

MÜHLHÄUSER  
**FREIHEITSLEUCHTEN**  
17. & 18.10.2025



**OPEN CALL**

City Muehlhausen / Thueringen Germany

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# Freiheitsleuchten

Illumination and staging of Mühlhausen's historic city center  
17. & 18. OCTOBER 2025

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### THE LIGHT ART EVENT FREIHEITSLEUCHTEN

As part of the commemorative year "**2025: Year of Freedom**" and on the occasion of the Thuringian State Exhibition "**freihey 1525 – 500 Years of the Peasants' War**," the historic old town of the medieval imperial city of Mühlhausen will be transformed into a radiant stage. Artists are invited to reinterpret this unique setting through contemporary light art, projections, and video mapping—creating a sensually immersive experience of history.

The city's walls, squares, and facades speak of upheaval, resistance, and profound social change. The aim of the event is to pick up on these historical traces, reframe them visually, and translate them into a powerful artistic language. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the world of the Peasants' War in a very special way—beyond traditional museum presentation, in open space, and in motion.

An evening stroll through Mühlhausen thus becomes a journey into a past world: projections bring historical figures to life, while facades tell stories of conflict and hope, of violence and vision. Yet this is not merely a retrospective—it is a dialogue with the present. What do freedom, social justice, and resistance mean today? How do the questions of 1525 continue to resonate in our time?

We are looking for artistic approaches that explore these themes in creative, poetic, or experimental ways—and make the urban space newly perceptible.

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## OPEN CALL

"**Freiheitsleuchten**" invites artists to transform various locations within the historic city center of Mühlhausen into illuminated spaces through their artistic contributions.

We are looking for light-based artworks of all kinds – from large-scale moving image projections and light sculptures to interactive pieces, purely scenographic concepts, traditional lighting design, walking acts, or sound installations.

The call is open to both individual artists and collectives.

**We expect a presentation in PDF format including the following:**

- Project description including a budget estimate
- Concept sketch: renderings / mock-ups / images / short video
- Artist statement / CV
- Portfolio (if available – if not, leave empty)

**Deadline for submissions is June 30, 2025, 11:59 PM (CET)** via the following website:

<https://www.genius-loci-weimar.org/de/freiheitsleuchten-de.html>

We welcome a broad spectrum of ideas and concepts.

An independent jury – composed of architects, light and video artists, and experts from the fields of culture and theater – will review all submissions and create a shortlist.

In addition, a public voting phase will take place between **July 7 and July 25, 2025**. The platform for this vote will be announced during the selection process.

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## INFORMATION

The exact distribution of artist fees across the selected works will be determined during the course of the process. The open call is divided into **three categories**, each with slightly different requirements for submission:

1. **Videomapping Competition:**

€10,000 prize money; a 30-second video is required.

2. **Videomapping Call:**

Open application with a concept PDF; video optional; artists should include a proposed budget.

3. **Projections and Installations:**

Open application with a concept PDF; artists should include a proposed budget.

Artists may apply for multiple locations.

**Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:**

- Concept and feasibility
- Budget
- Quality and completeness of the application

The event will take place on **Friday, October 17, and Saturday, October 18, 2025**, with projected showtimes from approximately **7:00 PM to 11:00 PM**.

The **format and scale** of the installations will be coordinated with the artists during the **production phase** of the project.

Participating artists are responsible for ensuring they hold all necessary rights to any visual or audio material submitted or used in their work. If music subject to GEMA licensing is used, artists must handle registration and fee payment with GEMA independently.

Installation and setup will be carried out by the artists **in collaboration with the event's production team**.

Should the open call not yield sufficient results, the organizers reserve the right to commission certain works directly.

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## THE LOCATIONS

The following illustration shows the planned illumination route, including the highlighted (colored) performance locations. The letter-labeled sites correspond to the anticipated flow of visitors – **not** to the structure of this call.



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# **PART 1: VIDEOMAPPING COMPETITION**

A prize of 10,000 € is offered for this category.



