



Press Release

Julian Charrière. *Midnight Zone*

March 14–July 12, 2026

Exhibition tour and press lunch with Julian Charrière: Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 11 am

Opening: Friday, March 13, 2026, at 7 pm, followed by a party

Curators: Andreas Beitin, Dino Steinhof

Curatorial Assistant: Anne Rybka

A dazzling light shines through a rotating Fresnel lens in the depths of the Pacific Ocean, gigantic submerged glaciers tower above the viewer, and divers float seemingly weightless in Mexican cenotes—the solo exhibition *Midnight Zone* by the French-Swiss artist Julian Charrière (b. 1987) presents a fascinating investigation into the mysterious world of water.

Julian Charrière's multimedia works consistently combine art, environment, and science. At the heart of the exhibition is the most important element for life on Earth: water. It is the basis of our planet's biosphere, the habitat of countless organisms and, at the same time, a highly contested resource. Thus, the exhibition highlights not only the sensual and metaphorical aspects associated with water but also a number of the political issues that surround it, such as water pollution and acidification, the melting of glaciers and polar ice caps due to the human-induced climate catastrophe, and the threat to the seabed posed by deep-sea mining, among others.

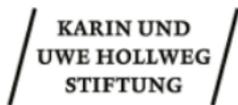
“Midnight zone,” the scientific term for the part of the ocean between 1,000 and 4,000 meters below the surface that is completely devoid of light, lends the exhibition its title and serves as its conceptual point of departure. The video installation of the same name shows rays of light transmitted by a turning Fresnel lens—once commonly used in lighthouses—as it is lowered into the jet-black water of the Pacific Sea. Swarms of various fish species are magically attracted to the light and circle the lens, revealing a wealth of lives in the process. It is a descent through which Charrière invites us to consider the rich biodiversity of places still largely unknown and the urgent need to protect them.

In addition to the large-format video installation, a walk-in octagonal glass pavilion was created especially for the exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, with the rotating Fresnel lens suspended in its center. From inside it, the rotating lantern casts dynamic beams of light outward, inscribing a ghostly presence on the exhibition beyond.

Julian Charrière: Midnight Zone is the largest solo show to date by the internationally renowned artist. The exhibition, realized in cooperation with the Museum Tinguely in Basel, Switzerland, stages an immersive experience through a scenography developed especially for the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, in which image, sound, and body merge. The examination of the significance of water, oceans, and the biodiversity that occupies their depths can be encountered in a multisensory way, mediated through the artist's transformative use of film, sculpture, photography and installation.

A scientifically substantiated and richly illustrated publication has been produced in close collaboration with the artist to accompany the exhibition. With essays by Stacy Alaimo, Rachel Carson, Susan Casey, Peter H. Gleick, Peter Godfrey-Smith, Amorina Kingdon, Geraldine Kirrihi Barlow, Sara A. Rich, and Helen M. Rozwadowski, as well as an in-depth interview with Julian Charrière, conducted by Andreas Beitin and Roland Wetzel. (Edited by Andreas Beitin and Roland Wetzel, English, with German translations via QR code), 272 pages, available in the museum shop and at kunstmuseum.ticketfritz.de for €45.

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Opening hours:

Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

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