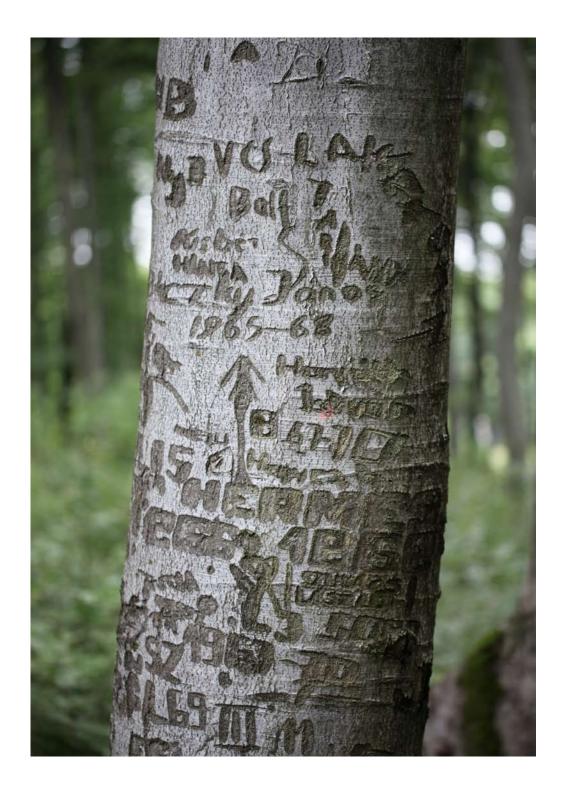




The production of events within existing social structures is vital to the artistic work of Brigitte Kovacs; in her actions, which are regularly based on intense research of societal norms, she minutely calculates the transgressions of borders and boundaries. Positioning her actions in such a way, she challenges traditional values and unfolds societal structures precisely.

Margit Neuhold, curator & editor



### **Border Walks**, 2014 – 2024

Art walks, texts, C-prints, frottages, various sizes, artist book 297 x 420 cm

Between 2014 and 2024 I conducted walks along the Austro-Hungarian border, which is just a few kilometres away from my home town but — due to the Iron Curtain — seemed like the end of the world to me as a child. My findings were manifold. I found a wood in which nearly every tree shows carvings by soldiers, which were deployed there since the end of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, documenting a century of border control. I took frottages and translated the messages, which were mainly in Hungarian. Also, I found the ruins of watchtowers thrown into the lake Neusiedl but never removed after the fall of the Iron Curtain. The exploration of the land that carries the scars of the past as a form of site-writing kept me busy for one decade. All my findings were then put together in form of texts, maps and images as an artist book.







# Ulmenstraße, 2022

Booklet, A5

Ulmenstrasse is part of the BUSSI AUS WIEN public art and publication project that declares various corners of Vienna as sights and the buses of the Wiener Linien, Vienna's public transport company, as excursion vehicles. The curators of the project, Julischka Stengele and Nora Mayr, invited me and four other artists to develop responses to five distinct bus lines. The works were then presented in form of a book series.

My bus line was the 52B going all the way up Ulmenstrasse ("Elm tree street"), where nearly each station carries the name of a plant, to the Satzberg, what literally means "the mountain of sentences".

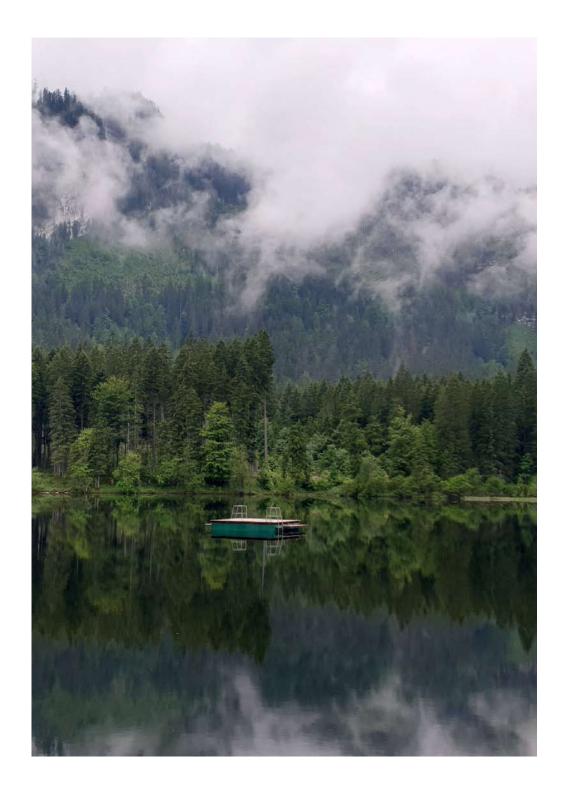
At each stop, I got off the bus and had a look at the plants that are growing there. I picked one for each station, pressed them and combined the delicate form of the flowers with a story that I had previously experienced on a bus ride.

https://bussiauswien.at/52B-Brigitte





Ich weiche zurück und bin doch wie angewurzelt.



### **Fermentobar, 2021 – 2022**

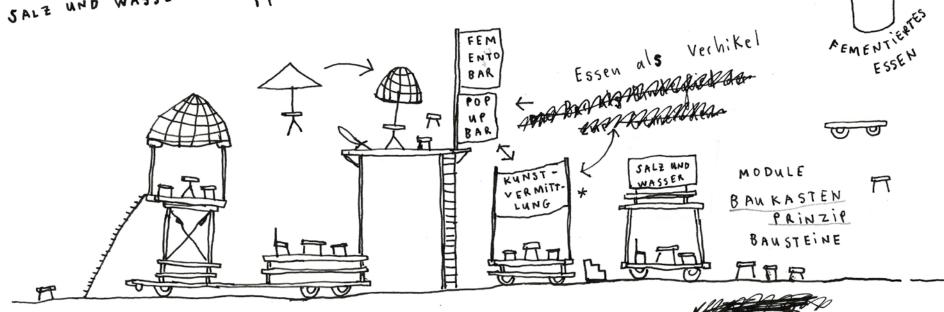
Concept for the Cultural Capital Bad Ischl 2024 Postcards, A5

Bad Ischl and the Salzkammergut region were awarded the title of "European Capital of Culture 2024". Under the motto "Culture is the new salt", the program line "Salt and Water" was announced for project submissions, with a special focus on the preservation of traditions. In response to these guidelines, Fabian Knöbl and I developed the concept of a "Fermentobar," where food and drinks pickled in salt and water, are consumed together with an art education program. The processed products were to come from the region and be produced sustainably. It was also planned to teach the technique of fermentation as a traditional craft in workshops. Furthermore, we designed the "Fermentobar" as a traveling social sculpture and pop-up structure, which was to be set up on 23 weekends in 2024 at specially selected places of scenic interest in and around the 23 participating municipalities. The aim was to connect the different locations in the region. The central trademarks of the region "salt and water", the preservation of cultural techniques, as well as the creation of a communication space for interested parties from the region as well as for guests of the Capital of Culture should take center stage. After one and a half years of planning, the project was eliminated in the final round of the competition.