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## 1.1: (D) MARIENKIRCHE

The **Gothic Church of St. Mary** in Mühlhausen, featuring Thuringia's tallest church tower at 87 meters, was a central site of the Peasants' War in 1524/25. It was here that **Thomas Müntzer** preached—a radical reformer who called not only for religious change but also for sweeping social transformation. He saw the peasants as the embodiment of the “Last Judgment,” destined to restore divine order. Following the defeat of the revolt, Müntzer was executed in 1525. Today, a memorial inside the Church of St. Mary commemorates his legacy. The church also serves as a museum and is currently hosting the **Thuringian State Exhibition** marking the 500th anniversary of the German Peasants' War.

This category calls for a **videomapping projection onto the church's magnificent south portal** (highlighted in red). The project should be **accompanied by synchronized illumination of the pillars and pilasters** on the south façade. This architectural lighting should also be visualized in the competition video.

Thematically, the projection may depict historical scenes while exploring the dramatic conflicts and visionary ideals that Müntzer's revolutionary message represented. The goal is an **artistic interpretation that connects past and present** in a compelling visual narrative.

ANIMATIONPACK AVAILABLE, SEE WEBSITE

South portal – length approx. 14 m, Left pilaster – length approx. 26 m





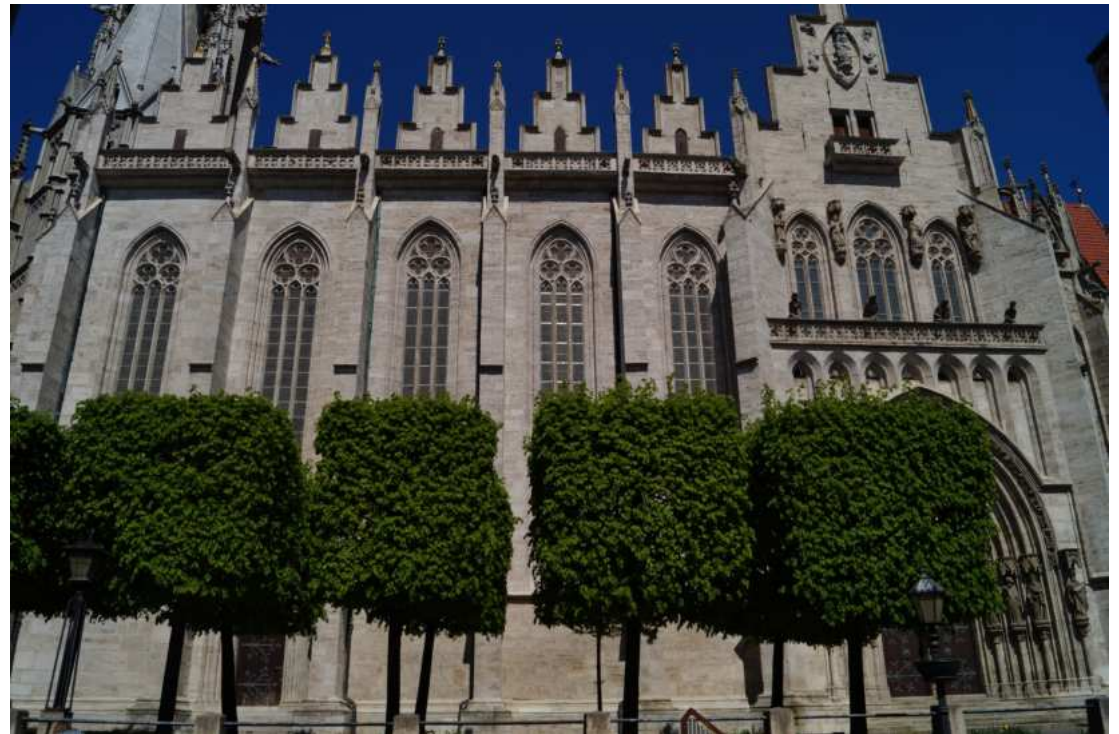
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### **PART 2: VIDEOMAPPING CALL**

