

Lectures on Lectures

Screenings and guest lectures
with Susanne Kleine, Sarah Johanna Theurer, and Stephen Prina

September 2025 – February 2026
Michel Majerus Estate, Berlin

From September 2025 to February 2026, the Michel Majerus Estate presents the event series *Lectures on Lectures*, which focuses on three lectures delivered by Michel Majerus between 1997 and 2000. These will be publicly screened for the first time in the form of video recordings from the artist's estate and contextualized through guest lectures and discussions. Alongside these events, works by Majerus that are thematically and visually related to the historical lectures will be displayed at the Michel Majerus Estate.

At the invitation of institutions and art academies, Majerus developed lectures that transcended the conventional boundaries of the format through their experimental style. Merging spoken word, image, and music, his associative multimedia arrangements can be retrospectively considered as lecture performances. Mirroring his approach to painting, Majerus employed techniques of pictorial citation and recontextualization, revealing a previously unknown aspect of his artistic practice in these rare instances of public self-reflection.

The archive of the artist's estate contains numerous examples of Majerus' interest in moving images and the use of recording devices as working tools. Since the mid-1990s, he extensively filmed his studio environments, preparations for shows, the installation of exhibitions, as well as everyday moments. This practice resulted in a large collection of filmic material, ranging from the documentation of his own works to impressions of architecture, urban spaces, as well as advertisements, TV series, and video games.

In his lectures, Majerus combined this material into moving image collages, accompanied by spoken commentary, which together offer insights into his artistic methodology and understanding of his practice: an unfolding stream of consciousness that embeds his works into a constantly shifting matrix of references. The lectures reveal his non-hierarchical engagement with references, offering an intimate entry point into the complexity of his multifaceted painterly and installational œuvre.

Program Lectures on Lectures

The events will take place in the exhibition space of the Michel Majerus Estate. Admission is free, and no registration is required. We kindly ask for your understanding that seating capacity will be limited.

Saturday, February 21, 2026

6:00 pm

Screening:

Lecture of Michel Majerus at Pasadena ArtCenter, November 20, 2000 (1h 25min; in English)

Lecture:

Stephen Prina (Live virtual presentation, Los Angeles)

As part of a ten-month fellowship at Pasadena ArtCenter in the United States, Majerus addressed students in November 2000 about his artistic approach. To illustrate his lecture, he presented a multi-part projection in the background, arranging views from his own exhibitions, artistic references, and sources of inspiration into a layered, moving-image collage. The American artist Stephen Prina, who taught at Pasadena ArtCenter from 1980 to 2003, offers insight into the context of Michel Majerus' lecture both within and beyond the institution.

Past events

Saturday, November 22, 2025

5:30 pm

Screening:

Audiovisual collage by Michel Majerus, presented at the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich, February 21, 2000 (1h 5min; with sound)

6:30 pm

Lecture:

Sarah Johanna Theurer (Curator, Haus der Kunst, Munich) (in English)

In 2000, Majerus presented a video at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich at the invitation of the student body. Scenes from his studio and exhibition installations alternate with shots from urban spaces as well as everyday moments and pop culture motifs such as escalators, transportation, video games, advertising, and graffiti. Entirely without spoken language, instead accompanied by a continuous techno soundtrack, this dense, multi-rhythmically structured video collage offers both an associative and immediate insight into Majerus' artistic process and his expanded concept of painting.

Curator Sarah Johanna Theurer, who has previously engaged with the theme of rhythm in the artist's work, offered perspective into the unique relationship between image and music in Majerus' œuvre.

