



MAM

The Contemporary Art Museum of Luxembourg

Video Killed the Radio Star

The 1980s and
their Cultural Echoes

12.06 – 11.10.2026

Press kit

MAM



Video Killed the Radio Star: The 1980s and their Cultural Echoes

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The 1980s were defined by paradoxes made visible through the image: the gleaming surface of pop culture overlapped with the deep fractures of global politics, as new technologies intersected with old ideologies; the birth of MTV and the shadow of Chernobyl both reached audiences through the same mediated lens. *Video Killed the Radio Star*, a new exhibition at Mudam Luxembourg – Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, explores the transformations of a period when image overtook voice, access replaced ownership, and aesthetics began to convey power in new ways, and its legacy to the present.

From the Cold War's final acts to the rise of neoliberalism under Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, the 1980s marked a profound reorientation of Western culture, soon reframed by the emergence of other cultural forces, among them feminist and queer theories and critiques, which expanded and contested the dominant narratives of postmodernism. This exhibition invites us to consider what we have inherited from that era, and what we may have lost, particularly in the context of today's landscape of algorithmic influence, mediated intimacy and post-truth politics. Revisiting this pivotal moment in the West and its global impact, the exhibition portrays the 1980s as a cultural turning point, a decade in which many of today's tools, tensions and desires took form.

Structured in two parts, the exhibition first focuses on the aesthetic revolutions of the early 1980s, driven by post-war generations of artists questioning Western-centric ideas of universalism. The second part turns to the socio-political context of the decade, its ruptures and continuities that still resonate today.

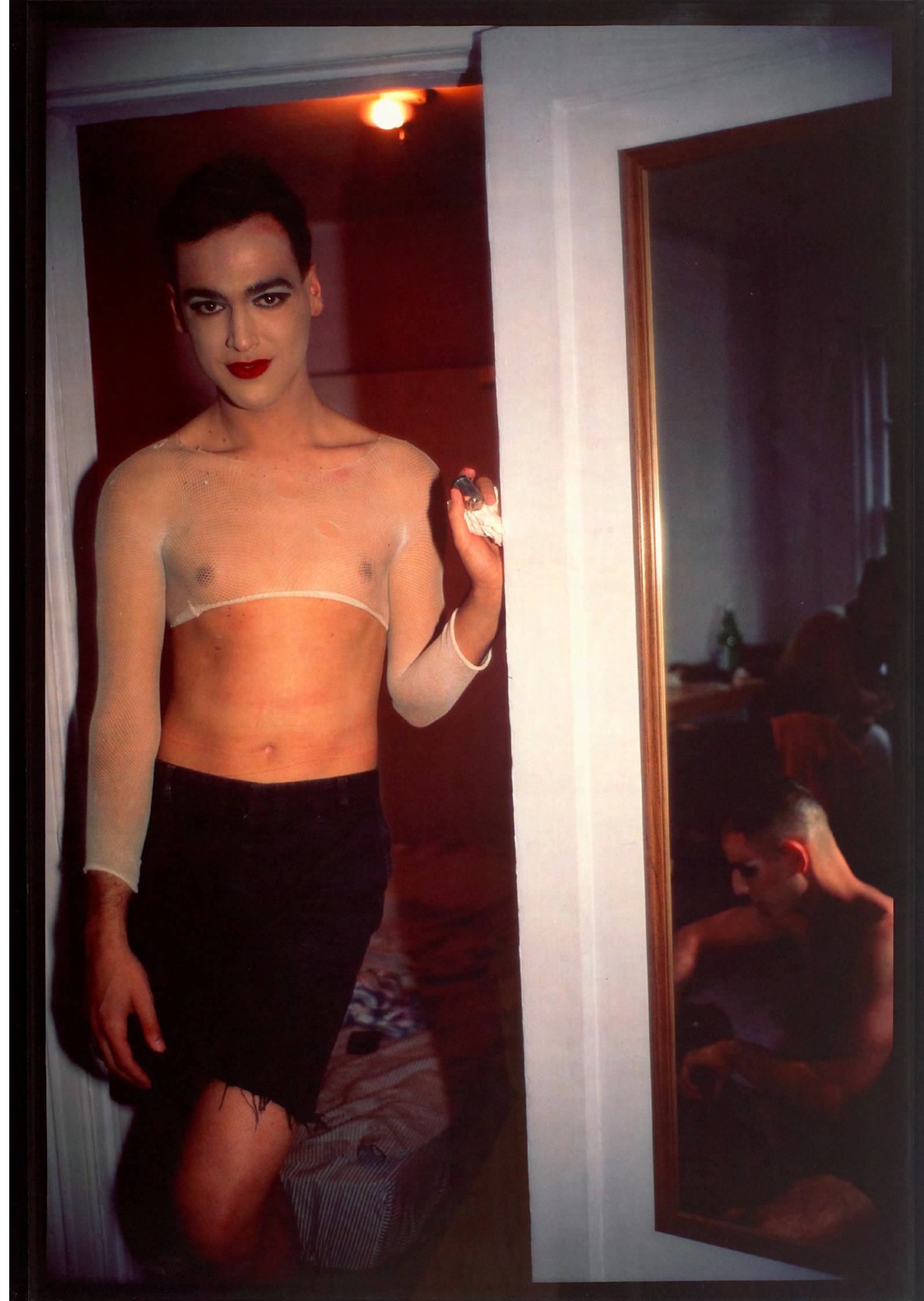
The exhibition includes about fifty works by forty-two artists, many of which are drawn from the Mudam Collection: Bernd & Hilla Becher, Daniel Buren, Victor Burgin, Sophie Calle, Mel Chin, Günthe Förg, General Idea, Nan Goldin, Jack Goldstein, Andreas Gursky, Peter Halley, Anne Imhof, Joyce Joumaa, Isaac Julien, Martin Margiela, Park McArthur, Albert Oehlen, Grayson Perry,

