



Press Release, January 21, 2022

KUNSTKRAFTWERK LEIPZIG PRESENTS

# TÜBKE MONUMENTAL

THE GREAT CIRCLE & TÜBKE TOUCH

MARCH 11 — DECEMBER 31, 2022

Digital innovation as a key to the preservation, mediation,  
and experience of cultural heritage

KUNSTKRAFTWERK initiated and is now presenting **TÜBKE MONUMENTAL**, offering an utterly new way of looking at one of the most important works of twentieth-century figurative painting, Werner Tübke's (1929 – 2004) *Frühbürgerliche Revolution in Deutschland* (Early Bourgeoisie Revolution in Germany). The artist worked eleven years, from 1976 to 1987, on designing and carrying out the work that measures 14 × 123 meters, the largest painting in Central Europe. The original remains housed in the Panorama Museum in Bad Frankenhausen, far removed from any urban art center.

The idea for **TÜBKE MONUMENTAL** arose in conjunction with the 90th anniversary of the artist's birth. Through the latest digitalization technologies, this imposing work – which despite its almost unparalleled wealth of content is a largely forgotten but seminal work in the history of German art – will be preserved for coming generations and will once again be visible to a wide public.

The project **TÜBKE MONUMENTAL** is funded by the **Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung** together with the **Sparkasse Leipzig** and **private sponsors from Leipzig**.

Franz Fischnaller: *THE GREAT CIRCLE*, 2022  
Immersive Multimedia-Installation  
© KUNSTKRAFTWERK, 2022, Photo: Luca Migliore



*"For us, studying Tübke's original work and its fresh interpretation through innovative digital technologies is a contemporary initiative. This way of addressing cultural heritage intends to foster discussion about how we can keep history and art history alive and continue discovering the messages they convey."*

MARKUS LÖFFLER, DIRECTOR KUNSTKRAFTWERK AND INITIATOR OF TÜBKE MONUMENTAL

Thanks to a cooperation with **Centrica** from Florence, one of the leading international companies specializing in the digitalization of paintings, the 1,700-square-meter panorama picture was photographed in high resolution in 2019. These some 3,000 gigapixel photographs of the historical work now provide a basis for examining and studying the painting in every detail. **TÜBKE TOUCH**, a cloud-based ArtCentrica application makes it possible to zoom in on the work, providing utterly new opportunities for art education, for example. **TÜBKE TOUCH** can be experienced by the public for the first time at **KUNSTKRAFTWERK** and the application will soon also be available at the Panorama Museum. In the future we plan to make it possible to access this research and education tool worldwide, enabling various institutions such as museums, libraries, universities, and schools to use the program.

Beginning on March 11, 2022 visitors can submerge themselves in the entire digital cosmos of **TÜBKE MONUMENTAL** during a visit to **KUNSTKRAFTWERK** in Leipzig. In addition to **TÜBKE TOUCH**, visitors can experience video statements by various contemporaries of the artist, who talk about their personal experiences with Tübke and offer insights into the development of the gigantic work of art. The final highlight is **THE GREAT CIRCLE**.

*"The aim of the multimedia installation **THE GREAT CIRCLE** is to create a core experience that opens the heart and mind – to the beauty of art, to its spiritual and emotional depths, and to its significance for a humanistic worldview. Only by being conscious of history can we understand and master the present. The overarching project not only addresses people working in the cultural field or art historians, but also the interested public. We are proud to be able to host this project in Leipzig, before **TÜBKE MONUMENTAL** goes on an international tour."*

MARKUS LÖFFLER, DIRECTOR KUNSTKRAFTWERK AND INITIATOR OF TÜBKE MONUMENTAL

An immersive light and sound installation in the form of a 27-minute presentation was developed for the spaces of the **KUNSTKRAFTWERK** out of the high-resolution images taken by **Centrica**. A stunning composition of images and sounds was developed around Werner Tübke's epic painting about the German Peasant Wars. It was created under the direction



Werner Tübke: *Frühbürgerliche Revolution in Deutschland*, 1983/87  
oil on canvas, 14 x 123 m, installation view, Panorama Museum, Bad Frankenhausen  
© Panorama Museum, 2022, photo: Luca Migliore

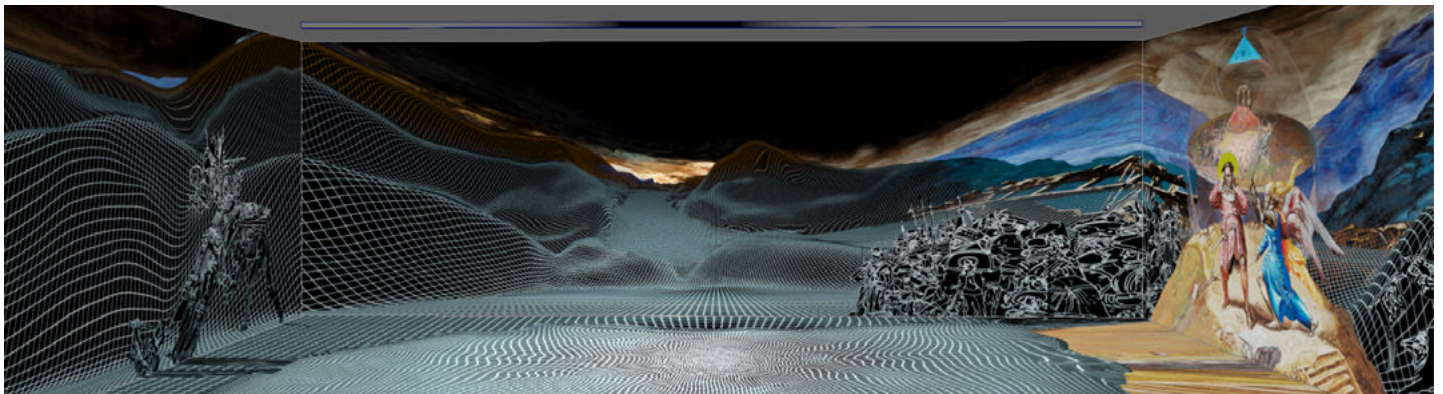
of new media artist **Franz Fischnaller** in collaboration with a team from **Cineca**, Italy's leading high-performance computing center, and the American composer **Steve Bryson**. **Fischnaller** thereby presents his own artistic interpretation of the masterpiece. **THE GREAT CIRCLE** tells the circular stories of repeatedly failed utopias based on twelve different scenes from Tübke's panoramas. The messages that these segments convey have emotional impact, relating themes of life and death, hope and destruction, and rebellion and subjugation, enabling viewers to immerse themselves in eternal issues that have accompanied human history for all time.