Please include a budget proposal with your submission

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### 2.1: (A) DIVI-BLASII-KIRCHE

The Divi-Blasii Church is one of the oldest Gothic churches in central Germany. Its exact role in the Peasants' War remains unclear, but as the city's main church, it was likely part of the Reformation upheaval. It is well known for the Magdeburg Blood Bible, brought to Mühlhausen by Pastor Andreas Kramer during the Thirty Years' War. In 1707/08, Johann Sebastian Bach served as the organist here; from this period, the cantata "*Gott ist mein König*" ("God is my King") has been preserved. Today, the church functions as both a spiritual center and a cultural venue, still used as a place of worship by the local Protestant congregation.

At the start of the illumination route, a videomapping projection is planned for the **west portal of the church**. The presentation may explore the tension-filled relationship between historical facts and local legends. Themes may also include Johann Sebastian Bach's work and the church's role as a place of spiritual and political exchange.

ANIMATIONPACK AVAILABLE, SEE WEBSITE

width approx. 21 m





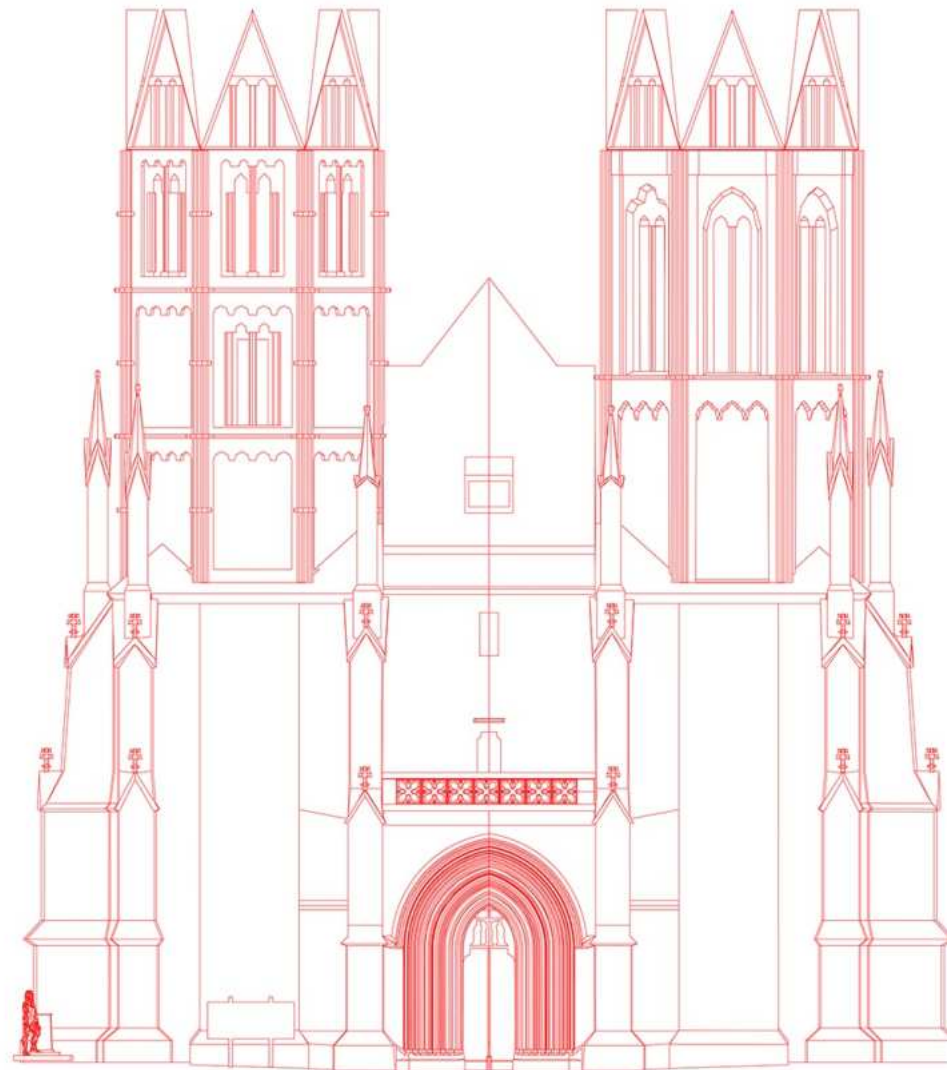
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### 2.2: (F) JAKOBIKIRCHE (Stadtbibliothek)

