

EX
TEN
DED

Vol. 5

PRACTICE OF AN
ENLARGED CONCEPT
OF ART

PROJECTS
PAINTINGS
PHOTOGRAPHY
INSTALLATIONS
WORKS ON PAPER

munihof

FLORIAN MEHNERT

Cover.
early sandworks
1992-1993

EX
TEN
DED
Vol. 5
PRACTICE OF AN
ENLARGED CONCEPT
OF ART

PROJECTS
PAINTINGS
PHOTOGRAPHY
INSTALLATIONS
WORKS ON PAPER

FLORIAN MEHNERT

CONTENTS

what's new in this edition	4
about the artist	5
sandpaintings	7
dialogue drawing and ceramic	17
forest - works on paper / paintings	23
installation / privacy / the forestprotocols	47
unique / works on paper and canvas	55
edition / etchings and overpainted etchings	79
analog woodcut / photography	93
fragments / photoemulsion on cotton / photography	101
social dynamics / photography	105
limits / installation humantracks	127
social experiment / installation / 11 days	133
social / photography and performance	141
privacy paradox / smartphone stacks	143
identity - photography	147
postcolonialism / refugee stack / photography	151
social distance stacks and pandemic	157
walk through light installation / data to light	173
social sculpture / freedom 2.0	177
background / bibliography	187
press	189

WORK

In this edition, early works by Florian Mehnert created with sand on canvas are presented for the first time ever. These works mark an important starting point in his artistic practice, as they already reveal the fundamental questions that continue to permeate his oeuvre today: the transformation of natural substances, the exploration of materiality, and the search for an autonomous visual language.

The sandpaintings open a perspective onto the beginnings of an artistic path that, in the years to follow, has unfolded across a wide range of media and forms – from painting and drawing to large-scale installations and spatial works. They show that even in the early stages, the tension between nature and artistic form, between process and structure, between rawness and deliberate order, was already at play.

Thus, these early works not only reveal a historical dimension of Mehnert's oeuvre but also highlight the red thread that continues to run through his art up to the present day.

Florian Mehnert defines his wide ranged work not only as an aesthetic end product, but also as an intervening, research-driven process. As a multimedia artist, his approach corresponds to an expanded concept of art, which - by incorporating approaches that are reflected in conceptual art and participatory practices, for example - sees art as a catalyst for social developments.

The intention to accompany and influence social processes forms the central theoretical foundation of his projects. In his artistic practice, he actively intervenes in social development processes. His consistent research- and experiment-oriented approach turns his projects into laboratories in which social dynamics are not only documented but also influenced. The interdisciplinarity and participation in his projects make it possible to transfer complex current topics such as digital surveillance, migration, social behavior in digital environments and the concept of freedom into an artistic context, thereby initiating new discourses.

His projects are to be understood as an attempt to test hypotheses about social development processes. The artistic intervention can be understood as a „social experiment“ that is intended to trigger concrete effects. The approach follows the idea of using artistic processes as interactive fields of research in which both the process and its social implications come into focus.

Mehnert's practice combines approaches from art and social research. This interdisciplinarity makes it possible to illuminate complex social phenomena from several perspectives and make them visible in artistic interventions.

Florian Mehnert's artistic practice illustrates the potential of an expanded concept of art by understanding art not only as a medium for reflection, but also as an active agent of social transformation processes. In this way, he provides impetus for an art that not only depicts, but also intervenes, researches and helps to shape social processes.

If you enter the name Florian Mehnert into any search engine or ask chatgpt, it immediately becomes clear how broad and multi-layered the artist's work is. His photoproject „social distances stacks“ made while the pandemic went around the world. You will find many articles about his provocative works, which question social issues such as migration, surveillance and privacy, as well as paintings and drawings that defy categorisation, lectures and numerous interviews. One could also discover details of his art experiments, which achieve great reach through new forms of participation and raise awareness of global social issues. Driven by an ongoing interest in who we are and how we interact with the world, Mehnert continues to push the boundaries of what it means to be an artist today. The richly illustrated magazine, designed by the artist himself, contains a very personal

selection of his installations and participatory projects, photographic and documentary works, very early works some of which have never been published before, as well as his oil paintings and works on paper, accompanied by a selection of personal statements and biographical material.

Florian Mehnert has addressed a variety of themes in his work, from the physical materiality of the work to the meaning of privacy and the influence of surveillance capitalism in the form of installations, lectures, colloquia and interventions in public space. Florian Mehnert is also a sociological researcher who explores boundaries with the means of art. He focuses on the artist's relationship to politics and society in his very own way, using images and new methods of dissemination and forms of participation to examine global social concerns.





“untitled”, sand, pigments, oil on canvas, 110 x 115 cm, 1993

S A N D P A I N T I N G

SAND
ON
CANVAS

The early sandpaintings of Florian Mehnert are defined by the transformation of an everyday natural substance into an artistic medium. By combining sand with wood glue, a malleable mass is created that allows relief structures to be modeled on the canvas. The sand becomes a material that can be permanently shaped.

This results in surfaces that are not only painted but also formed. The canvas turns into a landscape whose layers and indentations carry the artist's signature. The sand fixes the movement, conserving the form once set and granting it permanence.

In these works, his artistic interest becomes evident in the transformation of substances into a new, autonomous visual language. The sand points to earthiness and materiality, while at the same time reflecting the artistic gesture that orders, models, and condenses it into form. The result is works that exist between painting and object, their presence arising both from the rawness of the material and from its deliberate shaping.

This is the very first time that these works have ever been shown.



“Fundstück I”, pigments, Oil, sand on canvas 178 x 142 cm, 1993



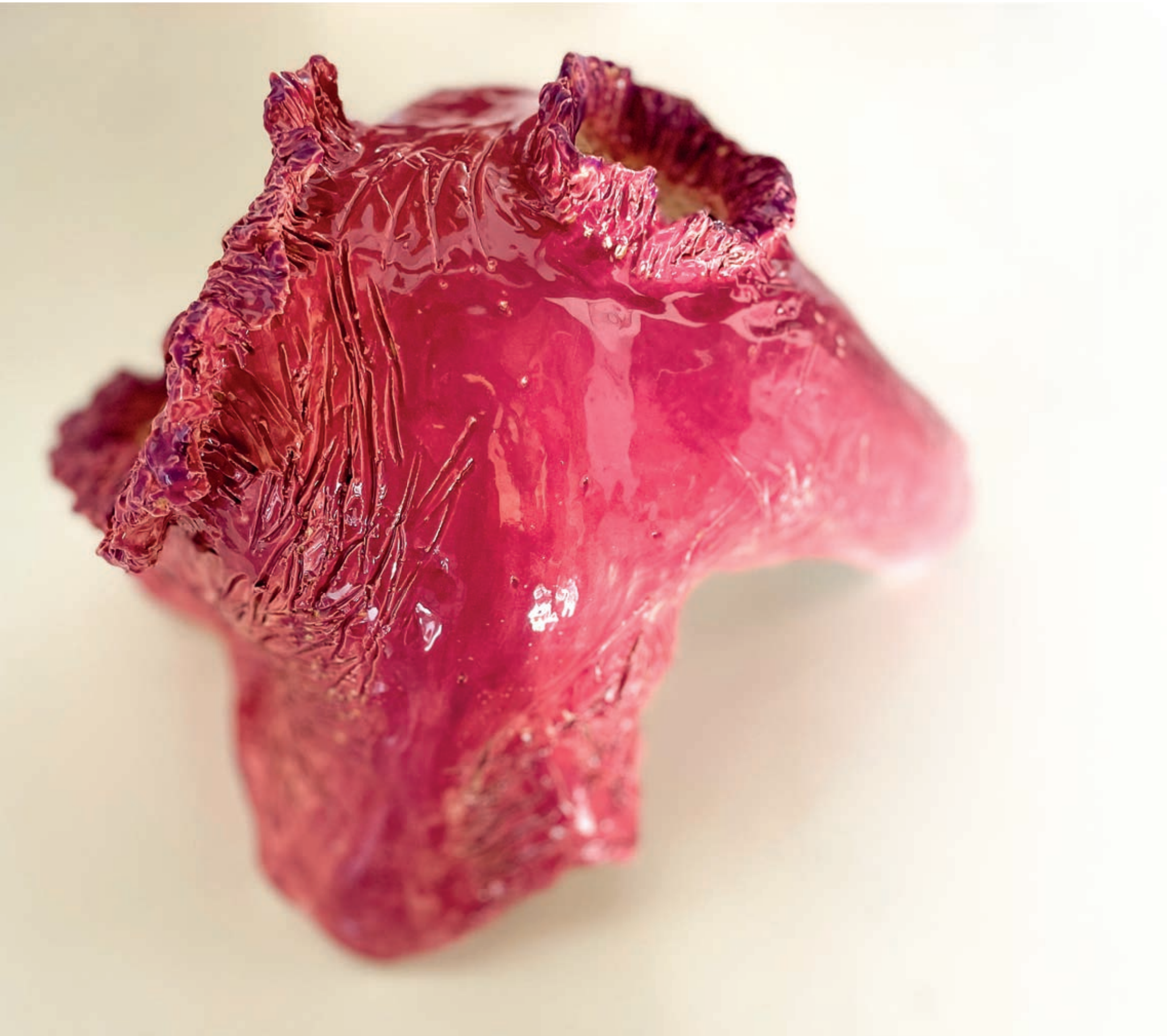
“Fundstück”, sand, pigments, oil on canvas, 142 x 180 cm, 1993



“untitled”, sand, pigments, oil on canvas, 142 x 180 cm, 1993



untitled, pigments, Oil, sand on canvas 178 x 125 cm, 1992



DI AL OG UE

GLAZED
CERAMIC

DIALOGUE BETWEEN
DRAWING AND FORM



“roots”, graphite on paper, 70 x 50 cm, 2025



glazed ceramics, 32 x 60 x 50 cm, 2025



"roots", graphite on paper, 70 x 50 cm, 2025



FOREST

WORKS ON
PAPER
AND
CANVAS

“forest” charcoal on paper, 150 x 110 cm, 2024

The exploration of the forest as a place of retreat played a central role in German Romanticism, both in literature and in the visual arts. Poets such as Novalis, Eichendorff and Tieck stylized the forest as a mystical place of longing, solitude and transcendence. It became a projection surface for the unconscious and the unknown - a space in which the individual encountered themselves and the boundaries between reality and dream blurred.

The forest also found its way into the Romantic understanding of nature in painting. Caspar David Friedrich, for example, used the forest in his paintings as a symbol of the infinite and the metaphysical search for the divine. The dark, deep forests of his works convey a sense of awe, but also of loneliness - they are places of retreat for people, but also spaces of the uncanny, in which the irrational lurks.

In this context, the present drawing can be interpreted as a modern take on these romantic forest motifs. The dense, interwoven structure of the charcoal and graphite drawing is reminiscent of the idea of the forest as a living entity, as a being with its own consciousness. The spiral-shaped eyes, which seem to grow out of the ground and vegetation, could be understood as an allusion to the Romantic idea of animated nature - the forest as a place that not only absorbs people, but also observes and penetrates them.

While the Romantics often saw the forest as a refuge from the disenchanted modern age, in this drawing it appears less idyllic and more chaotic and unfathomable. Here we see a contemporary, almost existential interpretation of the forest - not as a romantic projection surface, but as a place that dissolves the boundaries between man, nature and fantasy.

“forest” charcoal on paper, 150 x 110 cm, 2024





“stormy path”, charcoal on paper, 150 x 110 cm, 2024



“Stream”, charcoal on paper, 150 x 110 cm, 2024



“Storm”, charcoal on paper, 150 x 110 cm, 2024



"Stallflut", soil, oil on canvas, 240 x 180 cm, 2017



“Fluss”, oil on canvas, , 220 x 160 cm, 2018



“root at lake”, aryl, oil pastel on paper, 150 x 110 cm, 2025



“Way”, oil on canvas, 240 x 180 cm, 2018
priv. collection Los Angeles



“root 2”(Wurzel), oil on canvas, 240 x 180 cm, 2018



“Waldwirbel”, oil on canvas, 240 x 180 cm, 2019





42°11N, 9°21O, oil on canvas, 240 x 180 cm, 2022



“Entdeckung”, oil on canvas, 240 x 180 cm, 2024



“untitled”, oil on canvas, 170 x 200 cm, 2007

FORESTPROTOCOLS

P R I V A C Y

22 CHANNEL SOUND INSTALLATION
RESEARCH ORIENTATION
AND EXPERIMENT

Florian Mehnert's work is characterised by a profound reflection on the symbiosis of art and society. As a multimedia artist, he pursues an interdisciplinary approach that enables him to deconstruct and scrutinise complex social phenomena in his works. He examines the effects of digital data capitalism and raises important questions about privacy or the ethics of surveillance in our society.

Florian Mehnert's work acts as a critical magnifying glass for the social issues of the digital age. His approach to complex issues such as migration, privacy, surveillance and social control makes him stand out as an outstanding thinker and artist in this field. Florian Mehnert's work represents an expansion of the concept of art that breaks through the traditional boundaries of artistic creation and views art as an active player in social discourse. His unconventional approach to complex social issues and his critical reflection on their impact on society make him an influential voice in contemporary art. Through his works, Mehnert not only invites discussion about the future of our society, but also inspires us to recognise and use the transformative power of art as a tool for reflecting on the big questions of our time.



screenshot, original
website of the published
protocols as audio files
2013

FORRESTPROTOCOLS , 2013

In response to the NSA scandal, Florian Mehnert had bugged paths and clearings in forests for days in 2013. His microphones installed there listened to passers-by. Sounds and conversations were recorded and processed into digital traces. After analysing the data, the artist published excerpts of the bugging logs on his website. The invisible threat Florian Mehnert bugs nature, the forest, the last refuge where people believe they are undisturbed and unheard. There is no longer a place of unobserved retreat. With his art project „Waldkprotokolle“, Florian Mehnert highlights the danger and absurdity of Internet surveillance.

Here, he acted as a catalyst for exposing the absurdity of omnipresent surveillance. This intervention was not just an artistic manifestation, but also an appeal to raise awareness of the threat to privacy in the digital era.

Reactions to the forest protocols

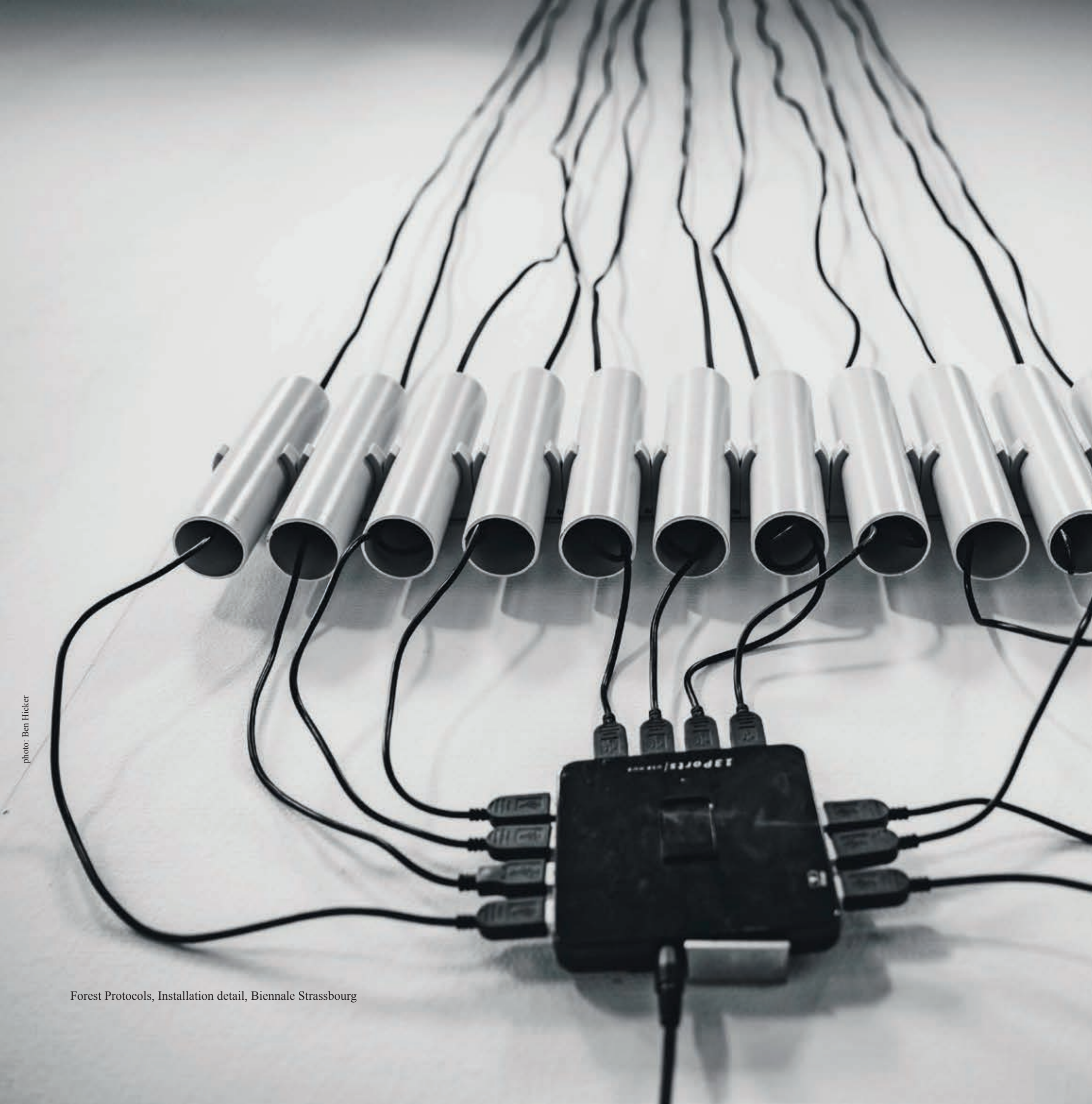
The publication of the forest protocols was followed by a huge media response. Florian Mehnert received a complaint under Section 201 of the German Criminal Code (STGB) for breach of confidentiality. The public prosecutor's office investigated Florian Mehnert, but ultimately allowed artistic freedom to prevail.



exhibition at C / O Berlin, (with Hasselbald Foundation)
„watched“ Forrestprotocols, 2018,
22 channel sound installation, 22 Headphones, 22 mp3 players
dimension variable



„forestprotocols“
installation view at Kunstverein Wolfsburg, 2015



Forest Protocols, Installation detail, Biennale Strassbourg

DIE WELT, November 15, 2013 Wiretapping Scandal

Also in the forest, there are the bugs

The artist Florian Mehnert installs a work titled „Wiretapping Protocols from the Forests“ in the German forest. It is intended to awaken walkers and remind them of their threatened privacy.

