

THE DOLDER GRAND

1. December 2023 | 1

Press release

24 messages – 24 wishes. Artist Jani Leinonen portrays his idea of Christmas

Jani Leinonen, who was born in Finland, has created a lighting installation consisting of stained-glass cubes for the Dolder Grand – all for charity. It will be on display in the Canvas Bar & Lounge from 1 December 2023, transforming the space into an arena of colours and patterns.

A larger-than-life Advent calendar that will capture the heart every day in December – this colossal work by world-renowned artist Jani Leinonen will create a truly special atmosphere in the Dolder Grand during the Advent season and also serve to raise money for charitable causes. This charity-minded art coup is rooted in the long-standing friendship between the 45-year-old Finn and the five-star hotel in Zurich.



To give his pieces deeper meaning, Leinonen asked 24 people from around the world – including authors, artists, mothers and children – to write a personal letter to Father Christmas. He encouraged them to put their own dreams into words and to ask Santa for what they truly desired. The resulting letters are incredibly moving – eliciting tears or bringing a big smile to the face and highlighting the magic of Christmastime.

“The letters lend each light cube a special meaning that encompasses not only joy, but also grief, loss and the hope for a better world,” says Leinonen. “We received letters from all over the world, including one from an Egyptian poet who has been in prison since 2018 because of his poems. There is also a letter from a Ukrainian artist called Olena, who had to leave her home because of the war. And a letter from Basil, who has been living in the Za’atari refugee camp in the Jordanian desert since war broke out in Syria in 2011. Jenni from the Arctic wants winter to return. Ten-year-old Maya dreams of being able to afford piano lessons. And Gina wants her brother back”.

THE DOLDER GRAND

1. December 2023 | 2

Jani Leinonen has assigned a letter to all 24 of the cubes he has created. A new light cube illuminates every day, symbolising that this particular wish is to be fulfilled. To fulfil the wishes of people in need, the Dolder Grand sends Christmas greetings to its guests, customers and partners by digital means, donating the production and Christmas postage costs saved to Winterhilfe Schweiz. This aid organisation assists families, couples and individuals affected by – often invisible – poverty.

All the letters have been compiled in a book, also on display at the hotel, created in collaboration with designer Riikka Kuukka, the aim being to illustrate what Father Christmas really means to us. But the **letters also show how different people's messages are. And what does the artist himself want for Christmas? "On 24 December, I'd like all the light cubes to be lighting up the Dolder Grand in radiant colours, and for the wishes of those who have written the letters and read the book to come true. That's my Christmas wish."**

The light show will be celebrated at 6 p.m. every day from 1 to 24 December 2023, accompanied by music and a Christmas aperitif for all those gathered in the Canvas Bar & Lounge.

About Jani Leinonen

Jani Leinonen makes art that captures the zeitgeist, poking fun at current issues and giving them a playful twist in images and installations. The 45-year-old has an unconventional view of capitalism and celebrates the "me, me, me" mentality. His art often consists of objects in daily use, such as packs of muesli and advertising posters – things that are fleeting and yet designed to make you think. The Finnish artist draws inspiration from everyday life, from the advertising of big companies and the tricks they use to entice people to buy things. He has maintained an artistic connection to the Dolder Grand Hotel, where he regularly exhibits his works, since 2009. For more information about Jani Leinonen, visit his website at www.janileinonen.com.

About the Dolder Grand

The Dolder Grand features 175 luxurious rooms and suites, four restaurants and seasonal pop offers pure relaxation on around 4,000 square meters. The property has an extensive art collection, which consists of over 100 works by world-famous artists, including Salvador Dalí and Takashi Murakami. The five-star superior hotel, opened in 1899, bears the signature of the renowned architect Sylvia Sepielli and the respected architect Lord Norman Foster. It is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, the Swiss Deluxe Hotels, and the Responsible Hotels of Switzerland. For images and general information, visit our [media page](#).

Media contact for interview requests and additional information:

The Dolder Grand
Joachim Schweier
Senior Marketing & Communications Manager
Tel +41 44 456 60 00
joachim.schweier@dolderhotelag.com

PR/TICULAR
Katja Grauwiler
CEO Switzerland
Tel +41 44 260 86 86
katja.grauwiler@pr-ticular.com