The **St. Jakob's Church**, an important Gothic architectural monument, is no longer used for religious purposes today but serves as a secular center of education—housing the city library impressively integrated within the church building. Its clear, vertically oriented architecture with the distinctive west portal reflects the spiritual and social self-understanding of past centuries.



During the Peasants' War of 1524/25, St. Jakob's Church played a central role in the events. Like the neighboring Church of St. Mary, it was used by the rebellious peasants and served as a storage site for goods taken from the looting of other ecclesiastical institutions. Thus, it was not only a spiritual building but also a political and logistical hub in the revolutionary uprising against the feudal order.

For the event, the west portal of St. Jakob's Church offers an ideal projection surface for videomapping, which will also be visible from the opposite city wall. Thematically, the projection can engage with the site's turbulent history—as a place of resistance, redistribution, and/or in its current function as a repository and distributor of knowledge.

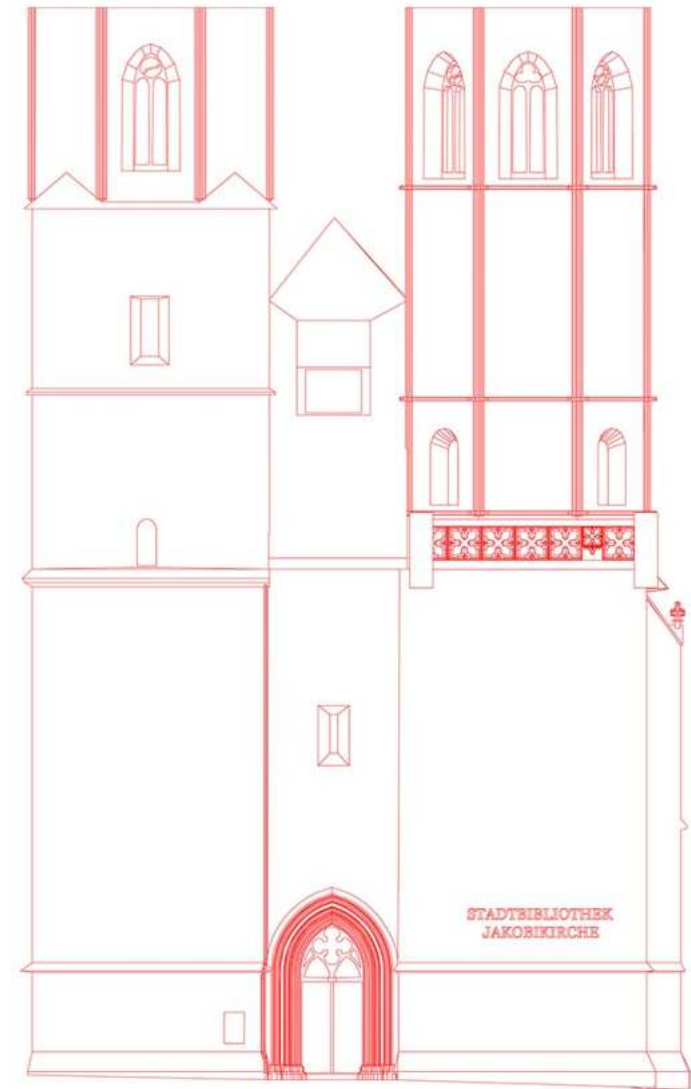
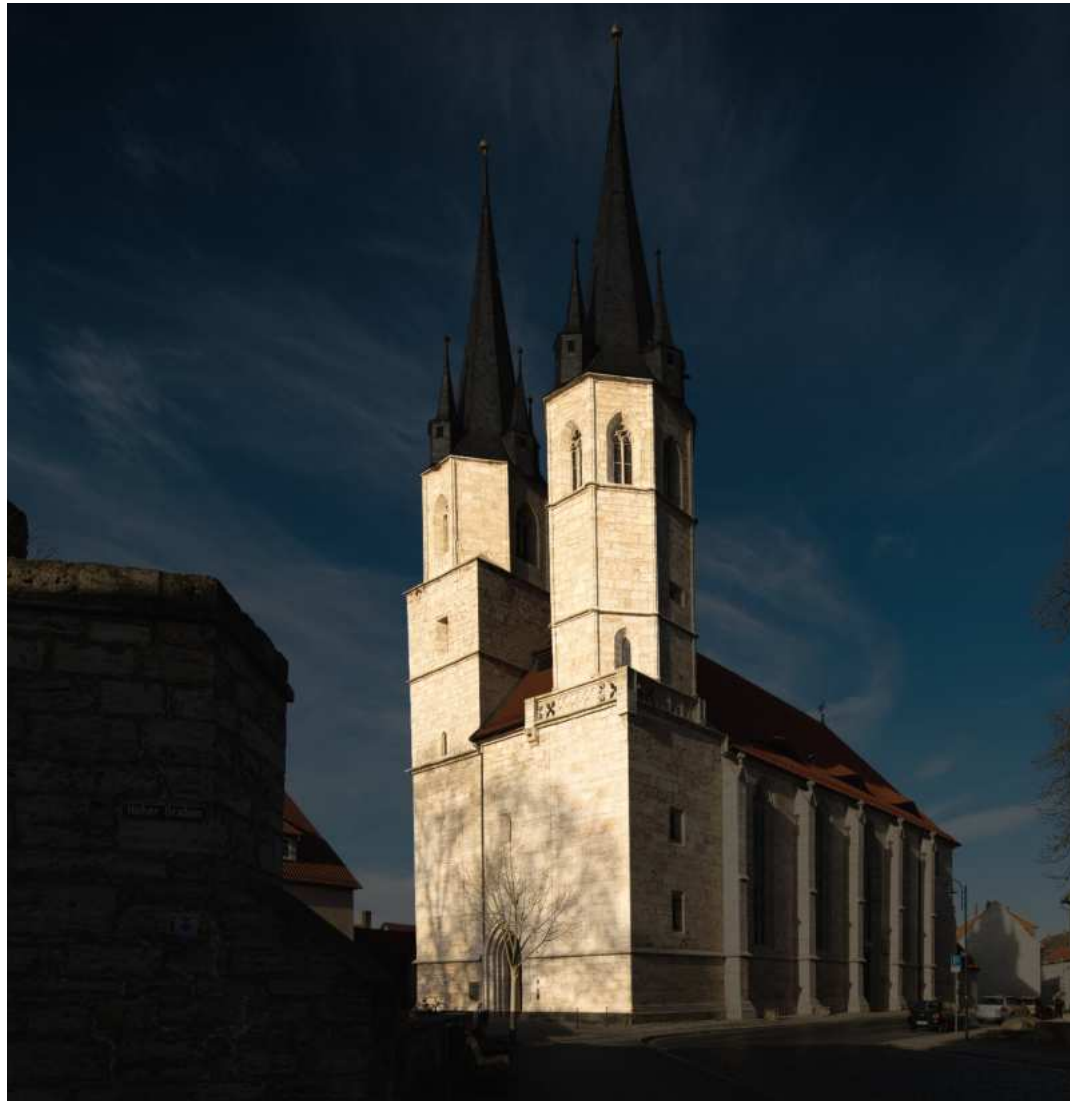
**ANIMATIONPACK AVAILABLE, SEE WEBSITE**

