

Olafur Eliasson

About Olafur Eliasson

Olafur Eliasson was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1967. He is known internationally for creating large-scale installations and sculptures that employ elemental materials including light, air and water, engaging in urgent contemporary issues including sustainability, climate change, policy-making and education. He frequently works beyond the confines of the gallery, engaging in the public sphere through architectural projects and interventions in public space. In 1995, he founded Studio Olafur Eliasson in Berlin, a laboratory for spatial research comprising over 100 people, including craftsmen, architects, and specialist technicians.

Eliasson has shown internationally, and has been the subject of solo exhibitions at institutions including Tate Modern, London (2019), Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (2018), the Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (2014) and the Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo (2011) – a presentation that spread out across the city. In 2015, his presentation at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm became the museum's most-visited show by a living artist. He represented Denmark at the 50th Venice Biennale in 2003 and, in 2017, his artistic workshop Green Light featured in the 57th Venice Biennale, addressing the challenges of mass displacement and migration. In 2007, SFMOMA hosted *Take Your Time: Olafur Eliasson*, a survey exhibition of the artist's work which travelled to venues including the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Eliasson lives and works in Copenhagen and Berlin.

About *Rainbow* (2017). No time limit

Rainbow (2017) generates an ephemeral natural phenomenon – a rainbow – through digital processes. Just as a rainbow only appears when light, water droplets, and the viewer's eye are positioned at a certain angle, the virtual rainbow can only be seen when the viewer's movement produces a correlation between these three points; it slips in and out of view within a slowly falling curtain of droplets as the viewer moves in the virtual space. Handheld controllers enable an additional layer of interaction with the softly falling virtual water. *Rainbow* is also inherently social: multiple users are invited to join the space at the same time. Though geographically the users may be far apart, their interactions with the falling droplets are visible to one another, enabling them to recognize each other's presence and move about the virtual space with their co-participants in mind and in view. Eliasson's long-term interests in the relation between self and other and between self and surroundings have profoundly informed this new artwork, with the multi-participant function being a key feature that paves the way for new spaces for and of art in virtual reality.

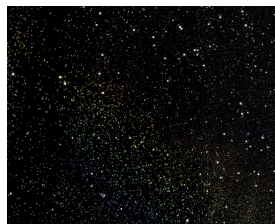
Assets List



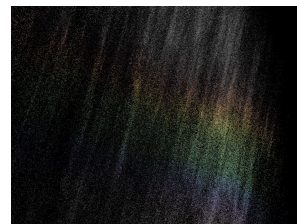
Olafur Eliasson. Courtesy of Acute Art



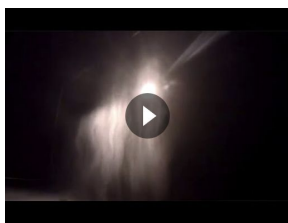
Olafur Eliasson. Courtesy of the artist



Olafur Eliasson, still from *Rainbow*, 2017. Courtesy of Acute Art



Olafur Eliasson, still from *Rainbow*, 2017. Courtesy of Acute Art



Olafur Eliasson, behind the scenes video of *Rainbow*, 2017. 1:24min. Courtesy of Acute Art