ARBEITSTITEL

FEMENTO BAR

Designstudierende entwickeln eine temporare pop up BAR SALZ UND WASSER +



VERMITT LUNGS PRO GRAMM

\* Kunstpädagogik Studierende erarbeiten ein visuelles <u>Vermittlungsprogramm</u>



BRJ.

DIE BAR als Bindeglied Gemeinden.



# Urtica dioica or how to set up a movement instead of a memorial, 2021

Design of artwork commemorating women in the resistance against the Nazi regime 4 posters, A0, booklet, installation with nettle tea and seeds

The international competition focused on the design of an artwork commemorating women's resistance during the Nazi era while also doing justice to current debates on the issue of memorials. The artwork was to honor the deeds, attitudes, actions, and ideas of women in the Upper Austrian resistance during the Nazi era and recognize their relevance for present-day issues. Because active resistance has for decades been defined as or equated with armed or military action, little attention has been devoted in society to the role played by women. Furthermore, memorial culture in Austria is lacking a site dedicated exclusively to resistance on the part of women. Such a site is to be created in Upper Austria.

To do so, I focused on the stinging nettle (Urtica dioica) as a powerful symbol for resistance, willingness for combat and inner fire. It is the plant that was assigned to the god of war in Roman mythology. At the same time, the nettle was used as food and textile raw material during war times, i.e. Austrian army uniforms were almost all made from nettles during World War I and II due to a shortage of cotton. The painful work of collecting and spinning nettles was mainly done by women.

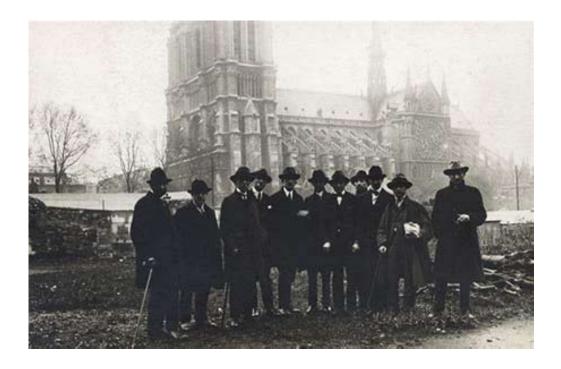
To remember women in resistance in Upper Austria, one of the main squares in Linz, the OK-Platz, where the garden of the first boarding school for girls in Upper Austria used to be, the Ursulinenhof, was to be turned into a 1000m2 big nettle field. In the middle of the field, at the back of the existing chapel, a quote by Berthold Brecht was to be attached in illuminated letters saying: Wenn Unrecht zu Recht wird, wird Widerstand zur Pflicht (When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty.). Inside the chapel, the names of all women in resistance in Upper Austria were to be installed in neon writing. Instead of putting up another memorial against war and facism, I wanted to introduce a yearly autumn school at the Ursulinenhof that should focus on the topic of resistance today.













### Dadawalk, 2021 - 2022

Art walk and artist book with envelope and dried flowers, A5, stickers, streetsigns

In their manifesto "Excursions et Visites", which was codesigned by Hans Arp, the French Dada movement announced a series of urban explorations of banal Parisian sites during the first half of the twentieth century. The first — and, contrary to the original plan, also the only — excursion to the Church of Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre took place on April 14, 1921. It became one of the most significant urban interventions in Dadaism and the basis for a series of deambulations and dérives, which were carried out by other artist groups, such as the Situationists, in the following decades. The year 2021 marks the centennial of this early Dada action, which laid the foundation for walking both as a method of urban exploration as well as a means for producing art. In recognition of this anniversary, Fabian Knöbl and I undertook a transnational artistic research trip on foot, that led us from the Church of Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre in Paris, France to the Arp Museum in Remagen, Germany. The journey, which took several weeks, was intended to update walking as a means of artistic production and the exploration of space in times of climate change and increasing destruction of nature.

At the same time, the narrowing of the gap between art and life called for by the Dadaists was put into practice.

Designed signposts were set up along the route, marking the chosen (pilgrimage) path and pointing in the directions of both Paris and Remagen. The ends of each signpost were marked with a "DA" (the German word for "there," in its sense as "to that place"). At the beginning and at the end of the journey, a commemorative plaque was installed in the immediate surroundings of the Church of Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre in Paris as well as in front of the Museum in Remagen, in recognition of this earlier Dada action.

After the trip an artist book was produced that is a travel guide, documentation of the walk and notebook all in one.

https://stiftungarp.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/STA\_ Stipendiatenzeitschrift\_210x275\_RZ\_digital\_Doppelseiten.pdf

