

Floorplan

alfatih. Time Leaks. 12.02. – 10.05.2026

2nd floor

For his first institutional solo exhibition in German-speaking Switzerland, **alfatih** works across the six rooms of the former tax office on the second floor of the Kunsthhaus, which was once the town hall. The building is built on water: the River Langete flows beneath it. Its historic flood protection system and regular flooding earned the town the nickname Little Venice. The setting of the exhibition thus reflects the tension between planning and order on the one hand, and unforeseen elements that threaten to undermine them on the other. This tension also forms the basis of alfatih's new works, which have been created for the exhibition. *Time Leaks* is an investigation into the rules of games and what happens when their logic begins to falter.

The author and philosopher Giorgio Agamben once described an opaque and unyielding machinery that influences and monopolises individuals in their everyday lives as an *Apparatus* – he includes everyday administrative processes and devices such as smartphones in this category. The behavioural patterns that arise as a result are familiar to most people, yet many are unable to find a conscious way of dealing with them. Similarly, alfatih's installations and interactive works repeatedly address the question of what motivates people – and, above all, how. At Kunsthhaus Langenthal, he also plays with the perception and movement patterns of visitors, who in the meantime trigger the activation of individual works themselves. Among other things, the artist refers to a specific style of improvised role-playing known as LARP (short for Live Action Role Playing). In this form of play, which can also be situated within theatrical practice, players embody their own characters and go through different life or fantasy scenarios in groups – for fun and to gain new insights from abstract worlds.

Even from a distance, a distinct ticking can be heard from the hallway on the second floor. The flow of sounds emanating from the work *Time Leaks* (2026) is precisely directed by a directional loudspeaker and envelops visitors as they enter the exhibition. Regardless of who the whispered words are directed at, they simultaneously imply an unintended audience. The video work *The Secret to Tax Evasion, and Other Life Wisdom* (2026), presented in a cupboard from the former department store's inventory, likewise deals with access to information and the wisdom of life that seems to be reserved for certain people. Here, a folded origami crane moves rhythmically in the currents of a river, accompanied by a narrative voice. It is a poetic guide on how to fold a crane from this year's tax documents from the canton of Bern, which can float on water without sinking. In a muted form, the narrative can also be followed through the closed cupboard doors.

As with this transformation of bureaucratic obligations into humorous attempts to evade them, a playful approach to rigid structures finds its way into the exhibition in various ways. The solar-powered work *Force Majeure* (2026) forms a self-contained cycle that is delayed in relation to the weather in Langenthal – it only rains after sunny days. Similarly, the work *Adagio for Fish* (2026) responds to external stimuli that activate it. It is part of the artist's ongoing research into seemingly functioning systems in which input and output are not always clearly distinguishable. The talking fish appeared regularly as an attraction in living rooms and bars in the early 2000s and still occasionally give advice at the touch of a button, such as '*Don't worry, be happy*'. In alfatih's work, this mechanism is corrupted and functions within an opaque system according to new standards.

The impermanence of things and dogmas is also taken up in the work *Untitled* (2025), where universally valid truisms are reconfigured and relativised every second. *Luck Must Forget All Your Time. You Will Forget Our Time. You Will Destroy Our Love*. Based on the spinning displays of slot machines from the gambling industry, winning the jackpot beckons here as a way out of the rules of ordinary life. In a similar circular clockwise motion, the two projectors in the work *Zero-Sum Game* (2026) also rotate, their images decipherable from different rooms. The projected raw data of the exhibition's digital control portal offers a fragmentary glimpse behind the scenes of the dispositif. The individual capacity to decipher nested information is facilitated by a color filter.

