

All Systems Fail 29.3. - 4.8.2024

With the support of:











Founded by Maurice E. and Martha Müller and the heirs of Paul Klee



The Zentrum Paul Klee is showing the most comprehensive retrospective of the American artist Sarah Morris (b. 1967) to date in Switzerland. The exhibition features over a hundred artworks – including fifty-six paintings, drawings, film posters, and immersive film installations – which foreground the past thirty years of the artist's groundbreaking work.

Morris is known for her paintings of vivid geometries which form new understandings of networks, systems, economies and architectures. Through her use of both reality and vivid abstraction, Morris creates a new language of place and politics. She sees her paintings as self-generating, open to interpretation, motion and change, giving the viewer a heightened sense that they are part of a larger system.

Morris draws from the Modernist tradition through her abstract paintings and experimental films while examining the macro and microstructures of the contemporary world. Creating a virtual architecture and language of forms, the work incorporates a wide array of subjects ranging from multinational corporations, architecture, generic stem cell technology, Academy Awards, the Olympics, transportation networks, mapping, lunar cycles, museums, printing presses, factories of all types, fashion and post systems to name just a few.

In her vivid, geometric paintings, Morris draws from the pictorial language of post-war pop art, American minimalism and 'Op Art'. She is interested in the systems that run through social, political and economic life: from the architecture of big business via traffic to digital infrastructure and the power of the media. Politics and the economies are represented through advertising and spectacle in her works. While her paintings might seem abstract, geometrical and thoroughly composed, the surfaces of specific places or companies are discernible within them.

Morris' films, like her paintings, explore the psycho-geography and dynamic nature of cities in flux through fragmented narratives. The artist explores the dynamic character of place, including metropolises such as Los Angeles, Rio and Beijing. The situations the artist places herself and the viewers within reflect the hierarchies we inhabit. Uniquely playing with the contradiction of our complicity with structures both macro and micro, Morris is considered one of the most intriguing artists of her generation.

The exhibition title recalls the current widespread pessimism about culture and progress, the failure of political and social structures and anxieties about the future. In a present moment marked by rapid change, Morris critiques and simultaneously engages with the systems represented in her paintings and films.

## **Opening**

The opening of the exhibition will take place on **Thursday, 28 March 2024, from 6 pm**. Admission to the exhibition is free on this evening.

#### Curators

Martin Waldmeier and Nina Zimmer

#### **Assistant Curator**

Kai-Inga Dost

## Cooperation

The exhibition was organised by the Deichtorhallen Hamburg in collaboration with the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, the Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, and the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart.

### With the support of

Kanton Bern, Burgergemeinde Bern

# Media preview

We cordially invite you to the media preview with Fabienne Eggelhöfer, chief curator of the Zentrum Paul Klee, on Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 10 am at the Zentrum Paul Klee. Sarah Morris will also be present at the media preview.

Please register via press@zpk.org.

### Contact

Martina Witschi, Communication & Media relations press@zpk.org, +41 31 328 09 93

# Individual visit of the exhibition



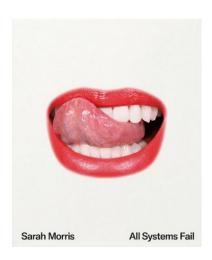
We are looking forward to your individual visit to the exhibition. Admission to all exhibitions at the Zentrum Paul Klee is free for media representatives with a valid press card. Please fill in the digital accreditation form which you can either access via <a href="mailto:zpk.org/press">zpk.org/press</a> or by screening the QR-Code before your visit.

# About the artist



Sarah Morris, born in 1967, is an American artist living and working in New York. Her work has been shown in numerous solo exhibitions in international museums including M+, Hong Kong (2024); Kunstmuseen Krefeld (2023); Espace Louis Vuitton Munich (2023); the Deichtorhallen Hamburg (2023); Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, (2018); Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Espoo (2017); Kunsthalle Wien, (2016); M Museum, Leuven (2015); Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (2014); Kunsthalle Bremen, Bremen (2013); Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio (2012); Musée National Fernand Léger, Biot (2012); Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2009); Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (2009); Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel (2008); Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2006); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2005); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2005); Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover (2005); Miami MOCA (2002); Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D. C. (2002); Nationalgalerie at the Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2001); Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia (2000); Kunsthalle Zurich (2000); Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Lepizig (2000); Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (1999) and Centre D'Art Contemporain, Dijon (1998).

# **Publication**



# Sarah Morris. All Systems Fail

Published by Hatje Cantz with contributions by Christopher Bollen, Bettina Funcke and Asad Raza.

German / English

320 pages, 508 illustrations

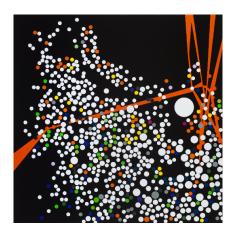
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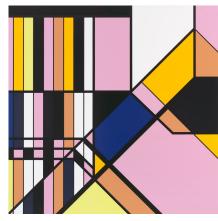
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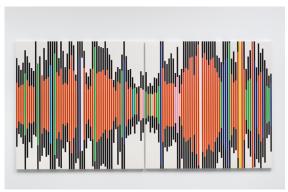
# O1 Sarah Morris Springpoint (Spiderweb), 2021 Household gloss paint on canvas 152,5 x 152,5 cm © Sarah Morris



O2
Sarah Morris
Adnoc [Abu Dhabi], 2016
Household gloss paint on canvas
214 x 214 cm
© Sarah Morris



# 03 Sarah Morris Midtown – Viacom [Times Square Reflection], 1998 Household gloss paint on canvas 214 x 214cm © Sarah Morris



# Sarah Morris So in a sense it's abstract as no painting will ever be [Sound Graph 3], 2017 Household gloss paint on canvas 214 x 428 cm © Sarah Morris

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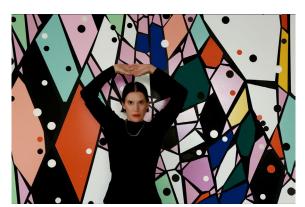
O5
Sarah Morris
Los Angeles, 2004
35 mm / HD Digital
26:12 mins
© Sarah Morris



O6
Sarah Morris
Beijing, 2008
35mm / HD Digital
84:47 mins
© Sarah Morris



**07**Sarah Morris *Rio*, 2012
HD Digital
88:33 mins
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**08**Sarah Morris, photograph by Anna Gaskell

## **Social Media Assets**

# Text proposal:

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Sarah Morris. All Systems Fail 29.3.–4.8.24

Curators: Martin Waldmeier and Nina Zimmer

The exhibition was organised by the Deichtorhallen Hamburg in collaboration with the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, the Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, and the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart.

#ZentrumPaulKlee #SarahMorris #AllSystemsFail @zentrumpaulklee @sarahmorris @ninayeszimmer @deichtorhallenhamburg @kunstmuseen\_krefeld @kunstmuseumstuttgart

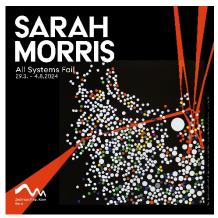
Please refer to the Zentrum Paul Klee's social media channels in your posts and stories by tagging us in the text:

**@zentrumpaulklee** 

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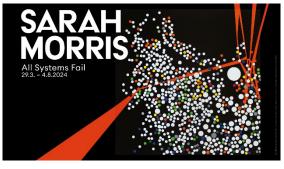
# SARAH MORRIS All Systems Fall Strands Additions of the Control of

# **01** [Instagram Post, 1080 x 1080 px]





**03** [Facebook Post, 1200 x 630 px]



**04** [X, 1600 x 900 px]