**width approx. 17 m**



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### **PART 3: PROJECTION UND INSTALLATION**

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### 3.1: (B) KORNMARKTKIRCHE

The **Kornmarkt Church**, built in the 13th century as part of a Franciscan monastery in the style of a mendicant order church, is an important example of medieval sacred architecture. During the Peasants' War in 1525, it was used and plundered by the rebellious peasants. Church treasures were sold, and bells were melted down to make cannons—a drastic break with the ecclesiastical and social order.

Today, the church serves as a place of remembrance: it functions as a memorial site, exhibition space, and cultural venue. As part of the commemorative year marking 500 years of the Peasants' War, a monumental statue was erected on the grounds—a seven-meter-high monument based on a design by Albrecht Dürer, depicting a peasant atop a column made of harvest offerings. From his back protrudes a sword—symbolizing both oppression and rebellion.

The front area of Kornmarkt Square (see site plan, marked in blue) in front of the church is intended as a venue for a light installation. Between the container (visitor center—marked in yellow/black on the site plan) and Linsenstraße, for example, a fog projection, sound installation, or similar could be realized. Incorporating the monument into the projection is also conceivable. Since April 26, 2025, Kornmarkt Church has been part of the Thuringian State Exhibition "**freiheit 1525 – 500 Years of the Peasants' War.**"

