

MERLIN MAXIMILIAN MEISTER
PORTFOLIO 2021

VIGIL BY THE BODY

INSTALLATION HONEYCOMP, FLOWERS 2020

With regard to the decline in insect populations in the recent couple of years, the threatening importance for our ecosystem, therefore also for the existence of the entire mankind and with that my associated grief, it seemed inevitable, necessary and also as a obligation to me, to express my feelings in that way.

As a mourner I was part of the installation, took care of the candles, did prayers and was into contemplation for three days.

The Installation probably seeks to overcome the separation between a vigil by the body for the **Bien* and a exhibition in a natural history museum.

**Bien: German term, that apprehends beehives as one coherent organism. Single bees are seen as parts of the internal organs of the beehive.*





Exhibitionview at Moritzbastei, Leipzig

turtle sunning underground

INSTALLATION DRAFT
PHOTOPRINT 50cm x 90cm
2017

The Votive Garage was built in downtown Vienna in the end of the 1950s and opened in 1960. In the architecture, of the oldest underground car park in Vienna, I find many analogies to the animal kingdom, shapes that represent personal protective housing for animals. The vaults, as they appear in the first basement, which have a round light shaft on the surface within the vault represent turtle shells for me. The descent ramp from the first to the second basement is like a spiral, like the entrance to a snail shell.

The analogies to these animals do not surprise me, since they form a closely interwoven network of recurring symbols, feelings and terms with the then current political events of the Cold War, as well as the Austrian history of the first half of the 20th century. The garage is an underground base, a place of security, a place of retreat for people, made of concrete. At the same time, it is a repository for man's artificial shell, which is made of sheet metal and glass. His shell makes him an ultra-mobile being, it is his privatized armor. The shell can not only be safely stored there, it also receives the nourishment, care and maintenance it needs to continue to function. It offers people security, independence, freedom and, if necessary, the opportunity to flee. Concrete, like gold, expresses the desire for stability, resistance and safety, but it is also the material from which bunkers are made.

Due to the material nature of the plastic, the project was canceled by the garage operators for fire protection reasons.





Historical photo of the Votiv Garage, Vienna

TRANSIT INFINITE

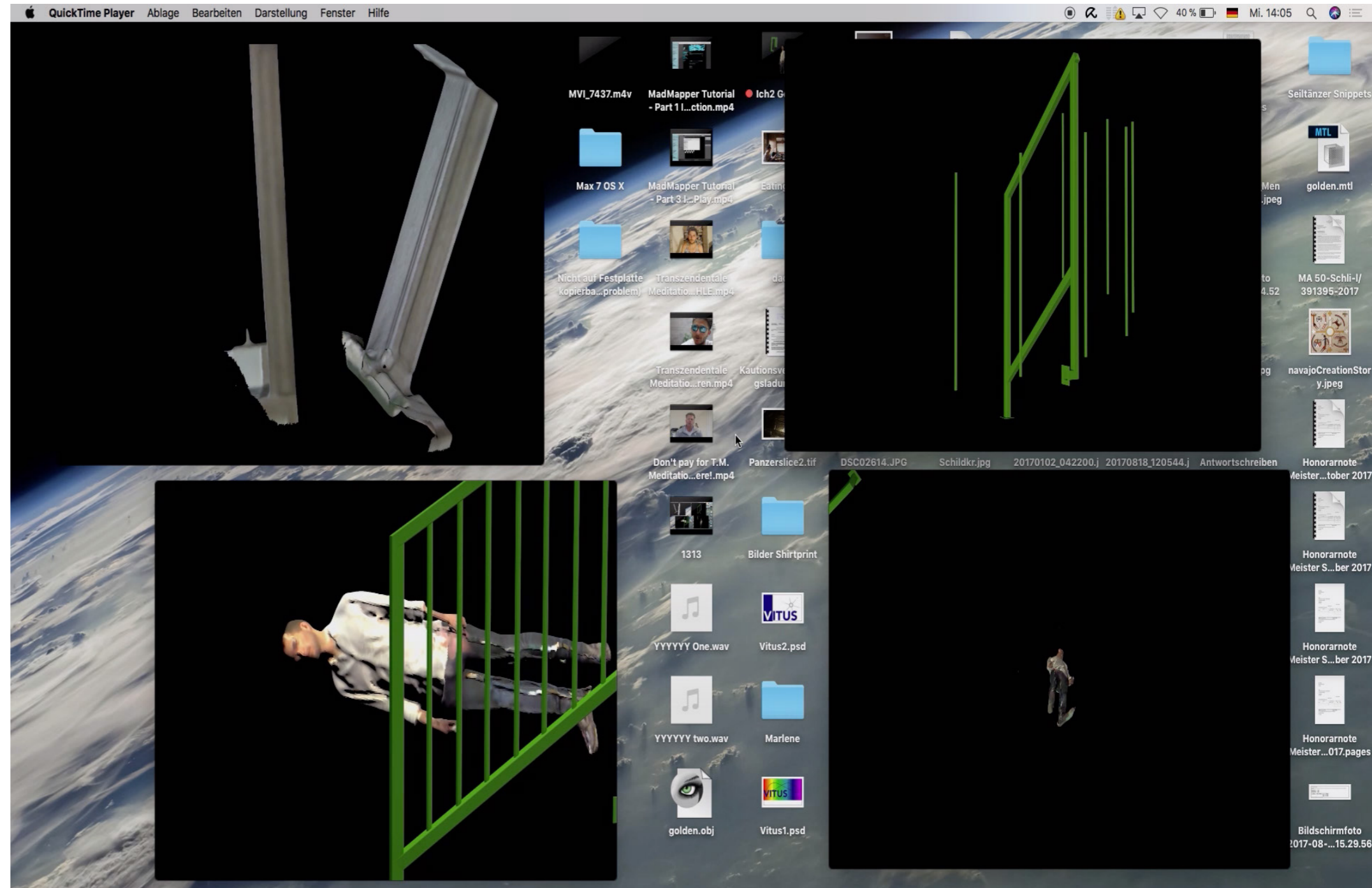
SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION VIDEO ANIMATION PROJECTION 2017