What does a person have to do in the forest today?

Mushrooms, peace, and themselves. In the German forest, the memory of nature lives on. The fairy tale fir tree was cut down in the Middle Ages. Since the Enlightenment, forestry has been invented, the trees have been cultivated as a cultural landscape. The romantics have transformed the timber plantations back into forests, a refuge for the driven souls of modernity.

The German forests have also survived forest dieback. Tree crowns are still sung as a green roof, tree trunks are recommended for leaning against. Those who follow the poetry path in the Hardtwald forest on the Upper Rhine come across Kurt Tucholsky’s old forest criticism: „And these old trees are supposed to go away/ They, who do not grow back overnight?“ Nothing does a person better today than whistling in a forest that he has created for himself. In the Eifel region, the Black Forest, and the Bavarian Forest, the artist Florian Mehnert has now installed his work „Wiretapping Protocols from the Forests“

Directional microphones lurk in the undergrowth, bugs stick to the trunks, which switch on as soon as walkers approach and speak confidentially to each other. Normal stage microphones were also hung in the branches for everyone to see.

America, you’re better off

Now everyone can listen to the recordings on Mehnert’s homepage: „What’s that? Microphone or what? Come on, let’s go further.“ It is this indifferent attitude that has inspired the artist to bug German forests. What if, after the home computer, the forest, the last sanctuary, is no longer protected from America, the algorithms, and the Big Brothers from the NSA?

Florian Mehnert maintains his homepage to wake up the Germans. But he strictly refuses to use any social networks. „The material from nature contains an opposition, a strong tension to reality, also to the electronic,“ he explains: „The forest protocols represent a conflict and an attempt to approach something that is difficult for me to understand.“

America still has forests where one can get lost, where a forester has never laid his calipers around a trunk and felled it. Anyone who wants to be alone or share a secret just has to leave the worn-out Appalachian Trail. Perhaps the roots of the NSA scandal can be found there, somewhere in the wilderness, where America once again has it better. Where Reinecke and Master Rabbit still secretly say goodnight, there is no network. There are trees like in a German fairy tale, but no German artists.

by Michael Pilz, DIE WELT



UN I QUE

WORKS ON PAPER
AND CANVAS

“spring” mixed media on paper, 150 x 110 cm, 2025

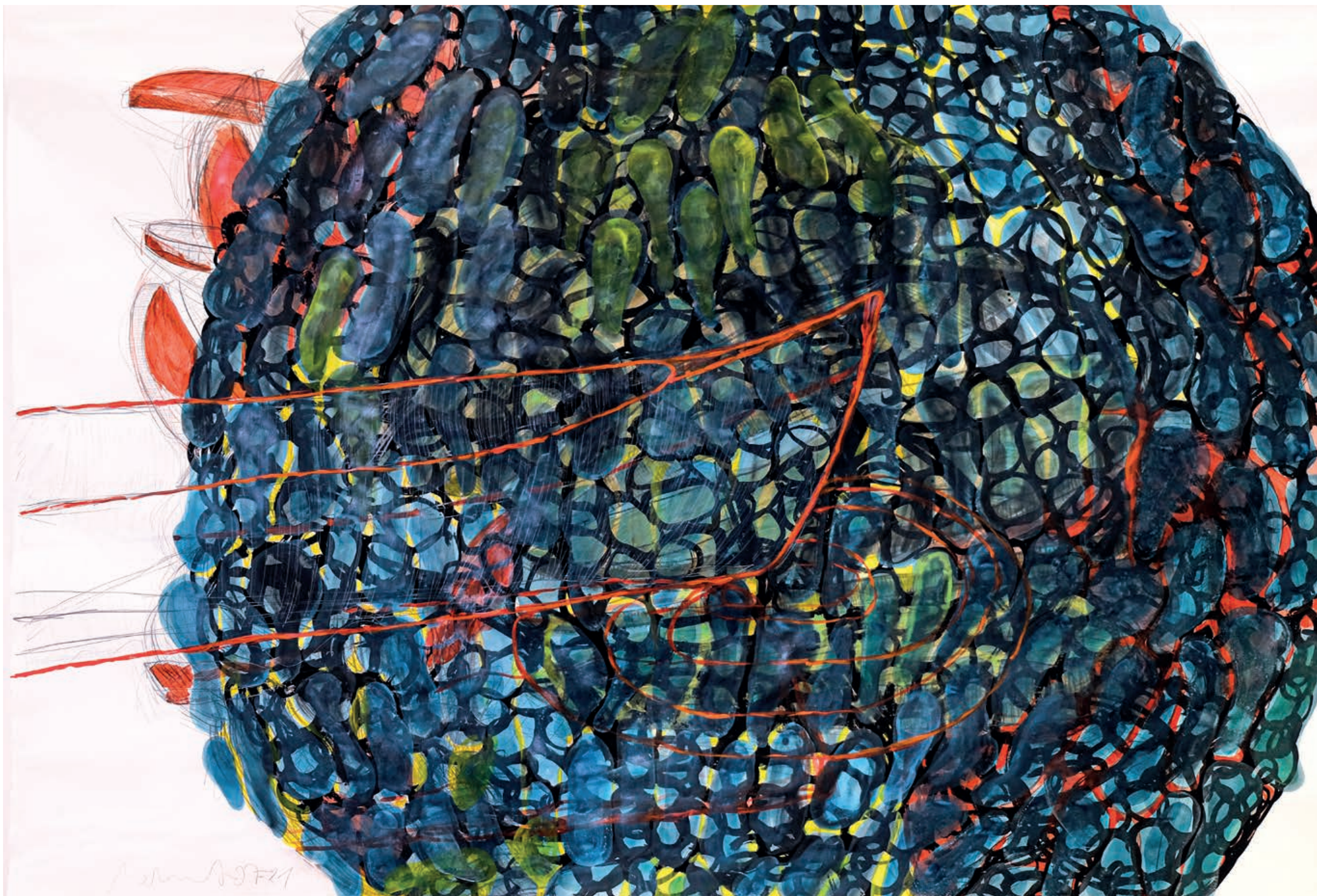


from a series of 15 works on paper
graphite, oilchalk, graphite, acrylics, 70x 50 cm, 1997- 2025



“water”, drypoint etching, overpainted with acrylic 80 x 60 cm, 2024





“boat - pectinella magnifica”
ink, graphite, watercolor, acrylic on
paper, 240 x 150 cm, 2007-2021



“dairy”, guache, ink, graphite on paper,
50 x 70 cm, 2020

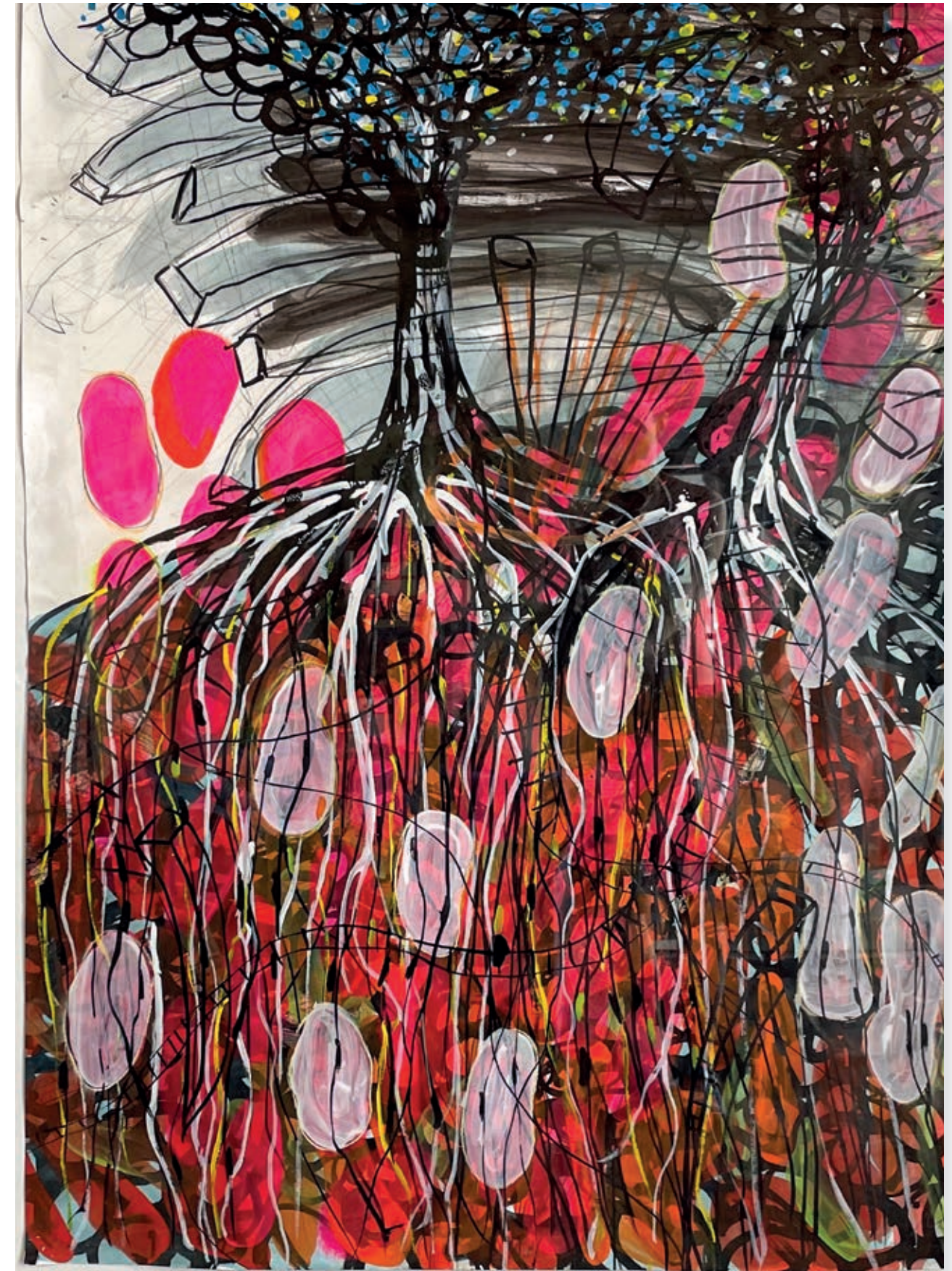


“dairy”, guache, ink, graphite on paper,
50 x 70 cm, 2020





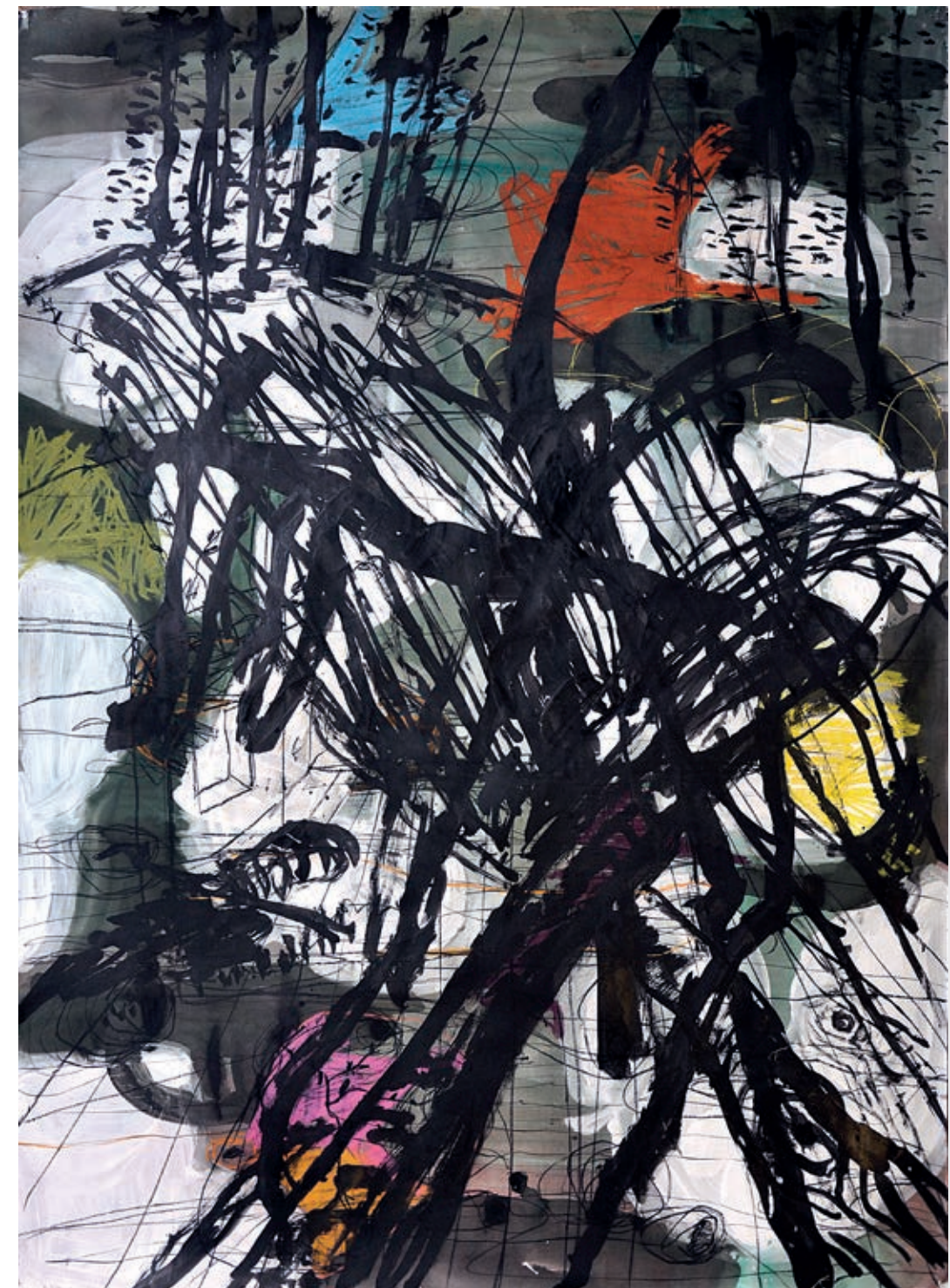
air roots, Hong Kong, Central, 2023



“from the series “air roots”, acrylic, chinese ink, graphite on paper, 150 x 110 cm, 2023