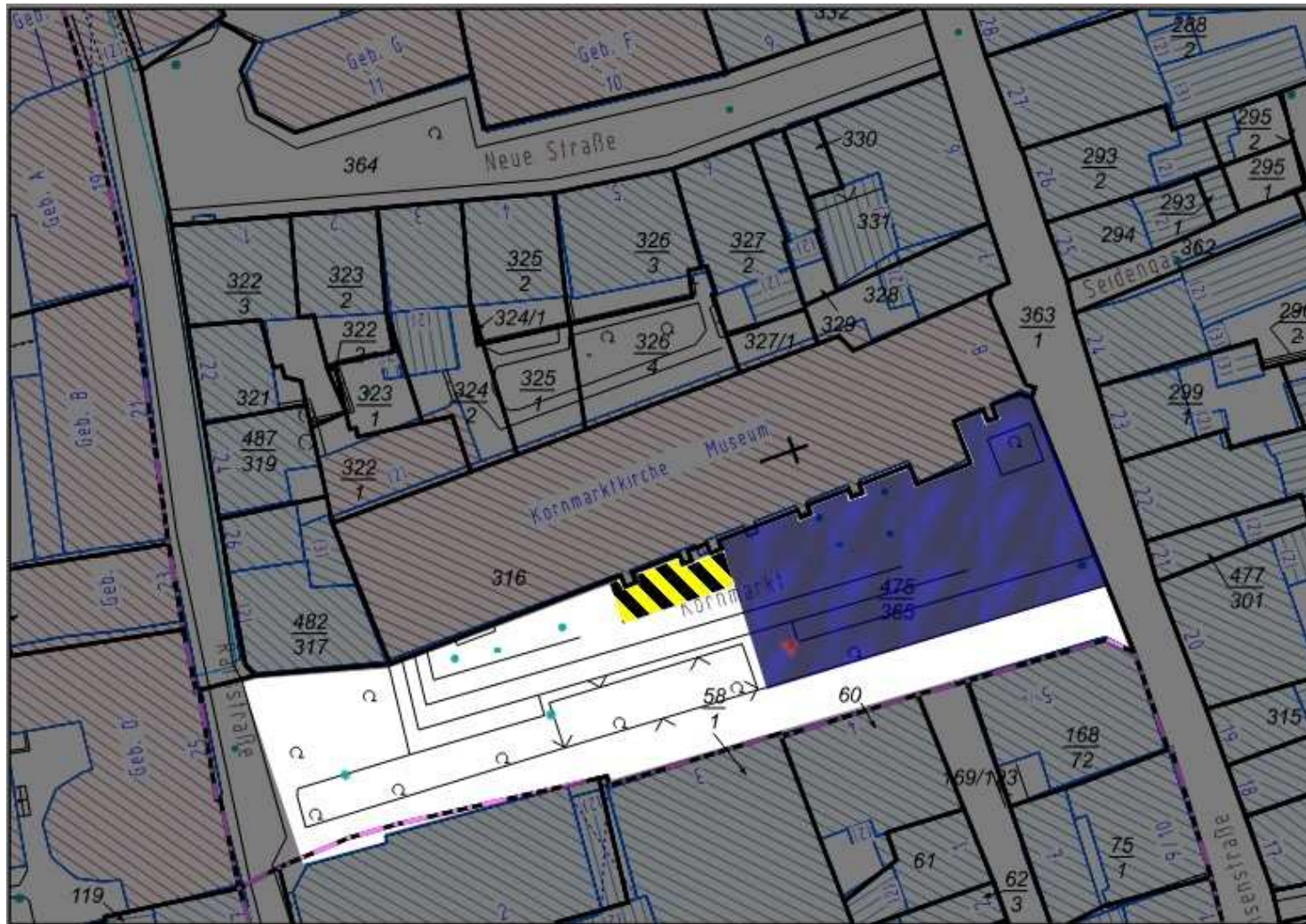
ANIMATIONPACK AVAILABLE, SEE WEBSITE





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### 3.2: (C) LINSENSTRASSE

Linsenstraße is a narrow, cobblestone alley located in the historic city center of Mühlhausen. Its northern section connects Kornmarkt with Obermarkt and the Church of St. Mary, which dominates the upper town, cutting across Jüdenstraße and dividing it into two parts. Despite its narrow width, the alley exudes a special charm thanks to its cobblestone pavement and the surrounding old town architecture.

This section offers potential for a staging of one or both segments. It is possible to illuminate the façades of the buildings lining the street on both sides. Other light and sound installations are also feasible. During the event, the adjacent shops will be closed.

**Total length: approx. 110 m**



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### 3.3: (E) ALLERHEILIGENKIRCHE

Built in the 13th century, the **All Saints' Church** is one of the oldest churches in Mühlhausen. Its appearance is characterized by Romanesque origins and Gothic expansions. Since its renovation in 1989, it has been used as a museum and today stands as an important cultural-historical monument. During the Peasants' War in 1525, the church became a political forum: representatives of the rebellious peasants, the city's internal opposition, and the council negotiated here about future power distribution—a remarkable democratic process within a church setting. Since April 26, 2025, the site has been part of the Thuringian State Exhibition "**freiheit 1525 – 500 Years of the Peasants' War.**"

In front of the building, a bronze sculpture commemorates **Heinrich Pfeiffer**—a monk, preacher, and comrade of Thomas Müntzer—who was executed in 1525. The statue symbolizes the connection between religious reform efforts and social revolt.

The north façade is planned to be used for a static projection. Historical images, documents, and quotations could be presented here, preferably focusing on the appropriation and instrumentalization of the Peasants' War—for example, by National Socialism or the GDR.

The site slopes gently, resulting in an asymmetrical projection surface—the left side is slightly lower than the right.

