

Mariella Mosler: In a Year with 13 Moons

In discreet as well as ostentatious locations throughout Hamburg's cityscape, the matt silver moon disc sculptures from Mariella Mosler's current series *In a Year with 13 Moons* (2025) shimmer. Perched high on trees and fences, the clinker brick façade of a former church, the graffiti-covered brick wall of a music club and other sites of creative endeavour, they capture the changing moods of the sky. Created as part of Hamburg's programme for art in public spaces, the ensemble can be experienced for a year as a cosmic network of the city on moonlit paths. The title of the 13 Moons trail already hints at its wondrous nature, as the additional full moon, which occurs twice every two and a half years and extends the usual twelve-month cycle, refers to a rarity – the so-called 'blue moon'.



[...] Mariella Mosler's urban intervention, which can be read both as a meandering chain of images and as a link between markers of multi-coded realms, invites us on a journey of discovery through the history of the city and its architectural structures, socio-cultural and political textures, as well as its built-over, buried and now only partially remaining natural landscapes, including their historical and geological layers. The stainless steel moon discs coated with light silver leaf extend across six districts as a lunar coordinate system – from the 18th-century Jenischpark in the Flottbektal nature reserve on the Geesthang above the Elbe in Hamburg-Othmarschen to Ottensen, St. Pauli and Hamburg-Mitte. To the south, the artist's moons lead to Peutehafen on Veddel Island and to the east to Billbrook, where industrial plants, logistics companies, historic buildings and trees, and a Buddhist nunnery meet.

[...] The locations where she placed her moons were deliberately chosen because they reveal specific characteristics of the city or are located at intersections where architectural and natural inscriptions intersect in a special way. Throughout, the artist focused on areas where transformations in the cityscape and its substance are visible, pointing to socio-political upheavals or even fractures between nature and industrialisation, work and leisure, regulated and free spaces. [...]

Dr Belinda Grace Gardner, 2025

[Excerpt from an as yet unpublished text on Mariella Mosler's multi-part installation *In einem Jahr mit 13 Monden* (*In a Year with 13 Moons*), which opened on 7 September 2025 at the Töpferstube, Planten & Blomen.]