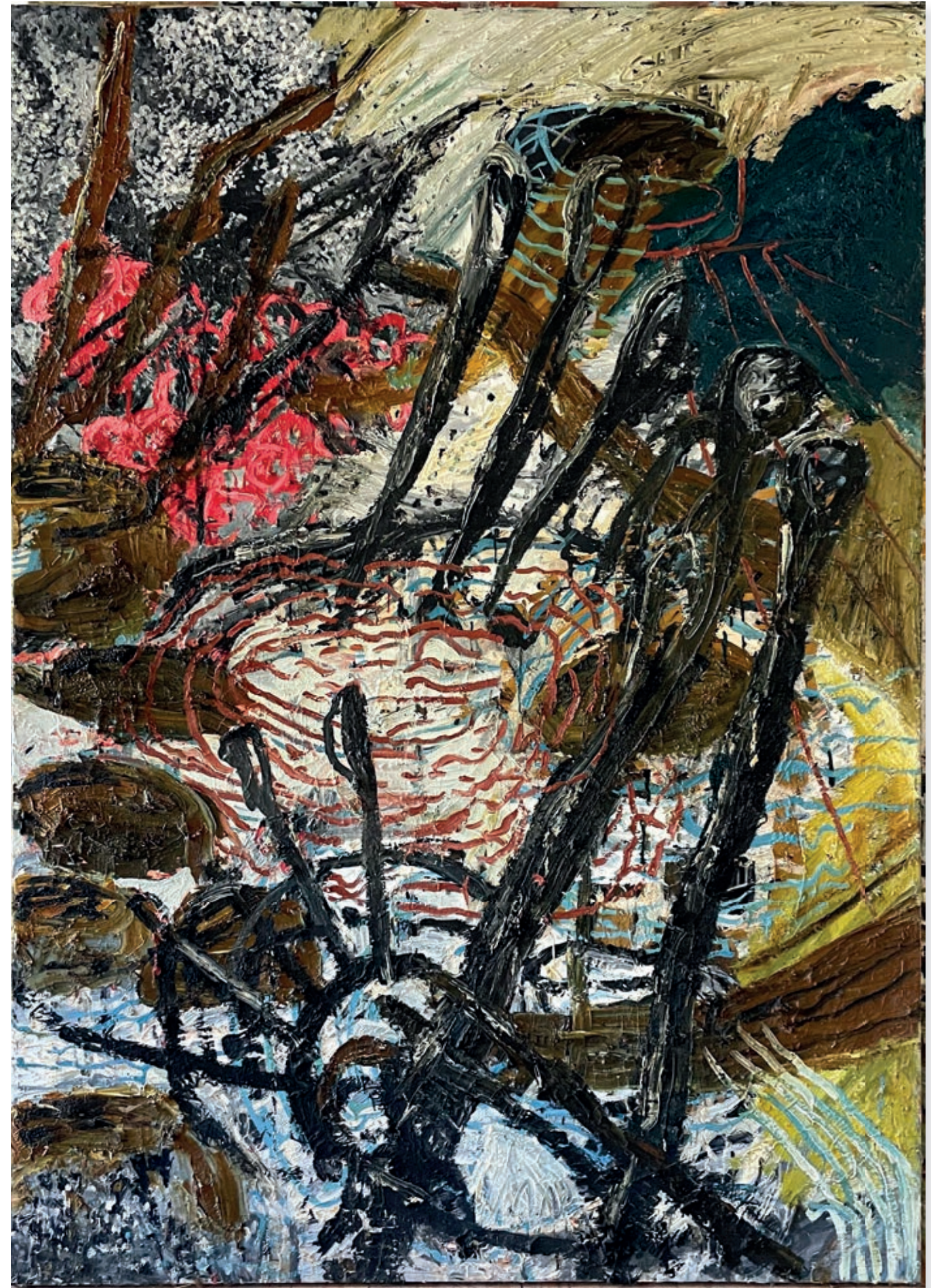


“untitled”, acrylic, chinese ink, graphite on paper, 180 x 150 cm, 2021



“untitled”, acrylic, chinese ink, graphite on paper, 150 x 110 cm, 2021

river, oil on canvas, 220 x 160 cm, 2022



“forestprotocol”, oil on canvas, 220 x 160 cm, 2022



“forestprotocol”, graphite, inc on paper, 160 x 110 cm, 2022





monastery garden, Hong Kong, 2023



“Bonsai Garden Hong Kong”, chinese ink, graphite on paper, 120 x 30 cm, 2023



formstudy, studio, 2025



“the unseen 1”,
oil on canvas, 200 x 200 cm, 2024



“the unseen 2”,
oil on canvas, 200 x 200 cm, 2024



“untitled”, dry point etching,
and ink drawing 40 x 50 cm,
2008

EDI TI ON

ETCHINGS
OVERPAINTED



e.a.

her 09

"untitled" e.a., dry point
aquatint, 40 x 50 cm, 2009



overpainted etching from the series "Warteleben",
acrylic, chinese ink, dry point etching on paper, 49 x 39,5 cm, 2024

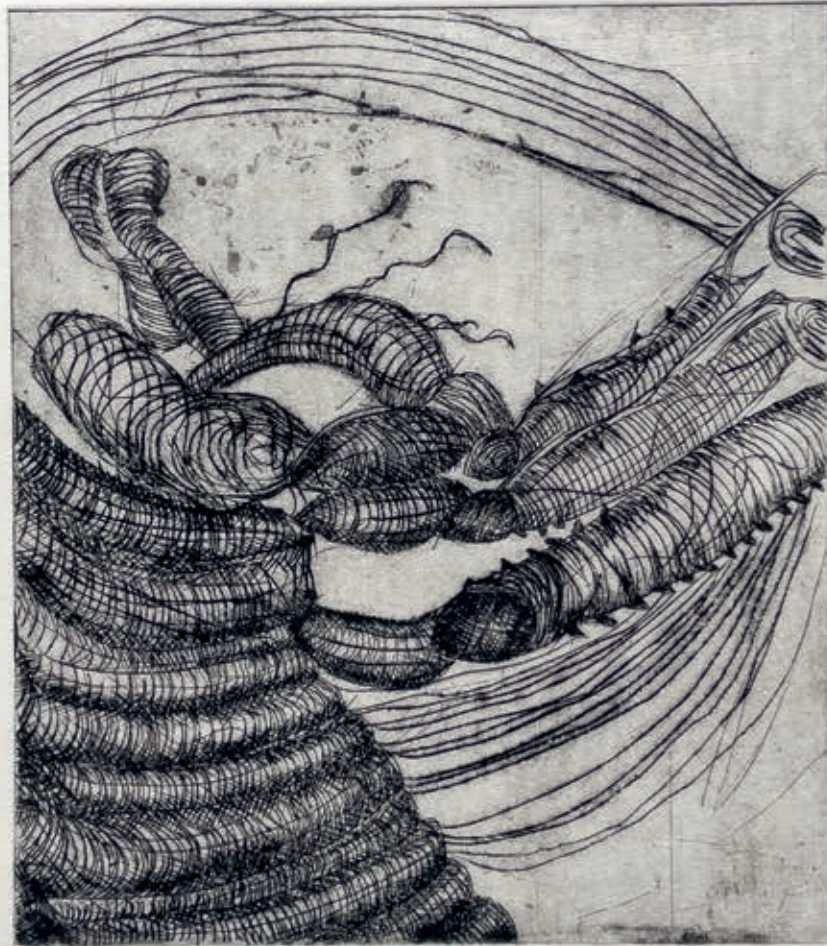




studio view, 2024

overpainted etchings, acrylic, chinese
ink, graphite, etching on buetten paper,
2024





l.a.

Her 2008

from the Barbados Cycles,
épreuve d'artiste, dry point
etching on Büttin, 40 x 50 cm



l.a.

Her 2008

overpainted drypoint etching
100 x 70 cm, 1999-2018



60
Hans Fabis



60
Hans Fabis

overpainted drypoint etching
100 x 70 cm, 1999-2018



60
Hans Fabis



“water” 3 of 3, dry point
aquatint, 100 x 70 cm, 2017



“water field storm”
3 of 3, dry point aquatint,
100 x 70 cm, 2017



ANA LOG

WOODCUT
AND
PHOTOGRAPHY



“lockdown”, woodcut, unique print, 107 x 80 cm, 2022

contra movement

Lockdown woodcuts 2022

I thought about how I could formulate a contra-movement to the now omnipresent digitality. A contra-movement that does justice to the withdrawal and the lockdown in a completely different way for me.

I have been looking for an analog form of expression that is in complete contrast to my conceptual projects that often take place in digital space with digital tools.

The woodcut is such an old form, perhaps even an anachronistic form of expression, and I found it exciting to create the discrepancy between a traditional way of working but a digital motif, namely the smartphone display.

So maybe it's a kind of paradox, to show a display that doesn't show content, but that self is content. Completely different elements are shown, elements of the woodcut, my treatment, floral elements, cracked elements.

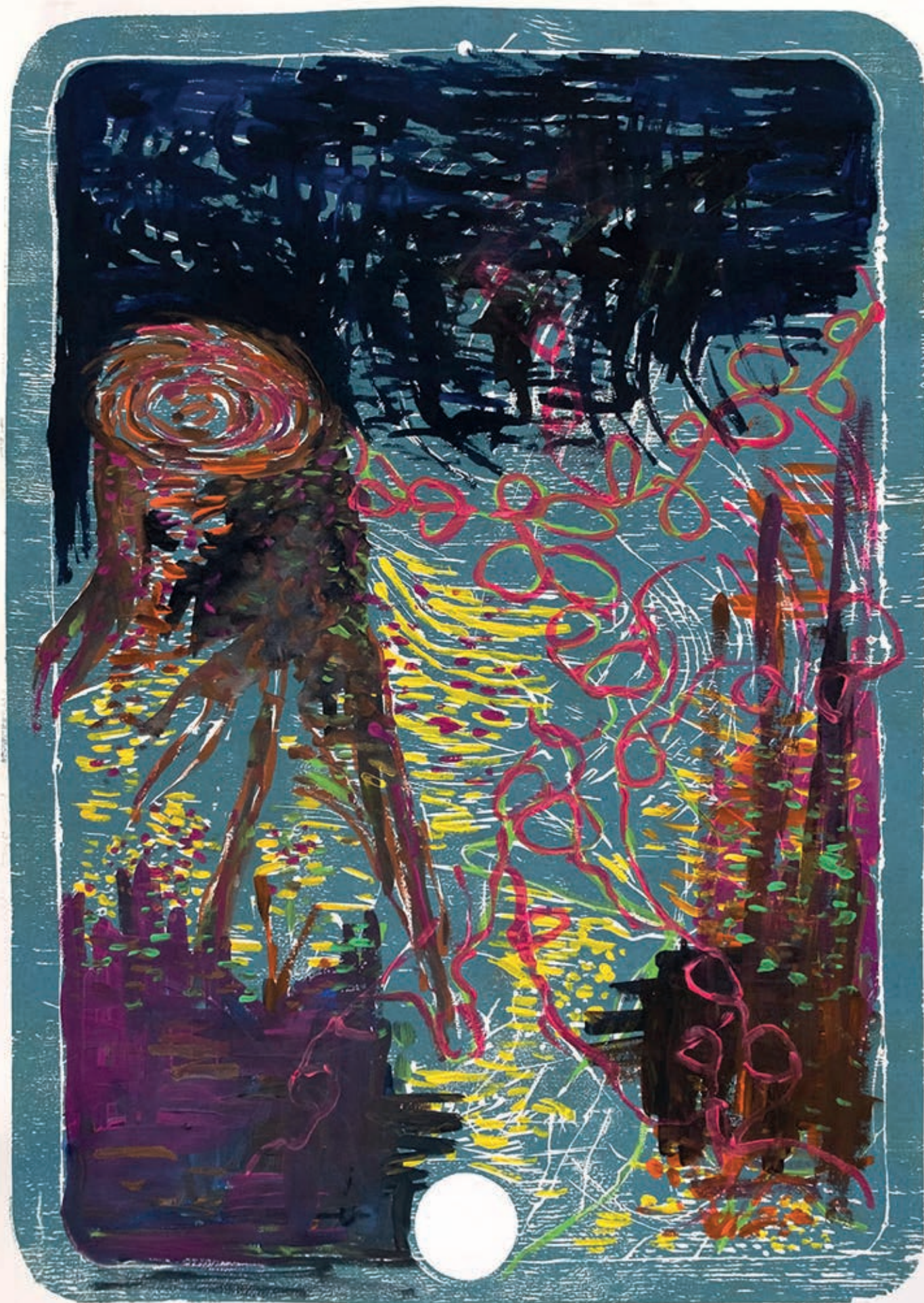
Completely untypical content for a smartphone display.

So what I show is actually a display that shows itself, that shows no other content, but the display itself is the content of the image.

It's also my way of criticizing the use of the smartphone as a data collection device, to use the smartphone to monitor whole societies.

I think it is important to be able to fall back on oneself, to be able to live an analog existence and live one's own form of freedom there.

Florian Mehnert



hew



The woodcuts show dismantled broken iphone and ipad displays. The work oscillate between the exciting discrepancy between the electronic high-tech product of a broken smartphone display and its representation through the century-old traditional woodcut.



“lockdown ipad”,
overpainted woodcut on
paper, unique prints,
100 x 70 cm, 2022



“lockdown ipad”,
overpainted woodcut
on paper, unique print,
100 x 70 cm, 2022

FRA GM ENT

PHOTOGRAPHY

SILVERGELATINE ON COTTON

ICELAND, 2000

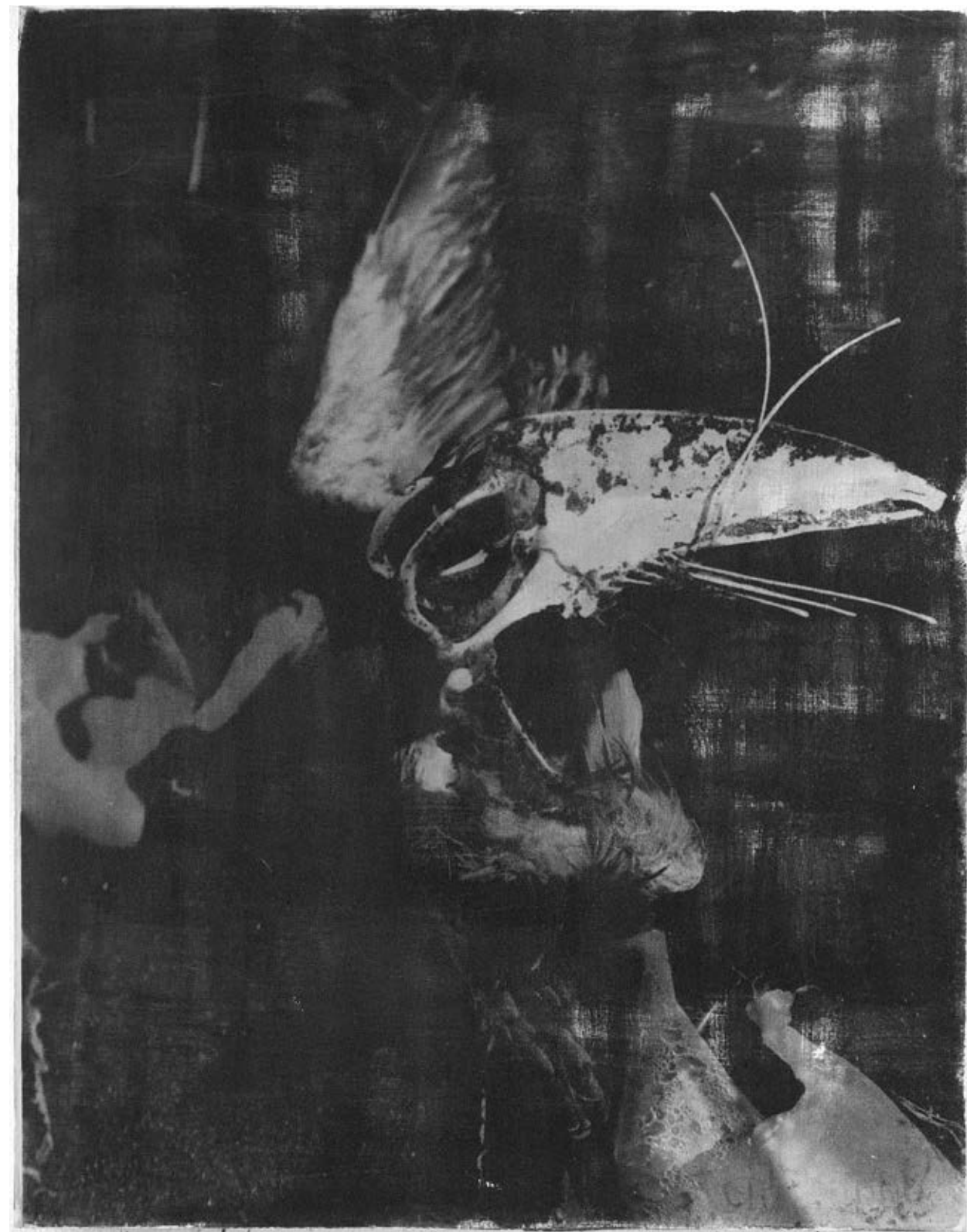
Series of 7 photographs exposed directly on framed cotton treated with photoemulsion.
The photographs were developed mounted on the frames using the classic black and white processing.



