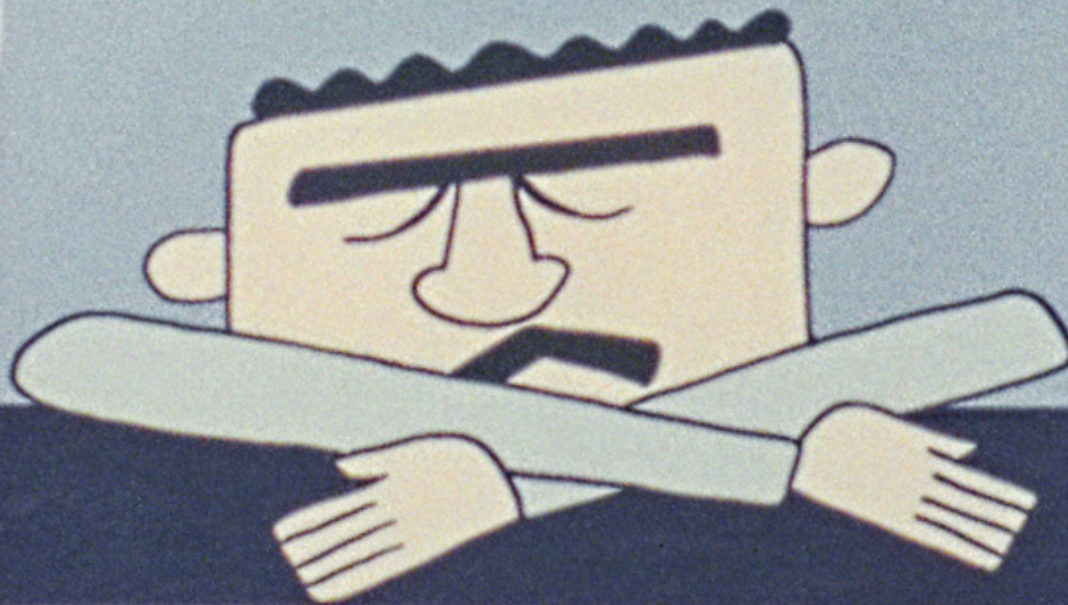
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JULIAN IRLINGER



SLEEPWALKERS

11 SEPTEMBER ^{TO} 8 NOVEMBER 2025

Julian Irlinger's third solo exhibition at Galerie Thomas Schulte, *Sleepwalkers*, presents an animated film alongside paper sculptures and graphic works.

The animation *The Curtain of Time* (2025) pans through an office interior where architects and urban planners are either sleepwalking or lying asleep at their desks. While no one is working inside, cranes outside move mechanically back and forth as part of an ongoing construction project—a cityscape suspended between repetition, reinvention, erasure and preservation. Models of modernist landmarks are replaced by timber-frame structures, reflecting the shift from postwar modernism toward historical reconstruction that has shaped German cities in recent decades.

The hypnotic, rhythmic movements of certain figures and objects seem to measure time in intangible ways: in breath, in water dripping from a cooler, smoke rising from a lit cigarette, or a projector's flickering beam. In contrast to its visual order—drawing on mid-century animation aesthetics—the film's soundscape forms a wandering, untamed acoustic layer that disrupts the cyclical progression.

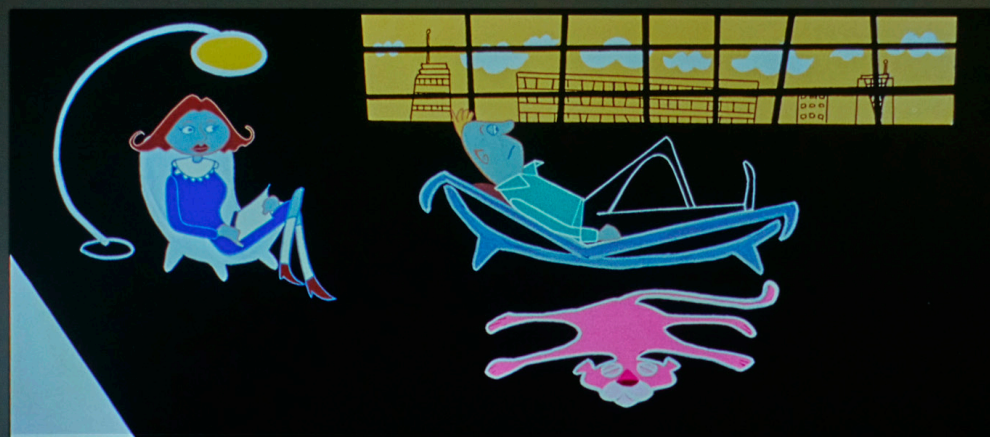
The work—commissioned by Portikus, Frankfurt/Main—follows the format of traditional shorts that once preceded feature films in movie theaters. In contrast, the film is conceived as a seamless loop and employs the historical technique of cel animation, with individual frames hand-drawn onto transparent celluloid sheets, photographed, and compiled into sequences to create the illusion of movement.

