

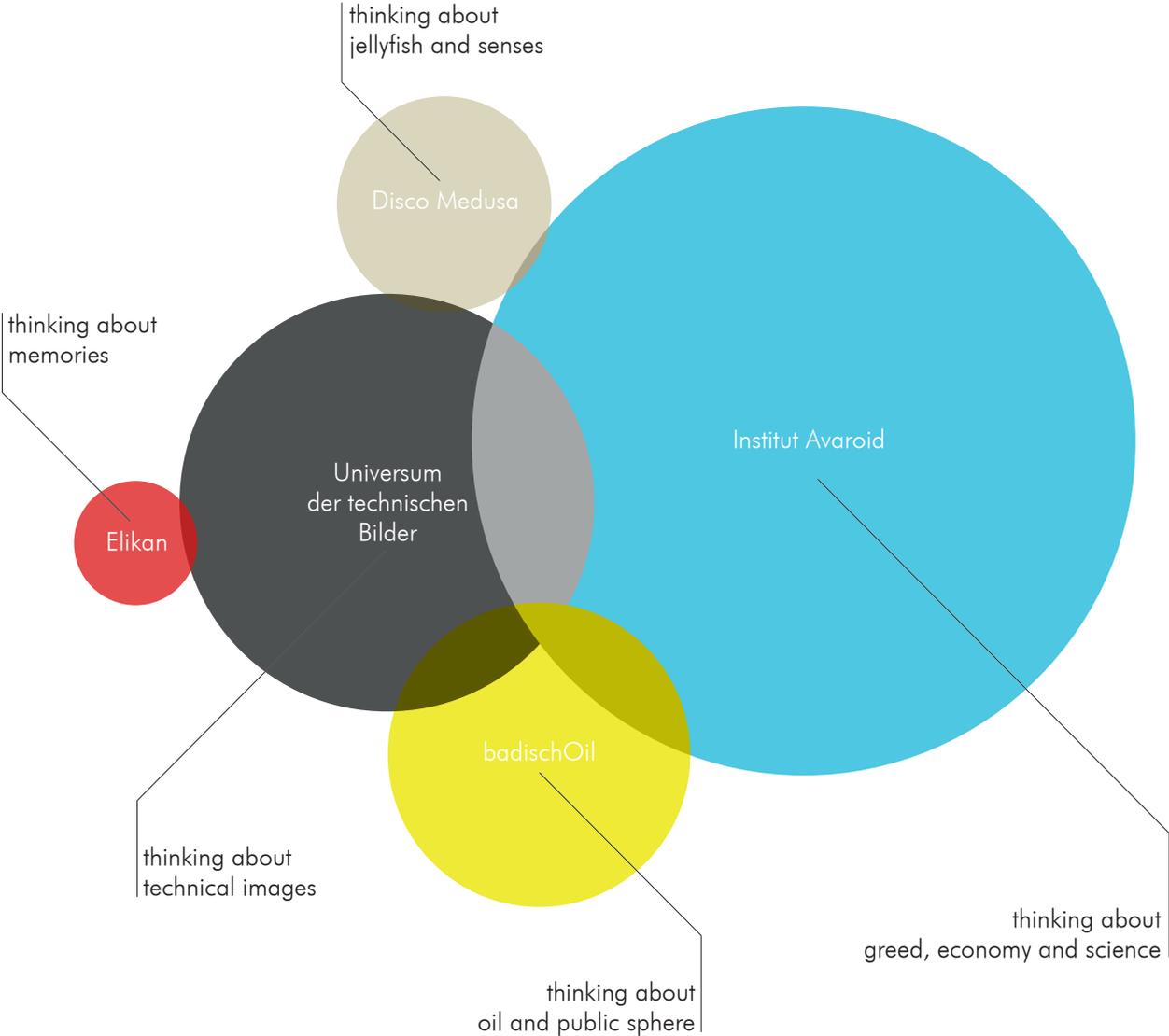
Thomas Georg Blank

Thomas Georg Blank's approach to art is inspired by Bazon Brock's idea of artists not being specialists but generalists. This is why you can find everything from amuse-gueule to videogames in his works. Despite this wide range of media there are always some links between parts of his works that are marked by the idea of systems. A system is a set of interaction or interdependent component parts forming a complex whole. These complex wholes are developed over years and often start from narratives the artist has written and expanded upon or combined with existing fragments of myths, texts and biographies.

- Lars Maierkorn, gardener and writer

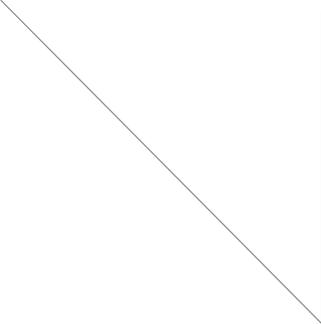
current systems and how they are related to each other

By creating systems that run for years and probably decades, I allow myself to build protected areas in which I can think about certain topics. Each system has it's own main emphasis, but of course they develop overlaped parts. This occurs sometimes because a new system grows from an existing one, and sometimes because it just so happens that they share similar questions or events.





Institut Avaroid



Institut Avaroid is a growing fairyfaction about transdimensional neuroparasites, ancient cultures and photography. Institute Avaroid is run by the directors Patrick Richter and Thomas Georg Blank. Together they are on a neverending, ghostbusters-like journey to gain the ultimate understanding of human greed.

title Phrygische Mütze

media object
system Institut Avaroid
status done
year 2014

information

The Phrygische Mütze not only serves as a functional hat and in-as-much a part of the director's uniform, but also as an art piece in itself. It represents a mixture of handcrafted work and archeological discovery. As one of the oldest known hat shapes of the world, it might remind one of King Midas and the Phrygian peoples, who had settled in what is now known as Anatolia, Turkey. Midas, the protagonist of the artificial narrative structure of Institut Avaroid, hypothetically discusses a historical perspective stemming from an alternative worldview, in which Central Europe is interpreted as the cornerstone of our history of humanities. The focus on the pre-Hellenistic culture of the Phrygian peoples becomes, accordingly, a point to rearrange and discuss historic constructions. It also serves to counteract perceptions of early Hellenic culture as being the startingpoint of so-called highculture, which in turn has determined the myth of white supremacy, among others.



title Fixieren eines Avariten

media moving image
system Institut Avaroid
status done
year 2015

information These are stills of a more than three minute long movie showing you how to finally and definitely examine a transdimensional neuroparasite. You can see instant photography liquid moving slowly through resin. The ghostly dance of chemicals offers observers a powerful image of an authentic lifeform. The chemicals seem to fly, to struggle and have their own intent of direction. These pictures of movement are completed with different black screens, showing which tools to use to fixate on an Avarite.