fragments, Iceland, photography, photoemulsion on cotton, 220 x 140 cm, 2000



fragments, Iceland, photography, photoemulsion on cotton, 180 x 140 cm, 2000



fragments, Iceland, photography, photoemulsion on cotton, 200 x 156 cm, 2000

social

DY NAM ICS

photography



Florian Mehnert, India, negative film, 1996

documentation of social dynamics

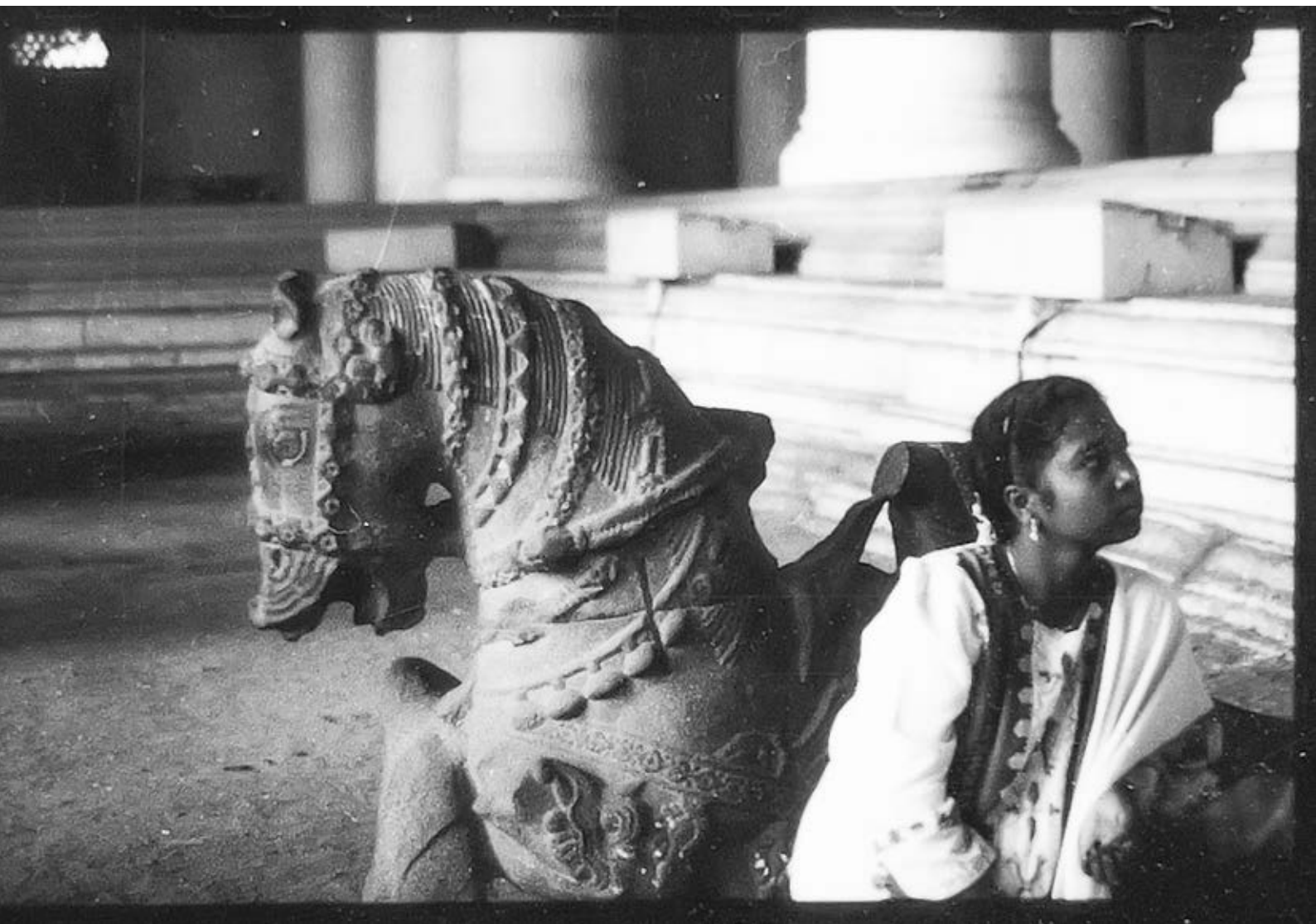
Florian Mehnert uses photography to capture multi-layered social and cultural processes. Travelling through different countries, he primarily documents social interactions, landscapes and cultural sites, each of which refers to specific local and global discourses. The photographic image is understood as a medium that captures fleeting moments and places them in a temporal context. The documentary practice thus serves not only as a visual archive, but also as an empirical basis for making changes and discontinuities in social structures comprehensible; in this context, photography becomes an instrument with which Mehnert systematically records social developments - for example in the areas of urbanity, the experience of nature or cultural identity. The result is a visual chronicle that allows comparisons to be drawn between different regions, revealing both similarities and contrasts. The methodological approach to documentation is based on careful observation and the selection of moments that are representative of larger social processes.



India, analog diapositive, 1996



from the series "India", 1996
analog black and white photography

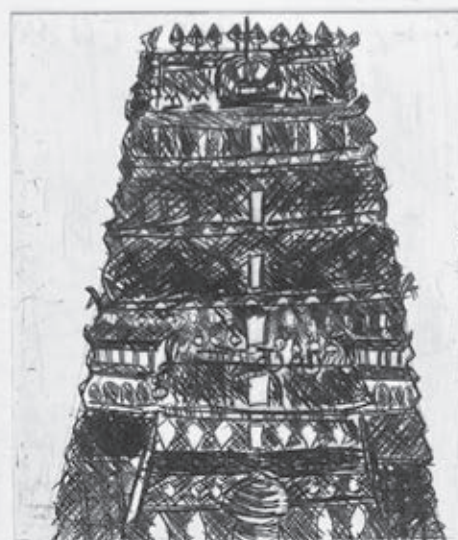


from the series "Indian-Diary", 1996
analog black and white photography



ILUS

ILFO



4/10 *Wentz*

“temple”, from the Indian Cycles
series of 10 different etchings, produced on the journey through in India
edition 4 of 10,
dry point etching on Bütten Paper, 1996



aus Indien II, chinese ink
1997, 50 x 70 cm





“drivers pause”, from the series “Hong Kong, 2023



Hong Kong Park, 2023, photography, lambda print, 182 x 105 cm







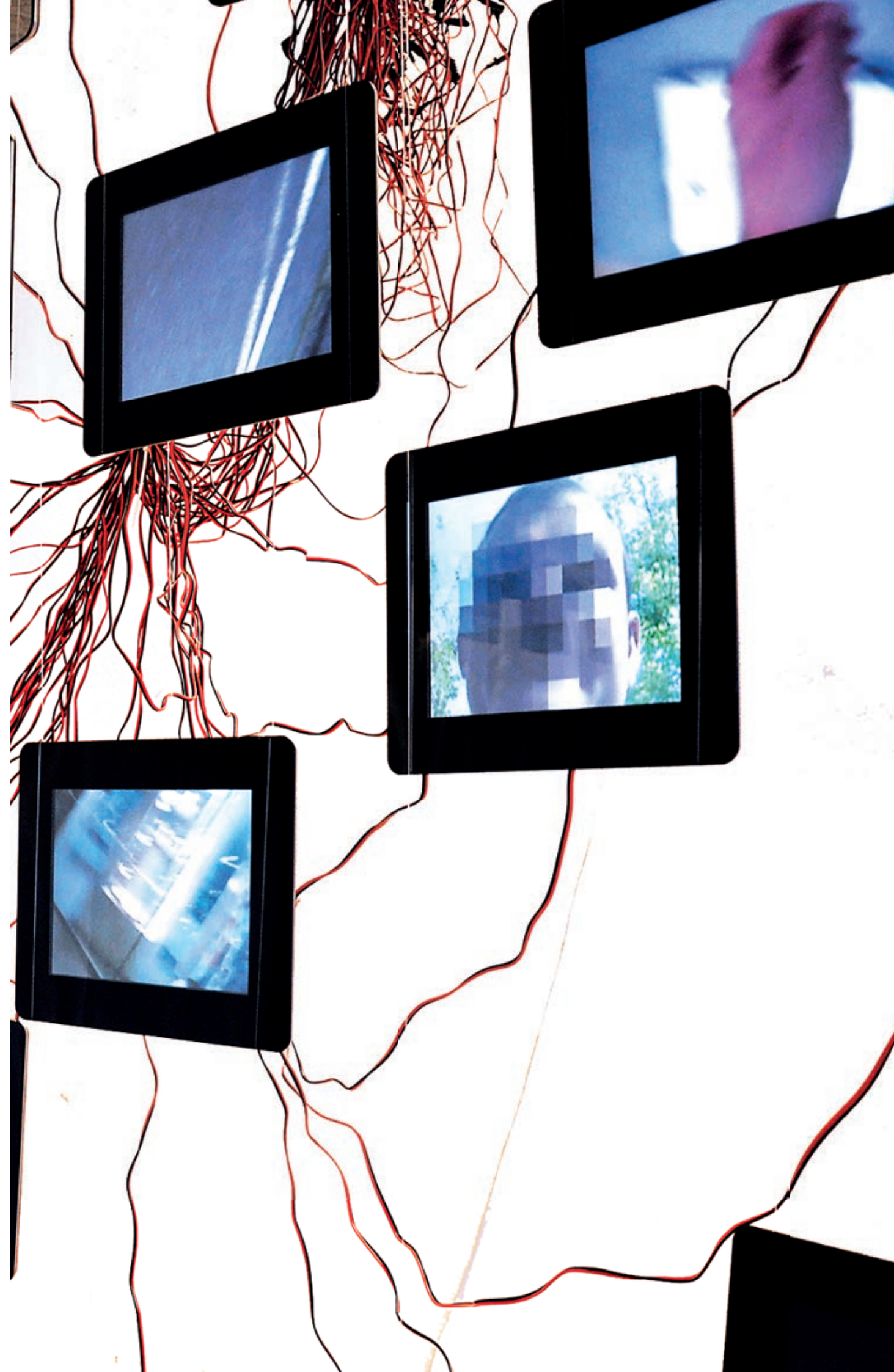
Hong Kong Central, 2023, photography, lambda print, 165 x 92 cm

HUMANTRACKS

LIMITS

ETHICS OF SURVEILLANCE
TECHNOLOGIES

42 CHANNEL VIDEO
INSTALLATION



Humantracks shows video sequences of hacked smartphones whose cameras and microphones have been remotely activated.

Humantracks directly intervenes in the intimate and private sphere and the total loss of privacy. The smartphone as a constant companion becomes a surveillance tool. The art project makes the invisible mass surveillance visible. Humantracks questions the meaning, the loss and the value of our privacy in the networked present. The video installation shows simultaneously 42 video sequences.

In Humantracks, art serves not only as a form of expression, but also as a research tool to make the mechanisms and effects of surveillance visible. By making real interventions in the private sphere, the installation creates an immediate, emotional experience that makes abstract threats tangible. Art functions here as an experimental method to uncover social blind spots and pose critical questions about digital self-determination. The artistic staging not only documents but also actively questions how surveillance changes our perception, our behavior and our understanding of privacy.

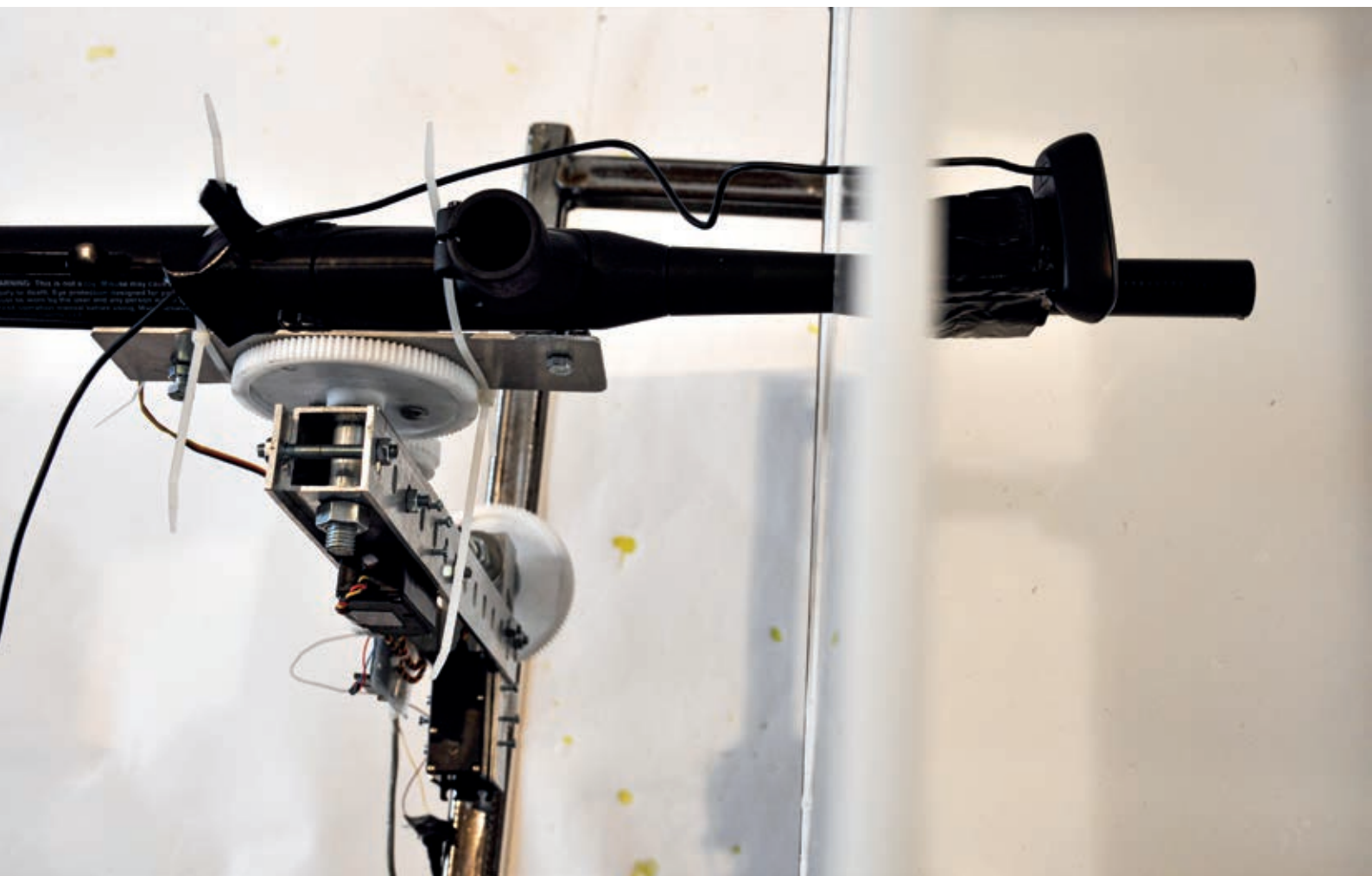


humantracks,
(Menschentracks), 2014
42 screens, cables, nylon cord
video sequences of hacked smartphones
dimension: 5 x 5 x 5m

exhibition at Museum für Angewandte
Kunst,
MAK Frankfurt,
installation view, 2015



humantracks,
(Menschentracks), 2014
42 screens, cables, nylon cord
video sequences of hacked smartphones
dimension: 5 x 5 x 5m



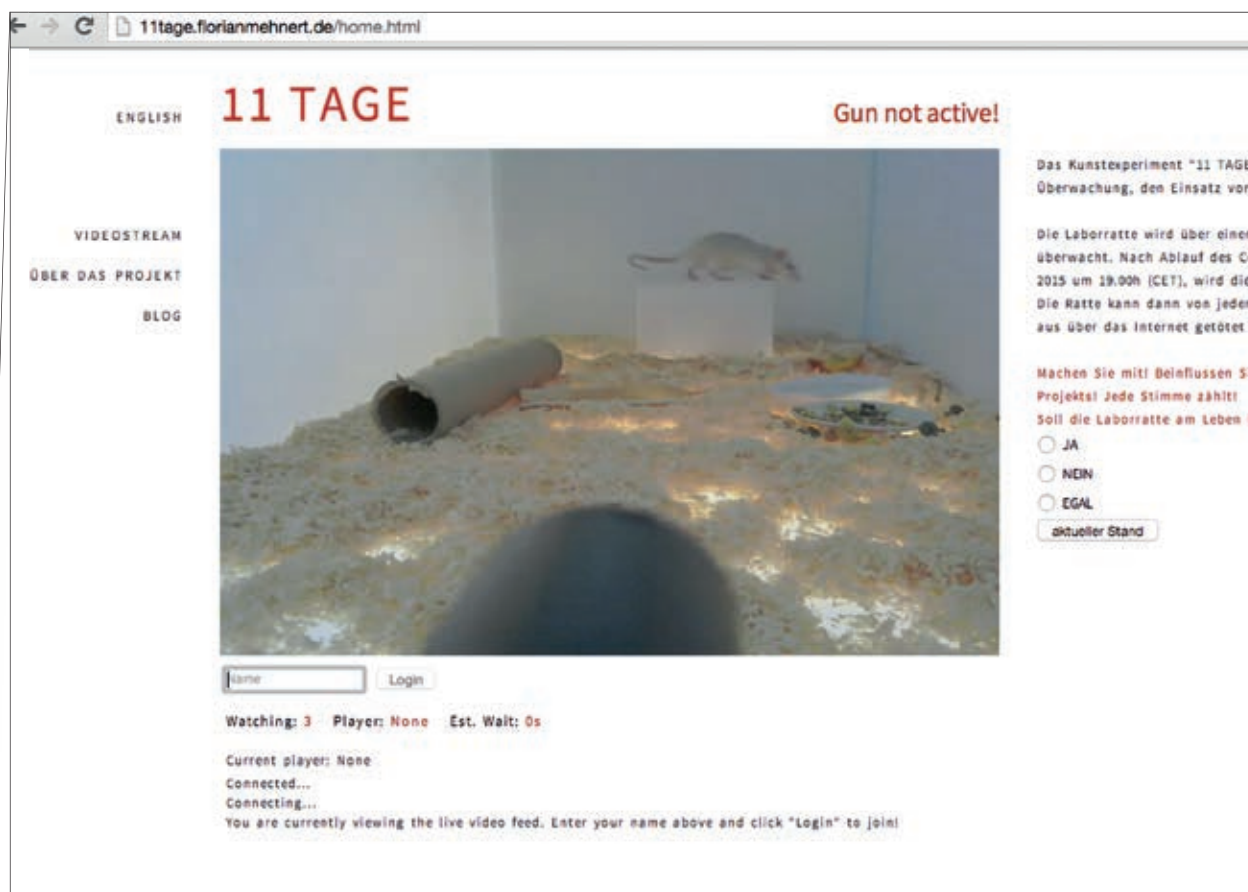
Detail of the installation 11 DAYS

11 DAYS

INT ER ACT

SOCIAL EXPERIMENT
USE OF REMOTE-CONTROLLED
ARMED DRONES

INTERACTIVE IMMERSIVE
INSTALLATION WITH VIA
INTERNET REMOTE-CONTROLLED
WEAPON
AND LAB RAT



THE ART EXPERIMENT 11 DAYS

questioning use of remote-controlled armed drones

Interactive installation with over internet remote-controlled weapon and living lab rat

Florian Mehnert's project "11 DAYS" offered a unique insight into the complex dynamics of modern warfare and surveillance technologies by putting participants in the role of drone pilots who decided on life and death. This immersive world, existing in a hybrid space of physical installation and virtual interface, opened up new terrain for grappling with the ethical challenges of modern warfare.