Paper lanterns, like those crafted by children to carry through the streets on St. Martin's Day, hold both festive and educational significance. Irlinger's lanterns take the form of architectural models—timber-frame houses, social housing blocks, and modernist villas. Some display cut-outs reminiscent of mid-century modern design. Suspended and floating, the delicate black-paper structures are dimly lit and feature windows in red, blue, yellow, and green, transforming the space into an ethereal procession of light.

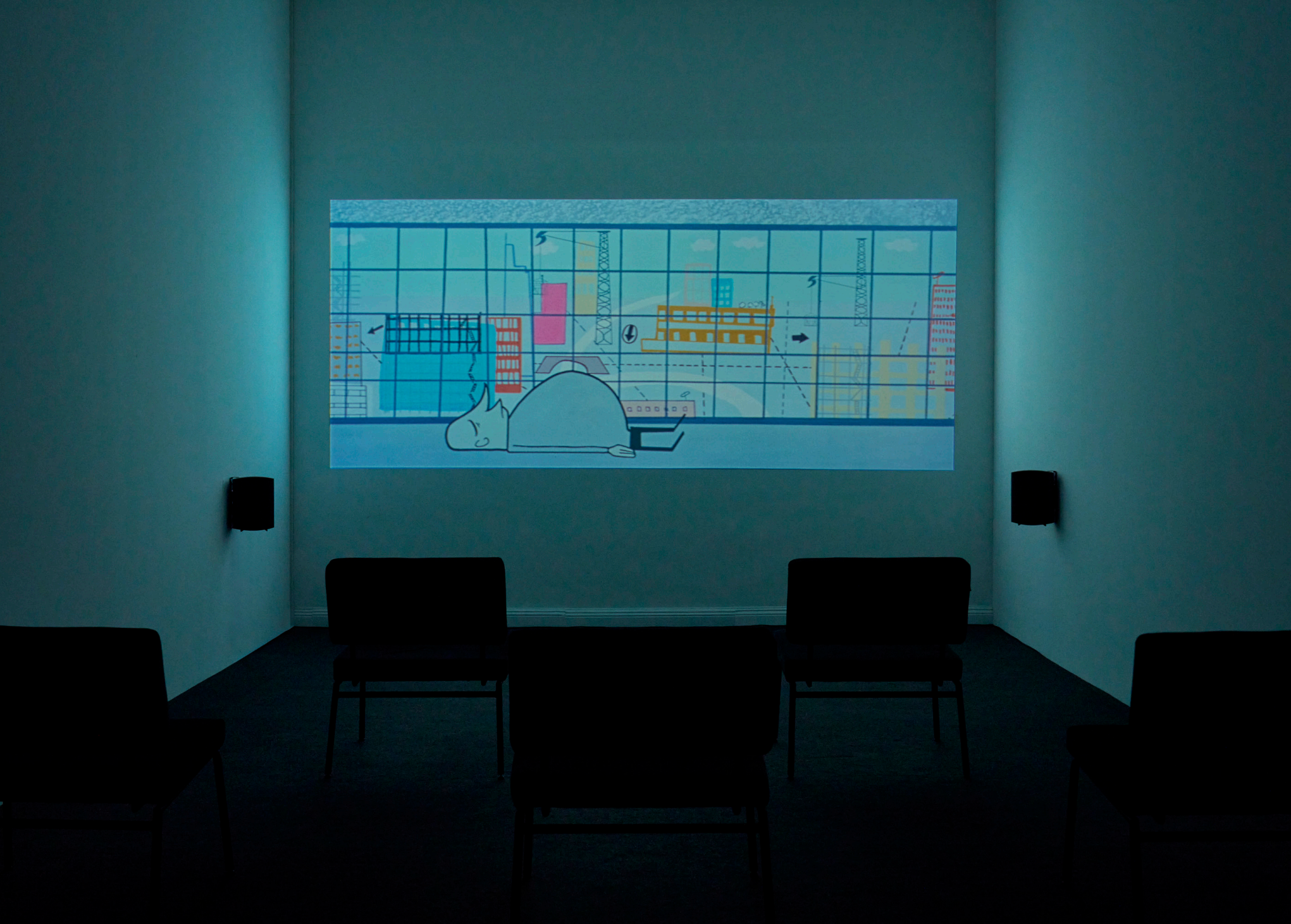
In some collages, shop windows display goods and services that appear as relics of a bygone era. In others, fragments of urban life are constructed in solid colours and bold shapes, exploring the tension between foreground and background. Detailed coloured-pencil drawings extend the dreamlike

atmosphere with figures in the same slumber-like state as in the film. Inside a music shop or a thrift store, they hold classical instruments while lying down or closing their eyes, as though performing from implicit memory.

