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Press Release

Jan Kuck
always reach beyond the light

Opening	Friday, 26 June 2026, 6–9 pm
Guided Tour & Artist Talk	Saturday, 27 June 2026, 2:30 pm with Jan Kuck and Dr. Susanne Adele Kudielka
Exhibition	26 June – 1 August 2026

Guest exhibition
In cooperation with Bernheimer Contemporary

always reach beyond the light unfolds as a constellation of light, language and charged materials. The exhibition follows no linear chronology. It brings together works from different bodies of work into a constellation in which each object responds to another while retaining its own tension. As in much of Jan Kuck's practice, meaning does not arise from a single gesture, but from the interplay between language, body, surface, history and space.

The eponymous neon work *Always reach beyond the light* forms the point of departure. The phrase suggests an apparently simple gesture: to reach further, beyond the light, beyond what is visible, intelligible or already determined. At the same time, Kuck undercuts the gravity of this imperative through a lightness that is never entirely innocent. Light appears to offer orientation, only to withdraw it again. It does not lead to certainty, but rather to a state of heightened attention.

From here, the exhibition unfolds in several directions. In the works of the *Old Masters New Series*, historical visual languages are not invoked in order to affirm them, but to unsettle them anew. Baroque frames, woven textiles, references to Cranach and neon encounter phrases that seem too direct, too contemporary or too humorous to fit comfortably within a historical order. It is precisely from this friction that their energy emerges: the old is not preserved, the new is not celebrated. Instead, both are held in productive tension.

ARACHNE relocates this conflict into the fabric itself. Acid, glass fibre and projection generate an image suspended between textile, luminous object and apparition. *SORE POINT*, by contrast, turns attention towards the structure of questioning. The work does not ask which answer is correct, but whether the questions we ask reach the heart of the matter at all. In this shift lies a central aspect of Kuck's practice: language is not explained but exposed; it must assert itself in space.

The new chair sculptures add a physical and biographical dimension to the exhibition. Their source objects derive from a long-forgotten cache of historical chairs and fragments. Through paint, textile interventions, chains, mirrors and coloured Plexiglas, Kuck transfers them into a contemporary context in which function, ornament and decay are renegotiated. Seating furniture becomes sculpture; traces of use become signs.

always reach beyond the light is ultimately an exhibition about crossing thresholds: about the passage from language to object, from illumination to inquiry, from inherited forms to contemporary experience. The works do not seek a singular interpretation. Instead, they generate fields in which aesthetics, humour, irritation and seriousness operate simultaneously.

Jan Kuck (*1978) lives and works in Munich. With a background in law, philosophy and history, he has developed a conceptual practice centred on language, light and public space. Through neon, laser, fibre-optic and site-specific installations, he investigates how meaning is produced through perception, architecture and collective experience.

His work has been presented internationally in exhibitions and public projects, including Kunsthalle München, the Venice Architecture Biennale, Schloss Bellevue in Berlin and the Copenhagen Light Festival. Kuck is represented by Bernheimer Contemporary, Munich.

As part of the exhibition, a guided tour followed by an artist talk with Jan Kuck and Dr Susanne Adele Kudielka will take place on Saturday, 27 June 2026 at 2.30 pm.

From a young age, Dr Susanne Adele Kudielka was a familiar presence in artists' studios and galleries. After completing her studies, she worked with international museums and galleries, most notably for many years with Ernst Beyeler. She first served as Director of Galerie Beyeler, where she curated, among other projects, the exhibition *ARTLIGHT*, and later worked with the Fondation Beyeler, including on the editorial work for the catalogue accompanying the exhibition *Colour > Light*, published in 2000.

Today, she works from Basel as a personal curator for private and corporate collections, as well as an independent exhibition curator. She first encountered Jan Kuck's work through his neon piece time matters, which strikingly reflects her own tagline: *Your Art Matters*.

For further information please contact Rita Burster: mail@galerieburster.com
Opening hours: Thursday – Friday 12 – 6 pm, Saturday 12 – 4 pm and by appointment