1. Sichtung des befallenen Objektes
2. Quantenfoto­grafische Kopplung durch Aufnahme mit Polaroid SX70
3. Chemikalien des Sofortbildes aushärten lassen
4. Folien von den Chemikalien des Bildes trennen
5. Bildkörper in ein spezielles Harz geben

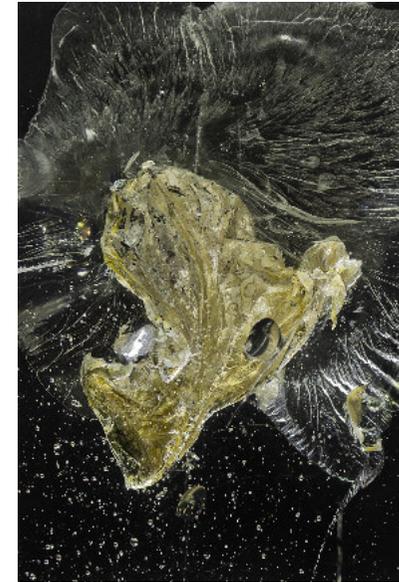
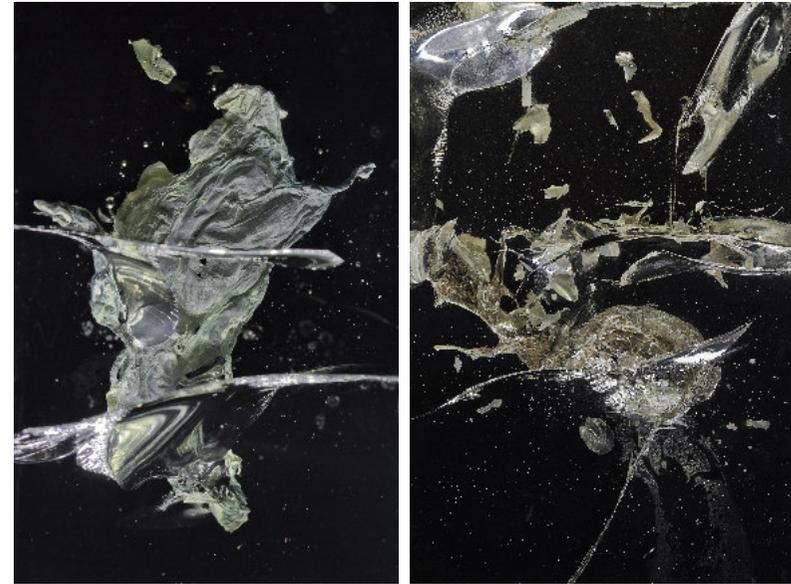


title Fixierte Avariten

media object
system Institut Avaroid
status done
year 2014

information

The pictures to the right show details from three of over 50 objects made of resin and instant photography chemicals which are meant to be a kind of prepared lifeform known as Avarite, a trans-dimensional neuroparasite. This lifeform is one of the main characters in system Institut Avaroid, that was basically constructed via methods of speculative biology, which is a special form of hard fiction. These items are part of „Archiv der Gier“ as a whole but also represent individual works. The objects can be shown in different presentation systems, depending on the surrounding environment. Visitors are meant to study the objects using different lightsources to explore the very complex structure of these works.



title Archiv der Gier

media object
system Institut Avaroid
status done
year 2015

information This is the center piece of a collection of works, which takes place in the system of Institut Avaroid. Archiv der Gier is a mobile presentation system, that has now been shown in such different contexts as art exhibitions, tradefairs, scientific congresses, enterprises and music festivals. The idea of the presentation system as an archive is to invite visitors to get in contact with Institut Avaroid through the strange beauty of the objects. The displays of the presentation system can be used for additional information, parts of the book collection of the Institut or other objects concerning the work of Instiut Avaroid.