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saAikFj9TQ4

Insta: dadawalk21













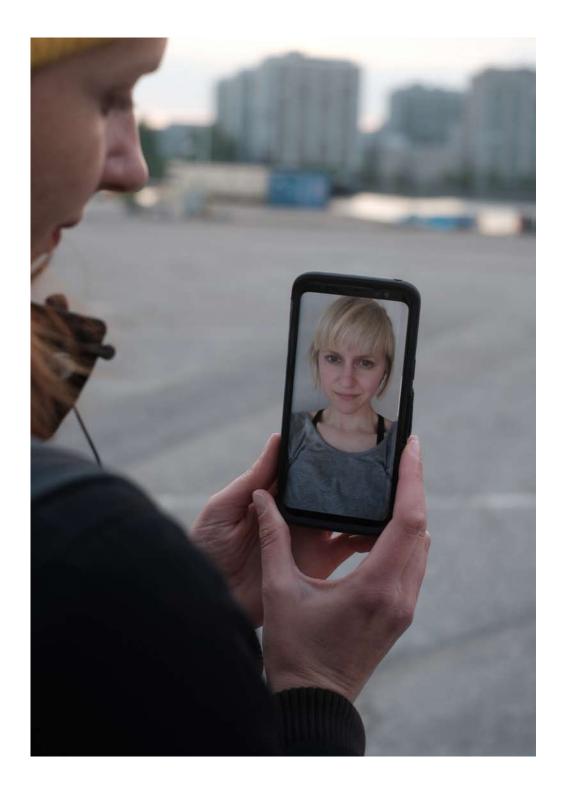












### Walking Encounters, 2019

Dérive, photographic documentation of the individual walks, soundscapes

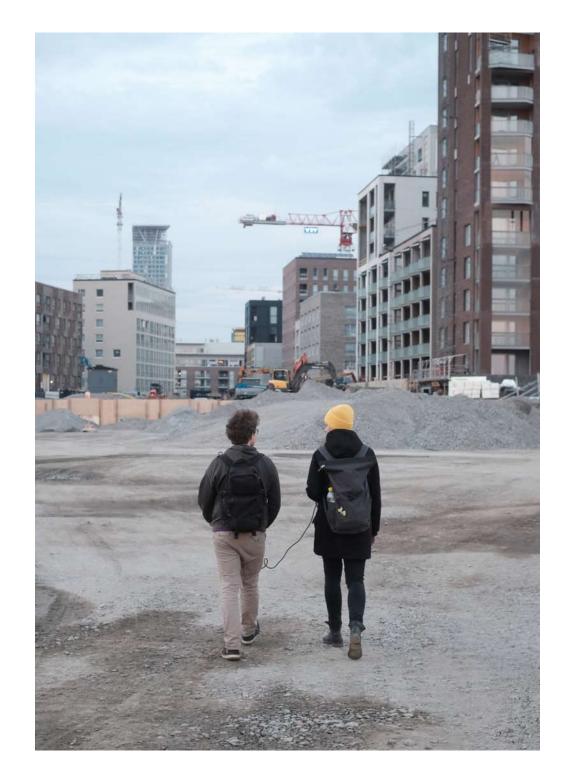
The Pixelache festival 2019 was entitled "Breaking the Fifth Wall" and focused on inclusiveness before specialisation, difference before identity and play before culture. The festival was concerned with creating and simultaneously exploring alternative pathways, tangible interactions beyond the anaesthetised interfaces which slowly envelope social interactions.

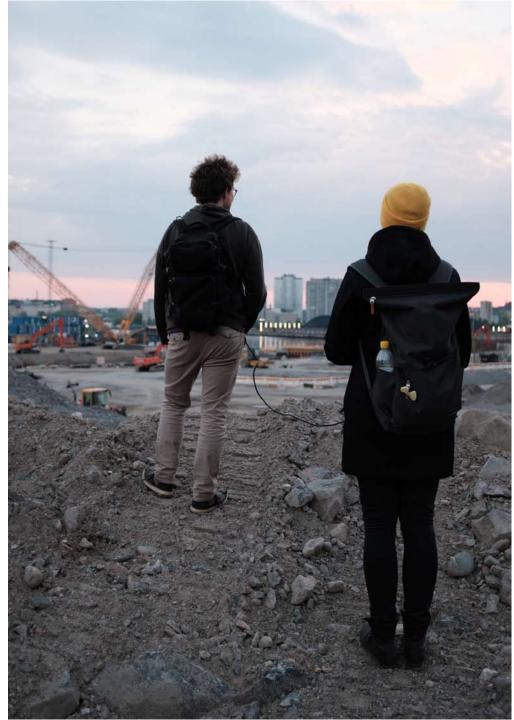
In this context, I was invited to conceptualise and conduct participatory art walks which would draw audience members away from the usual cultural spaces. In our walks, the participants and I explored the culturally diverse neighbourhoods of Kontula in East Helsinki, the former industrial spaces in Sompasaari Sumparn and the community gardens in Herttoniemi during the "golden hour" of three consecutive evenings so as to experience the emotional effects the immediate, non-digital environment may have on individuals. Moreover, the walks were meant to establish a new awareness for the traversed urban landscape outside the city centre.

https://breaking5thwall.pixelache.ac/events/walking-encounters

https://breaking5thwall.pixelache.ac/festivals/breaking5thwall/brigitte-kovacs

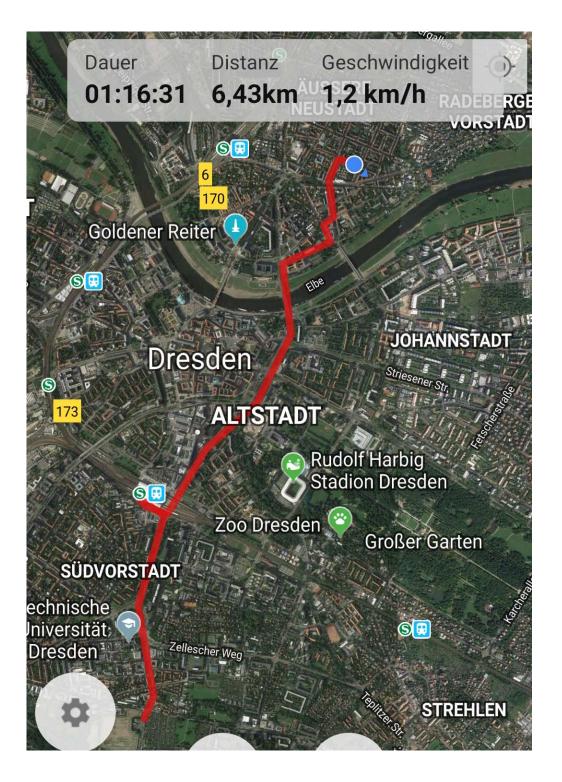
https://breaking5thwall.pixelache.ac/posts/conversation-with-brigitte-kovacs







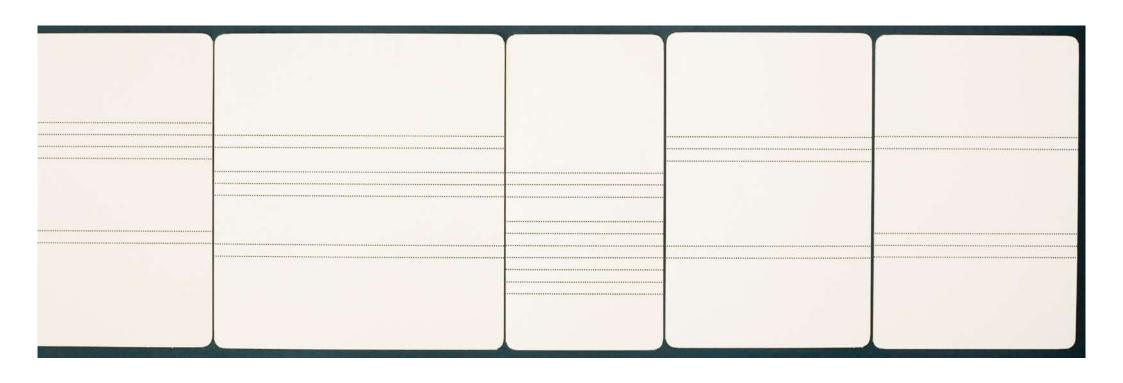




## **Motion Recordings, 2019**

Perforation on letterpress paper, 26 x 560 cm

In reference to time stamp clocks, I digitally recorded all my movements during a five-week residency in Dresden and later transferred the information in form of perforations to letterpress paper. Each card represents one day. While the level of the perforation tells the time, the width shows the distance covered on this day. All cards are presented next to each other as one nearly six meters long frieze.





