



Cover photo © Elke Maier, drawing, visualisation of the project idea

## CREATION PROCESS OF THE WORK

14 April to 21 May 2026

A ritual of discipline, precision and aesthetics

**Artist Elke Maier has conceived a carefully crafted project especially for Freiburg Cathedral, whose idea, creation process and form are inextricably linked to the authenticity of this very special sacred building, making it unique and impossible to transfer to any other location. She needs six weeks to create this work of art in continuous dialogue with space.**

The material used is very simple: fine white cotton yarn, which the artist weaves into hundreds of threads and thousands of metres in the nave. Visitors to Freiburg Cathedral can follow the creation process of the installation from the very beginning. In an ascetic and aesthetic effort, the artist lets thread after thread descend from the Michael's gallery in the west tower and from the vault into the interior of the cathedral, hour after hour, day after day. She guides one thread after another across the nave of the Gothic church - over the monumental silver Bocklin cross suspended in the triumphal arch - straight to Hans Baldung Grien's high altar more than 100 metres away, in order to stretch and focus each individual thread. This requires the utmost precision and discipline.

## THE ARTIST

“Elke Maier has been creating artistic interventions using white yarn in sacred spaces for decades and has designed an impressive series of special locations. The interplay of light and threads unfolds different visual effects depending on the incidence of light and enables an experience of spatial landscapes that transcend themselves and reality.” (Culture Prize for Art and Ethos 2019, Schnell & Steiner)

Among her most outstanding realisations are: Wilten Cathedral and Collegiate Church in Innsbruck (2005, 2006), Neumünster Würzburg (2008, 2010), Kollegienkirche Salzburg (2011), St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna (2014), St. Mark's Church in Hanover (2017), and Bamberg Cathedral (2024).

Elke Maier was born in Bavaria and lives in Carinthia. She studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich from 1986 to 1993.

Further information about the artist and her work  
<https://elke-maier.webnode.page/>



Fotograf/André Germar

## VISIBLE – INVISIBLE

At first glance, the delicate threads may not be very noticeable when entering the relatively dark nave. This is because the installation reacts to the incidence of natural light. When the sun shines through the windows, the threads glow as they reflect the light. Without sunlight, the threads recede into the semi-darkness of the cathedral. You cannot see them, but they are still there. As the sun moves throughout the day, different parts of the thread installation appear in dialogue with the light. Sometimes even a slight change in the viewer's position can lead to a new perception. It is an oscillation between visibility and invisibility. Processual. Often only for moments. Unavailable. A hint of transcendence.

Come back to the cathedral again and again and let the installation work its magic on you at different times of the day.

You are invited to share your thoughts on the installation here:  
[www.ebfr.de/fadeninstallation](http://www.ebfr.de/fadeninstallation)



## VERNISSAGE

You are cordially invited to the opening on Whit Monday, 25 May 2026, at 5 p.m. The artist will be present. Art historian Dr Antje Lechleiter will introduce the work. The event will be accompanied by music from harpist Doesjka van der Linden and the organist of the Cathedral, Jörg Josef Schwab.

## TRANSCENDENT SPACES

Temporary thread installations by Elke Maier in sacred buildings 2004 - 2024

Photo exhibition  
at c punkt MÜNSTERFORUM  
Herrenstraße 33, Freiburg  
from 23 April to 20 June 2026  
Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Parallel to the realisation and presentation period of Elke Maier's installation in Freiburg Cathedral, the impressive photos on aluminium Dibond document the artist's earlier installations in sacred buildings and cathedrals in German-speaking countries that are comparable in significance to Freiburg Cathedral.

An accompanying programme for the exhibition can be found at: [www.c-punkt-freiburg.de](http://www.c-punkt-freiburg.de)



# visible invisible

A room installation  
by Elke Maier  
in Freiburg Minster Cathedral

26 May –  
28 September 2026

English