Sondra Perry, Josephine Pryde, Julika Rudelius, Sarkis, Julian Schnabel, Thomas Schütte, Cindy Sherman, Lorna Simpson, Michael E. Smith, Thomas Struth, Leyla Yenirce. These works will be joined by loans by artists including 4FSB, Bless, Rhea Dillon, Andrzej Steinbach, Vivienne Westwood, Alvin Baltrop, Harun Farocki, Roman Ondak, Martin Wong, Hélène Yamba-Giumbi, Michel Majerus and Angharad Williams.

The exhibition marks the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of Mudam Luxembourg – Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean.

Curators

Bettina Steinbrügge
assisted by Caroline Honorien and Alexine Taddei

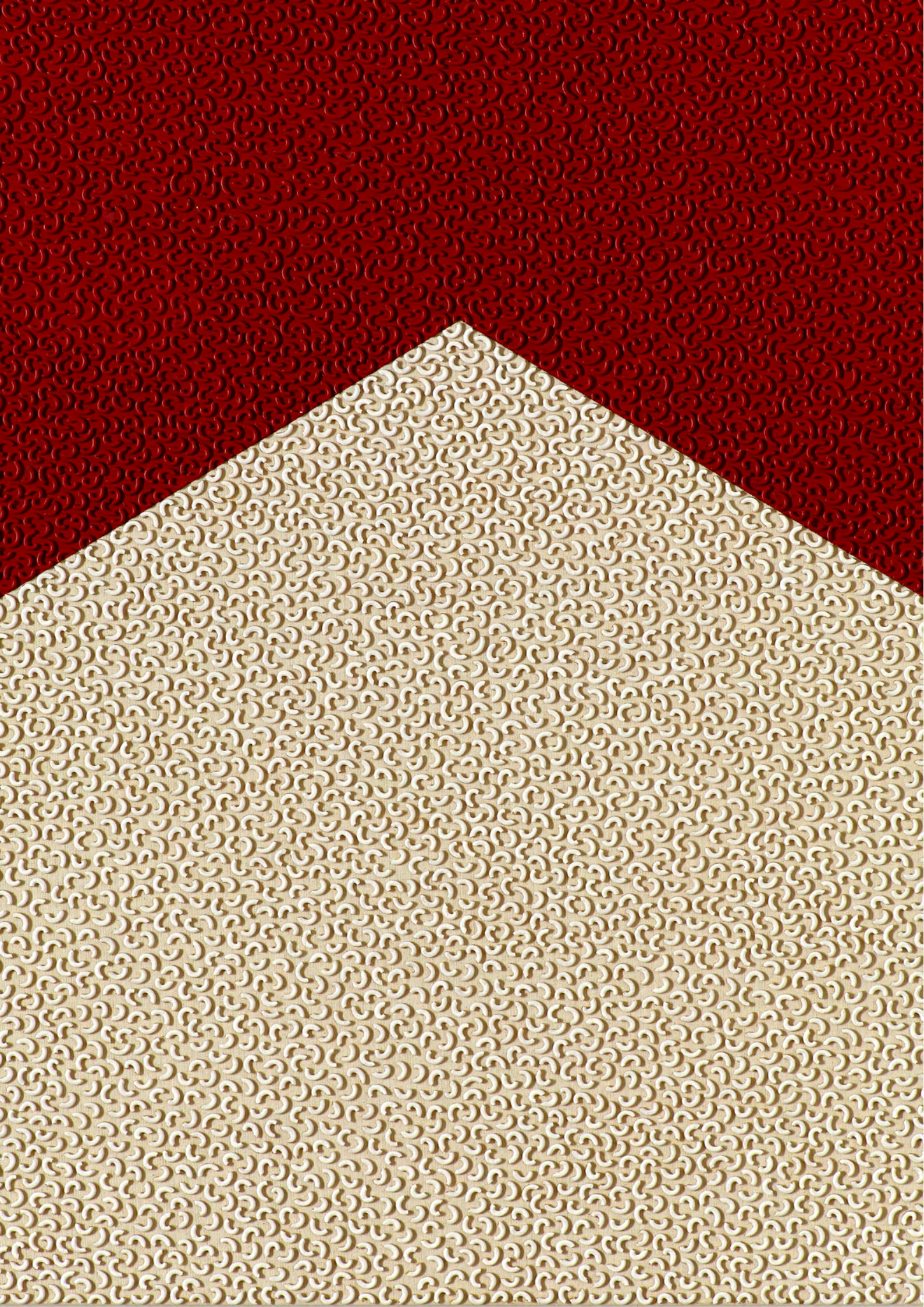




Daring *Sensible* *Severe* *Long & Silky* *Boyish* *Ageless* *Silly* *Magnetic* *Country Fresh* *Sweet*







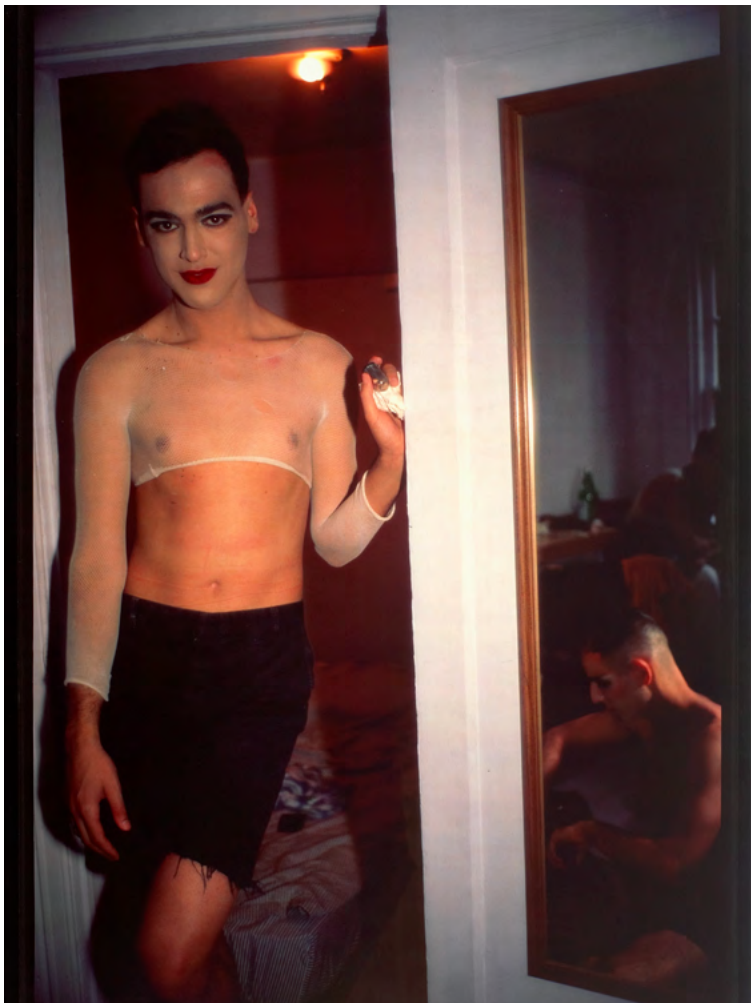
Images



1



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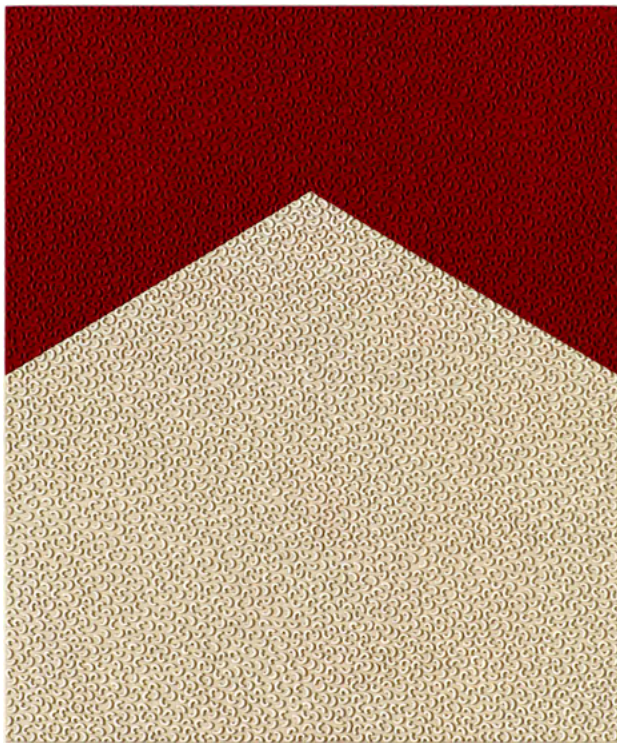
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7



