

Joe Ramirez

THE GOLD PROJECTIONS

Press Release, August 1, 2019



Pierre Boulez Saal

August 2–31, 2019

Französische Straße 33d, 10117 Berlin

Open **Fridays** and **Saturdays**

from sunset through 1am

www.boulezsaal.de

This August, the Pierre Boulez Saal will be home to *The Gold Projections*, a monumental installation by American artist Joe Ramirez. During the summer between performance seasons, Berlin’s new concert hall becomes a space of silence in which this extraordinary creation will work its meditative spell.

Inspired by architect Frank Gehry’s initial sketch for the Pierre Boulez Saal, Ramirez’s current design for *The Gold Projections* consists of two massive golden disks, facing each other across the elliptical room, that blend painting and the moving image in a fascinating visual and sensorial experience. In the dark, the surface of Ramirez’s hand-crafted, Renaissance-style water-gilded disks comes to life through high-resolution projections, reflecting visions, dreams, and memories and immersing audiences in unique, poignant imagery. The installation will feature two films created by Ramirez, entitled *Vermilion* and *Somnium*.

“Silence is for music what darkness is for *The Gold Projections*,” Ramirez says, reflecting on the presentation of his work in a concert hall. **“This tension and complementarity between emptiness and fullness is central to the work of art and to the work of social inclusivity.”**

Born in San Francisco in 1958 and based in Berlin since 2007, Joe Ramirez studied painting and film at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as sculpture at the Royal College of Art, London, before working as a fresco painter. During the restoration of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, he had the unique opportunity of viewing Michelangelo’s ceiling paintings up close, an experience that inspired the development of *The Gold Projections*. Starting from the origins of Western painting (Giotto, the Flemish Masters, El Greco, and Goya in particular) and entering into a dialogue with contemporary artists such as James Turrell, Robert Irwin, and Jim Campbell, Ramirez’s work

pushes towards integration and a “composite art” that creates a captivating link between stillness and the moving image. Bringing together elements of tradition with new perspectives, this incarnation of *The Gold Projections* at the Pierre Boulez Saal allows for an exploration of novel, uncharted, inner and outer social and existential landscapes.

“Ramirez’s use of the relationship of light as material, and material as light, grounds his projections within a highly personal and original aesthetic that is best described as an expanded alchemical imagination.”

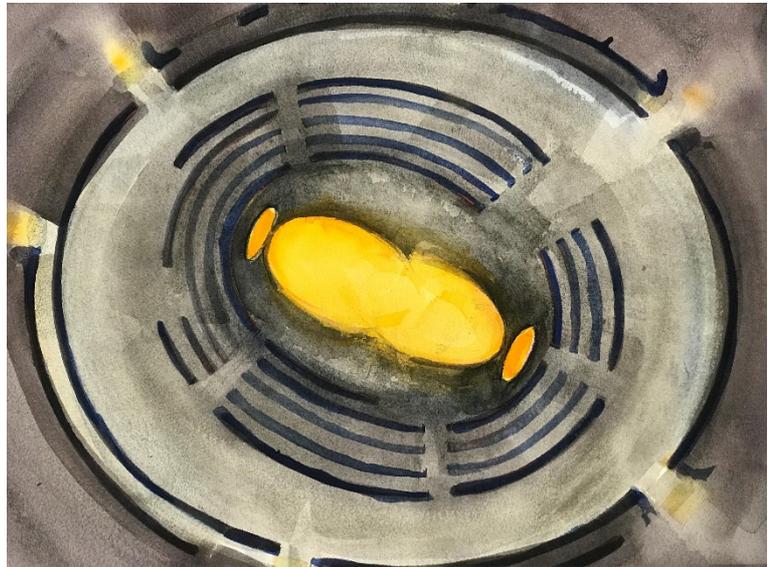
— Mark Gisbourne

“All I know is: there’s nothing like it.”

— Wim Wenders

Designed by architect Frank Gehry and acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota, the **Pierre Boulez Saal** opened in March 2017. It is part of the Barenboim-Said Akademie and housed in a former set storage building of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden. An ellipse-shaped, modular space in which sound and architecture blend in a unique way, the concert hall in the heart of Berlin offers almost unlimited possibilities to experience music—from solo works to chamber music in all its forms to orchestral repertoire, from the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic eras to 20th-century classics and world premieres. The idea of “Music for the Thinking Ear” serves as a motto, inspired by the limitless artistic curiosity of Pierre Boulez. It is most directly expressed in the concerts of the Boulez

Ensemble, which was founded by Daniel Barenboim. In addition to chamber music from the 18th to the 21st centuries, music from the Middle East and Northern Africa forms another major part of the program.



Presented by the Pierre Boulez Saal in cooperation with WZB Berlin Social Science Center.

An earlier version of *The Gold Projections* was seen in 2017 as part of the Berlin Film Festival.

ADMISSION

€ 14 (advance sales) / € 10 (at the door, subject to availability) / € 7 (discounted)

Limit of 200 visitors at any given time

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