In a game with intricate rules, visitors to the exhibition become actors and witnesses in a series of contexts. The title of the exhibition, *Time Leaks*, originates from an idiom for inefficient work processes and can be understood as a visual representation of an often unnoticed loss of time. In addition to the temporal overlap of nostalgic objects and visual references with technically sophisticated code in alfatih's new works, time is also visualised as a constant and unstoppable motor in circulating mechanisms such as water cycles, video projections and sound loops. Leakage as a disturbance of a signal is again reflected in the gaps between the individual rooms, in which activation triggers, images and sound interfere. The omnipresent image of water as an unpredictable and untameable element not only refers to the location of the Kunsthhaus, but also appears in various places as a counterpoint to the rigid structures of bureaucracy. A recurring friction. Amidst humorous and playful moments, *Time Leaks* also interweaves cautionary elements of surveillance, intrusion and mistrust. The *Apparatus*, which is both revealed and obscured here in various forms, demands that its function be deciphered. At the centre is a reflection on tactical interdependence against systems of value extraction and fluid truths.

The exhibition is accompanied by an *Audioguide* (2026), which can be accessed via the QR code at the end of the text. To mark the occasion of alfatih's exhibition, a publication featuring numerous illustrations of his work and a text by Marius Quiblier. The book launch will take place on 6 May 2026 at 7 p.m. at the Kunsthhaus Langenthal.

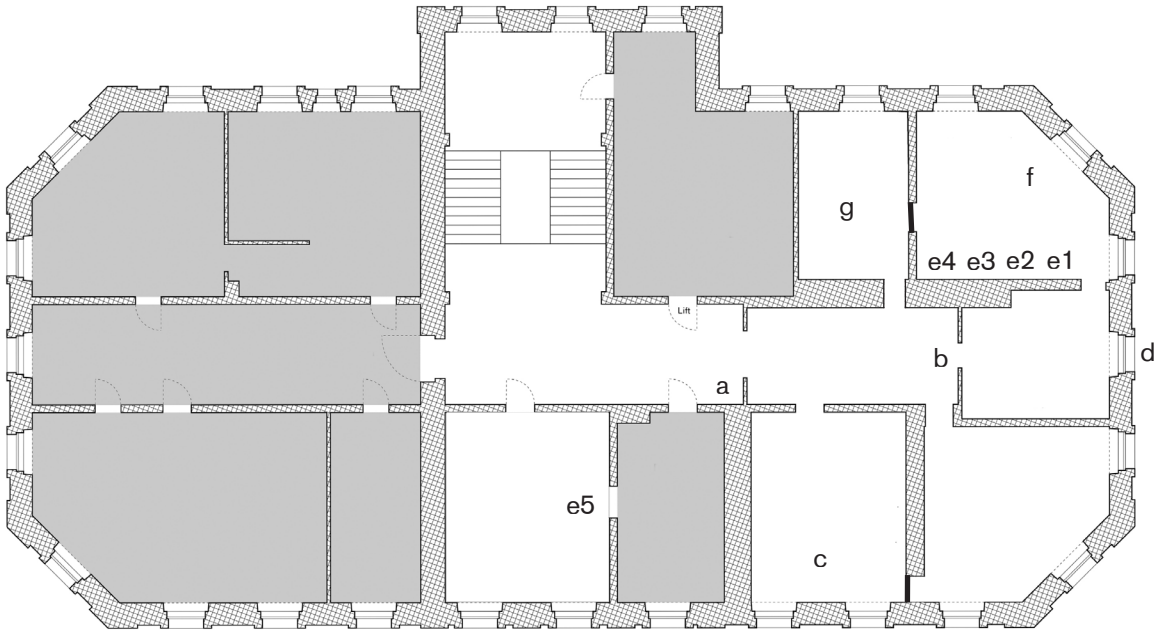
The exhibition is curated by Raffael Dörig, Director Kunsthhaus Langenthal and Marius Quiblier, assistant curator Kunsthhaus Langenthal.

CAUTION:

The exhibition contains bright lights.
Do not look into the projector lamps.

QR-Code Audioguide:





a) *Audioguide*, 2026.

Website.

b) *Time Leaks*, 2026.

Ultra sonic speaker.

c) *The Secret to Tax Evasion, and Other Life Wisdom*, 2026.

Wooden cabinet, television, linear actuator, webcam.

d) *Force Majeure*, 2026.

