

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

The New York Times

# Outdoors Descend Into Giddiness

▶ “I think it would change our lives if we could slide more,” said the Belgian artist Carsten

Höller, who has been building slides on and off since 1998. The structures not only carry you effi-

ciently from place to place, he believes, but they also create a special state of mind that, borrowing a phrase from the French sociologist Roger Caillois, he likes to describe as “voluptuous panic.” On Wednesday, Mr. Höller unveiled his first free-standing slide on the campus of the furniture company Vitra in Weil am Rhein, Germany. It is a steel spiral descending from a 100-foot-high tower with a platform that offers a rare elevated view of the architectural masterworks around it. (Among the neighbors are buildings by Álvaro Siza, Tadao Ando and Zaha Hadid.) Topping the structure is a large, numberless clock that is positioned askew so that viewers must tilt their heads and guess the correct time. Mr. Höller prefers that idea to consulting a cell-phone, a gesture that can be construed as rude. “People think you could be checking your email,” he said. Information: [vitra.com](http://vitra.com).



VITRA/JULIEN LANOO

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