# ÜberGänge, 2018

Artist book and catalogue of an immaterial exhibition, 21,3 x 27,8 cm

I investigated the main research question of my PhD trajectory which concerns the relation between an art walk and the referential artefact in an exhibition context not only on a theoretical and 'embodied' level but also on a material one: my thesis was conceptualised as a catalogue to an 'immaterial' exhibition, which is to say, an exhibition that never actually took place. Thus, I operated on a meta level, applying the same transformative processes which can be observed in the 'exhibits' to generate a catalogue as a manifestation of visual knowledge production.



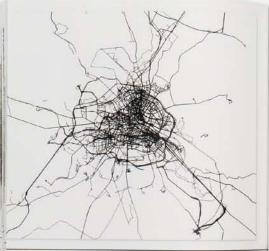












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The publication *ÜberGänge* was presented in various performative settings relating to the theme of walking at different institutions such as the Forum Stadtpark in Graz or the Sussudio and the Depot in Vienna and their immediate surroundings.

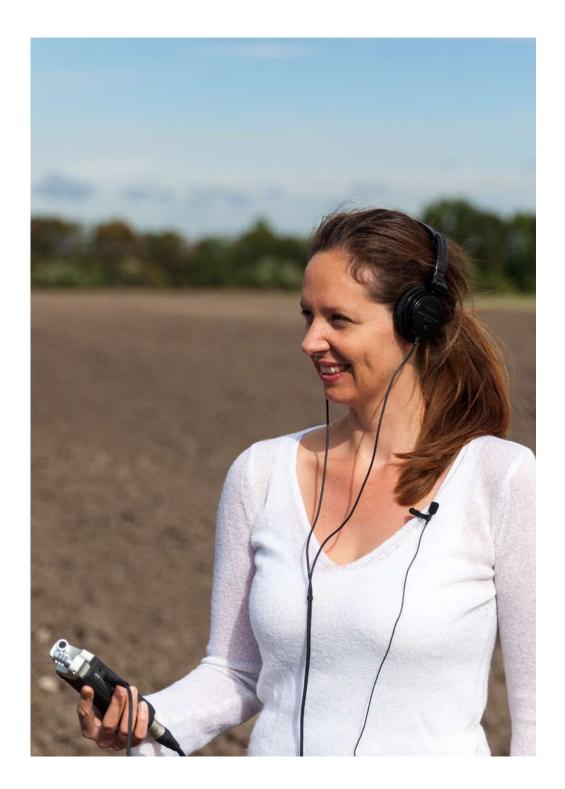




# **Artistic Approaches, 2014 – 2018**

Artistic research including embodiments, experiments, re-actions C-Prints, objects, various sizes

In the framework of my PhD research, I developed a new art reception method that allowed me to experience a work of art with all my senses in an active way and that I also employ in my teaching. By re-embodying seminal art pieces like Richard Long's A Line Made by Walking (1967) my body functioned as an investigative tool to create new knowledge about the addressed artworks.



### Fieldwalks, 2014 – 2018

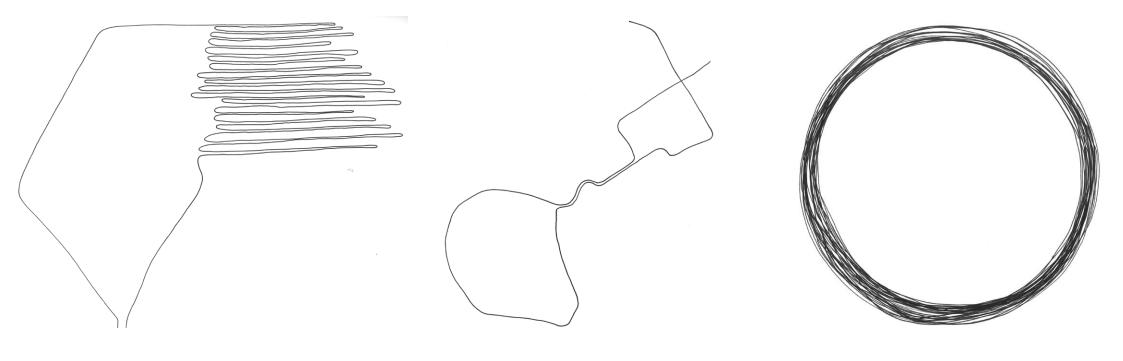
Artistic research including sound recordings, one-line-drawings, numbers of steps, transcriptions of conversations

I examined as well as contributed to the expanding field of walking art through the implementation of fieldwalks. 'Field' is understood here in the multiple sense of a piece of land, a sphere of interest and an area of practical activities outside a laboratory or studio. By performing walking interviews with artists, whose activities are concerned with different aspects of walking, various standpoints were linked and a dynamic network created.

The encounters with the field — in the sense of 'players' on a playground — in the process of conducting walking interviews were on the one hand transcribed directly into the landscape by walking, and on the other hand captured in the form of field recordings, numbers of steps, drawings and transcriptions of the conversations in more enduring media.

Recorded walking interviews enable listeners to experience the individual situations as well as the traversed surroundings. One-line-drawings, depicting the path walked during the interview, serve as visual symbols for each encounter.

https://www.p-art-icipate.net/feldgange/?pdf=5460





### Schrittfolgen & Schriftbilder, 2016

Radioplay and booklet with digital prints, performative reading, installation at the House of Literature in Mattersburg

The radioplay *Schrittfolgen* depicts a correspondence between an old woman and her granddaughter. In her letters, the young woman takes her grandmother on a trip to unknown cities. As the imaginary journey unfolds, it becomes more and more absurd.

Schrittfolgen was awarded with the Textfunken literature prize in 2016 and was recorded and broadcast by the Austrian National Radio Ö1 in 2017.

The radioplay is accompanyed by a booklet showing images of overlapping handwritings called "Schriftbilder". These deal with the fact that thanks to computerized text production there is a an exorbitance of available written content. At the same time a loss of the individual, abstract structure of handwriting can be observed.