Water pump, plastic tubes, reservoir.

e1) *Adagio for fish: Barry*, 2026.

e2) *Adagio for fish: Brenda*, 2026.

e3) *Adagio for fish: Linda*, 2026.

e4) *Adagio for fish: Malcolm*, 2026.

e5) *Adagio for fish: Colin*, 2026.

Toy, custom software.

f) *Untitled*, 2025.

Motorized Lightbox

g) *Zero-Sum Game*, 2026.

Projectors, motorized rotating display stand, website

Veranstaltungen

Opening

Wednesday, 11 February 2026, 6 p.m.

Welcome address by Raffael Dörig, Director of Kunsthaus Langenthal, followed by dinner and drinks.

Showcase 7: Josse Bailly (12.02.-15.03.2026)

Opening at the same time

Tour at Lunchtime

Wednesday, 18 February 2026, 12.15 – 12.45 a.m.

Short guided tour of both exhibitions with Kunsthaus Director Raffael Dörig.

Langenthal Carnival

Friday, 20 - Sunday 22 February

The Kunsthaus remains closed during Carnival.

Public Guided Tour

Sunday, 8 March 2026, 2 – 3 p.m.

Guided tour of both exhibitions with art educator Aarabi Kugabalan.

Children's Club – Leaving traces

Saturday, 14 March 2026, 10 – 12 a.m.

We try out different painting techniques and observe how a picture is created. For children aged 7–12; drop-in sessions are possible at any time.

Showcase 8: Aarabi Kugabalan (19.03.– 10.05.2026)

Wednesday, 18 March 2026, 7 p.m.

In her research-based works, the artist, curator, and art educator—who grew up in Roggwil—deals with questions of memory, history, and identity. In the display case, she offers insight into her current work.

Art for the little ones

Friday, 20 March 2026, 10 – 11 a.m.

The Kunsthaus opens the doors of the exhibition “Tracks and Traces” exclusively for children aged 0–6 years and their accompanying adults.

Art bar „Tracks and Traces“

Wednesday, 1 April 2026, 7 p.m.

Guided tour with the artists through the exhibition “Tracks and Traces.” Afterwards, snacks and drinks at the bar.

Tour at Lunchtime

Wednesday, 15 April 2026, 12.15 – 12.45 a.m.

Short guided tour of both exhibitions with Kunsthaus Director Raffael Dörig.

Culture Night

Friday, 24 April 2026, 7 p.m.

The long night of Langenthal's cultural institutions! At the Kunsthaus with workshops for young and old, guided tours, the board bar, and musical guests Domi Chansorn and Luzius Schuler.

Art for the Little Ones

Friday, 1 May 2026, 10 – 11 a.m.

The Kunsthaus opens the doors of the exhibition “Time Leaks” exclusively for children aged 0–6 years with their accompanying adult.

Repair Café

Saturday, 2 May 2026, 10 – 15 a.m.

The Repair Café is a guest at the Kunsthaus. With the help of volunteer professionals, you can have your favorite items repaired. Coffee and cake will also be served.

Book Launch & Art Bar with alfatih

Wednesday, 6. May 2026, 7 p.m.

Guided tour with alfatih through his exhibition and a presentation of the accompanying publication, followed by bar service.

Children's Club – Makes sense, right?

Saturday, 9 May 2026, 10 – 12 a.m.

What's going on here? We discover unfamiliar things and invent things ourselves that seem strange.

Public Guided Tour

Sunday, 10 May 2026, 14 – 15 p.m.

Guided tour of both exhibitions with art educator Aarabi Kugabalan.

The exhibition is supported by: Kultur Jetzt, Pro Helvetia, HMSL Stiftung, Staat Freiburg, Ernst Göhner Stiftung
Kunsthaus Langenthal is supported by: Kanton Bern, Stadt Langenthal, Kulturförderung Region Oberaargau. **Partners Kunsthaus Langenthal:** Ammann AG, Création Baumann AG, Güdel AG, Merkur AG, P'INC AG. **Supporters:** Baumann-Brugnoli Urs + Renata, die Mobiliar, Erbo AG, Gribi & Partner AG, Josef Negri, schaeerholzbau ag, Teubner Zahnärzte, Verlingue AG, Witschi AG.