Participants in "11 DAYS" were not merely passive observers but active agents in a complex network of decisions and consequences. By controlling a physical weapon over the internet and observing the target via live stream, they experienced a direct connection between their actions and the resulting impacts on the environment. This telepresent experience led to increased cognitive load and emotional intensity among participants.

The choice of the first-person shooter perspective as an aesthetic medium allowed participants to experience the complexity of decision-making in an environment marked by uncertainty and moral ambivalence. By reducing the spatial distance between actor and action, this perspective laid bare the ethical gray areas of modern warfare technologies and forced participants to grapple with questions of accountability and moral agency.

The virtual presence of participants in a real environment controlled over the internet opened up a level of reflection on the role of technology as a mediator between the subject and their actions. The incorporation of the webcam stream, connecting the physical weapon to the intended target, illustrated the complexity of human-technological interaction and provided a space for critical engagement with the ethical implications of using surveillance technologies in modern warfare.

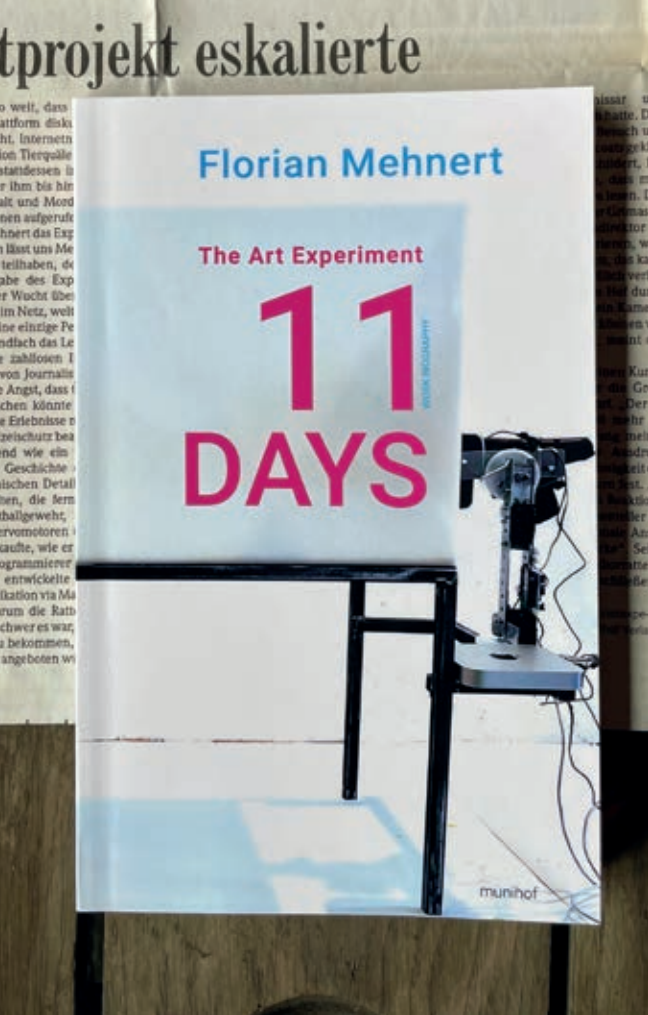
"11 DAYS" was an artistic intervention and at the same time a social experiment, that prompted deep reflection on the ethical and moral dimensions of modern warfare and surveillance technologies. The project sparked a global shitstorm and received extensive world wide media attention, leading to a broad public discussion about the ethical boundaries of art.

The controversy escalated rapidly, and Mehnert was confronted with a flood of death threats and numerous complaints that kept prosecutors busy.

website with livestream view
before the project started



the installation 11 DAYS, 2015
white plastic box, steel frame, webcam, weapon,
Mac mini, arduino board, servo's,
custom programmed software,
webserver, website, livestream,
living white rat and facilities for the rat,
240 x 140 x 80 cm



work biography 11 DAYS
ISBN: 978 3 750 4945 03

„After the twelfth day, the gun will be pointed at you!
No matter where you are: in the mall, in the shop around
the corner or on the street. You know a life is worth
nothing, then it shall be the same for you.“

1...r+4.....4@guerrillamail.com

Mr P, I estimate him to be in his late 50s, is the first to hand me his ID card again.
He is slim and a little taller than me. Over his grey suit he wears an open beige trench coat.
His face, looks narrow, the dark bags under his eyes contrast with his strikingly broad nose. He looks at me with a mockingly smug drawl around the thin corners of his mouth.
He seems to be the talker.
I study his identity card with exaggerated interest, and read there „Senior Government Director/ Head of De- partment“. Abruptly and slightly annoyed, he suddenly snatches his ID from my hand and comments gruffly, „We’re not that pretty on our IDs, Mr Mehnert!“
The other man identifies himself as Detective Chief Inspector Mr G.. He speaks with a slight Swabian accent.
I estimate him to be in his early sixties.
He gives me the experienced impression of an old hand. His broad round face on his slightly corpulent stocky body smiles at me in a friendly fatherly way.
The third man.
Maybe in his mid-fifties, tall, broad and stocky.
Official veterinarian Dr. vet. K.
I don’t remember his name.
Good-naturedly, I follow my cooperative attitude and kindly ask what I can do for the gentlemen.
Head of Department P. briskly takes the floor:
„Can we talk to you in peace, Mr. Mehnert?“ [...]



Mehnert talking at the ADCE European Creativity Festival of the Art Director Club of Europe in Barcelona Disseny Hub about 11 DAYS:
“11 DAYS is a social experiment giving a frighten insight into a society controlled by aggression and hatred”

screenshot : <https://youtu.be/VYq-2bOnkqQ>

extract of the book 11 DAYS:

[...] On Tuesday morning, I give an interview to another radio station. At 11.30 a.m., a television crew from the regional television station announced that they would be coming. Around 10.30 a.m., the cast-iron bell on my gate rings.
I react. During my walk to the opaque gate, I see from the shoes visible underneath that several people are waiting behind it.
I open the gate and come face to face with three gentle- men in trench coats.
It is not the camera crew.
One of the gentlemen approaches me confidently and au- thoritatively: „Mr Mehnert?“
I answer in the affirmative.
„We would like to talk to you,“ he asks in a convincingly firm voice that brooks no argument.
Caught off guard, I let the three gentlemen enter the courtyard. Silently, I lead the way and then halt hesitantly in front of the front door.
As I turn around, the presumed leader of the trio speaks up again and begins to introduce himself and his companions by name.
The situation slips away from me because at that moment I realise that I am dealing with a superior form of official authority that was previously foreign to me.
The men stand in a semicircle around me and simultane- ously pull out their badges, which they routinely hold out to me.
I can’t keep up with their pace and only glance at their cards without reading them. When they want to take them again, I insist and ask to see them again. I try to gain time, although I don’t know what for.

victims of drones: livestream view after the project has ended



David Charter Berlin
Published at 12:01AM, March 14 2015

A controversial artist has set up a gun so anyone on the internet can shoot a rat using their keyboard or smartphone — in an installation he says is designed to protest about the use of military drones.

Florian Mehnert, a German artist who has previously bugged random conversations to highlight state surveillance, will set up a webcam on the rat today with a countdown to March 24, when the gun will be loaded.

Mr Mehnert’s latest work, called 11 Days, will film the rat continually until it is shot, in a twin protest about snooping by drones as well as their use to kill people by remote control.

The 44-year-old artist from Cologne is reflecting a mood of suspicion in his country about the military activities of the US, especially its killer drones used in the lawless Pakistani-Afghan border region.

While their operators are located in the US, data and images from drones are sent via the US Air Force base at Ramstein in southwest Germany.

“Of course I expect protests,” said Mehnert. “A rat is to die in the service of art. I would also prefer if it were not necessary. But people nowadays are so jaded, that art must break new boundaries.”

Mehnert has set up a website where anyone can register and wait their turn to control a gun from their keyboard, aim it and take a shot at the rat.

“Preparing all this was not only a technical, but also an emotional challenge,” he said.

“I want to make people aware . . . that you can kill over the internet. This is not a doomsday scenario, but long ago became reality.”

A survey on his website yesterday found that 1,440 viewers (55.6 per cent) wanted the rat to live, 37.5 per cent thought it should die, and 6.9 per cent did not care.

Viewers have been advised that they must be 18 or over to take part in the shooting.



madison olivia @mdelair_ · 14. März
@FlorianMehnert MURDERER. I truly hope that if that poor rat gets killed, you do too. You deserve to be shot in the head.

Übersetzt aus dem Englisch von  bing

@FlorianMehnert MÖRDER. Ich hoffe wirklich, dass wenn diese arme Ratte getötet wird, Sie zu tun. Du verdienst es in den Kopf geschossen werden.

20:43 · 14. März 2015 · Details

    [Gespräch ausblenden](#)



Maddhatter @SMaddhatter · 16. März
@FlorianMehnert people are going to find you and kill you and we will all rejoice

    [Gespräch zeigen](#)



Maddhatter @SMaddhatter · 16. März
@FlorianMehnert when your shot in the head the world will laugh at your and continue on better then when you were here

    [Gespräch](#)



Christian Mandl retweetete einen Tweet, in dem Du erwähnt wurdest
14. März: @FlorianMehnert ich hoffe Sie werden eines Tages erschossen.





Christian Mandl favorisierte einen Tweet, in dem Du erwähnt wurdest
14. März: @FlorianMehnert ich hoffe Sie werden eines Tages erschossen.





Simon Poynting @sim_poy · 14. März
Very clever comment on drones; Florian Mehnert set up "installation" so internet users can shoot a rat using their keyboards



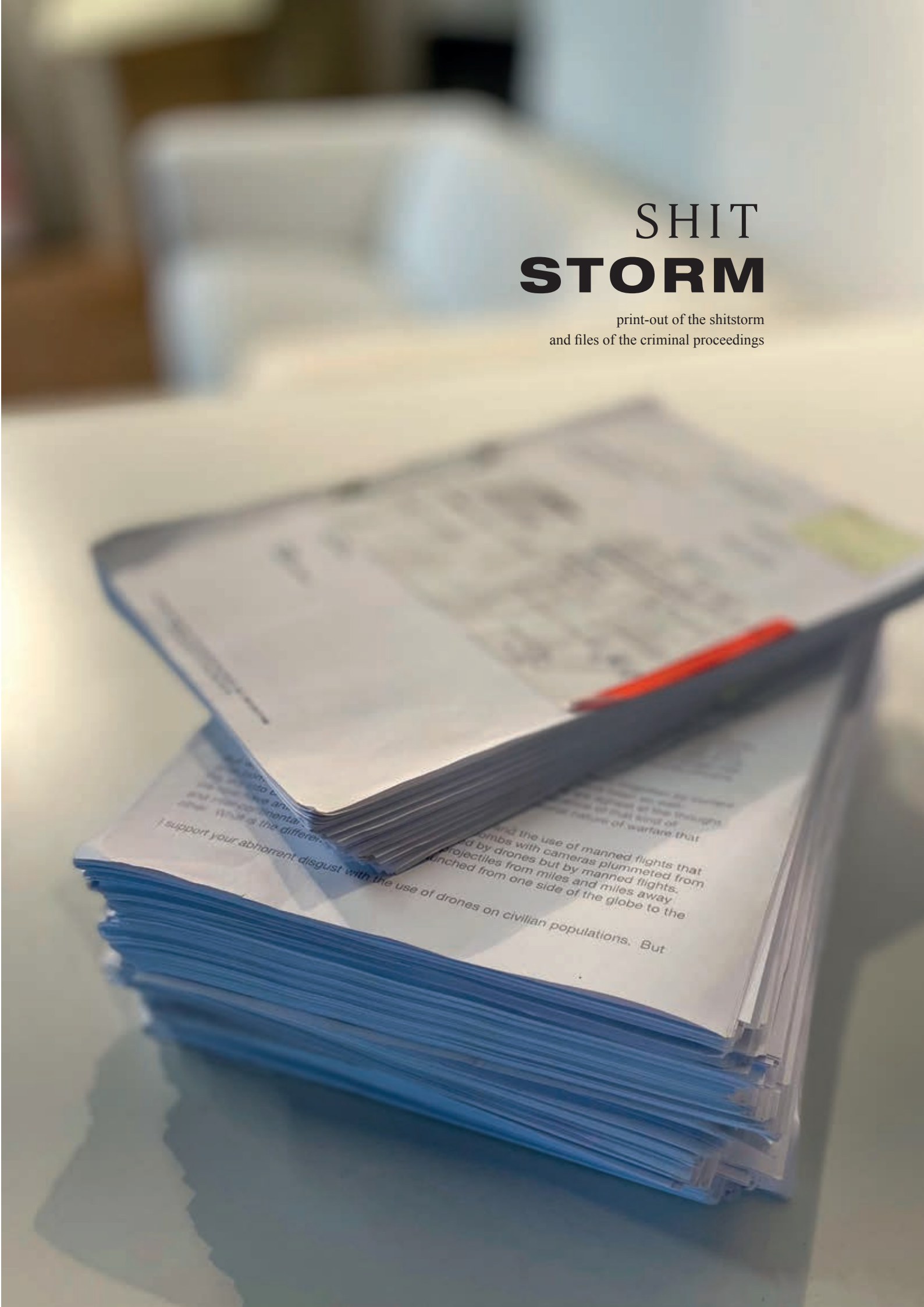
ミソピチヨボ / USAの絵描き @misopichopo · 1. Sep. Übersetzung anzeigen
コイツの名前は Florian Mehnert アーティスト。11days というネットゲームは本物のネズミをプレイヤーに殺させるという酷いアートを作った奴だ。



examples from countless comments in social media

SHIT STORM

print-out of the shitstorm
and files of the criminal proceedings



S O C I A L

PHOTOGRAPHY
PARTICIPATORY
PERFORMANCE

Mehnert's photography serves also as an independent means of artistic expression. Here, his demand for precise observation of reality merges with a creative interpretation of the scenes captured. Mehnert's deliberate use of the medium of photography does not serve the objective depiction of circumstances, but rather becomes a dialogical instrument that invites the viewer to actively engage with the content depicted. In this context, Mehnert's projects Refugee Stacks and Social Distance Stacks can be cited as examples. In Refugee Stacks, photography is used to make the complex realities of refugees' lives and their cultural identity visible. The visual presentation serves not only as an archive, but also as a critical reflection on migration and identity. Social Distance Stacks also addresses current social debates on physical and social distance through photographic interventions. The artistic treatment of the topic opens up a space in which the photographic representation serves as an impulse for discourses on social isolation, control mechanisms and the dynamics of social interaction. Both projects demonstrate how photography, as a medium of aesthetic debate, simultaneously reacts to social developments and helps to shape them by making hidden connections visible and questioning traditional narratives.



PRIVACY

PA RA DOX

DIGITAL
SURVEILLANCE
PHOTOGRAPHY

From the photoseries Smartphone Stack
180 cm x 134 cm, 2018, photography,
lamda print behind museum glas

*exhibited at DHM
German Historic Museum Berlin,
"von Luther zu Twitter", 2020*



From the photoseries Smartphone Stack
180 cm x 134 cm, 2018, photography,
lamda print behind museum glas,
exhibited at DHM Berlin

SMARTPHONE STACKS, 2018

Florian Mehnert's series „Smartphone Stacks“ vividly addresses the so-called privacy paradox. This describes the contradiction between the expressed desire for privacy and the actual behaviour of many people who willingly disclose personal data. Through this staging, he visualises how the participants literally become „data material“ - a collection of information that they themselves generate through their smartphone use. Mehnert confronts viewers with the fact that although we strive for privacy, we are constantly undermining it through our mobile phone activities. In an interview with Deutschlandfunk Corso, this paradoxical discrepancy between attitude and behaviour is addressed.

On the one hand, many express concerns about privacy, but on the other hand, their digital behaviour constantly feeds the data collection mania of companies and authorities. Mehnert's work shows in a disturbing way how we value the convenience and connectivity of smartphone use more highly than the protection of our privacy. It is precisely this tension between the desire for data protection and the reality of data sharing that constitutes the privacy paradox. His art urges us to question our contradictory attitudes and behaviours in relation to privacy.