What persists throughout the exhibition is a phantom presence: the mid-century modern period as a lens through which to consider how cultural narratives are constructed and circulate in visual form, and how, over time, they are taken up as instruments of learning or belief.



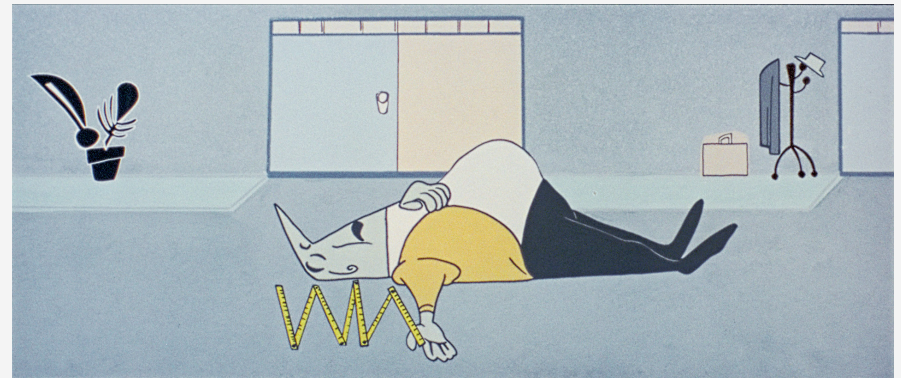
Installation view of *Sleepwalkers* at Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, 2025



Installation view of *Sleepwalkers* at Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, 2025

The Curtain of Time, 2025

16 mm film transfer to digital, color, sound, 10'50", loop
edition of 3 plus 2 AP (#1/3)





Installation view of *Sleepwalkers* at Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, 2025

Laterne, Laterne, 2025

cardboard, transparent paper, cable, lightbulb
30 × 40 × 30 cm | 11 3/4 × 15 3/4 × 11 3/4 in



Laterne, Laterne, 2025

cardboard, transparent paper, cable, lightbulb

50 × 30 × 30 cm | 19 3/4 × 11 3/4 × 11 3/4 in



Untitled (pink dog I), 2025

paper cut-out

paper size:

50 × 75 cm | 19 3/4 × 29 1/2 in

framed dimensions:

53 × 78.2 × 2.8 cm | 20 7/8 × 30 3/4 × 1 1/8 in



Untitled (black dog), 2025

paper cut-out, colour pencil, gift wrapping paper (made in GDR)

paper size:

50 × 75 cm | 19 3/4 × 29 1/2 in

framed dimensions:

53 × 78.2 × 2.8 cm | 20 7/8 × 30 3/4 × 1 1/8 in





Installation view of *Sleepwalkers* at Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, 2025

Laterne, Laterne, 2025

cardboard, transparent paper, cable, lightbulb
60 × 20 × 20 cm | 23 5/8 × 7 7/8 × 7 7/8 in



Untitled (pink dog II), 2025

paper cut-out

paper size:

50 × 75 cm | 19 3/4 × 29 1/2 in

framed dimensions:

53 × 78.2 × 2.8 cm | 20 7/8 × 30 3/4 × 1 1/8 in



Laterne, Laterne, 2025

cardboard, transparent paper, cable, lightbulb
50 × 30 × 30 cm | 19 3/4 × 11 3/4 × 11 3/4 in





Installation view of *Sleepwalkers* at Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, 2025

Laterne, Laterne, 2025

cardboard, transparent paper, cable, lightbulb
50 × 30 × 30 cm | 19 3/4 × 11 3/4 × 11 3/4 in



Untitled (five birds), 2025

paper cut-out mounted on wood

30 × 40 × 3.7 cm | 11 3/4 × 15 3/4 × 1 1/2 in



Laterne, Laterne, 2025

cardboard, transparent paper, cable, lightbulb

30 × 40 × 30 cm | 11 3/4 × 15 3/4 × 11 3/4 in



Untitled (three birds), 2025

paper cut-out mounted on wood

30 × 40 × 3.7 cm | 11 3/4 × 15 3/4 × 1 1/2 in





Installation view of *Sleepwalkers* at Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin, 2025

Laterne, Laterne, 2025

cardboard, transparent paper, cable, lightbulb
50 × 30 × 30 cm | 19 3/4 × 11 3/4 × 11 3/4 in



Untitled (six lobsters), 2025

paper cut-out mounted on wood

30 × 40 × 3.7 cm | 11 3/4 × 15 3/4 × 1 1/2 in



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This exhibition dossier was published on the occasion of *Sleepwalkers*.
Please note that all information in this preview may be subject to changes.