Based on a 16 months long correspondence between my grandmother and myself, the series focus on the visual quality of scripture. Although the letters represent a valuable archive of memories for me, the work is not about the content of our conversation but about two different systems. By digitising the handwritten texts and treating them like a digital code by overlapping the texts of different letters until they are unreadable, I create visual patterns. Although the form of a letter is still evident, the content stays in the dark and the letter needs to be viewed like a picture.

https://soundcloud.com/user-571160422/schrittfolgen/s-Oi7DB



# **Shore to Shore Walk, 2015**

Performance, inkjetprint on vat paper, 110 x 300 cm, artist book, 16 x 31 cm, video, slide-show

Lake Neusiedl is Europe's biggest steppe lake with a size of 315 km², a length of 36 km and a width of 6 to 12 km from east to west. The average depth in the year 2015 was 1 m and the maximum depth 180 cm. In an 8-hour performance, I walked from the east shore to the west shore through the entire lake, passing ferry boats and fishermen on my way in order to measure a natural border with my own body and thereby experience my own physical limitations.



























# Stories in Paper, 2014

Artist book, 11 x 15 cm, based on works developed during a course taught at the Institut for Contemporary Art at TU Graz, exhibition at Fedrigoni Vienna

In a seminar, which I taught at the Institute for Contemporary Art at Graz University of Technology, the task was to develop artworks in paper, which would tell a specific story. Later on, I documented each work photographically and created together with the designer, Claudia Genger, an artist book consisting of the individual projects.







# On Air: Voices of the City, 2013

24 hours live radio session at GrazMuseum Course at the Institute for Contemporary Art at TU Graz

In collaboration with the local radio station Radio Helsinki, I conceptualised a 24-hours live radio program that dealt with the city and its inhabitants. The students were invited to contribute to the program with individual projects. Among other things, there was an interactive radio play and sound walk, a live performance, a concert and an exhibition with found objects located at the GrazMuseum, that invited the listeners to tune in and pass by.

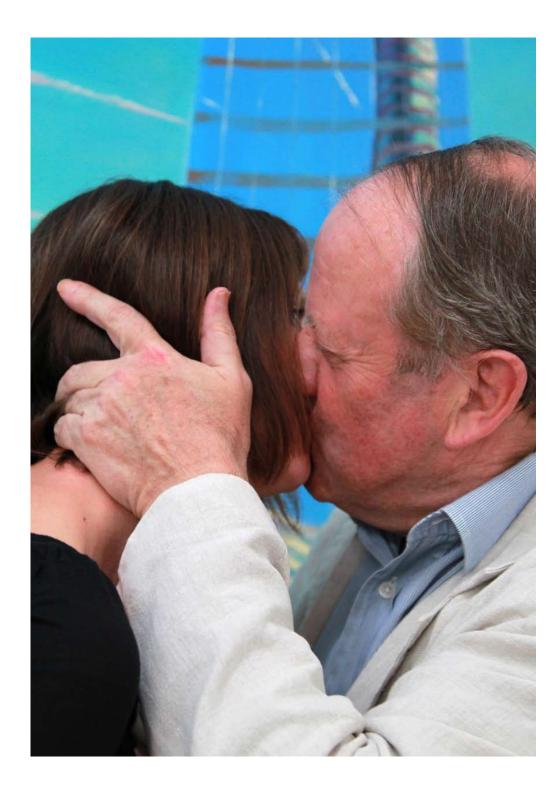


### **Gehversuche**, 2012 – 2013

Course taught at the Institute for Contemporary Art at TU Graz, exhibition at the GrazMuseum and dérive

In 2013 Christina Töpfer and I curated a show called *Gehversuche*. Überlegungen zur Stadtwahrnehmung beim Gehen (Reflections on how to perceive a city while walking) at the GrazMuseum, which featured several works developed in the course "City Walks" that I taught the year before at the Institute for Contemporary Art at TU Graz and that explored the psychogeographic dimension of the city. In addition to the exhibition, we implemented a Sunset Walk as part of the programme accompanying the exhibition. Starting at the GrazMuseum, we walked with a diverse group of participants through the entire city in the direction of the setting sun. Thus, we crossed unknown areas of the city as well as private gardens and houses. During our collaborative walk, we encouraged the participants to exchange information as well as personal memories and associations related to the traversed areas to open up a communicative space that should enable knowledge transfer. After three hours of walking and talking, the walk ended in complete darkness in the suburbs of Graz.