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9



10

Credits

1
Angharad Williams
Myself as Tinky Winky as Iggy Pop, 2025
Friends & Fools, a members' club
by Rote Wand – Courtesy of KIN
Photo: Fabrice Schneider

2
Julian Schnabel
Hector, 1989
Mudam Luxembourg Collection –
Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean
Acquisition 1997 – Contribution by FOCUNA
Photo: Rémi Villaggi © Mudam Luxembourg

3
Nan Goldin
Jimmy Paulette and Tabboo! undressing,
NYC, 1991
Mudam Luxembourg Collection –
Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean
Acquisition 1997 – Contribution by FOCUNA
Photo: Rémi Villaggi © Mudam Luxembourg

4
Lorna Simpson
Stereo Styles, 1988
Mudam Luxembourg Collection –
Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean
Donation 2022 – American Friends of Mudam,
Collection Raymond J. Leary

Exhibition view *Donations et dépôts récents*.
Collection Mudam, Mudam Luxembourg,
21.09.2019–13.04.2020
Photo: Rémi Villaggi © Mudam Luxembourg

5
Sarkis
*La Sculpture Verticale en Brique
et Bandes Magnétiques*, 1984
Mudam Luxembourg Collection –
Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean
Deposit 2006 – Collection M.J.S., Paris

Exhibition view *Les 25 ans de la Collection Mudam*,
Mudam Luxembourg, 21.11.2020–29.05.2023
Photo : Rémi Villaggi © Mudam Luxembourg

6
Martin Margiela
2006–07 Fall/Winter Artisanal Collection
Mudam Luxembourg Collection –
Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean
Donation 2007
Photo: Rémi Villaggi © Mudam Luxembourg

7
General Idea
Sans Titre (Marlboro), 1986
From the series *Pasta Paintings*, 1986–87
Mudam Luxembourg Collection –
Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean
Acquisition 2007
Photo: Rémi Villaggi © Mudam Luxembourg

8
Mel Chin
Shape of a Lie, 2005
Mudam Luxembourg Collection –
Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean
Acquisition 2011

Exhibition view *Double Coding*.
Collection Mudam, Mudam Luxembourg,
17.06–10.09.2017
Photo: Rémi Villaggi © Mudam Luxembourg

9
Andrzej Steinbach
Untitled (from the Series *Der Apparat*), 2019
Courtesy of the artist and KIN

10
Hélène Yamba-Guimbi
Foreign (1), 2025
Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Nicolas Brasseur

Practical information

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@MudamLux #MudamLux
#OpenMuseum #VideoKilledTheRadioStar

Address and contact

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Opening hours

Tue 10:00 – 18:00
Wed 10:00 – 21:00
Thu – Sun 10:00 – 18:00

Mo Closed
Holidays 10:00 – 18:00
24.12 + 31.12 10:00 – 15:00
25.12 Closed

Press contact

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Mudam Luxembourg – Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean | Ieoh Ming Pei Architect Design | Photo: Christian Aschman © Mudam Luxembourg

Mudam Luxembourg Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean

Mudam Luxembourg – Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean presents and collects the most significant art of our time. Through its exhibitions, publications, artistic and educational programme, Mudam fosters research and dialogue while foregrounding the changing nature of art and society. Mudam serves as a reference museum for contemporary art that strives to embody artistic, architectural and cultural excellence.

Our museum collaborates with artists and cultural producers from around the world. Its artistic programme is accessible, experimental, transnational and transdisciplinary. Art of the past and present guides our ambition to reflect the contemporary world in a way that provokes both thinking and emotions. We stimulate new relationships between ideas, people, communities, generations, objects and stories.

Mudam promotes creativity, plurality and cultural participation for all. Like Luxembourg itself, the museum is located at the centre of Europe and has an outward-looking vision. We are committed to a more inclusive, tolerant, and responsible world, in which museums play a leading role in the transmission of cultural heritage to future generations. Mudam is open: everyone is welcome.

Mudam Luxembourg – Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean extends its thanks

to the members of Cercle des collectionneurs, all donors and patrons,
and in particular for their exceptional support:
Herny J. & Erna D. Leir Fondatioun, M. and Mme Norbert Becker-Dennewald,
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