

Olafur Eliasson, in collaboration with Kumi Naidoo, Weltlupe 2020.
Commissioned by the BDZV (Bundesverband Digitalpublisher und Zeitungsverleger e.V) on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, 3 May 2020.

For World Press Freedom Day, 3 May 2020, Olafur Eliasson has made an artwork that focuses on the act of reading as a meeting up of journalist, text, and reader. Eliasson conceived the artwork in dialogue with Kumi Naidoo, former Head of Amnesty International and Greenpeace.

The artwork is at once a magnifying glass and a mirror – an instrument for perusal and self-examination. While the reader examines a text on the freedom of press closely through a convex lens, he or she is reflected in the concave mirror in which the lens is mounted. With this artwork Eliasson and Naidoo draw attention to the fact that press freedom is a matter of trusting journalists, independent news outlets, and other platforms to bring urgent and accurate news and stories to the world, while securing their safety. It is also about trusting the readers – themselves reflected in the act of reading – to read, listen, deliberate, and draw their own conclusions about the world, based on the news delivered to them.