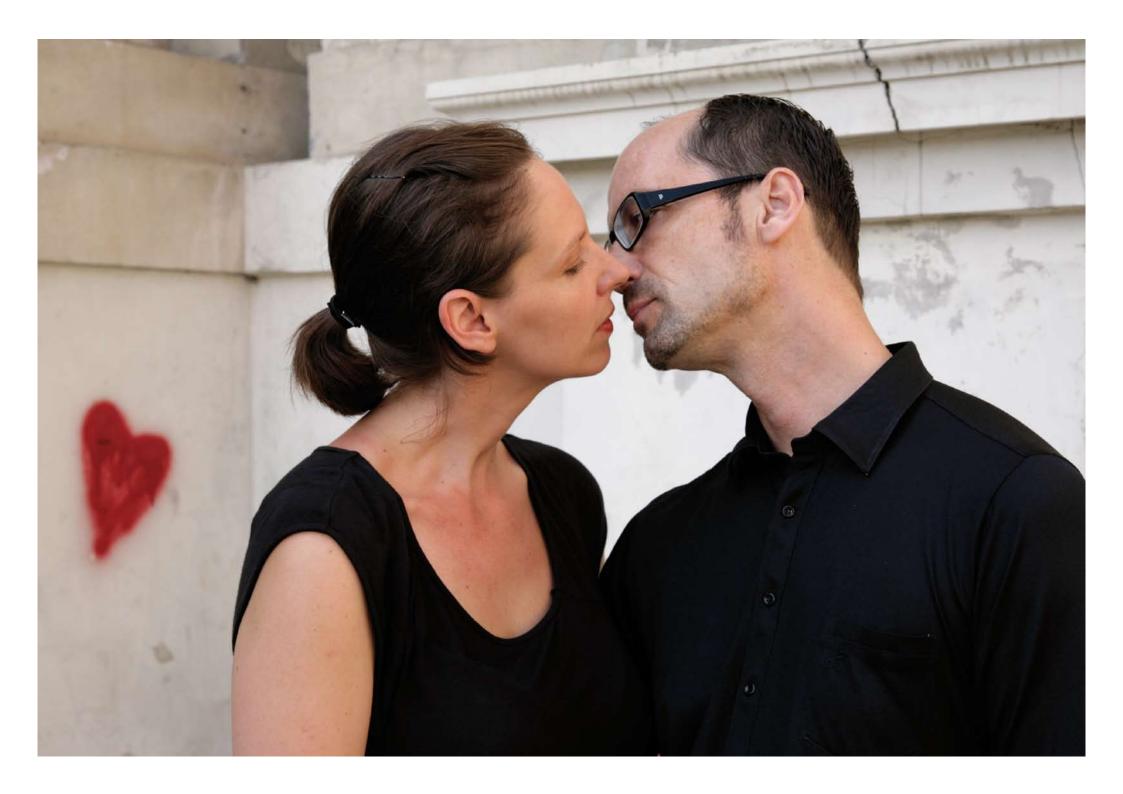


#### Finding the Muse, 2011

Margit Neuhold

Performance and nine Inkjetprints on vat paper, 150 x 23 cm each

In her work, Finding the Muse, Brigitte Kovacs investigates the re-evaluation of the figure of the muse. Far from nowadays' reality, a traditional understanding serves as the piece's starting point: As legend has it, the artist's inspiration comes with a kiss of the muse. The central idea of this project underlines the current conditions for artistic production, which are on the one hand marked by precarious working conditions and on the other demand entrepreneurial skills from artists. Thus, the symbolically charged public image of the passive artist waiting to be inspired by a muse's kiss is far from an artist's everyday reality. In times of cognitive capitalism - to be understood as a knowledge-based structure in which knowledge is more and more commodified - current working conditions demand that the separation between work and life become obsolete. (...) Overriding this cliché, the artist chose nine agents representing the art scene's different sectors: a gallery owner, a cultural politician, a collector, a director of a museum, a head of an art university, a deputy of a head of division, a curator, an art critic and the head of a society for contemporary art. Significantly, the agents' working places served as settings for the kisses. The dramaturgy of each photographic sequence documents the intimate moment of being kissed. An instant which is clearly attributed with an additional meaning: inspiration is no longer 'inhaled' by the artist. The kisses received by Brigitte Kovacs' agents much rather form a poetical visualisation of an exemplary network which are a prerequisite to survive within our contemporary art world. Departing from institutional critique, processes of the accumulation of values and power relations are put forward to discussion.







#### **Birds of Passage, 2010 – 2012**

Digital prints, various sizes

For four weeks, I followed a flock of swallows through the Kazakh steppe in order to take photographs of their flight patterns. The following two years, I did the same back in Europe.

Later on, the photographs became the basis for the creation of large-scale-collages. I cut out each bird's silhouette and mounted them together in new formations on a white background to make a national allocation impossible and to create new sky formations that were presented in form of wall-friezes.

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# **Everything Is Within Walking Distance,** seit 2009

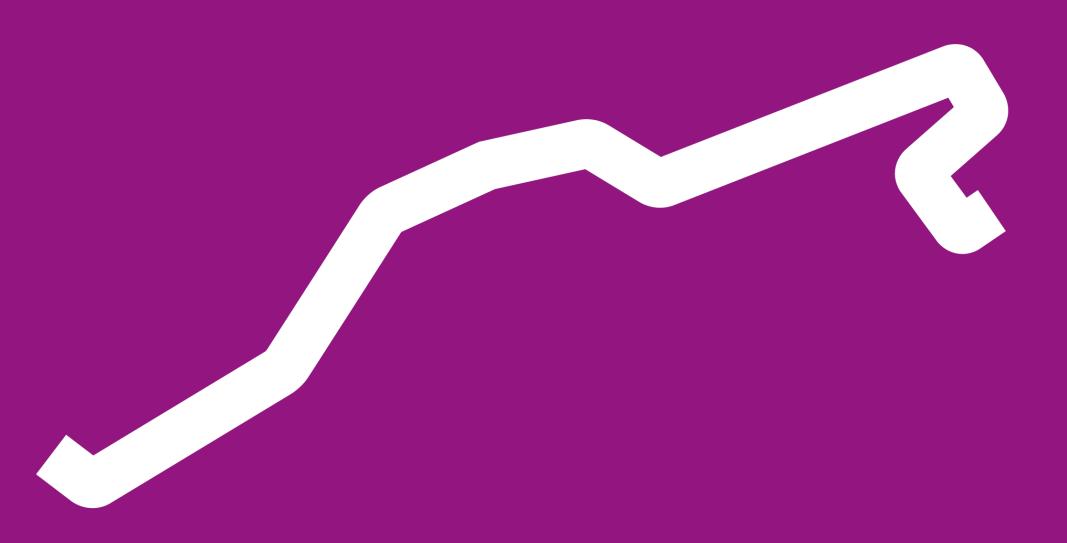
Permanent installation in public space including 28 streetsigns, posters, postcards

Julia Grandegger and I created a permanent installation in the city of Mattersburg to make residents more aware of the location as well as the interesting activities of the House of Literature there. We took quotations from poems by six different writers from Austria and the neighbouring countries that deal with the topic of walking to design twenty-eight violet direction signs, each one showing parts of one poem in original language (Hungarian, Croatian, English and German). These road signs were later installed within the city and the rural surroundings. By following them, one could read the whole poem and reach the House of Literature, where the book from which the quotation was taken from can be borrowed.

WOHIN DU GEHST, KANNST DU NICHT SEHEN. **ABER DIE SOHLEN SPÜREN DIE BEKANNTEN WEGE, [...]** DIE FREMDEN ABER SIND VERHÜLLT **UND ZEIGEN SICH DIR NUR** FÜR EINEN SCHRITT. DA DARFST DU DIR FÜR DIESEN SCHRITT ALLES ERTRÄUMEN. [...] UND DU DARFST DENKEN, ALLES SEI NOCH MEHR, Hertha Kräftner ALS DU ES TRAUMEN KANNST. DE LUDWIG 291 Schritte









# EVERYTHING IS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE IF YOU HAVE THE TIME. 417 Schrifts

Stephen Wright



## PROJTI JEDNOGA DANA PRIK SVITA I DALJE

**Ana Schoretits** 

910 Schritte



#### Horizon, 2007

Installation with adhesive foil and text on glass

I integrated into my work at the Kunsthalle Vienna the exhibition hall's transparent glass display, which provides not only a view in, but also a view out. A narrow viewing slit mounted at 170 cm – my personal eye level – neutralises the boundary between inside and outside in favour of the search of an individual horizon.







