

Esther Ernst

Drawing is my destination in life. The paper is my stage. A place where I can let everything appear and disappear. I can invent, deepen, revise and analyze. For this reason, I use different drawing styles simultaneously, because the brief sketch or the scribble speaks a different language than the precise, analytical drawing. This simultaneity of visual languages most closely represents my perception of the world.

Most of all, I like to study the world. Living, drawing, and noting continuously fuel each other. I need writing and drawing to understand what is happening around me in response to the world and myself.

When I travel, I draw landscapes and cities, I am interested in cartography, and I read in situ about necessities, dreams, misplanning, and other stories of people, plants, and animals.

I am fascinated by coherent thoughts, speculations and unusual feelings. The invisible inner life. I can draw everything. On walls or in small-scale diaries or on large, foldable sheets.

Born 1977 in Bale, living in Berlin and Solothurn.
I studied at the Art Schools in Zurich, Bale, Hamburg
and at the University of the Arts in Berlin, did plenty of
solo and group shows, received several international
scholarships, realised two art-on-architecture projects
and I am represented in various art collections.





exhibition view, **passato presente**, Helmhaus Zürich , 2025

Berlin Umrundungen, 2021 - 2025, 220 x 300 cm, pencil, colored pencil, ink, wax pastel, on folded paper on linen

Photo: Zoe Tempest







Kanal, Bahn, Güterbahn
Karlshagen, Schöneberg, Wilmersdorf

St. Nikolaus
Kirchenhof

Wasserwerk

Rosenkammer Siedlung, 1908
Jahresstadt 1911, 1912
Siedlungsprojekte

Friedrich
Büchse

Beschreibung
Feldzeit
Verordnung
Jungwälder Landeskulturbau

Sachsen-Pareter Kanal

ehemaliger
Truppenübungsplatz

Döbriter Heide

NSH strengster Ge-
• zur Erhaltung, Ent-
räumen und Gemein-
und Pflanzen
• aus wissenschaftlich
kennlichen Gründen
• wegen Seltenheit (H)

