



Speech at

**Opening of the  
TUM Center for Culture and Arts  
and the Nobel Heroes Exhibition**

11. Dezember 2023, TUM Audimax/Immatrikulationshalle

**Prof. Dr. Thomas F. Hofmann**  
Präsident der Technischen Universität München

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort

Dear members of our TUM family, partners and friends,

Representatives of the many science, cultural and arts institutions of Munich.

With great pleasure, I welcome you all to the opening ceremony for the photo exhibition "Nobel Heroes" by Peter Badge.

This event follows our *Advent Matinée* last week as part of our launch of the new TUM Center for Culture and Arts.

My special welcome goes to...

Peter Badge — photographer and “master mind” behind Nobel Heroes.

Prof. Louis Ignarro — Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1998. Louis Ignarro — together with Robert F. Furchgott and Ferid Murad — received the Nobel Prize for their discoveries on nitric oxide as a signaling agent in the cardiovascular system.

Prof. Robert Huber — TUM Emeritus of Excellence, Nobel Prize for Chemistry 1988 together with Johann Deisenhofer and Hartmut Michel for their research on the 3-dimensional structure of the photosynthetic reaction center of purple bacteria.

Former State Minister of Science and the Arts: Wolfgang Heubisch.

Prof. Jürgen Kluge — Chair of the Executive Board of the foundation “Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.”

Managing Director and Executive Board member: Nikolaus Turner.

Uschi Glas — famous German actress, wonderful public figure and who will come up on stage later.

Prof. Felix Mayer — Honorary Prof. at TUM School of Social Sciences & Technology and Director of the new TUM Center for Culture and Arts.

“*Scientiis et artibus*” — for the Sciences and the Arts. This is written in large letters above the gate of our university. And it should remind us that, despite all the scientific knowledge gained and all the technological achievements, our world cannot be reduced to numbers.

Humanity begins with the elegance of art, the warmth of music and the beauty of nature — or “*the art to become human*” as stated by the philosopher and poet Novalis.

Therefore, the TUM Center for Culture and Arts is designed to support our students, staff, alumni, partners and friends in expanding their intellectual horizons, in growing their personality, and in discovering previously hidden interests & unlocked talents.

The center will offer inspiring programs, which connect music and literature, visual, performing and digital arts with science, technology and innovation, politics and history.

We want to encourage people to find new ways of thinking and working, and to convert creative ideas more effectively into socially relevant innovations. We will offer curated cultural events, specially designed courses, faculty/student-led initiatives and experimental projects connecting culture, arts and science.

In today's world, scientific disciplines go deeper and deeper. However, solving today's challenges requires intellectual horizons which go broader and broader.

Joe Viera — a former physics student at TUM who later became a highly talented jazz musician, put it this way: *“from physics, I learned how to think — from music, I learned how to feel.”*

The TUM Center for Culture and Arts underlines our claim to true excellence: we want to advance our TUM community beyond excellence in science and technology — with sensitivity to cultural values and societal needs, expectations and anxiety. This is key for the development of trustworthy innovations and their diffusion into society for the benefit of people.

And vice versa, we want the center to become an open door to the public: TUM becomes an “open university” — not restricted to academic people only.

We want to get “the public” engaged. We want to facilitate access to people who are less familiar with science, technology and innovation through more trust-felt paths of culture and arts. We want to offer them new entries to the rationality of science through the feeling and emotion of art.

And the internationality of our TUM family (44% international students) will help to connect people with those from other cultures in Europe and the world and contribute to mutual understanding, cosmopolitan thinking, and tolerance.

Science and art inspire each other. And here in Munich's museum quarter, both are co-located: (i) TUM's headquarter, (ii) the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich, (iii) the University of Television and Film, (iv) the Academy of Fine Arts — all embedded in a force field of world-renowned museums, the Pinakotheken and the Lenbachhaus, in a metropolitan city with important theaters and opera houses, the film and publishing industry. We want the TUM Center of Culture and Arts to become an inspiring interface between this unique environment and science.

Today's opening of the exhibition “Nobel Heroes” brings together Nobel Laureates and the Art of Photography. Nobel Laureates and Artists share some characteristics like: (i) a deep passion and truly ambitious goals, and (ii) tireless creativity and absolute dedication to their field of work.

Both create novelty, both are designers of progress, and both leave sustainable marks in the history of humanity — be it in form of scientific discoveries that change the world, or in the form of pieces of music that across generations create emotions and stories in our mind.

For today's exhibition, the photographer Peter Badge has been traveling since 2000 through the world on behalf of the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings to create unique portraits of Nobel laureates — personalities who "*brought the greatest benefit to mankind*," as Alfred Nobel put it in his will.

Today we have the honor of officially opening this exhibition.

Thank you — Peter Badge — for your dedication, commitment and excellence in capturing faces and stories of these outstanding scientific leaders of the world.

I gratefully thank the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings Foundation for the cooperation and the Dieter Schwarz Foundation for the generous support.

And may "Nobel Heroes" not only be a visual journey presenting the faces of science, but also serve as an inspiration to all of us to continue striving for excellence for the sake of humanity. Enjoy this wonderful event.