

Baroque opera in a new, fascinating light.

Ólafur Eliasson casts the Berlin State Opera in a new light with colour effect glass

Ólafur Eliasson, the Berlin-based Danish-Icelandic artist, deals mainly with physical phenomena in nature in his works. Light, colour, reflection and movement are therefore essential characteristics of his installations, sculptures and façade designs which can now be seen around the world. Dichroic colour effect glass from Prinz Optics is one of his preferred working materials. This is now also used for the stage sets and costumes he designed for Jean-Philippe Rameau's "Hippolyte et Aricie" baroque opera at the Berlin State Opera.

In harmony with the music and the ballet, this production showcased itself as a fascinating "play of colour and light".



One particularly impressive moment transpires when a globe made of dichroic glass panels - a "sphere" - and, shimmering in many colours, floats from the ceiling above the audience, thus involving the spectators in the events taking place on stage.

*Care and power sphere
Photo: Jens Ziehe
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Dichroic glass generates colour from light. With extremely thin, optically transparent interference coatings, this glass - compared to conventional colour filters - can almost entirely transmit light and still be perceived "in colour". The colour effect depends on the incidence angle of radiation and the perspective of the viewer.

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