title

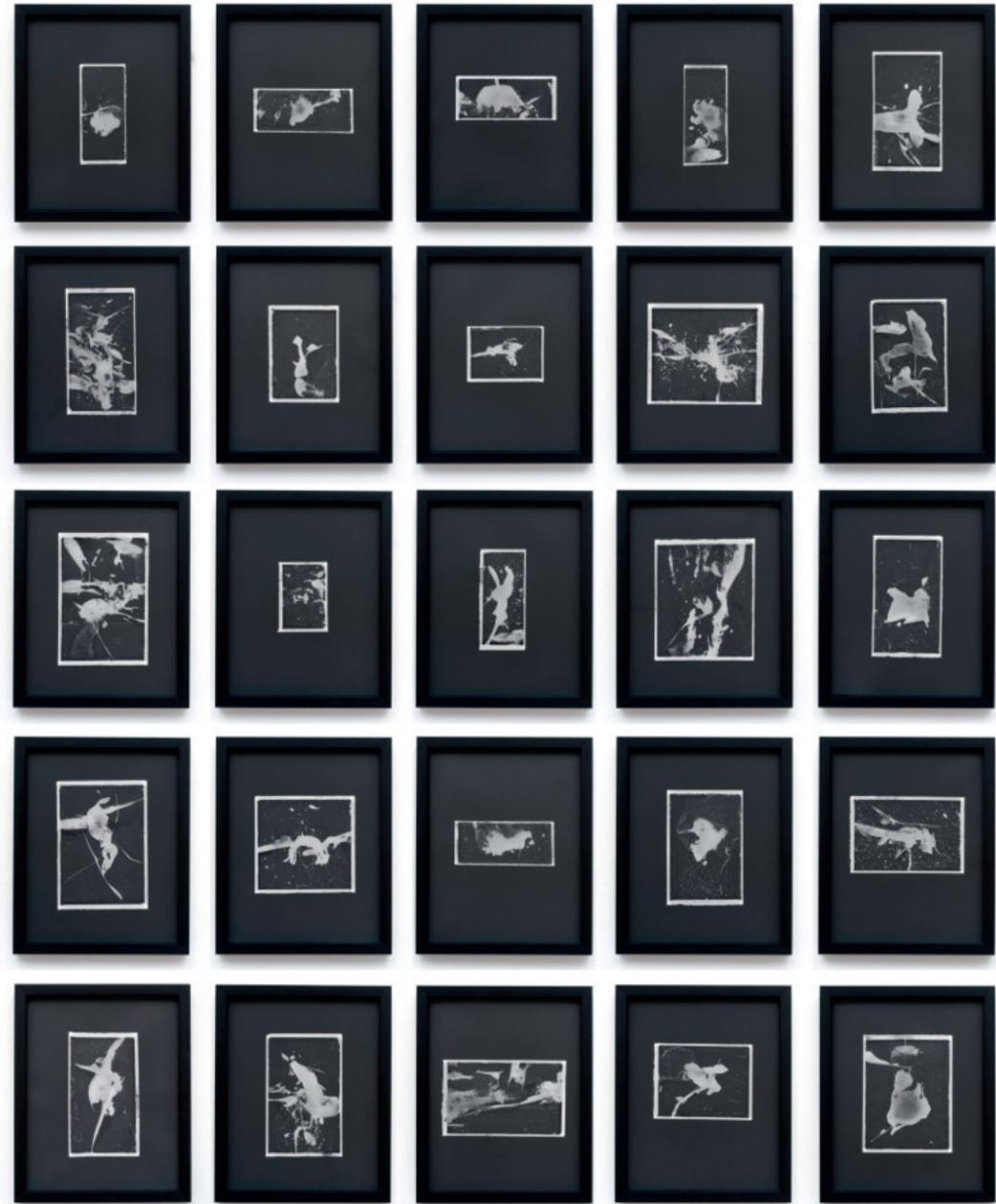
Avagramme

media
system
status
year

photography
Institut Avaroid
done
2015

information

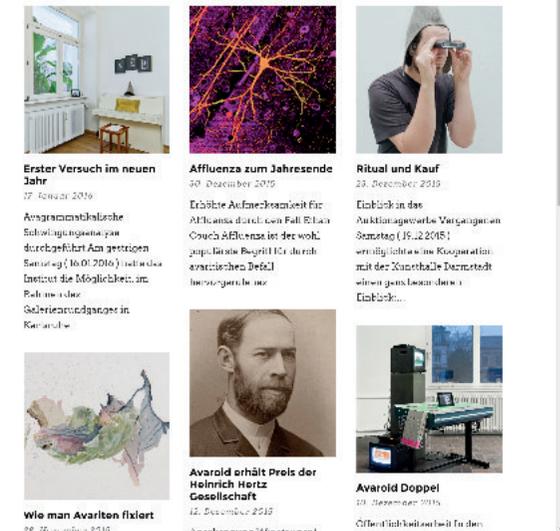
A series of 20 framed photogenic drawings on baryta. They exemplify the abstraction of the objects represented in Archiv der Gier. By reducing spatial form to just two dimensions of paper, certain structures become apparent which would have initially been hidden inside of the original multi-dimensional object. It is a scientific approach to the work and expands the system of Institut Avaroid with images, that might remind observers of x-ray- or early space photography.



title www.avaroid.org

media website
system Institut Avaroid
status ongoing
year since 2015

information The website is the primary information screen and spot from which to follow the narrative. Every activity of Institut Avaroid is documented and presented on the website in brief. Furthermore, it supports the idea of art being presented in a way that allows one to stay in touch, apart from being physically present in the spacial experience of an exhibition space. The website contains information on past and future activities, photographs and video footage of performances and fieldwork, as well as short reports on shows and lectures held by the directors Patrick Richter and Thomas Blank. The website, as a free and easily accessible hyperstructure, is in itself a kind of ever-evolving documentary. It allows everyone with a mobile device to add narrative layers onto what they have seen in exhibitions, and to have an online catalogue to share with others.



title König Midas liebt das Gold nicht mehr

media moving image

system Institut Avaroid

status done

year 2015

information

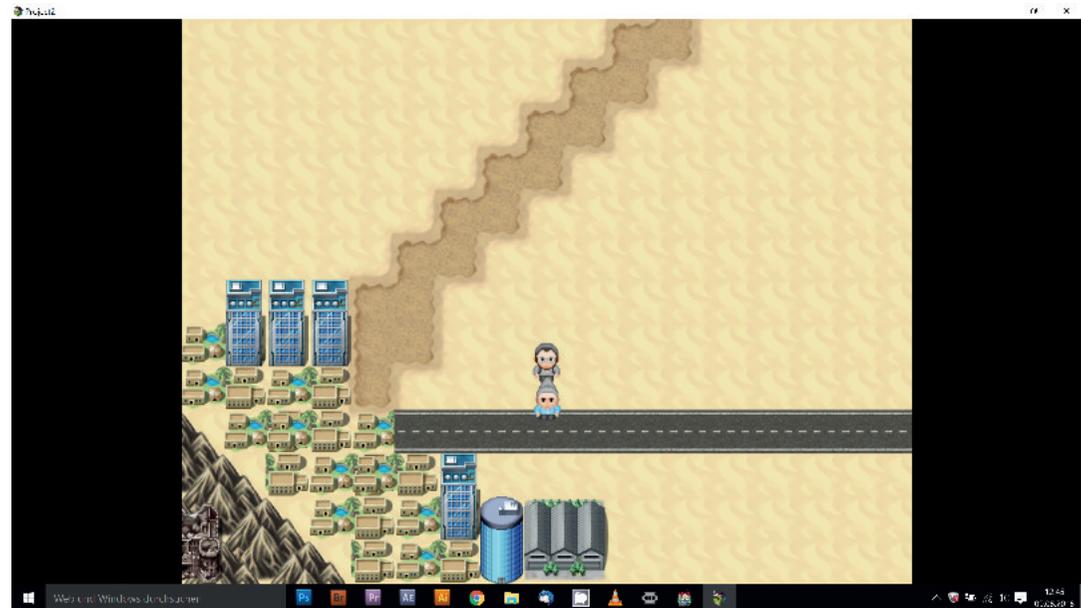
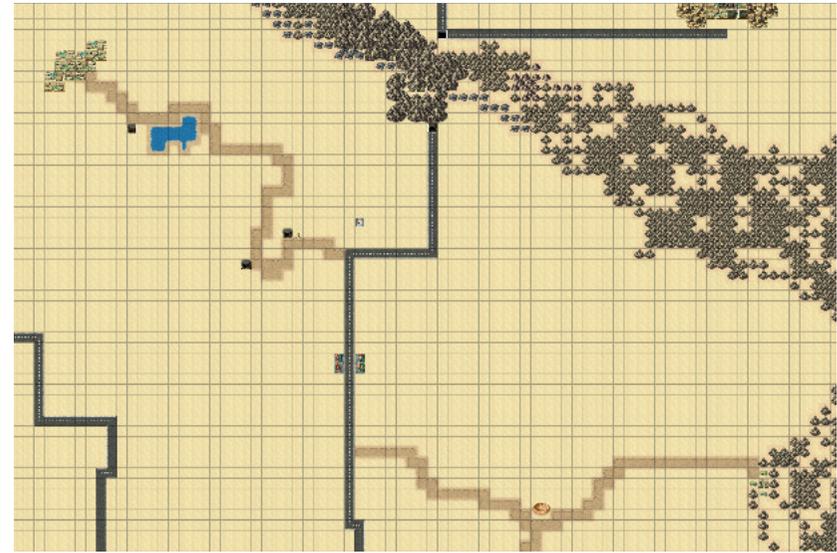
This movie explores and expands the legend of King Midas, the Phrygian king that wished to transform everything he touched into gold. A narrator gives the Greek version of the legend, which expands the fable by claiming that King Midas and the Phrygian peoples had discovered the transdimensional neuroparasite called Avarite. The images were shot in Central Anatolia, where a large number of ancient monuments still exist, and give some insight into the relatively unknown world of Phrygia. Shot strictly on tripod, the moving images often seem to be non-moving images, and a strange gap in the perception of the understanding of filmmaking comes to mind. The images were shot in 6 to 7, which is an unusual relation of length and height in moving image and more likely related to analogue photography.