To enter the facilities of the Class for Transmedia Art at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, you had to take the stairs from the 3rd floor to the attic. This transit lounge had become my reference point for a site-specific work.

I scanned objects of this staircase, as well as my own body with the Kinect 3D Camera. The scanned 3D objects (stairs, railings, etc.) I arranged, assembled and animated together in some videos. The presentation of this work took place in the same stairway, as a projection of my MacBook desktop.

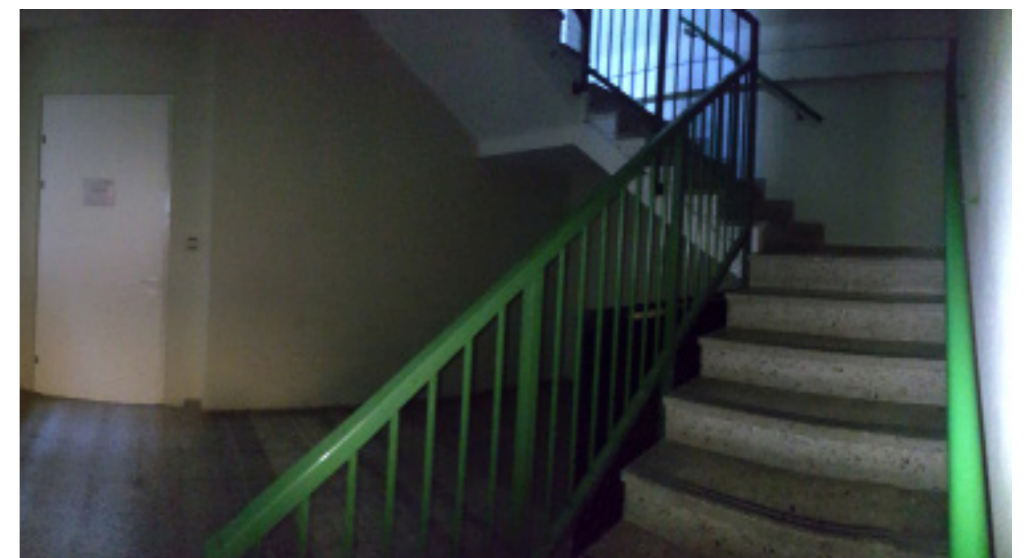
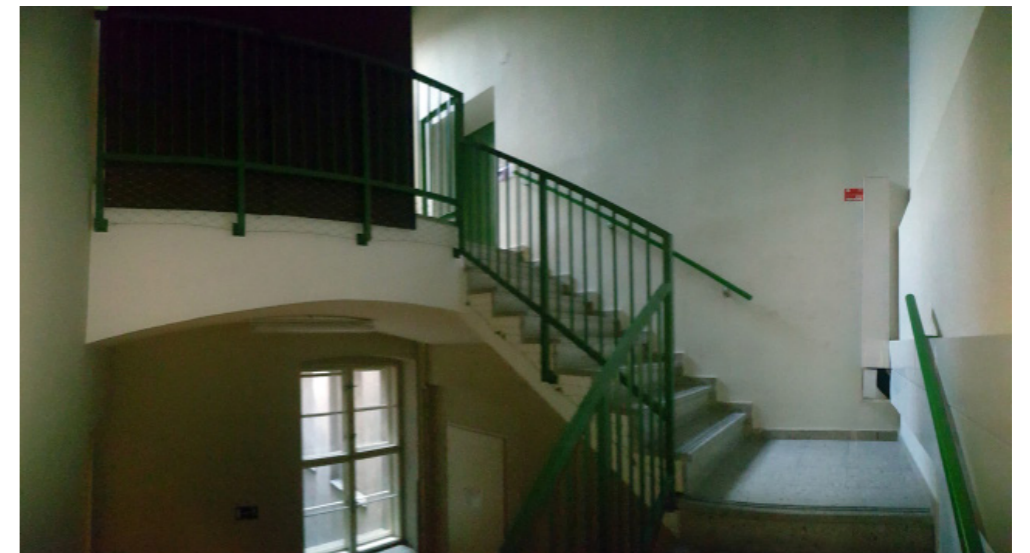
I was concerned with the question of moving forward and stagnation in situations and stages of life.