Title Programm
Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin, 2020

“how do we want to be seen” photography, from pantera series, 2025

PANTERA SERIES

I D E N T I T Y

PHOTOGRAPHY

PERFORMATIVE

SELF-STAGING

HOW DO WE
WANT TO BE SEEN?



In the Pantera Series, Florian Mehnert explores questions of self-perception, performativity, and cultural identity. How do we see ourselves? How do we want to be seen—or allow ourselves to be seen? Through a visual inquiry into the constructed nature of identity, the series investigates how self-image is shaped by cultural narratives - as in social media or in advertising -, especially those surrounding masculinity, autonomy, and aesthetic control.

Within this tension, a space opens between performative self-staging, self-presentation and lived authenticity. The Pantera becomes a projection surface for evolving identities.





REFUGEE STACKS, PARTICIPATORY PROJECT WITH REFUGEES

postcolonialism and migration

The Refugee Stacks project is a reaction to the situation of refugee flows and an examination of postcolonialism and migration.

For one week the Florian Mehnert talked to people in a refugee home and convinced them of his project. The Refugee Stacks as human sculptures draw attention to the fact that behind every refugee there is a personal story, an individual destiny, a person with abilities and dreams. The works approach the viewer through their aesthetics, and then confront their depiction of the stacked refugees in the next step. The viewer's oscillation between the aesthetics and the confrontation with the actual image situation creates a platform for discourse and discussion of the refugee issue.

Mehnert's photography serves also as an independent means of artistic expression. Here, his demand for precise observation of reality merges with a creative interpretation of the scenes captured. Mehnert's deliberate use of the medium of photography does not serve the objective depiction of circumstances, but rather becomes a dialogical instrument that invites the viewer to actively engage with the content depicted. In this context, Mehnert's projects Refugee Stacks and Social Distance Stacks can be cited as examples. In Refugee Stacks, photography is used to make the complex realities of refugees' lives and their cultural identity visible. The visual presentation serves not only as an archive, but also as a critical reflection on migration and identity. Social Distance Stacks also addresses current social debates on physical and social distance through photographic interventions. The artistic treatment of the topic opens up a space in which the photographic representation serves as an impulse for discourses on social isolation, control mechanisms and the dynamics of social interaction. Both projects demonstrate how photography, as a medium of aesthetic debate, simultaneously reacts to social developments and helps to shape them by making hidden connections visible and questioning traditional narratives.

"Refugee Stacks", 2015
150 cm x 112 cm, photography,
lamda print behind museum glas,
(collection of Kunstforum TU Darmstadt)



from the series "Refugee Stacks", 2015
150 cm x 112 cm, photography,
lamda print behind museum glas,
(collection of Kunstforum TU Darmstadt)

from the series "Refugee Stacks"
150 cm x 112 cm, 2015, photography,
lamda print behind museum glas

*(collection of Regional Council
Freiburg i.Br.)*





PAN DE MIC

SOCIAL
DISTANCE
INFORMATION BUBBLE

social distance

Social Distance Stacks, 2021

During the pandemic Florian Mehnert realized his photographic project „Social Distance Stacks“. Social Distance Stacks addresses the ubiquitous situation of social distance in the Corona Pandemic. For the „Social Distance Stacks“ project, the artist had people each enter a transparent inflatable and sealable PVC bubble. He arranged and photographed, among others, dancers of the Stuttgart Ballet, actors of the Theater Freiburg and the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra. The surreal images are showing the dancers in narrow, restricted bubbles and reflected the isolation and alienation during the pandemic.



Florian Mehnert in cooperation with the Stuttgart Ballett 2021



Social Distance Stacks, Grand Finale with Romeo and Juliet
and the couples of Swanlake and Giselle, photography,
lambda print,
182 x 109 cm, 2021
private collection Tel Aviv, Israel



Social Distances Stacks, Hallenbad,
photography, lambda print,
170 x 1127 cm, 2021



Social Distance Stacks,
Philharmonic Orchestra
photography, lambda print,
170 x 127 cm, 2021



FRAGMENTS

ELEMENTS

DETAILS

H A B I T A T

16 CHANNEL

VIDEO

INSTALLATION

PUBLIC SPACE



“reflection”, 2024,
videostill of projection on
the church of the village

FRAGMENTS

ELEMENTS

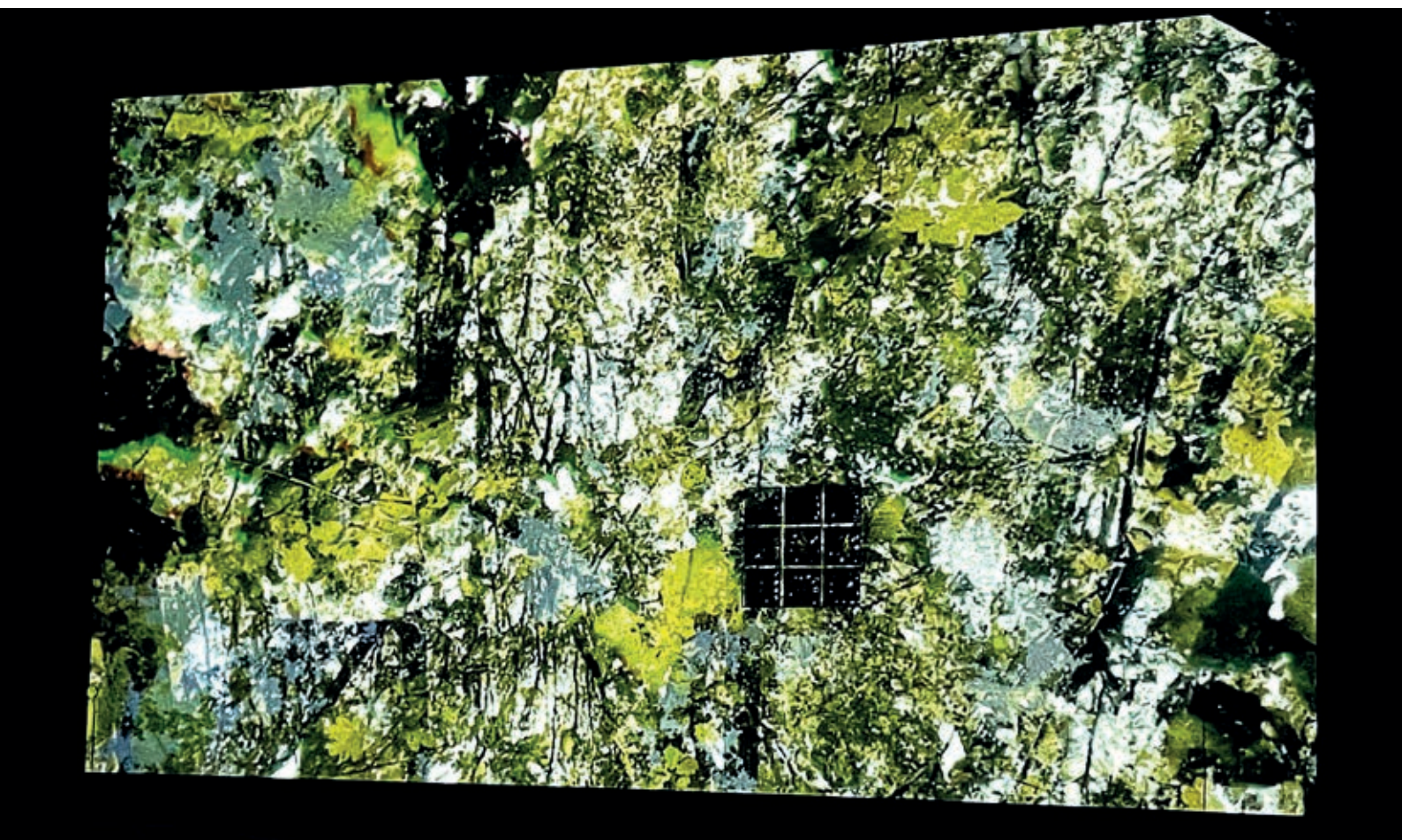
DETAILS

16 channel videoinstallation, in public space, 2024

Fragments, Elements, Details is a 16-channel video installation spread over an entire village. Through visual abstractions, macro shots and subtle musical overlays, everyday elements are transformed into vivid compositions. The installation includes sixteen projections on house walls and invites visitors to experience and connect different facets of their village during their tour. This sensory commentary on the identity of the village encourages viewers to rethink their perceptions and explore their surroundings with new appreciation, revealing aspects that typically remain hidden by the veil of the ordinary. A social sculpture that brings the people in the village together.



plan of the 16 projections, 2024

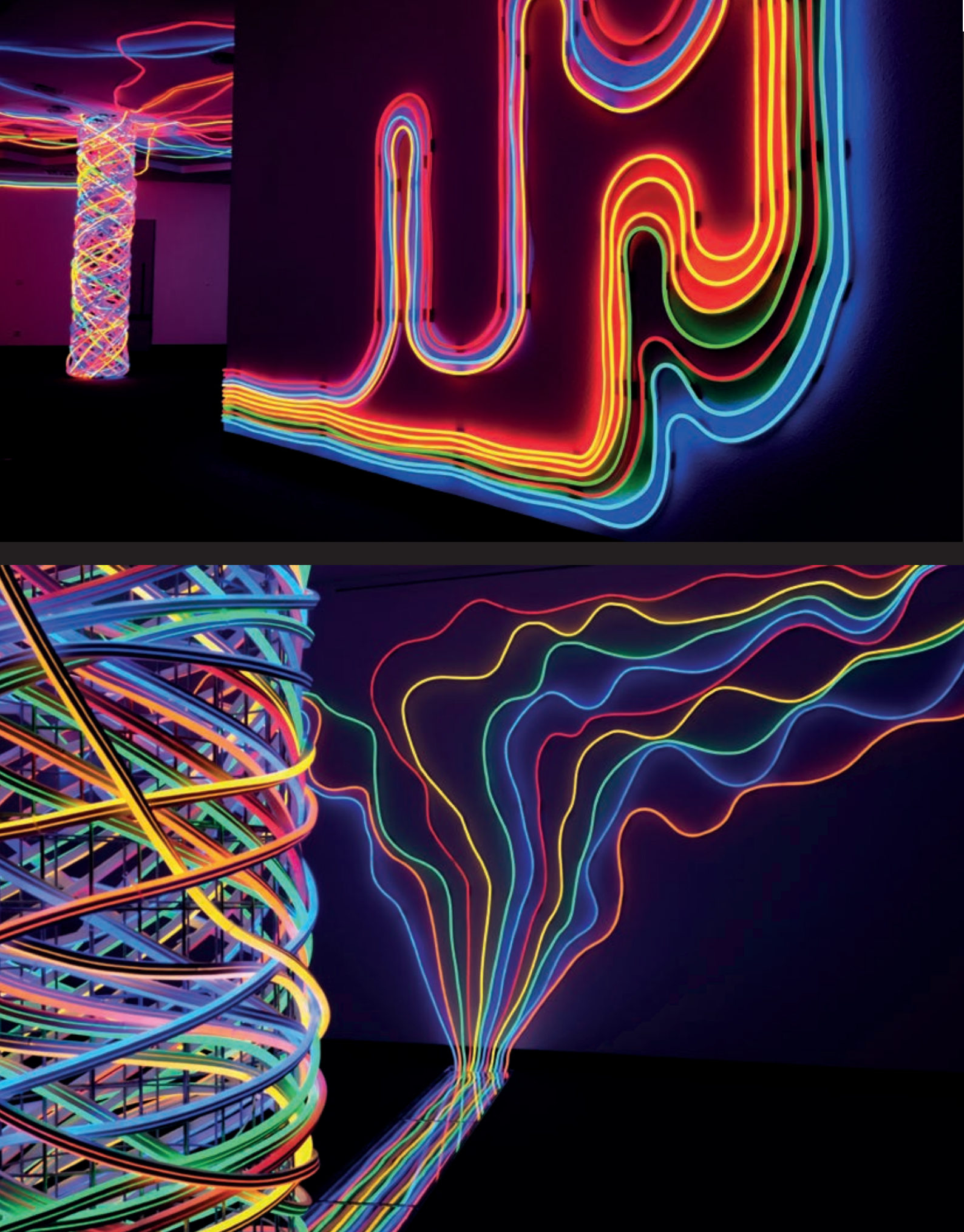




DATA

PERMANENT
WALK THROUGH
LIGHT SCULPTURE

VISUALIZATION OF
DATA STREAMS



DATA TO LIGHT

2022

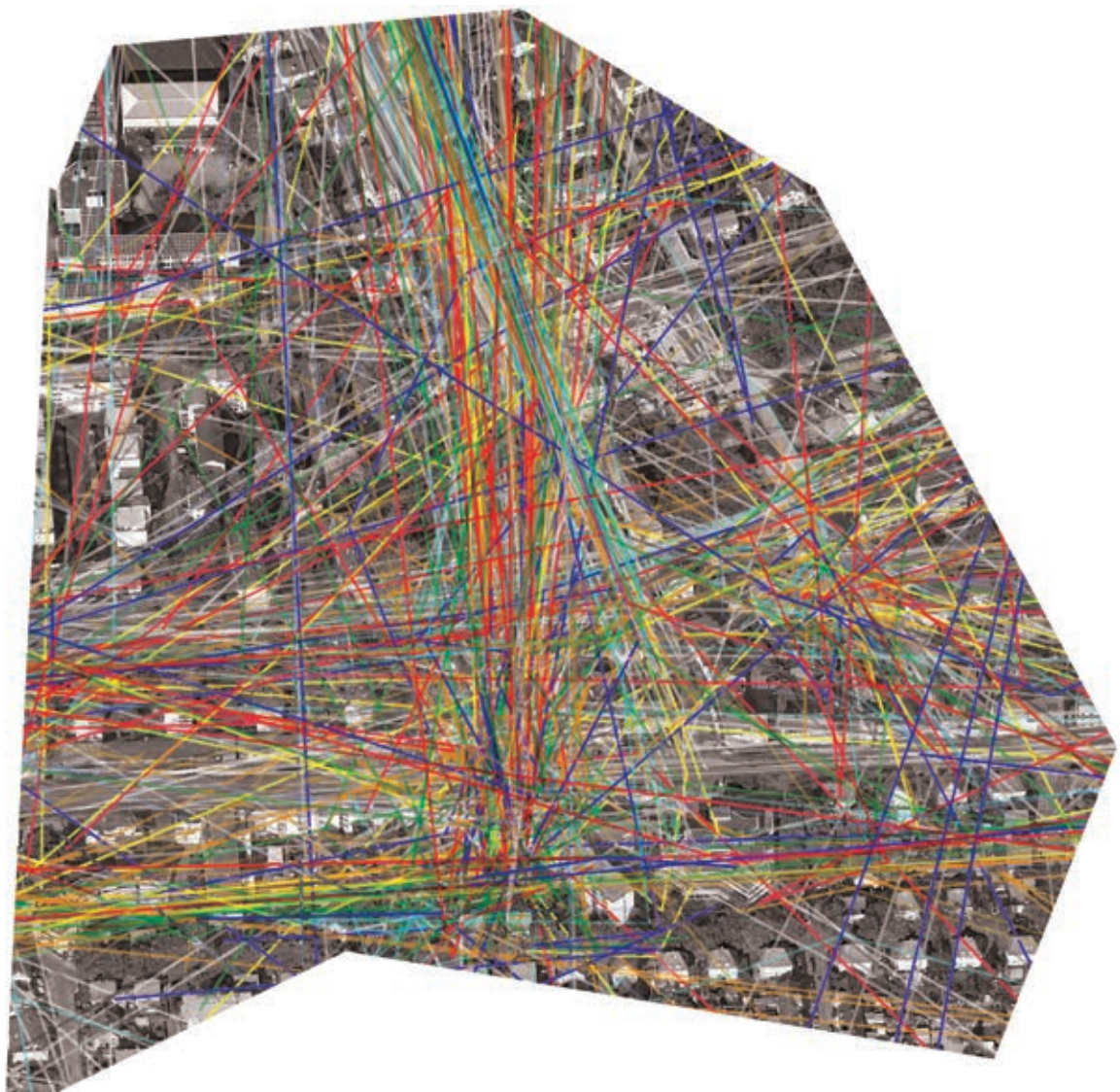
Data to Light translates invisible data infrastructures into a form that can be experienced by the senses. The installation runs through two floors of a building like a living nervous system made of light. What usually is invisible - the flow of digital information - is translated here into visible energy. Data becomes light, movement becomes form, the invisible becomes tangible. Data to Light is an artistic work about the omnipresence of digital systems. The work transforms data flows into a visual language and at the same time invites reflection. The installation opens up a poetic field of tension: between technological complexity and aesthetic reduction, between information flow and light sculpture, between control and imagination.

It is both data visualization and spatial sculpture, a reflection on interconnectedness and sensual experience. Visitors move not only through an illuminated space, but also through a visual allegory of the networked present.

The installation is a permanent fixture at the offices of the State Commissioner for Data Protection in Stuttgart, serving as a powerful reminder of the agency's mission and the ongoing challenges of safeguarding privacy in an increasingly data-driven world.