title Legend of Avaroid

media game
system Institut Avaroid
status ongoing
year since 2016

information Players can experience the story of Institut Avaroid and of how the directors started their work in Central Anatolia, along with the history of the Phrygian culture. They can also learn more about transdimensional neuroparasites, and most importantly the history of lensbased systems like cameras. The game is built with RPG Maker MV in the style of a classic 2D RPG with action battle systems. The look of this game is as well inspired by 1990s RPGs like „Legend of Mana“ or „Legend of Zelda“. The decision to make an interactive visual representation of the narrative parts of Institut Avaroid in this style came easily, as the characters and directors of this project all have strong connections and associations with the last decade of the 20th century.



title Feldforschung

media moving body
system Institut Avaroid
status ongoing
year 2015

information Scientific performance in rural areas, comitted by Patrick Richter and Thomas Blank, shows their work as directors of Institut Avaroid. It's a mixture of fluxus or dada-like nonsense, and real measuring with special devices. During this performance they use different objects invented by Institut Avaroid to measure the potential of Avarites, a transdimensional neuroparasite which is the centerpart of their studies. This performance has already taken place in different areas of Germany, Switzerland and Mexico.



title Hochexperimentalvisualistik

media moving body
system Institut Avaroid
status ongoing
year 2015

information This scientific performance plays with symbols used in the image building of contemporary research. Using certain scientific apparatuses, participants are invited to share very odd moments of generating data. With 4V based program YMS_dis83px, developed by Institut Avaroid, the directors can catch specific structures that are left by Avariten in the electromagnetic spectrum. The process is quite simple: a camera transmits a digital image via wifi to a laptop, YMS_dis83px interprets the taken image and calculates a line graph that shows the distribution of Avariten in space. The line graphs are collected to build up a new archive in order to learn more about Avariten.



title

Buffetforschung

media
system
status
year

moving body
Institut Avaroid
ongoing
since 2015

information

As part of the sensual scientific experience that is Institut Avaroid, the act of cooking and sharing delicious food together with visitors is a natural extension of the work. Cooking between parts of the collection is making the exhibition's pace accessible as part of everyday life. As a global cultural activity, the act of cooking unites all aspects of our sensory perception, including and especially the one that is most-often underestimated: smell. Filling the space where the eye is supposed to be the spectator, giving delicious smells to the visitors brings them to rethink the accessibility of world only through the eyes, which is by far the most dominant sense in our world.



title Sammlungspräsentation

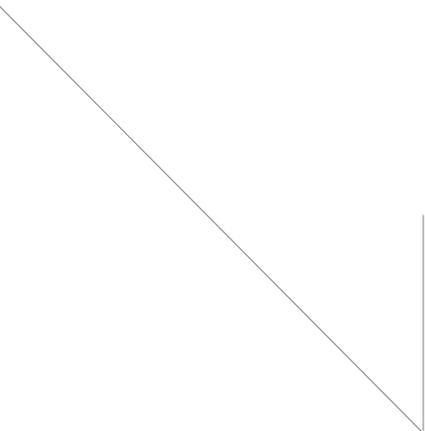
media installation
system Institut Avaroid
status done
year 2016

information Institut Avaroid was invited to be part of the exhibition series „Absurde Phänomene des Realen“ at ArtLab of AIM e.V. at Kunstpavillon Burgbrohland. Institut Avaroid showed parts of the institute's collection and during an ongoing one week long performance, the directors of Institut Avaroid were doing research in the region, preparing talks, creating public sculptures and sharing the vision of the project verbally with attendees. The picture to the right shows a table with Institut Avaroid's annual report, a projection of „Fixieren eines Avariten“ and the presentation system „Archiv der Gier“.





Universum der
technischen Bilder



In tradition of Vilem Flussers thoughts about the camera being grandmother for todays technical devices, this system is the place to think about photography and how technical images in general shift our idea of information and reality.

title

Anatol

media
system
status
year

analogue photography
Universum der technischen Bilder
done
2013

information

Series of photographs and drawings produced in Anatolia that have been made into a picture book. The images give an insight into the landscape transformation that has taken place in this region of Turkey during a time of prolonged economic fluxuation. The book was self-published with a total amount of 100 copies made.