Excerpts of this work can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlo25BQQ9NA>





Video Installation at Vordere Zollamtstrasse, Vienna



ARCHIVIO PERFORMANTE

BANNER AND PERFORMANCE
LACE, FABRIC PRINT
120cm x 190cm
2021

Inspired by the practice of religious processions, in which cult objects are carried through the streets in a procession, we carried our artistic statements through Leipzig city center in our procession.

Under the title Archivio Performante, the banners should primarily focus on performances or performative thoughts.

My banner design deals with my own permanent performance role in society. A felt uncertain, transformative, Kafkaesque role, that has not yet been established and probably may never solidify.





Procession in Leipzig



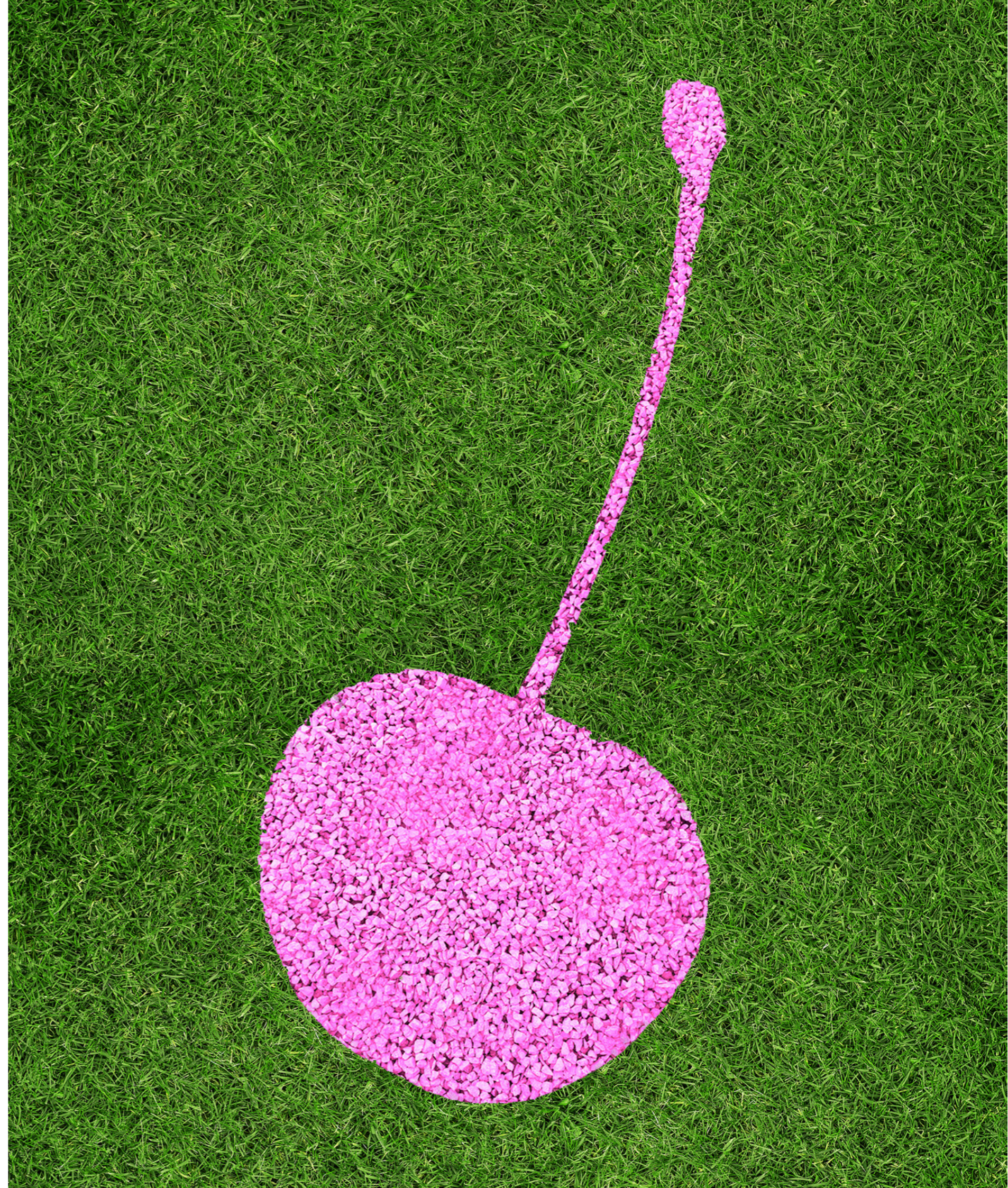
MELT INTO THIN AIR

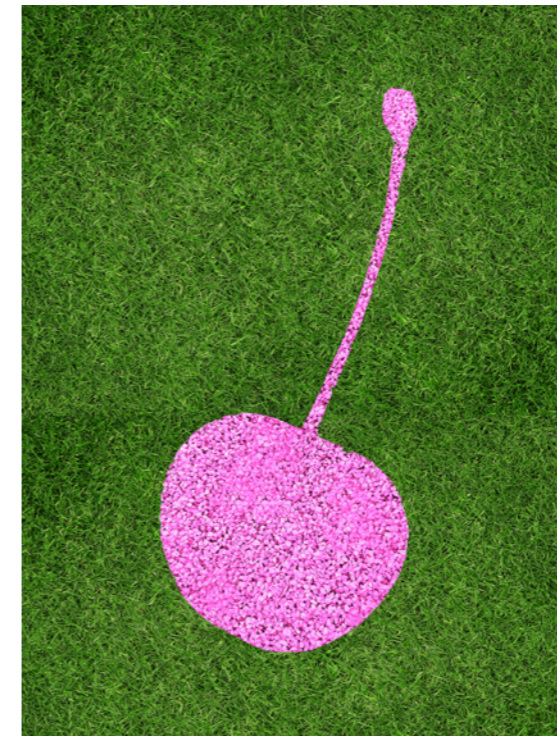
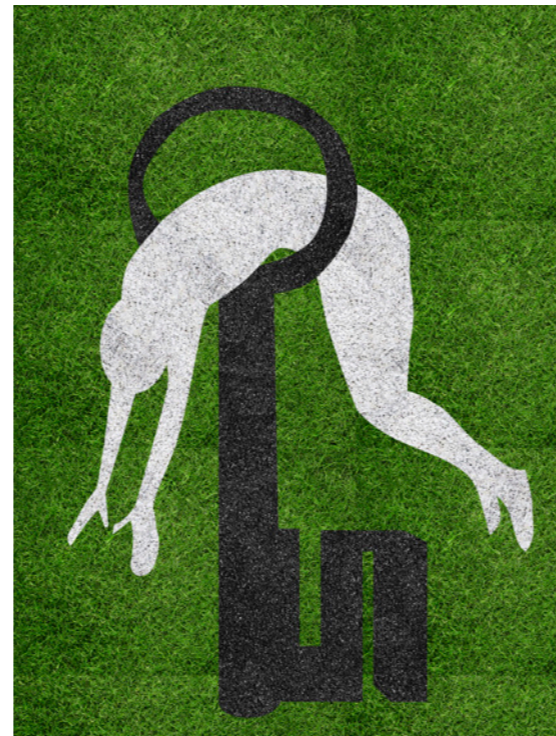
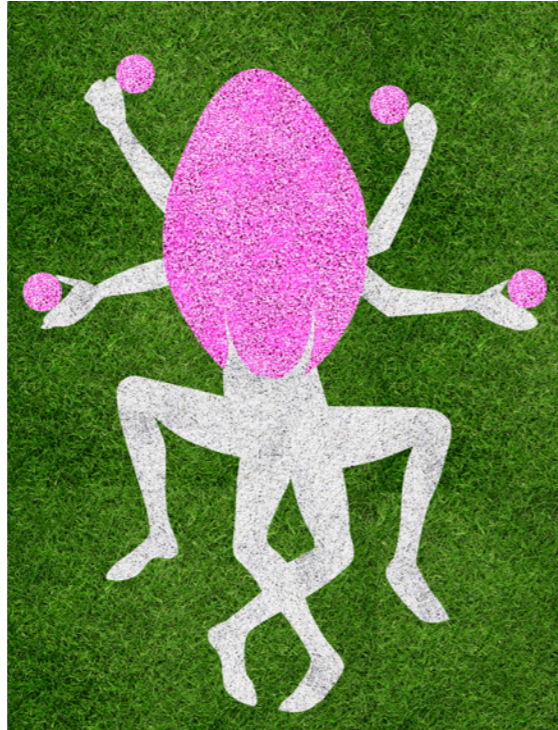
INSTALLATION
COLOURED GRAVEL
320cm x 250cm
2020