#### **TÜBKE MONUMENTAL, the numbers**

Creative minds from **4 countries** – Germany, France, Italy, and the US – are participating in this project.

**TÜBKE TOUCH** – **3,000 high-resolution photographs** of the monumental painting were pieced together by **Centrica** into an almost **300 GB** image file, which has a massive resolution of **10 gigapixel (295,000 x 33,000 pixels)**.

**THE GREAT CIRCLE** – **12 key scenes** from the Tübke panorama are being projected by **25 individual projectors** in a brilliant resolution of **21,840 x 2,000 pixel** onto the **1,200 square-meter** surface of the machine hall of the **KUNSTKRAFTWERK**.



Franz Fischnaller: *THE GREAT CIRCLE*, 2022  
show rendering  
© Franz Fischnaller/KUNSTKRAFTWERK, 2022





Werner Tübke: *Frühbürgerliche Revolution in Deutschland*, 1983/87  
oil on canvas, 14 x 123 m, installation view, Panorama Museum, Bad Frankenhausen  
© Panorama Museum, 2022, photo: Luca Migliore

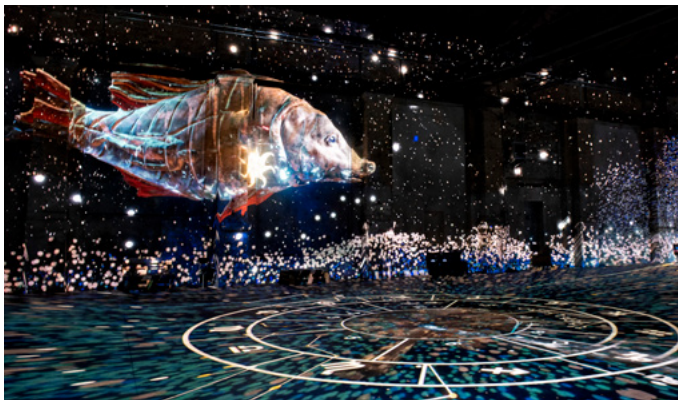
**TÜBKE TOUCH** is a cloud application developed by **Centrica** for digital art education. Using a touchscreen, whiteboard, or computer screen, one is able to look at Tübke's image as a whole and also zoom into specific details. Different viewing options, for example by theme, entail additional information. **TÜBKE TOUCH** offers an immediate and intensive exploration of the work of art, which is almost impossible to grasp in its original format due to its immense size and the multiplicity of figures it entails.

The **PANORAMA MUSEUM** was built specifically for Werner Tübke's (1929 – 2004) monumental panorama painting *Frühbürgerliche Revolution in Deutschland* (Early Bourgeoisie Revolution in Germany, 1983/87). The 1,700 square-meter painting, one of the largest paintings in the world, is still on view here. The colossal project was commissioned by the GDR government, which decided in the early 1970s to erect a monument for the German Peasant Wars on the Schlachtberg at Bad Frankenhausen. The museum opened in 1989, shortly before the Peaceful Revolution.

**PANORAMA MUSEUM**  
Am Schlachtberg 9  
06567 Bad Frankenhausen



Centrica: *TÜBKE TOUCH*, 2021  
cloud based ArtCentrica application  
© KUNSTKRAFTWERK, 2022, photo: Luca Migliore



Franz Fischnaller: *THE GREAT CIRCLE*, 2022  
immersive multimedia installation, installation view KUNSTKRAFTWERK Leipzig  
© KUNSTKRAFTWERK, 2022, photo: Luca Migliore

The immersive multimedia installation **THE GREAT CIRCLE** (2022) is a digital composition designed by new media artist **Franz Fischnaller** and an homage to Tübke's monumental work. Selected scenes from his panorama about the German Peasant Wars glide across the walls of the machine hall of the **KUNSTKRAFTWERK** in Leipzig. These are accompanied by sound effects created by **Steve Bryson**, which make the figures of the painting come alive and turn the visitors themselves into participants in the 360° scenario.

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#### Organizer and producer: KUNSTKRAFTWERK Leipzig

Tickets are available online at: [www.kunstkraftwerk-leipzig.com](http://www.kunstkraftwerk-leipzig.com)  
Entry: 13 €, reduced entry 10 €

Visits are subject to the existing Corona regulation for museums and cultural institutions in Saxony.

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