#### **Exit, 2006**

Performance and Installation 5 Polysterol-sculptures, 210 x 150 cm

Following the invitation to take part in the International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations "Open" in Venice, the floating city, became the conceptual basis for the project. The sculpture was stripped of its stability and moved into the water. Based on individual body outlines, I developed together with the architect Thomas Scherzer floating bodies made of polystyrene, which were both sculpture and usable raft and lay on the water like ice floes.

















#### Getting Ready for the Real World, 2006

Performance, videos, posters, web-page, installation at the Museum of Applied Arts Vienna

What is art? Who is an artist? And who decides about it?

To find answers to those questions, I developed an "ideal" artist based on the responses of gallery-owners and curators when being asked what they expect from upcoming artists. This fictional character was later introduced to the public through a media campaign including posters, flyers, video clips for TV and subway-screens, a web-page and visits on TV-shows. By doing so, I invited the public to vote if this is art or not and as a conclusion if I should get my master degree in fine arts or not.





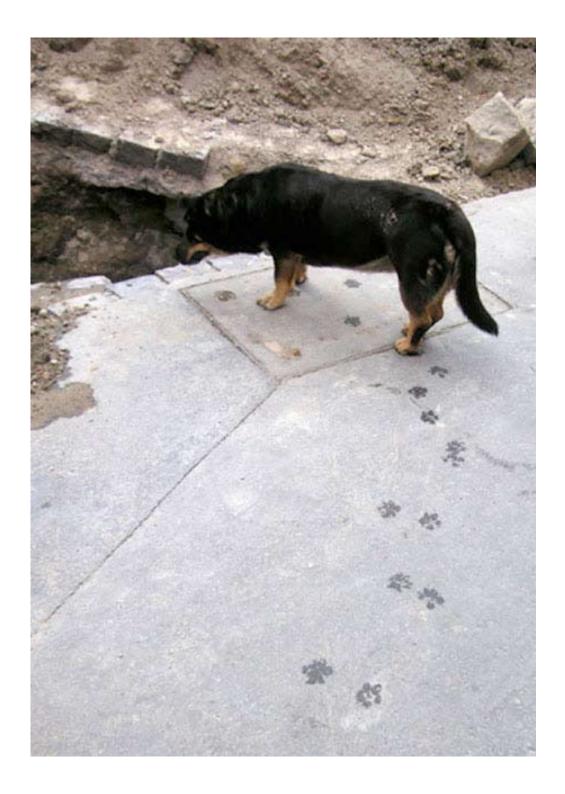








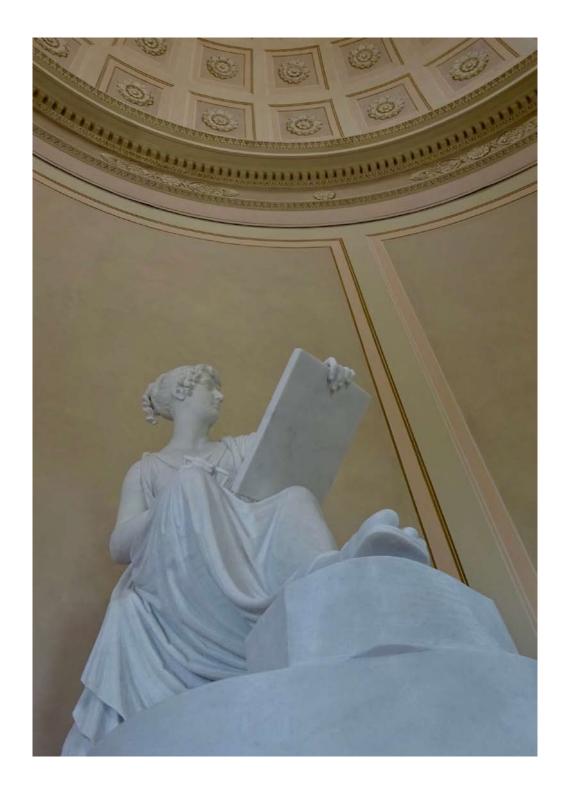




#### City Guide to Budapest, 2005

Art walks and artist book, 12 x 16 cm

During a residency in Budapest, I asked different dog owners, if they would allow me to walk their dogs without a leash. By following the dogs wherever they led me, I experienced parts of the city, I would not have otherwise seen. Photographs taken during these expeditions presented the bases of my afterwards developed City Guide to Budapest.



#### Freedom for Leopoldine E., 2005

Intervention in public space, screen-printed posters, billboards, buttons, postcards, performance lecture

This project was done in cooperation with Julia Grandegger for the X-Art Festival in Eisenstadt. In order to discuss the changing role of women in art, we focused on the only female statue placed in public space in Eisenstadt. This marble statue by Antonio Canova shows Princess Leopoldine Esterhazy as muse and is locked away in a temple in the park. On hundreds of hand printed posters, post-cards, buttons etc, which we placed all over the city, we demanded "Freedom for Leopoldine E.", without at first saying who was actually meant by this. With the help of the press, rumours were spread about the identity of Leopoldine E. and a growing interest in the topic could be observed. At the end of our intervention, we held a performance lecture about the changing role of women in art from muse to artist at the Landesgalerie Burgenland and initiated a petition to introduce opening hours for the temple to be able to visit the statue.













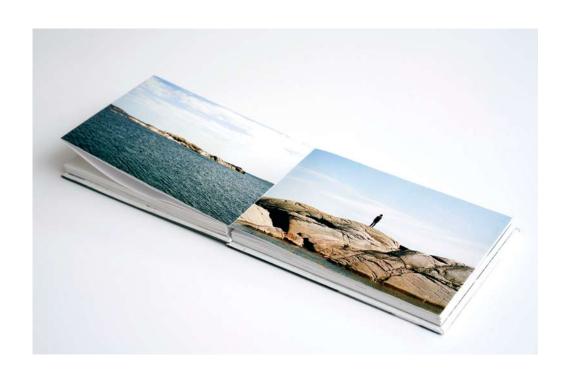


#### **As Far as You Can Get, 2003 – 2004**

Performance, artist book and b/w photograph, 50 x 60 cm

The aim of this project was to travel as far as possible into the open sea. My starting point was Stockholm. After three days of travelling on ferries, freighters and taxiboats, finally a rowing-boat brought me to a rock on which I stayed for one day and one night. I didn't take anything with me except two sticks, a short one against attacks of the gulls and a long one to defend myself against the snakes. Photographs taken on this trip into the Baltic sea present the basis of the afterwards developed leporello.



