Through „Data to Light,“ Mehnert demonstrates his ability to transform complex societal issues into captivating artistic experiences that provoke thought and foster dialogue. The installation exemplifies his multidisciplinary approach, blending art, technology to create works that resonate with contemporary audiences.

data to light, 2022
walk through installation over to complete floors
in the building of the State Commissioner for Data Protection, Stuttgart



FREEDOM 2.0

FR EE DOM

INTERDISCIPLINARY

SOCIAL SCULPTURE

ON

IMPACT OF BIG DATA ANALYTICS

SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM

Intervention in public space

Freedom 2.0, 2016 & 2018



change of name into “drugstore of freedom”,
(alias Drogerie Rühle, Weil am Rhein)



A remarkable manifestation of Florian Mehnert’s artistic work is the project “Freedom 2.0,” which makes a significant contribution to the discussion on the merging of privacy and digital networking. This ambitious project unfolds as a multifaceted exploration of the political possibilities of citizens in an increasingly interconnected world.

Mehnert employs the expanded concept of art termed “social sculpture” to create a participatory art installation in public spaces, which he brought to life once as a tri-national project in Weil am Rhein/Basel/Hunigue in 2016 and in Stuttgart in 2018. where he worked in a close cooperation with the Data Protection Officer of Baden Württemberg. The central question of the project is: “What does BIG DATA have to do with FREEDOM?” In this regard, “Freedom 2.0” serves as an open platform for discourse, inviting reflection and debate on the tensions between digital networking and individual freedom.

Florian Mehnert takes a critical look at the actual threats to freedom, which do not primarily stem from intelligence agencies, but from a digital surveillance capitalism aiming to monetize behavior predictions and analyze individual behavior in real-time. This approach aims to underscore and define the precious privacy of each individual while shedding light on the ethical challenges of an increasingly interconnected world.

The “Freedom 2.0” project comprises various elements that collectively enable a multifaceted discussion on the societal impacts of digitization. A self-tracking app raises awareness among users about how individual behavior generates data traces, while a series of shops are temporarily renamed to provoke questions about privacy and individual freedom in public spaces. Furthermore, a colored guidance system visualizes the networking of people and their movements in urban spaces, while Big Data colloquiums provide a platform for open discussions.

“Freedom 2.0” thus embodies not only Mehnert’s commitment to a deeper exploration of the consequences of digitization but also his vision of art as a critical tool for reflecting on the significant questions of our time.

Foreword of the publication Freiheit 2.0
ISBN-13: 978 3 756 82770 1



Google is aware of our concerns, our interests and our next holiday destination. WhatsApp knows with whom we communicate. YouTube knows what videos we watch, and Instagram knows our posted life. Smart Speakers knows what is spoken at home and the smart TV looks in our bedroom. Facebook knows us better than our friends, and Amazon already knows today what we will buy tomorrow. The Big Data system records our lives with all its ramifications. Personal and private data are collected permanently, always and everywhere.¹ We all, the users of the Internet, the consumers, are the source of this free data for the new production process: the prediction of our human behavior. The Big Data industry is therefore looking for a real-time model of our daily lives. Its resulting business models and commercialization processes are low-risk and will generate billions in revenue.

In September 2016 I realized the participative art installation FREIHEIT 2.0 in Weil am Rhein (Germany), Basel (CH), Huningue (France), and in June 2018 in Stuttgart.

The installation should provide a differentiated view of the challenge in the handling of Big Data in our digital, parallel reality and make the interactions between the digital and the analog world visible. I want to point out that democratic achievements, such as personal freedom, are a precious asset that must be defended in an increasingly digital world. I want to transport the complex issue of Big Data to public spaces through an art installation.

It is important for others to see that FREEDOM 2.0 is not confused with a political action or measured as a success on the depth of its Enlightenment.

Behind FREEDOM 2.0, the question raised is, “To what extent could a large-scale participatory installation in public spaces be implemented, whether there could be a broad range of participation and to what extent would people be willing to engage in the abstract form of an art installation.”

Advanced art concept

Freedom 2.0 was a social, participatory art installation

in which people were an important, co-shaping element of the work. It combined public spaces, participants and passers-by in its installation. Everyone was able to shape the project through the use of tracking apps, through discussions on the sidewalks, in the shops, and through their own thoughts, which could be expressed later in the Big Data colloquia. Freedom 2.0 was also an artistic form of initiated social revolt in its structure, through the changing of shop names and its guiding system. FREEDOM 2.0 worked with an extended art concept, in which everyone was, in his own way, the designer and “creator” of his environment and society. Participating shops and their employees, the city of Weil am Rhein and Stuttgart, passers-by in public spaces and the visitors of the colloquia, were all part of shaping the elements of FREEDOM 2.0. Employees of renamed shops were exposed daily to questions from their customers and participated in lively debates. Still growing traces of the tracking app users, testify to the enthusiasm for participation in this project.

During this project I met students and older people who took the city tour along the management system. Some even asked for help installing their app. I engaged in countless conversations with people in and outside the colloquia.

FREEDOM 2.0 has deepened my understanding of the attitude of society to the developments of Big Data.

The notion of freedom in the context of a parallel, digital world has been of interest to many people.

The Freedom 2.0 project demonstrated that younger people in particular have a higher frequency of an undisturbed relationship with data and a digital world.

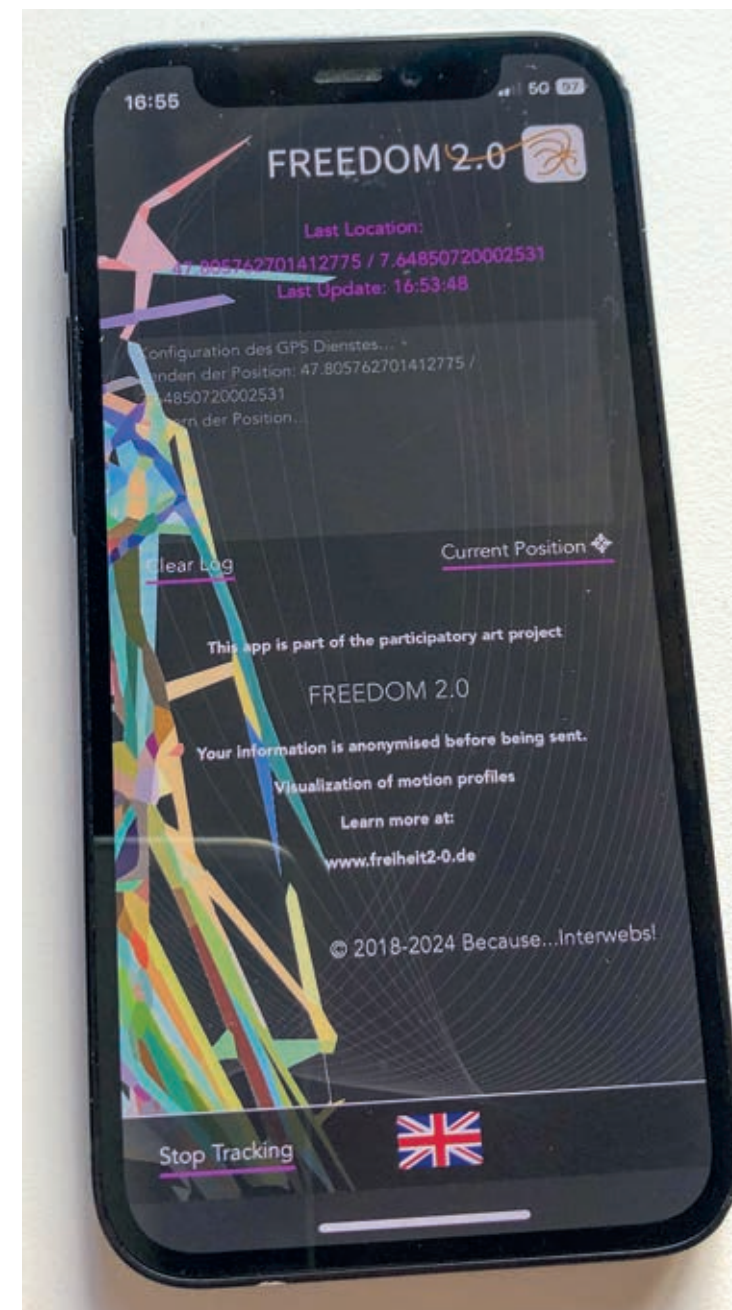
Some people even ask themselves if a “public self” is not the new social order. According to Zuckerberg, “privacy is obsolete”. Many young “digital natives” consider the discussion about personal privacy to be of little relevance.

This is due in part to the naturally strong need for communication with peers. It takes place over smart phones with well-known apps like WhatsApp, Snapchat

Individual Movements Become Readable

The Selftracking app serves as an interface between the analog and digital world. It is used to create an awareness of the sensitivity of one’s own data.

The Selftracking app illustrates how individual movements in the analogous world are obtained. Motion profiles are one of the most important data resources that are traded and evaluated. Each line represents the movement of a person.person.



and also Facebook. It is the basic need of humans to communicate and share their experiences. The Internet and smart phones are perfect for that. The fact that we enthusiastically accept the free communication and expressive tools of the industry correspond to the nature of the human being.

To this, the Big Data industry works with operant conditioning and a positive reinforcement system. A person who posts a lot is interesting and rewarded by many “likes”, “followers”, “comments”, and perhaps even crowned as an Instagram or YouTube star. Those who do not participate fall back into social exclusion. A call for more caution, when dealing with your own data or encryption, lessens but does not solve the basic problem. Insurance companies are experimenting with smart health and telematics concepts. Facebook and Google work with micro targeting, Amazon with dynamic pricing and anticipatory shipping. Anyone who does not provide real-time data cannot utilize these “instant gratifications” and will have to pay for the right to privacy in the future.

The possibility of predictive, calculated customer moves are within reach: the systematic evaluation and the correlation of all personal data.

The creation of personality profiles, psychograms, and digital profiling leads to the systematic destruction of our private spheres. Young people typically lack the insight and the far-sightedness regarding the privacy of their personal data and the recycling industry that is so willing to utilize it. They lack the knowledge about the monetary value their data contains. What kind of enthusiastic young Pokémon-Go player can see that the game is actually paid for with a lot of personal data?²

The game is not the product, but the player himself is. There is a difference with “Digital Immigrants”. Here, there is a more conservative view of the world in terms of privacy, which is regarded as an important and elementary commodity. But there is social pressure too. A participant of the colloquia reported how, by leaving a WhatsApp group, he came in conflict with his wife, who had to justify herself in front of her digital friends, because her husband’s departure was interpreted as a rejection and dislike for the group.

There is also enthusiasm for the possibilities and promises of Big Data: “If we are constantly collecting and correlating all the available data, we will get closer to the truth. We will understand human life in all its complex processes and create a better life for each individual.” However, self-determination and privacy must be sacrificed in return.

Digital natives in particular perceive, little by little, that the digital personality profiles in many ways resemble their analogous world. Through the colloquia, I sometimes get the impression that the “transparent self” has already become self-evident. It seems as if the relationship to privacy is about to change into another far less

critical attitude. The reasons are perhaps in the sense of the desire: the desire for security, in an optimistic belief in the good, and in the progress and enthusiasm for the technical possibilities.

In general and in all the groups of the colloquia, the lack of background knowledge and an idea of how the daily and social lives change by means of data correlations and evaluations have often been seen. There is no idea of what it means to live as a calculable algorithmic human, where companies know more about one’s self, than one knows about himself. There is a lack of knowledge of how deep the Big Data industry has already penetrated many areas of life.

The question of how to deal with Big Data has often been discussed at the colloquia, showing this consciousness in our society and politics has already begun.

The goal of the Big Data industry is to extract human personality patterns, to predict real-time results about those behaviors³, and then commercialize them. This destruction of human dignity and the order of a free democratic society is accepted by the industry, its investors and by society itself.

FREEDOM 2.0 has taken a first step towards exposure of the business procedures of Big Data; scrutinizing it in the form of a social, participatory art installation. It is to be used as a platform for discussion, for recognizing and learning that we have to develop a global ethic regarding Big Data in order to protect ourselves and our dignity in the future.

Florian Mehnert

1 Networks of Control, A Report on Corporate Surveillance, Digital Tracking, Big Data & Privacy, Wolfie Christl, Sarah Spiekermann, 2016

2 Is Pokémon GO Watching You? A Survey on the Privacy-Awareness of Location-Based Apps' Users, Chiara Braghin, Marilisa Del Vecchio, 2017

3 Big Data to Extract Patterns and Predict Real-Life Outcomes Michal Kosinski, Yilun Wang, Himabindu Lakkaraju, and Jure Leskovec Stanford University Psychological Methods © 2016 American Psychological Association 2016, Vol. 21, No. 4,



The guidance system reflects the digital movement profiles of the Freedom 2.0 app on the streets and paths of Stuttgart, 2018



Big Data Colloquia at Weil am Rhein , 2016

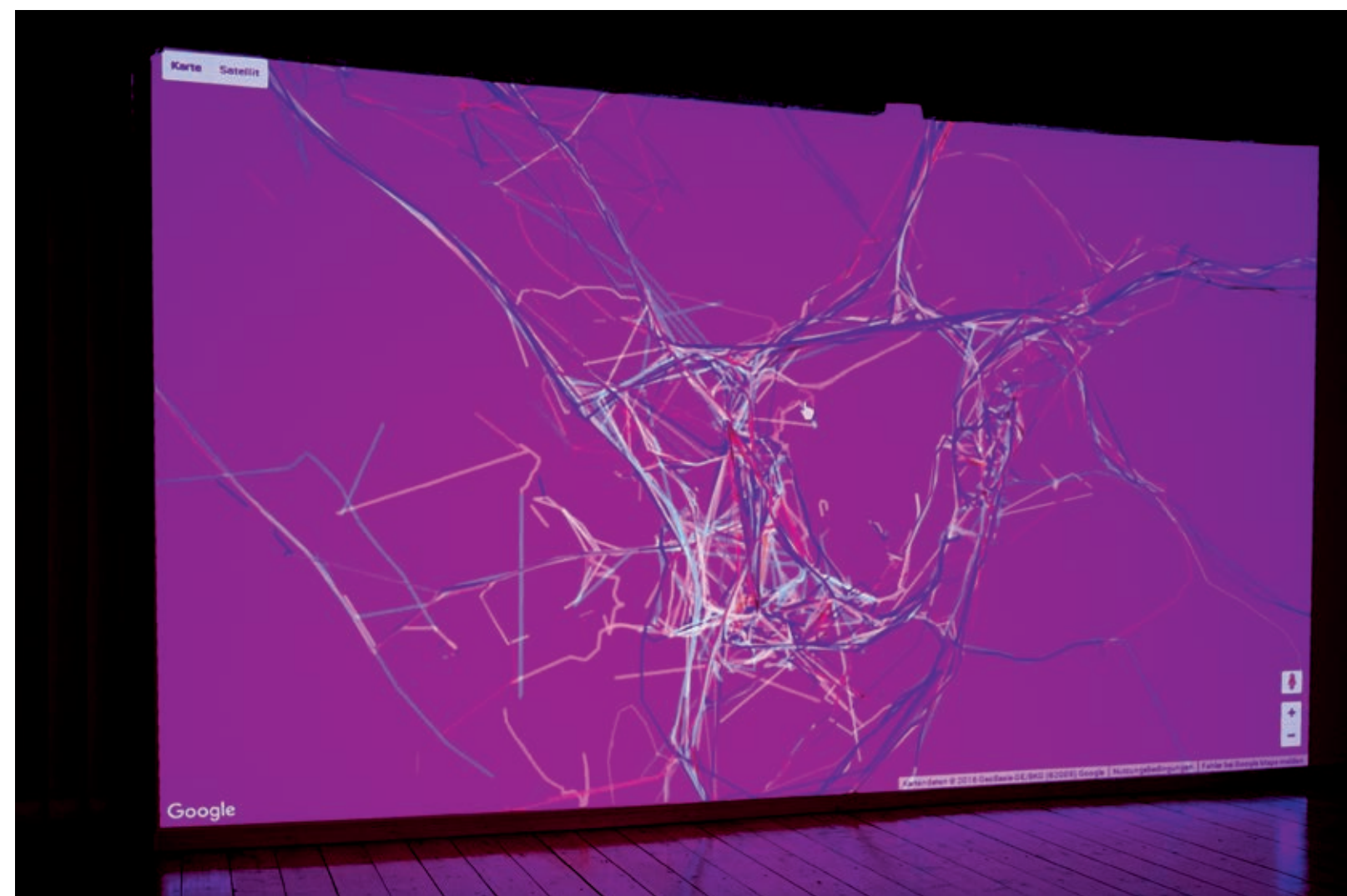
Florian Mehnert's Project Freedom 2.0 is used as learning and illustrative material in a school textbook.
(ISBN 978 3 532 70094 5)



Projection of the moving profiles users created with the App Freedom 2.0



Freedom 2.0 Colloquia , Stuttgart
Dr. Stefan Brink, Data Protection Officer BW
Prof. Susanne Hahn, University of Düsseldorf
Florian Mehnert
Prof. Siegfried Stihl, University of Hamburg





Florian Mehnert’s studio in his converted farmstead from 1730

FLORIAN MEHNERT

born 1970 in Cologne, Germany

1992 Studied at Art Academy Karlsruhe

Florian Mehnert is Founder and Managing Director of the Institute of Experimental Arts, IEK.

WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Staatsgalerie Stuttgart
Kunstforum Darmstadt (Sammlung der TU Darmstadt)
Regierungspräsidium Freiburg i.Br.
Morat Institut für Kunst und Kunstwissenschaft

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

2016 Museumsquartier Q21, Vienna, AUSTRIA

BIBLIOGRAPHY (selection)

- Kunstjahr 2014, Lindinger+Schmidt, Berlin,
- Michell, Alix , 2020: “Überwachung ist Macht. Zur Mythifizierung von Überwachung in der Gegenwartskunst.” Narrative der Überwachung: Typen, mediale Formen und Entwicklungen. Eds. Kilian Hauptmann, Martin Hennig und Hans Krah. Berlin: Peter Lang
- Ortswechsel, evangelisches Religionsbuch für Gymnasien, Claudius Verlag,
- Ist das Kunst oder kann das weg?, Christian Saehrend, Steen T. Kita, Dumont Verlag, Köln, 2016
- Watched, Photographic Surveillance Art, Walter König Verlag, Berlin 2020
- „Von Luther zu Twitter“ in: Communicatio Socialis (ComSoc) 2022, Heinrike Paulus, Von Reformatoren als Medienstars und einem twitternden Präsidenten.

AUTHOR OF BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Freedom 2.0, ISBN: 978 3 7568 2770 1
The Art Experiment 11 DAYS, ISBN: 978 3 7504 9450 3

WORKS IN PUBLIC SPACE

2021 Data to light (permanent light installation in Stuttgart)
2016 + 2018 Freiheit 2.0, social sculpture, multi media installation Weil am Rhein/Basel/Stuttgart
2024 fragments elements details , 16 channel video installation on house walls

EXHIBITIONS (selection)

1995 Morat Institut Freiburg i.Br.
1996 Großherzoglicher Palais, Badenweiler
2002 Städtische Galerie, Waldkirch
2003 Galerie am Tor, Emmendingen
2002 Markgräfler Museum
2015 Museum Angewandte Kunst, MAK, Frankfurt
2015 Watch22, Mainz
2016 Kunstverein Wolfsburg, Hallenbad
2015 Culture Foundation Vögele, Pfäffikon, Switzerland,
2016 C / O Berlin, Hasselblad Foundation, Berlin
2016 Kunstverein Weil am Rhein, Freiheit 2.0
2017 Disseny Hub, Barcelona, 11Days
2017 Kunstforum Darmstadt
2017 OK, Linz, Austria
2018 Museum Stadtpalais Stuttgart, Freiheit 2.0,
2018 Berlinale d’art, Straßburg, France
2019 Reforum, smartphone stacks
2020 Markgräfler Museum
2021 Deutsche Historisches Museum, DHM Berlin
2022 Städtische Galerie, Weil am Rhein

Press (selection)

- Fragmente, Elemente, Details, Videokunst an Häusern, Badische Zeitung, 16.10.2024
- Badische Zeitung, 30.5.2023, Buchveröffentlichung, Wie ein Kunstprojekt mit einer Ratte eskalierte
- LfDI Dr. Stefan Brink und der Konzeptkünstler Florian Mehnert sprechen in der aktuellen Podcastfolge vom 3.2.22 über das Kunstwerk Data to light und darüber, was es für Datenschützer bedeutet.
- 03.02.2022 Verwanzte Waldlichtungen und die NSA, Akademie der kulturellen Bildung des Bundes und des Landes NRW, 04.01.2022
- Der Spiegel, Die Bilder der Woche, Cultural Distancing 03.06.2021
- Vom Leben in der Blase: Florian Mehnert und sein Fotoprojekt zum Social Distancing 01.06.2021
- Zirartmag, Social Distance Stacks | Gli effetti del distanziamento sociale nel progetto fotografico di Florian Mehnert 15/04/2021
- Heinrike Paulus, Von Reformatoren als Medienstars und einem twitternden PräsidentenDie Ausstellung „Von Luther zu Twitter“ in: Communicatio Socialis (ComSoc), Seite 542-546
- The National, Middle East, Ballet dancers pose inside PVC bubbles for pandemic art project, March 2021
- Washington Post, pic of the week, 02.03.2021
- Stuttgarter Nachrichten, Florian Mehnerts Coronaprojekt, Balletttänzer gefangen in der Blase, 01.03.2021
- ,Westfälische Nachrichten, Stuttgarter Ballett tanzt in transparenten Bällen, 01.03.2021
- Stern, ,Social Distance Stacks‘ - Fotokünstler Florian Mehnert befasst sich mit Corona, 01.03.2021
- Bangkok Post, Thailand, Artists keeping social distance in corona times, 01.03.2021
- Reuters News Agency, 01.03.2021
- Reuters, TOP FOTO OF THE DAY, 01.03.2021
- Bailarines alemanes posan en burbujas de PVC para representar la distancia social, La Tercera, South America, 02.03.2021
- Artists in a bubble - keeping social distance in corona times, Wion TV, India 01.03.2021
- Sie kraulen oder tanzen in Luftblasen: Konzeptkünstler Florian Mehnert inszeniert in seinem neuen Projekt..., Badische Zeitung, 01.03.2021
- Dancers social-distancing in PVC bubbles, China Daily, 02.03.2021
- ,Μπαλέτο μέσα σε φούσκες: Όταν ο κορονοϊός εμπνέει την τέχνη, Sputnik News, Russia, 01.03.2021
- The Guardian, UK, Best photographs of the day, 28.02.2021
- The Telegraph, UK, Pictures of the Weekend: ballet in a bubble and Purim celebrations, 28.02.2021
- BILD, Stuttgarter Ballett schlüpft in durchsichtige Bälle, 27.02.2021
- ,Social Distance Stacks‘ - Fotokünstler Florian Mehnert befasst sich mit Corona, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26.02.2021
- ,氣泡中的古典藝術家 展現疫情封鎖下的孤立個體, China, 01.03.2021
- MONOPOL-MAGAZIN, Romeo und Julia in der Coronazeit, 28.02.2021
- Florian Mehnerts Coronaprojekt, Balletttänzer gefangen in der Blase, Stuttgarter Zeitung, 26.02.2021
- Keeping a distance – artists in PVC bubbles, Euromaxx, DW.com, 01.01.2021
- Auf Abstand gehalten: Künstler in Plastikblasen, Euromaxx, Deutsche Welle TV, 01.01.2021
- Michell, Alix (2020): „Überwachung ist MachtZur Mythifizierung von Überwachung in der Gegenwartskunst.“ Narrative der Überwachung: Typen, mediale Formen und EntwicklungenEdsKilian Hauptmann, Martin Hennig und Hans KrahBerlin: Peter Lang201–223.
- Arta contemporană și distanțarea socială, Florian Mehnert propune serii de fotografii și creații inspirate de distanțarea socială, www.tabu.ro, 12.12.20
- Stuttgarter Philharmoniker in Luftblasen, Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19.11.2020
- MONOPOL-MAGAZIN, 15.11.2020
- DIE ZEIT, Kunstaktion: Musiker spielen in transparenten Bällen, 12.11.2020
- Social Distance Stacks, SWR2 Kultur Aktuell, SWR2, 29.10.2020
- Badische Zeitung, Die Augen klein, die Blicke leer, 01.10.2019
- Deutschlandfunk Corso, Kunstprojekt „Smartphone Stacks“ Der Mensch als Datenmaterial, Florian Mehnert im Corsogespräch mit Anja Buchmann, 02.08.2019
- Badische Zeitung, Warum junge Menschen in Freiburg mit Smartphones auf einem Flachdach posiert haben, 02.07.2019
- Badische Zeitung, Künstler Florian Mehnert stapelt Jugendliche mit Smartphones aufeinander, 01.07.2019
- FORBES MAGAZIN USA, How to balance tech-induced paranoia with our love for freedom of speech and the right to privacy?, 19.01.2019
- Landesmedienzentrum Baden-Württemberg, Die Industrie braucht das Smart Home mehr als wir.“ – Big Data im Rahmen der IDEepolis-Tagung 2018, 12.12.2018
- Kontext: Wochenzeitung, Geheimes zum angucken, 13.6.2018
- SWR Fernsehen, Kunscht, Florian Mehnerts Kunstprojekt Freiheit 2.0, 07.06.2018

- SWR TV und Radio, Eigene Datenspuren sichtbar machen, 04.06.2018
- SWR Radio Interview, Freiheit 2.0: Was hat Big Data mit Freiheit zu tun“, 04.06.2018
- Stuttgarter Nachrichten, Was die bunten Kreidestreifen zu bedeuten haben, 29.05.2018
- Interview zu Big Data in Der Sonntag 12.11.2017
- Deutschlandradio Kultur, 16.02.2017, Interview mit Florian Mehnert
- DIE ZEIT, Alles vergeben, alles egal?, von ProfDrBernhard Pörksen, 24NOVEMBER 2016
- Badische Zeitung, Das Internet darf beobachten - keinem sonst würde man das erlauben, 20.September 2016
- SWR Fernsehen, BIG DATA visualisiert, 18.September 2016
- Badische Zeitung, Wo individuelles Tun zur kollektiven Kunst wird, Florian Mehnert macht mit „Freiheit 2.0“ Big Data zum Erlebnis, 16.September 2016
- (als mp3 Datei) Deutschland Radio Kultur, Florian Mehnert im Corso-Gespräch, 13.September 2016
- (als mp3 Datei) Deutschland Radio Kultur, Florian Mehnert im Corso-Gespräch mit Sigrid Fischer, 13.September 2016
- Denkprozesse auslösen..Badische Zeitung, 2.Juni 2016
- SRF 2 Kultur, „Musik für einen Gast“, Sonntag, 3April 2016
- SRF 2 KULTUR, Schweiz, Live im Studio, Der Blick ins Feuilleton mit Florian Mehnert, 5Januar 2016
- Universität Erlangen, FiffKON 2015, Florian Mehnert spricht über die Waldprotokolle und das Kunstexperiment 11TAGE, 11.November, 2015
- ADCE European Creativity Festival 2015, Florian Mehnert talks about the artexperiment „11 DAYS“ at the 2nd ADCE European Creativity Festival in Barcelona, Spain, October 16, 2015
- „11 Tage“ Kunstprojekt will auf Drohnen aufmerksam machen und ruft tausende TierschützerInnen auf den Plan, 12Oktober 2015, Interview Radio RDL
- SWR Fernsehen Kulturmagazin „Kunscht“, Florian Mehnerts Kunstprojekt „Refugee Stack“, 24.September 2015
- Badische Zeitung, 21.September 2015, Florian Mehnert stapelt Flüchtlinge für Fotoprojekt
- SWR Fernsehen, Gestapelte Flüchtlinge als lebende Skulptur, 3.September 2015
- 3 Sat Kulturlandschaften, Wladimir Kaminer besucht Florian Mehnert, 24August 2015
- 3 Sat Kulturzeit, Die Kunst der Bespitzelung, 24Juni 2015
- Kulturstaatsministerin Grütters zur Eröffnung des Deutsche Welle Global Media Forums, 22Juni 2015, Bonn
- FAZ, Frankfurter Allgemeine, Handys als Kunst: Farben umkehren, 10.05.2015
- 3sat/Kulturzeit fragt ..Florian Mehnert Kulturschaffende zur Vorratsdatenspeicherung
- Rede von Kulturstaatsministerin Grütters auf der 6Berliner Stiftungswoche 21.04.2015, Berlin
- Deutschlandradio Kultur, WIE DAS KUNSTPROJEKT „11 TAGE“ FÜR FURORE SORGTE, Thomas Reintjes hat darüber mit dem Künstler gesprochen, 21.03.2015
- Badische Zeitung, Welche Botschaften das Rattenexperiment hat, 19März 2015
- Deutschlandradio Kultur, AKTION GEGEN DROHNENKRIEG, Florian Mehnert im Gespräch mit Stephan Karkowsky
- SWR2, Journal am Mittag, Der Aktionskünstler Florian Mehnert und sein Kunstexperiment, 18.3.2015
- Die Welt, KUNSTEXPERIMENT, Darf man eine Ratte per Mausclick töten?, 18/03/2015
- Der Standard, Österreich, Kunstaktion zu Drohnen und Überwachung: Internetuser dürfen Ratte töten, 14März 2015
- SWR Fernsehen, umstrittene Kunstaktion 11 Tage
- Die Welt, KULTUR, EGO-SHOOTING, Das Internet wird diese Ratte töten, 14.03.15
- The Times, UK, One mouse click and a rat dies in artist’s protest against drones
- Süddeutsche Zeitung, Umstrittenes Experiment beendet „Ich lasse doch keine Ratte abknallen“, 19März 2015
- NOS, Netherland, De Duitser en zijn rat: zou jij schieten?
- France 3, Rat visé par une arme à feu : un artiste allemand abandonne son installation, 18/03/2015
- Badische Zeitung, Mehnerts Aktion sorgt für Empörung, 17März 2015
- Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen, Ratte im Focus - das umstrittene Kunstprojekt von Florian Mehnert, Kultur Kompakt, 17.03.2015
- SPIEGEL ONLINE, Künstler Florian Mehnert lässt Publikum auf Ratte schießen - NDR.de - Kul-

- tur, Rattenexperiment gegen totale Überwachung, Florian Mehnert im Interview
- The Mirror, UK, Web users given power to kill a rat with their phones as part of an ‚art project‘
- Badische Zeitung, Differenzierung findet nicht statt“ BZ-INTERVIEW Florian Mehnert
- Deutschlandfunk Corso, Kunst-Netz-Installation „11 Tage“, Florian Mehnert im Gespräch mit Susanne Luerweg
- Süddeutsche Zeitung, Radikales Kunstexperiment als Protest gegen Drohnen - 13März 2015, Interaktive Kunst
- Kunstzeitung, November 2014, „Erfrischend radikal...“ „Privatheit war gestern, heute es geht um die Freiheit!“ , Florian Mehnert im Gespräch mit DrMatthias Kampmann
- Badische Zeitung, „Unter ständiger Beobachtung, Kunst die nachdenklich macht...“ 31.Oktober 2014
- Kunstjahr 2014, Verlag Lindinger + Schmid, DrMatthias Kampmann, „Horch und Guck sind überall, Die Medien-kunst überwacht die Überwacher“
- Rheinische Post, 05.08.2014, Dana Schülbe, Videoprojekt zeigt Szenen gehackter Smartphones
- Der Sonntag, „Die gesteuerte Welt“, 20.07.2014
- Weiler Zeitung, 3.08.2014, „Privat, das war gestern“
- SWR2 Kultur, 30.06.2014, „Dein Smartphone filmt dich“, Michael Hertle über das Projekt „Menschentracks“ des Künstlers Florian Mehnert
- arte TV, Deutschland, Frankreich, Méline Freda, ARTE Journal, Menschentracks: Ein Videoexperiment, 27.07.2014
- SWR Fernsehen, 12. Juni 2014, Die Kunst Smartphones zu hacken
- Radio eins, rbb, Berlin, live interview, 10.06.2014
- Radio SRF 2 Kultur, Schweiz, Kultur Kompakt, Sarah Herwig, 10.01.2014, Florian Mehnert: Kunstaktion gegen den Abhörskandal
- SWR-Fernsehen, Michael Hertle, Verwanzter Wald, 13. Dezember 2013
- NDR Fernsehen, Kulturjournal, Lennart Herberhold, 2. Dezember 2013, „Kunst gegen die wachsende Überwachung“
- Süddeutsche Zeitung, Wald verwanzt, 6. Dezember 2013, Wald verwanzt, Anzeige gegen NSA-Protest-Künstler
- Badische Zeitung, Künstler verwanzt den Schwarzwald und wird angezeigt 20. Dezember 2013
- Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27. Dezember 2013, Ermittlungen eingestellt, Künstler darf Wald verwanzen
- Südwestpresse, 18.12.2013, „Der Wald hat Ohren“
- Der Sonntag, 15.12.13, „Ich bin verärgert“, Florian Mehnert hängt Mikros in den Wald
- Stuttgarter Zeitung, „Ein Lauschangriff im Wald“, 14.12.13
- YLE Finnland, YLE: Kulturtimmen: Florian Mehnert om avlyssning, buggning..., Radio- Interview mit Johnny Sjöblom , 10.12.13
- Radio eins, rbb, Berlin, live interview, 13.12.13
- arte TV, Nathalie Daiber November 2013, „Der deutsche Wald wird abgehört“
- Radio einslive, WDR Köln, Plan B, November 2013
- Deutschlandfunk, CORSO, Der verwanzte Wald, Florian Mehnert im Corso-Gespräch, 18. November 2013
- N24, Interview mit Michael Rebmann, Künstler verwanzt den Wald „Sinnbild für die verborgene Bedrohung“, 15.11.2013
- DIE WELT, „Auch im Wald da sind die Wanzen“, 15. November 2013
- Rheinische Post, „Ein Wald voller Wanzen“, 14.11.2013
- Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13. November 2013, Ruth Schneeberger, Reaktion auf NSA-Skandal, Künstler verwanzt Wald

contact

+49 172 419 7314

florianmehnert.de

studio@florianmehnert.de

EXTENDED VOL. 5

FLORIAN MEHNERT

WORKS ON PAPER
PHOTOGRAPHY
INSTALLATIONS
PAINTINGS
PROJECTS