title

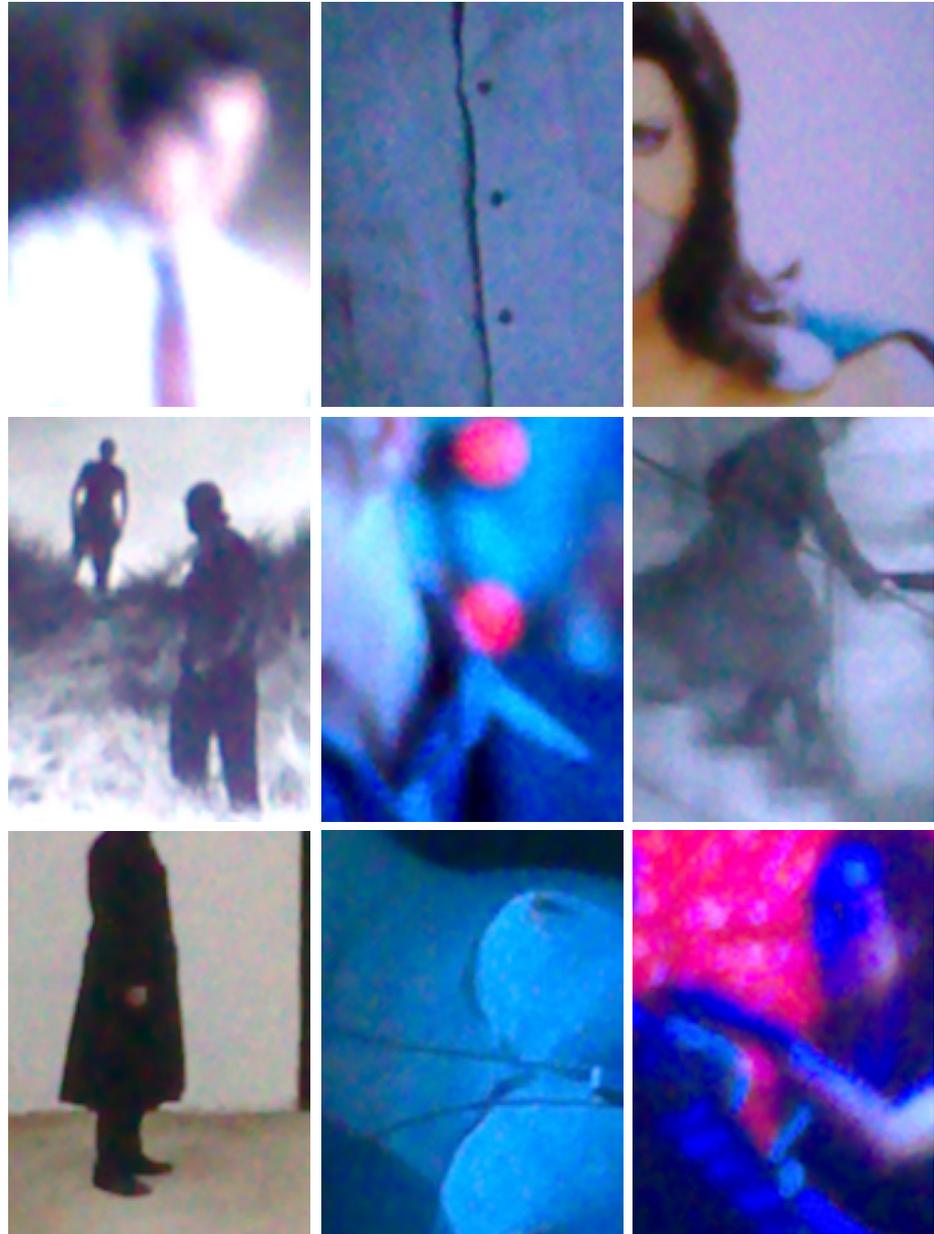
Lumière

media
system
status
year

photography
Universum der technischen Bilder
ongoing
since 2013

information

A series of photographs that are taken of movies during their viewing. As of now, there are over 300 pictures from an equal number of different films, which are part of a growing visual essay that tries to reflect on different lighting used in a wide variety of movies. The images are arranged as videoloops in groups of 24 images at a framerate of 24fps to create single movie-seconds of pure movie lighting. The movie-seconds are also arranged in small books.



title

Tage ohne Nacht

media
system
status
year

photography
Universum der technischen Bilder
done
2015

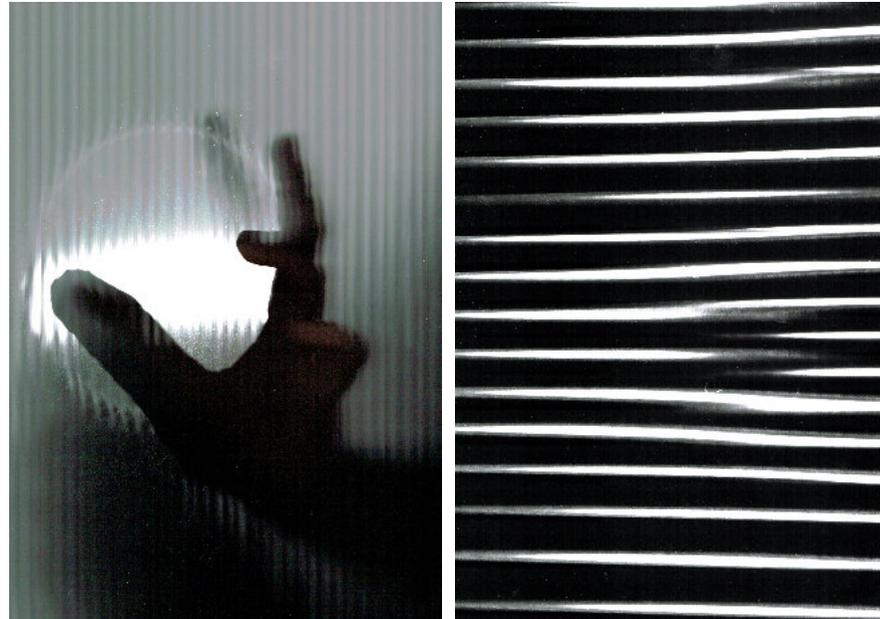
information

A series of photographs and poems taken and written while traveling through Norway, and later made into a book. The work gives insight into a unique landscape which is immersed in endless daylight during the summer months. The book was self-published with a total amount of 150 copies made.



title Nexus
media scanography
system Universum der technischen Bilder
status done
year 2014

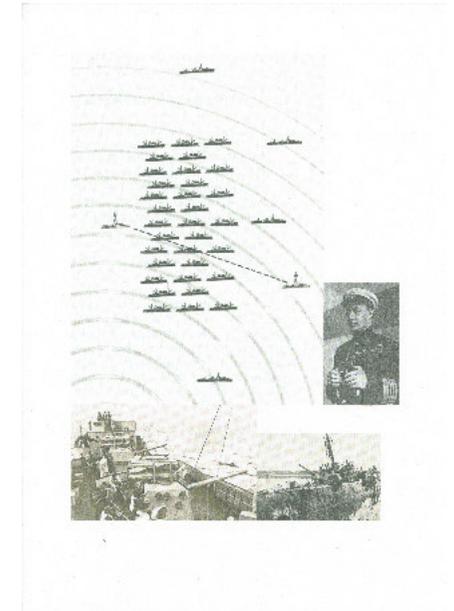
information
A series of photographs made with a scanner. The pictures try to visualise the moment of digitization. Where is the moment and place of nexus? The images are combined into a book and were self-published with a total amount of 100 copies made.



title Ostseen

media analogue photography
system Universum der technischen Bilder
status done
year 2014

information Series of photographs and historical images taken while traveling through the Baltics, made into an book. The book tries to uncover details that might be found in certain landscapes as a result of extreme historical events such as war or the social transformation of society. The book was self-published with a total amount of 100 copies made.



title

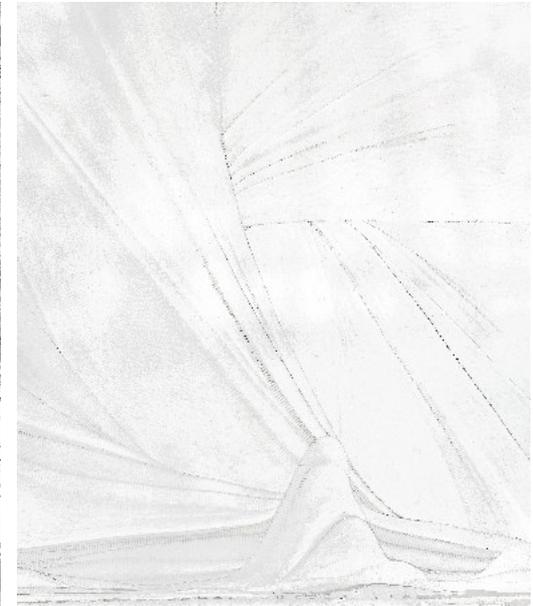
Polar

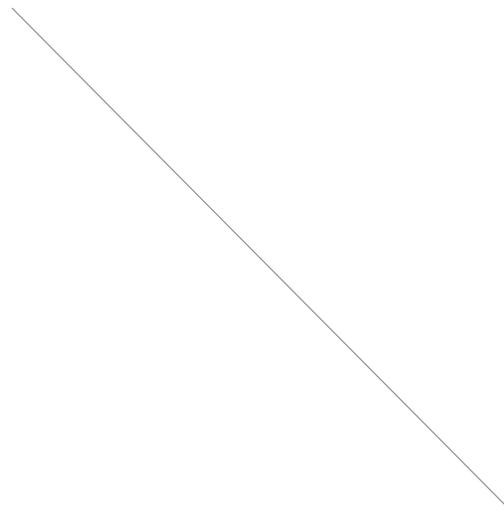
media
system
status
year

instant photography / word
Universum der technischen Bilder
done
2015

information

A series of scanned instant-
photography, chemicals, and
poems, combined in an artistbook.
The book was self-published with a
total amount of 100 copies made.
They can as well be shown as
60x70 prints as an installation with
a listening piece, that combines
reports from Alfred Wegener and
recordings of sounds from the sea
under the Arctic.