Saturday, September 13, 2025

12 pm

Screening:

Michel Majerus, *Meine Sicht auf Polke*, Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn, September 9, 1997 (in German, with English subtitles)

Lecture:

Susanne Kleine (Curator, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn) (in German)

Meine Sicht auf Polke [My View on Polke] is a performative engagement by Majerus with the work of Sigmar Polke as part of a series of events that accompanied the 1997 exhibition, *Sigmar Polke: Die drei Lügen der Malerei*, at the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn. Majerus projected excerpts from the TV series *Urmel aus dem Eis* (1969) and the video game *Super Mario 64* (1996 Japan/US, 1997 Europe) onto two paintings by Polke, connecting them with a lecture on his own artistic strategies and questions surrounding the accelerated production of images in the present, the relevance of images, and art reception.

Curator Susanne Kleine, who supported and accompanied Majerus' practice from the outset, invited him to participate in 1997, and reflected on the connection between the two artists in her lecture for this series.

Stephen Prina lives and works in Los Angeles, California. He is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Art, Film, and Visual Studies at Harvard University. He has held institutional solo exhibitions at Museum of Modern Art New York, New York, 2025; Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, 2020; Museo Madre, Naples, 2017; Museum Kurhaus Kleve, 2016; Kunsthalle St. Gallen, 2015; Wiener Secession, Vienna, 2011; Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, 2010; Bergen Kunsthall, 2009; Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, 2008; The Art Institute of Chicago, 2002; Frankfurter Kunstverein, 2000; and The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago, 1989, among others. He participated in the Whitney Biennale, 2008; documenta IX, 1992; Carnegie International, Pittsburgh, 1991; Biennale of Sydney, 1990; and the Venice Biennale, 1990. Stephen Prina's works are held in public collections such as Tate, London; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; MAMCO Genève, Geneva; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

Sarah Johanna Theurer is a curator and writer focusing on time-based art practices and techno-social entanglements. At Haus der Kunst in Munich, she works to re-cast the exhibition as a responsive medium, working with artists such as Pan Daijing, Isabelle Lewis, Carsten Nicolai, Jenna Sutela, and WangShui. Her survey exhibitions are dedicated to trailblazing artists like Shu Lea Cheang (2025), Katalin Ladik (2023, with Hendrik Folkerts), and Fujiko Nakaya (2022, with Andrea Lissoni), for which she edited the first comprehensive catalogue. She further initiated Echoes, a live program tuning in to the sensuous dimensions of emerging technologies. Previously, she was the director of Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler gallery, part of the team of the 9th Berlin Biennale, as well as transmediale Berlin. As a dramaturge she collaborated with performance groups including OMSK Social Club and The Agency. She hosted a show on the Berlin community radio Cashmere and regularly writes for catalogues and magazines.

Susanne Kleine is an art historian and curator at the Bundeskunsthalle since 1994, specializing in contemporary art and art since 1945. She studied art history, education and theatre, film, and television studies at the Albertus Magnus University in Cologne, completing her Master's thesis on the artist group Mülheimer Freiheit. After working as assistant to Stefan Wewerka, Rosemarie Trockel, and Georg Herold, she held senior positions at Galerie Tanja Grunert in Cologne as well as Galerie Max Hetzler in Cologne and Berlin. In addition to teaching positions at Ruhr University Bochum, the University of Bonn, and Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Susanne Kleine served as a mentor in the Art Criticism and Curatorial Knowledge program at Ruhr University Bochum between 2010 and 2013. Since 2020, she has been a mentor in the Mentoring@KuK program for Art Mediation and Cultural Management at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. Susanne Kleine is also active as an independent curator, author, and juror.

The **Michel Majerus Estate** is an internationally active artist's estate based in Berlin, dedicated to researching, presenting and contextualizing the work of Michel Majerus (1967–2002), and preserving the cultural legacy of an extensive œuvre created during a short period that began in the early 1990s. Since 2012, the Michel Majerus Estate has invited guest curators, scholars and artists to engage with Majerus' practice through exhibitions and projects staged at the Estate. Publications, tours, events, and further forms of mediation offer the public opportunities to deepen their engagement with the artistic practice of Michel Majerus. Both the exhibitions and the mediation offerings are open to the public free of charge.

For further information and image material, please contact us at press@michelmajerus.com or +49 30 47377300.