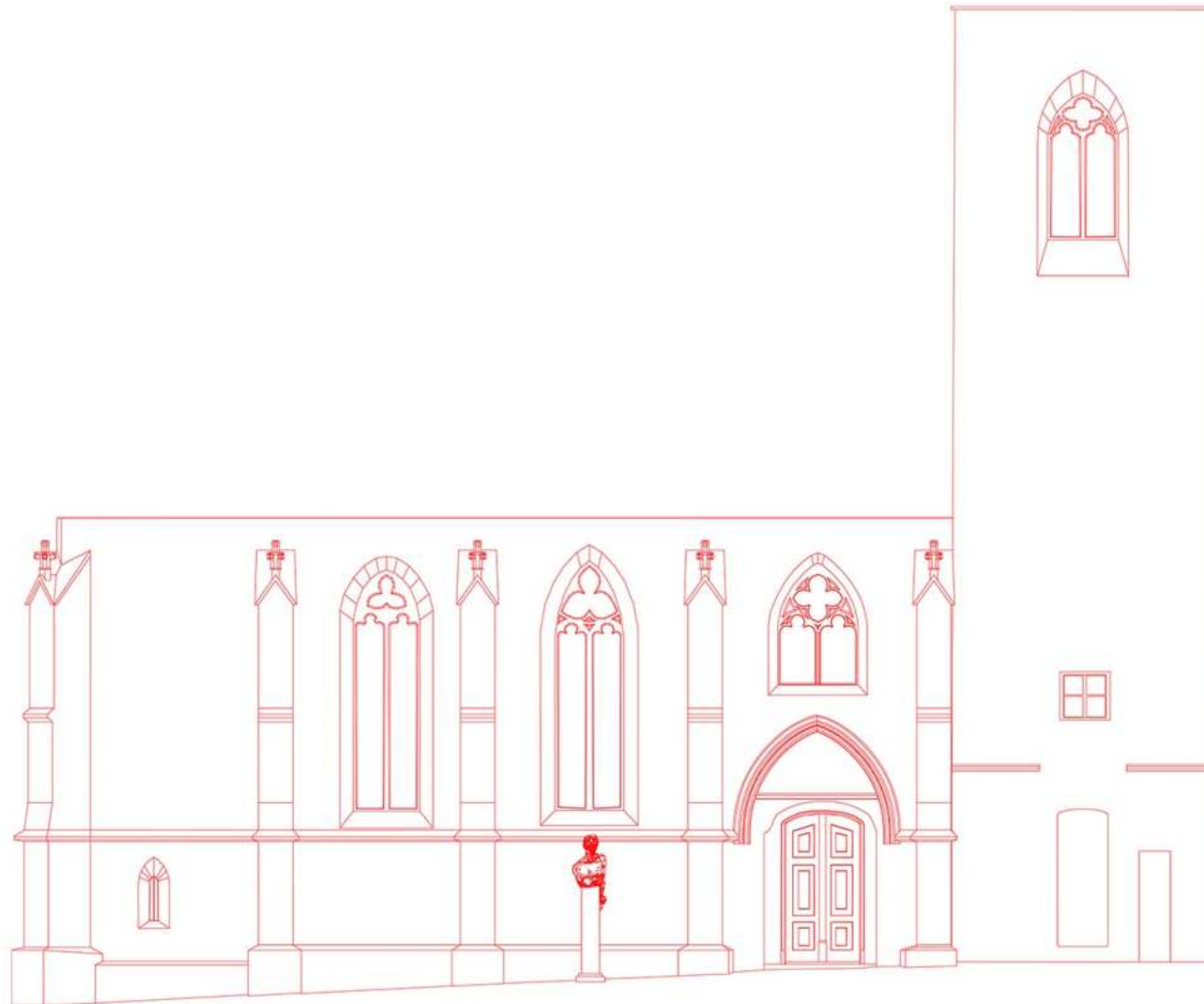
ANIMATIONPACK AVAILABLE, SEE WEBSITE

width approx. c.a. 21 m



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### SCHEDULE

<b>May 15:</b>	Start of application phase
<b>June 30:</b>	End of application phase
<b>July 7:</b>	Start of public voting
<b>July 25:</b>	End of public voting
<b>July 31 –</b>	<b>Announcement of selected artists</b>
<b>August 10:</b>	contract signing
<b>October 10:</b>	Deadline for artwork submission
<b>October 13:</b>	Start of installation/setup
<b>October 17–18:</b>	EVENT