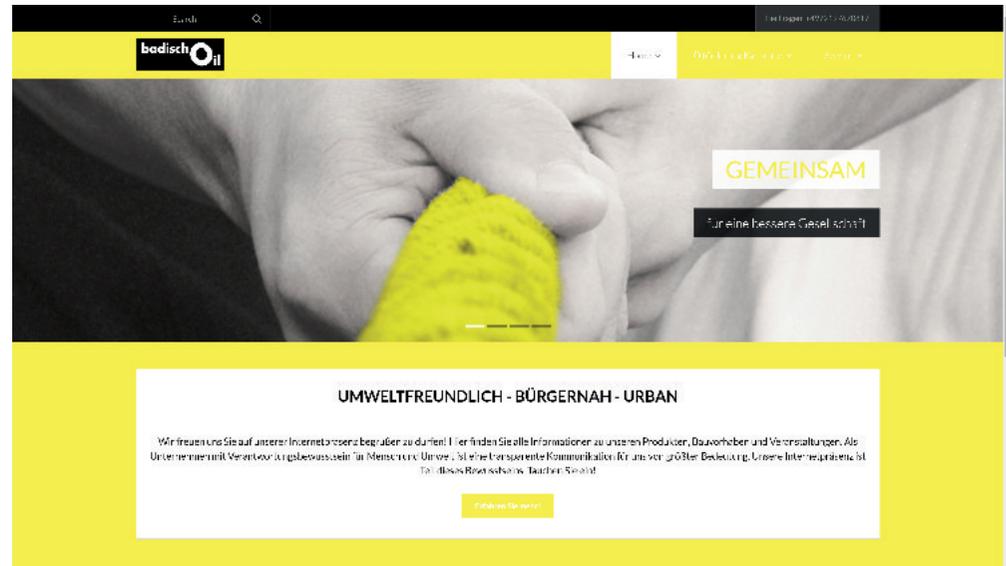
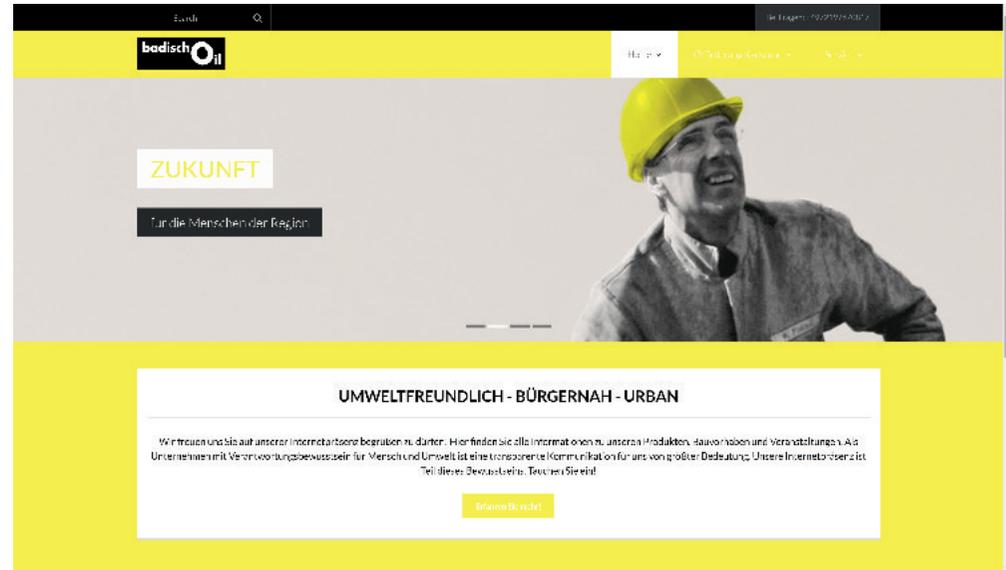


badischOil is a company that aims to fulfill the ultimate combination of art and petrol industry. The system is an urban fairy tale about processes that take place in the south of Germany.

title www.erdoel-in-karlsruhe.de

media website
system badischOil
status ongoing
year since 2016

information The website contains information about the enterprise badischOil. It includes their plans for replacing houses with designer wells and pumps, video footage and photography, and the campaign that badischOil runs to show its vision of an art-heavy industry in Karlsruhe.

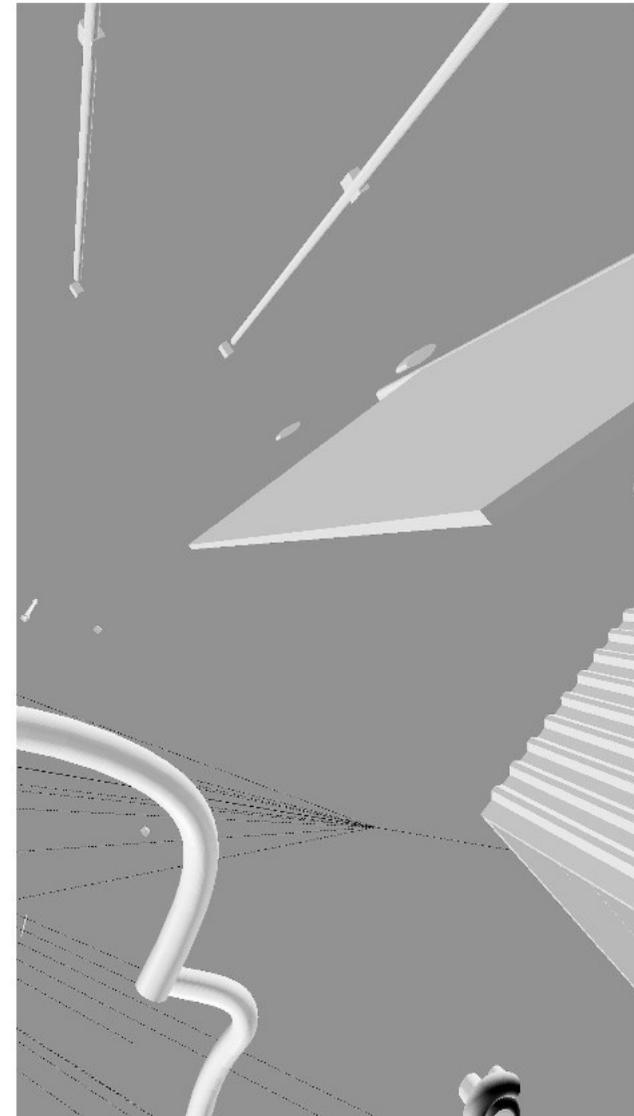


title bop_83fx_2896

media photography
system badischOil
status done
year 2016

information

A series of digital images that show details of a designer pump drill made to be the prototype for sculptural industry that is envisioned by badischOil. The pictures represent the ideals and certain styles of a new millenium industry that this enterprise would like to see come to fruition. It is the idea of radically merging art and industry by concentrating on function before form, and setting themselves apart from a business landscape which is dominated by enterprises that do as they please without restriction or forethought because of their nearly infinite access to capital resources.



title badischOil Infostand

media installation / moving body
system badischOil
status done
year 2016

information This tent was built in the area of Schlachthofgelände Karlsruhe, and was developed as a productive space for young creatives and innovative enterprises. Once a year the area's inhabitants present their work and open their studios. This day was used to introduce to the public the non-existent business venture badischOil. BadischOil wants to extract oil from the ground under the city of Karlsruhe. It plans to buy houses in the city and replace them with oil drills and pumps, specially designed by contemporary artists. The installation personifies an undercover playspace for the mind, to explore and to decide what sort of things we are willing to let be controlled by private companies. Similar to the system Institut Avaroid, the system badischOil weaves fact and fiction and is related to actions taking place in Speyer, a city north of Karlsruhe.

