

## **ELECTRON**

“The Spanish author Max Aub wrote in *The Magic Labyrinth* that ‘The earth is formed out of the dust of her dead.’ Sand is such a basic material, with a diversity of color and mineral composition, yet it represents the history of the earth and is also mysterious. I see it as holding the wisdom of the cosmic origin of our planet, being the memory of the earth, layer after layer preserving the traces of ephemeral human existence. Life fallen into dust—this mystic quality is tangible in *Sammlung Weltensand* and has an essential part in this installation. Through working with sand, I am aware that it could be mere dust and dead matter, but the sand changes completely when it is sifted—the colors change, the sand is freed of its dust-character, and it becomes radiant with an inner glow.

When I prepare a project I take many factors into account—the venue, its history, the cultural conditions, the occasion, and the theme of the event. Geometric abstraction provides the inspiration for the layout. I create a dynamic geometric field in the room through the complex divisions of an ever-recurring circle and a multitude of linear associations. From what initially appears to be a jumble of lines and figures, there unfolds before the viewer’s eyes an ingenious and fascinating spectacle made up of triangles, pentagons, rhombuses, and other shapes. Numerous focal points create movement. The pattern seems to be in constant motion. This is typical of Islamic patterns. An electric field of tension and energy is created, in which the visitor can take part—a special temporal experience—otherwise the pattern will be static and hermetically closed.

Working in a public space means that visitors are involved as the artwork takes shape. When the artwork is finally finished, it rests for several hours until the moment when it will be obliterated in a dazzling performance: dancers literally erase the carefully constructed pattern. We are thus reminded that everything is in constant flux, everything is temporary. Small portions of the mixed sand are given to viewers, who take it with them to their own destinations.”

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