For my installation at the Open House Day of Kunstakademie Düsseldorf 2020, I dealt with the practice of designing ornamental decorations, flowerbeds and paths in baroque gardens. I realized three images, that were between 250 cm and 320 cm in scale. Two of the gravel shapes are taken from Hieronymus Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights*.

Subordinating nature to a larger idea and thus leading it to its ideal set the tone in many ways in the architecture, art and ideology of the Baroque. Due to their two-dimensional subdivisions, Baroque gardens look like oversized board games to me, their sculptures and cut trees like play figures that could be moved by huge hands.

On the other hand, I was concerned with Hieronymus Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights* in this context. I interpret the work as the wish that the sweet and the bitter, all the heaviness and the suffering on earth should be dissolved and transformed into pleasure.





Open House at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf 2020

STREUNER

PHOTOGRAPY / PERFORMANCE
PHOTO PRINT ON PAPER, BOOK
2017

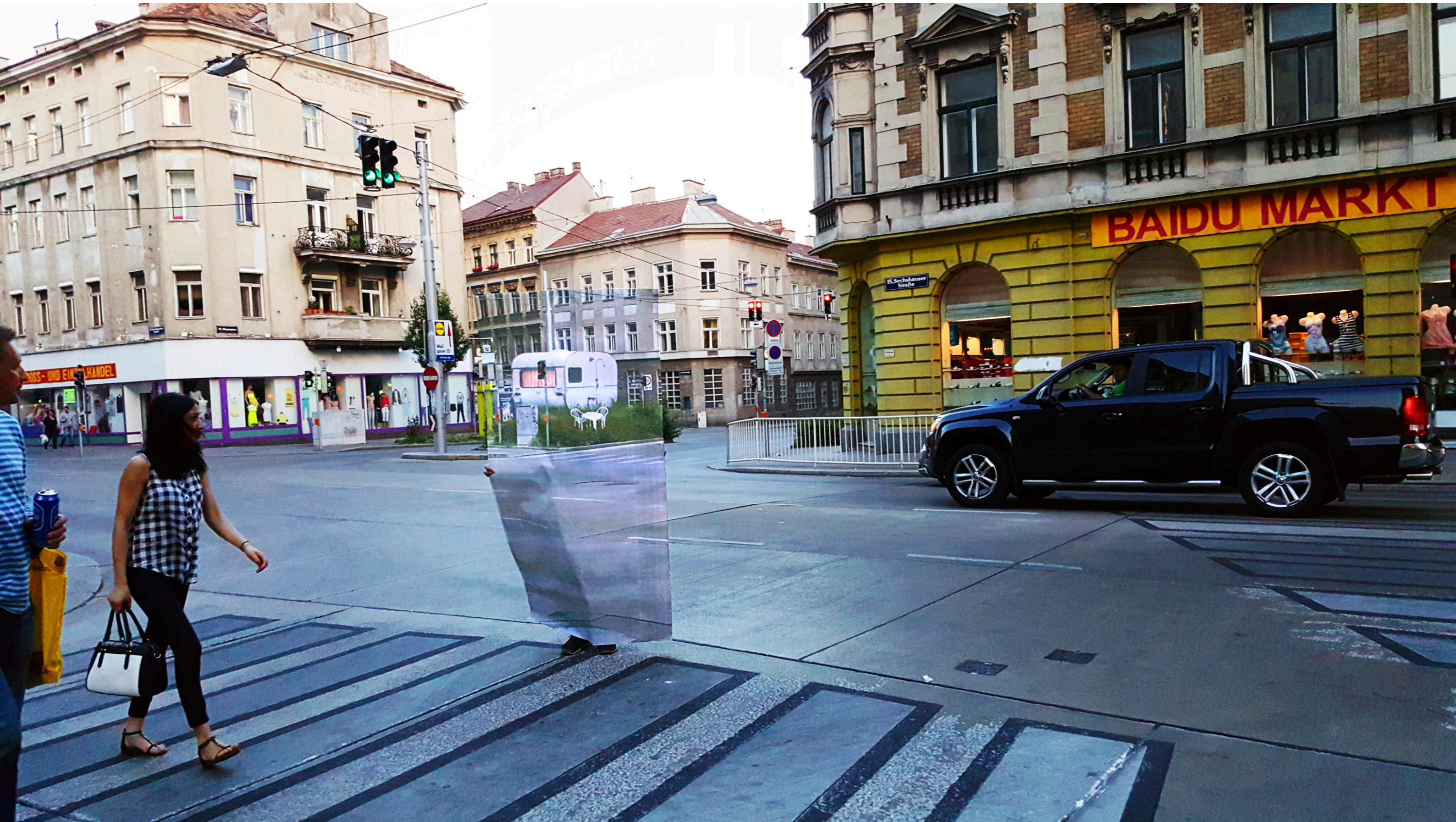
Jobs, apartments, situations and people that are only temporarily available or provisional. Always in transit, in a city where you are not at home and possibly never will be. I disappear behind all that, and am looking to arrive somewhere.

