



Bärenzwinger Berlin

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Open  
Sesame

Experiment A Photophobic

### Open Sesame

As the story of Ali Baba & the Forty Thieves unfolds, we're confronted with the reality of how far one may go to claim another's treasure as their own.

As the curatorial team and commissioned artists of this season at the Bärenzwinger, we're no stranger to such an act – having witnessed time & time again how our very treasures have been erased, entrapped and paraded against our will.

“Open Sesame” is an invitation to join us in collectively assessing the contribution of the Bärenzwinger to this legacy of theft through our occupation of its space. It is an exploration, a deconstruction, a reconstruction ... It is an opening. An opportunity to assess the given meanings of a space, and to explore whether a new meaning is in fact possible.

### A Photophobic Experiment

If photo means light and phobia means fear, then photophobia is the light that they fear.

What came before the Enlightenment? What deviations from its knowledge have there been since its inception?

We have been erased in our past and our present, but we refuse to in our future. This

Photophobic Experiment is an opportunity to centre our meanings, our experiences, and our lived modalities as the centre character around which a plot develops. We invade this space and its hostile architecture to provide a glimpse into world that does not present the White, cisgender, heterosexual male as the wilful subject of focus. The Enlightenment pushed us into the dark, but we've found our own forms of Light in the shadows.