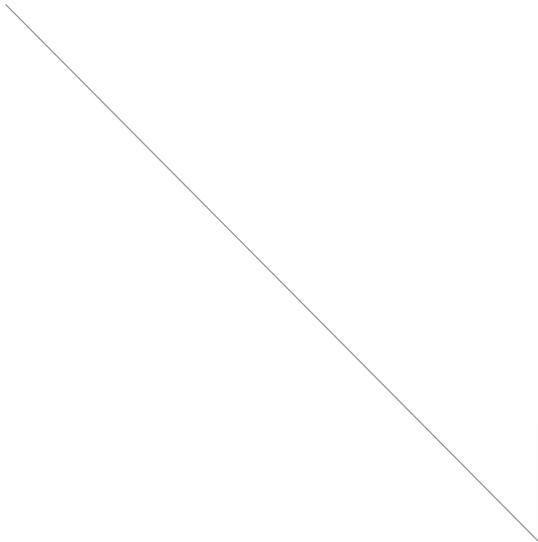


title An die Bewohner des Hauses

media object / moving body
system badischOil
status done
year 2016

information Letters that have been sent to people living in houses that badischOil wants to replace with oil drills and pumps. The letters were meant to inform the readers about the enterprise and also invited inhabitants to visit information desks of badischOil in order to learn more.



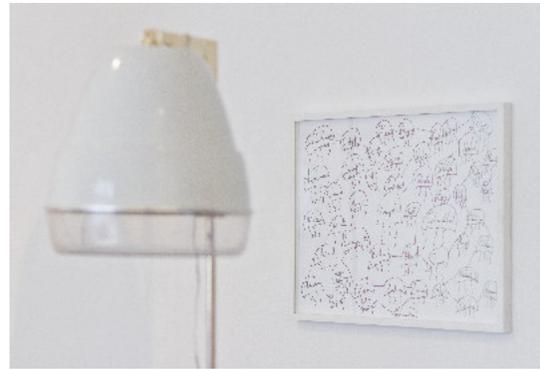


Disco Medusa is a soundsystem and mobile dancehall for body and brain. In the zodiac of jellyfish visitors can think about senses.

title Trockenquallen

media object
system Disco Medusa
status ongoing
year since 2016

information Trockenquallen consists of drawings and linen bags squeezed into object frames. The linen bags are carefully brought into position so that they look like dried jellyfish. At the moment, a series of seven dried jellyfishes and two drawings are the wallpieces for showing Disco Medusa as a whole.



title Portugiesische Galeere

media installation
system Disco Medusa
status done
year 2016

information

This video and sound installation presents a space to explore the way we think about our different senses. The drying hoods have been redesigned as speakers. Every speaker has its own narrator reflecting on each sense: smell, taste, touch, hearing and sight. These reflections are comprised of remixed quotes from Michel Serres, Harald Szeemann, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Peter Weiss, Liao Yiwu, Agnes Nemes Nagy, Tomas Transtromer, Paul Lafargue and Wikipedia. Visitors are invited to put their heads inside of any drying hood to hear what a single elocutionist has to say. However, this is not the only aspect of the interaction. The installation has a unique spacial sound as well, which fills the room. This sound creates an atmosphere akin to being underwater. As part of the system Disco Medusa, it creates both a visual and auricular interpretation of a jellyfish swarm the visitors join as soon as they enter the installation space. The installation shot is from the exhibition „Disco Medusa“ at Kunstpunkt Darmstadt.