#### Auction, 2003

Art auction, catalogue, screen printed posters and bags, photographs and video

After living in Stockholm for one year, I asked a professional auctioneer to sell everything I had with and on me, art works and intimate items alike, in a well-known art gallery in the city center of Stockholm.

245 objects, all my property, on me and around me, can be looked at, touched and bought as desired during the period of the auction. Take a part of me home!

Text in the accompanying catalogue, p1



#### Rent an Austrian, 2003

Performance, polaroid photographs and text, 33 x 27 cm, character cards, A6

With the help of question forms, I ascertained conceptions and expectations about myself, the Austrian, to develop seven characters from the results: 4 male and 3 female figures brought to life at the Performance Festival Navinki in Minsk. Thus, I became an object of art myself, reservable for an hour.

By means of realistically drawing attention to nationalist clichés and placing them in an ironic way, participants were made aware of the malfunction of these stereotypes. There was a joint farewell photo at the end of each meeting to allow the mental image to become a physical one.











IV.Treffen: 6.9.2003, 14.30, Stadtpark Sie ist stolz auf ihren Begleiter und ich bin ihr Österreicher. Einladung zu einer Fahrt mit dem Riesenrad. Aussicht über die ganze Stadt. Sie will mich nicht gehen lassen.



V.Treffen: 6.9.2003, 16.00, Jakub Kolas Statue Ein Österreicher und drei Mädchen. Zwei in meinen Armen, eine vor mir. Unüberwindbare Sprachbarrieren. Gösser für sie, russisches Bier für mich. Vodka für alle.



VII.Treffen: 6.9.2003, 21.00, Nightclub und Gallerie
Ein Pärchen mietet Maria.
Es ist ihnen unangenehm sich mit Maria in der Öffentlichkeit zu zeigen,
zu unangenehm, um sich mit ihr fotografieren zu lassen.
Schneller Abschied.





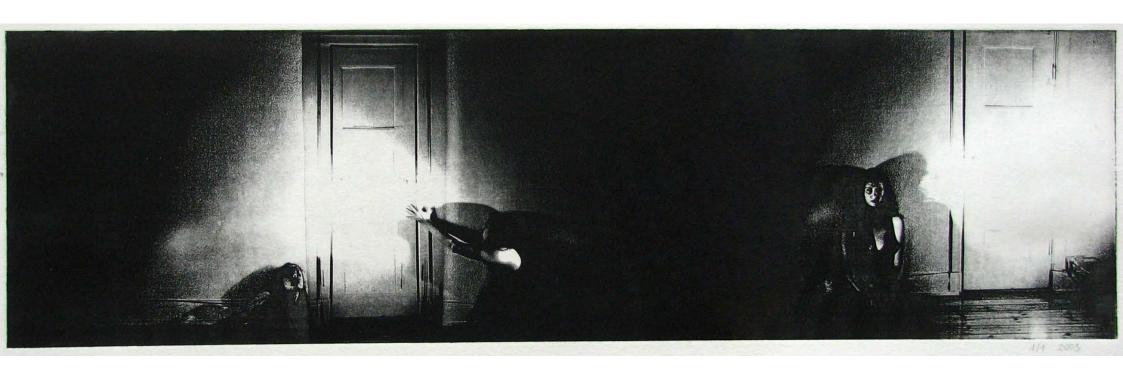
II.Treffen: 6.9.2003, 10.30, Museum des 2. Weltkriegs Er kommt nicht.



### **Hold Your Breath, 2002 – 2003**

Performance, photopolymer prints, various sizes

Photographic documentations of various performances without audience become the basis for large-scale photopolymer prints in black and white.





#### Snow White, 2001

Installation, performance and video

Under the only staircase leading into the exhibition hall at Semperdepot in Vienna, I put up a kind of coffin made of glass. During the opening night I was lying in this coffin for eight hours. Illuminated by a florescent lamp, the coffin symbolized a visible "threshold" between everyday life and "culture of art shows". While the visitors had to take a conscious step over the fragile glass top above me to enter the exhibition, I filmed them from underneath. This film was shown as a live transmission on a monitor at the end of the steps so that the visitors could watch themselves while being watched. At the same time, anyone entering or leaving the area was registered on film, which thereby became a counting machine addressing the commercial aspect of art shows.



#### Ragazza con lana rossa, 2001

Performance and video

During a residency in the south of Italy, the town of Paliano seemed like a labyrinth to me. 1000 km away from home, I bought 1000 meters of red wool, reeled it all into one big ball and started to walk through the entire city with it, attaching my red thread on doors, cars, benches etc. on my way. By doing so, I closed off streets and private entrances and shaped the walking routes of the passersby, inventing a distinct choreography of how to move through the old town. There were about ten metres of wool left, when the police finally stopped my performance.















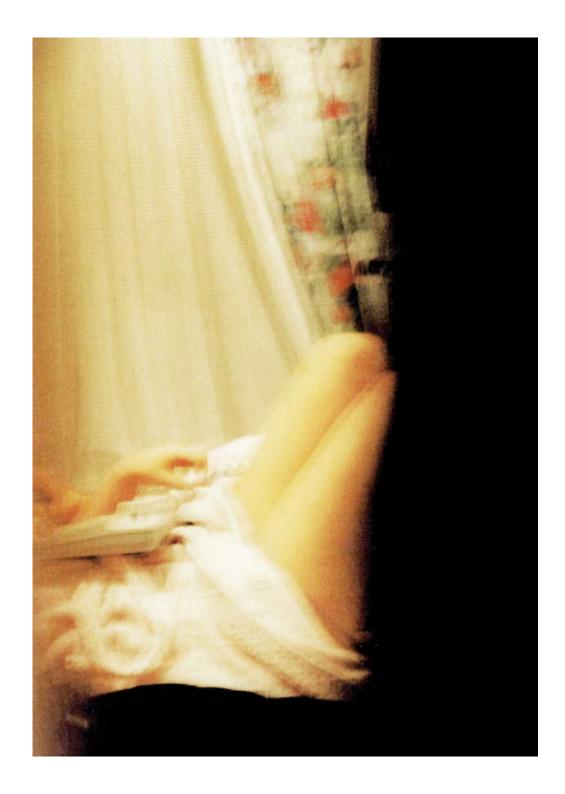












#### 13 Nächte, 2000 - 2001

Performance and artist book, 50 x 40 cm

13 nights in other people's beds. In beds of acquaintances and complete strangers. For one month, I kept on asking who would allow me to sleep in his/her bed for one night. On my journey through different bedrooms all over Austria, I gained insight into various people's living conditions and the way they treat an unexpected overnight guest. The resulting photographs and texts became the basis for an afterwards developed artist book.