My paper construction can be destroyed at any moment by wind, weather or a mishap. This is how Vienna felt to me for a long time.

I photographed the locations and retouched the caravan trailer, which actually stands very romantically in a forest clearing, into the picture. The whole thing was printed out to the size of a poster and then I tried to fit myself in the places where I always was, but never was at home.

This resulted in a series of seven photos, of which two were published in the book „Bildobjekt Roman“.





*25th of January 1984 in Munich, Germany

My process is to look out for deficiencies, what there is to add or omit. Then I express these shortcomings, something that is missing in me or in the environment. In a way, I am expressing wishes in my work, fill in gaps or remedy shortcomings.

I understand art as blueprints of reality and this is mine. I would like to give a taste of my reality. The goal is always an art that infects the mind and leaves residues behind. It is my unconditioned urge to search for my own truth in things. Constantly questioning and imagining how things could be.

There are always new questions and needs, art is a reverberation of this, which may also be an answer.

2008 - 2015	Theater-, Film-, and Media Studies, University of Vienna (BA). AT
2010 - 2011	Jazz Instruments (Bass), Vienna Conservatory. AT
2011 - 2015	Scenography Studies, University of Applied Arts, Vienna. AT
2014	Erasmus at Iceland Academy of Arts, Reykjavik (Theater Making). IS
2016 - 2018	Transmedia Art, University of Applied Arts Vienna, class of Brigitte Kowanz. AT
2019	Erasmus at Faculty of Fine Art, Music and Design, Bergen. NO
2019	Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, class of Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster. DE
Since 2020	Student at Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig, class of Alba D'Urbano. DE

Awards/Publications

2015	Publication in the artbook „Bildobjektroman“, edited by Beatrix Sunkovsky
2017	Cash Prize in the creative competition „Treffpunkt Spielplatz“, baufi24.de
2019	Scholarship Student at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, class of Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster. DE
2020	Travel Scholarship of Stadtparkasse Düsseldorf. DE

Exhibitions

2011	Exhibition and Performance, Maria Stuard, University of Applied Arts Vienna, AT
2013	Exhibition at the Open House Day, University of Applied Arts Vienna, AT
2014	Performance Night, Listaháskóli Íslands Reykjavik, IS
2015	Performance Gold, University of Applied Arts Vienna, AT
2019	Group exhibition „Make Me Destroy Me“ at USF Bergen, NO
2020	Group exhibition: „Fragile Wirklichkeiten“ at Moritzbastei Leipzig, DE
2020	Piece at Radio Program: „Anybody Out There ?! - 100 Jahre Radio In Deutschland“. DE
2021	Performance Archivio Performante, Leipzig, DE