title

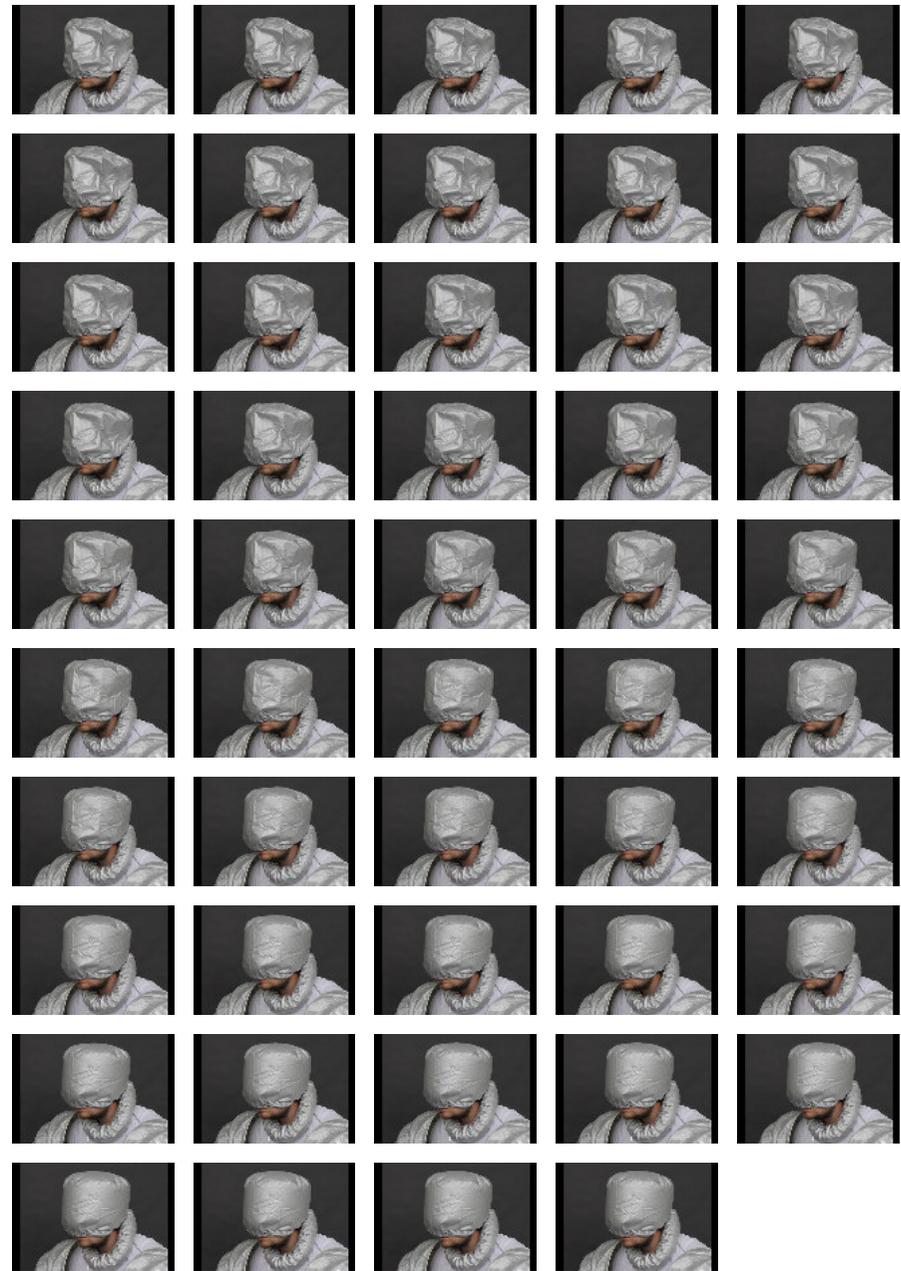
ÜBERQUALLE

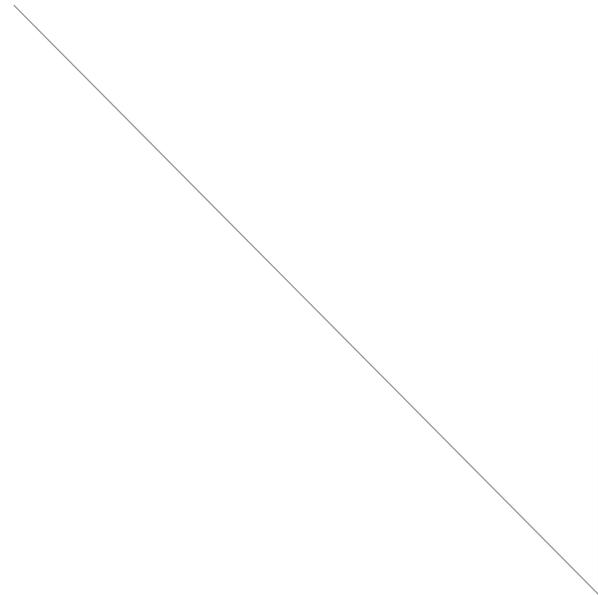
media
system
status
year

moving image
Disco Medusa
done
2016

information

Short videoloop showing a man with a strange object on his head, which is constantly pumping. ÜBERQUALLE is used as a videofile for the Portugiesische Galeere Installation, but can as well be used as a single work.



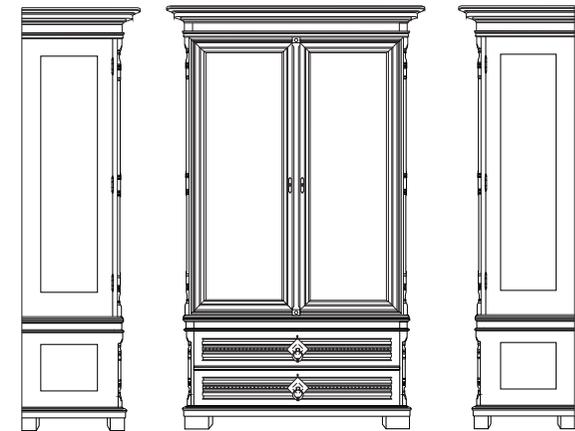


Elikan is the story of my search on how to keep the memories of world war II and the crimes comited by Germans during this time in a world without people who can tell their personal stories, because the generation of last survivors and witnesses are dying.

title Elikan im Mondenschein

media digital graphic
system Elikan
status ongoing
year since 2016

information This is the winning model for a future monument in Bremen. Taz, a German newspaper, invited artists and architects to create a design of a monument showing the practices of Nazi-Germany seizures of property and life. Elikan im Mondenschein is the exact replica of a cabinet that used to be part of the possessions of a Frankfurt based Jewish family until 1943. After World War II my grandparents were given this cabinet by their chief, a man that had unlawfully taken the possessions of the Elikan family with the support of the NSDAP. My grandparents thought this cabinet might have been the last memory of the Elikan family and so they decided to keep it and give it the name of the family which had once owned it, in order to preserve their memory. The monument is still in its very first phase, with plans to realise it in 2017.



title Elikan
media moving image
system Elikan
status ongoing
year since 2016

information Videoportrait of my grandparents showing them making socks for their children and grandchildren. They used to be workers in an enterprise that produced knitwear and, after retiring from this profession, they continued their craft privately. Every Christmas each member of my family, 32 people in total, gets a pair of handmade socks. My grandfather is responsible for the upper part using a special machine, and my grandmother then finishes them by hand. While seeing them work they tell the story of Elikan, a cabinet that was a part of the possessions of a Frankfurt based Jewish family until 1943. After World War II my grandparents were given this cabinet by their chief, the man who taught them how to work in knitwear production, and one of countless Germans that have benefited from the suffering Nazi-Germany has brought to the world. I currently am searching for the descendants of the Elikan family in order to continue the movie.



Thomas Georg Blank
born in Bensheim (D), 1990
lives and works in Karlsruhe (D)

education

2016 ENPEG La Esmeralda, Mexico City
2013-2016 Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe, Prof. Silvia Bächli
2010-2013 Cultural and Media Education at Hochschule Merseburg, graduation with bachelors degree

solo shows

2016 Disco Medusa, Kunstpunkt Darmstadt (D)
2016 Absurde Phänomene des Realen, Kunstpavillon Burgbrohl (D)
2014 Rabenvater, Ständehaus Merseburg (D)

group shows (selection)

2016 Spuren der Beraubung, Bürgerschaft Bremen (D)
2016 Auf der Suche nach Orgon, ßpace, Karlsruhe (D)
2016 JKON, Schützi Olten (CH)
2016 Open Space Rundgang, whyyes, Karlsruhe (D)
2015 Mit Kunst für Kunst, Kunsthalle Darmstadt (D)
2015 Aufbruch, Jahresausstellung der Darmstädter Sezession (D)
2015 Zur Phänomenologie der Natur und Naturbegegnung, Samothraki (G)
2012 Museumsnacht, Weißenfels (D)
2012 Close Up! Junge Fotojournalisten auf der 62. Berlinale, C/O Berlin (D)

grants and scholarships

2016 Internship Studies Grant from *Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg*
2016 award for a design to create a monument in memory of property stolen by Nazis during WWII
2015 Heinrich-Hertz-Scholarship
2015 winner in art contest *Kann Spuren von Kunst enthalten*
2015 award for young artists from *Darmstädter Sezession*
2012 scholarship from the city of Merseburg as part of stateprogramm *Deutschlandstipendium*
2012 audience award at *Filmforum Selbstgedrehtes*