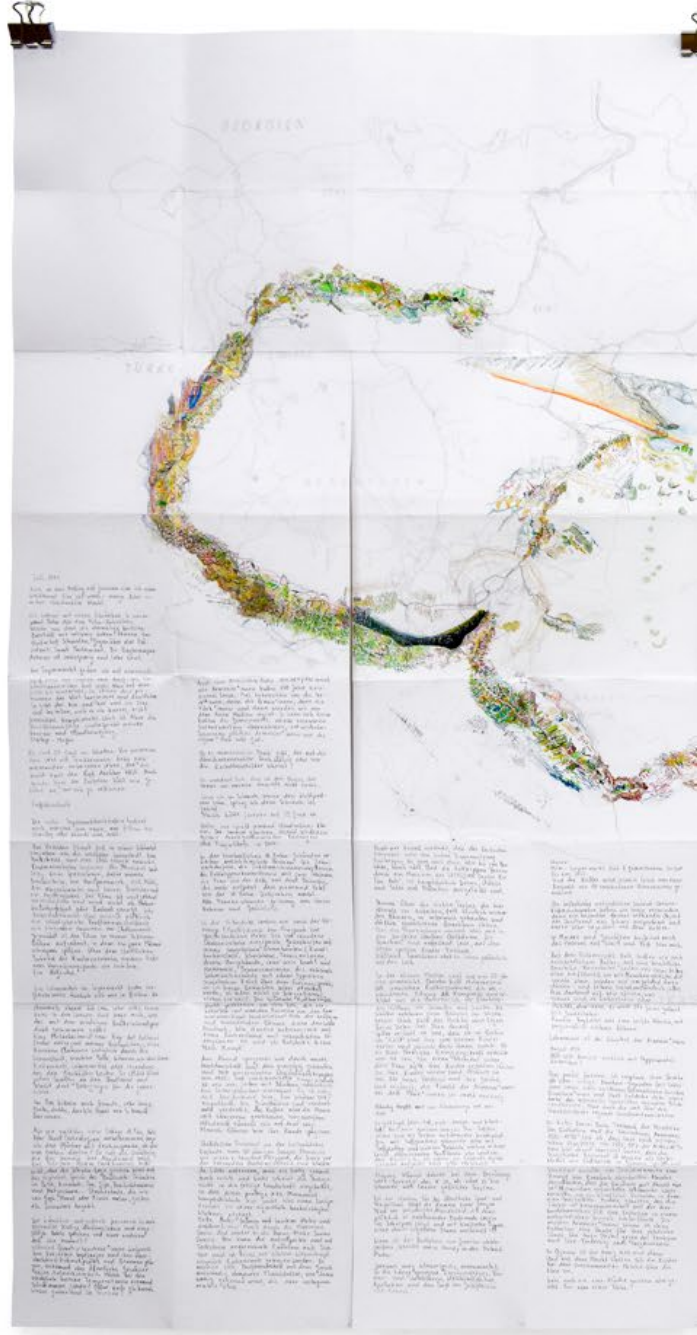
Königswald



exhibition view, **passato presente**, Helmhaus Zürich , 2025

Tuffsteinstadt (Jerewan, Reisenotizen, Grossraum Jerewan), 2024, three parts, each 109,5 x 109,5 cm, pencil, crayon, watercolor, wax pastel on folded paper, 3 cartographic drawings of the young, Soviet-planned city (Yerevan), built of volcanic stone in a country with a long and complex and painful history (Armenia).

Photo: Zoe Tempest



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exhibition view, **Ausfliegen. Und zwar zu Fuss.** Kunstverein Neckar-Odenwald, 2025
Grande Büfe (Istanbul) 2023, 98 x 768 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, wax pastel on paper
Orientierungsläufe Olevano, 2020, 125,5 x 176 cm, pencil, crayon, watercolor on folded paper



exhibition view, **Ausfliegen. Und zwar zu Fuss.** Kunstverein Neckar-Odenwald, 2025

3 videos on 2 screens, 50 inch, headphones, **short attraction III**, 2020 - 2024, video, 16:9, sound, 25:00,

short attraction II, 2015 - 2020, video, 16:9, sound, 23:34, **short attraction**, 2010 - 2015, video, 16:9, sound, 20:23



exhibition view, **Verzeichnungen**, Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf, 2024

mural, 2,8 x 41 meters, wall paint

d'obe luftet's (Mürren), 2022, 97,7 x 149,6 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, wax pastel on folded paper

Frankfurter Flanierkarte, 2022, 159,5 x 168,5 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, wax pastel on folded paper

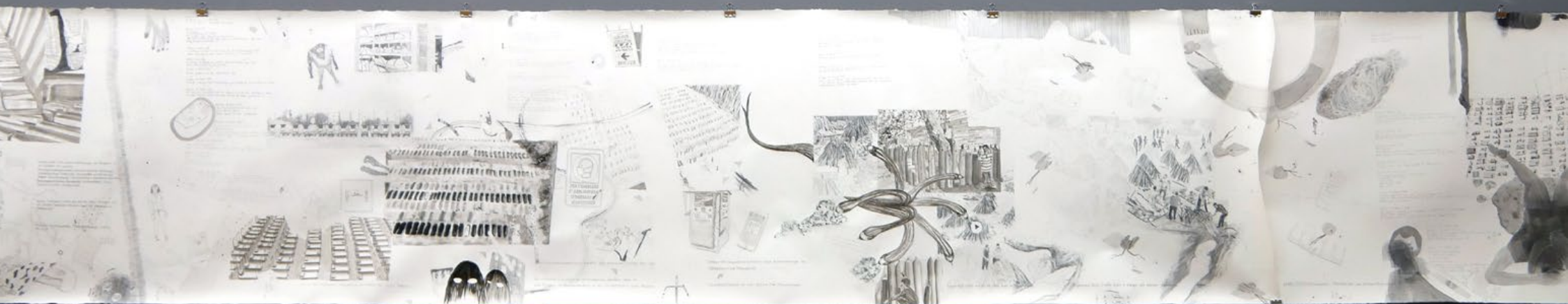


exhibition view, **Verzeichnungen**, Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf, 2024

mural, 2,8 x 41 meters, wall paint, **Corona Nachbilder**, 2022 / 2023, 90 x 1662 cm, pencil, ink, charcoal on paper,

Drawing about the the pandemic from December 2019 - May 2023 while using media images, facts from the WHO, scientific studies, measures taken by various governments, everyday perceptions and excerpts from my drawn diary.

Photos: Florian Spring





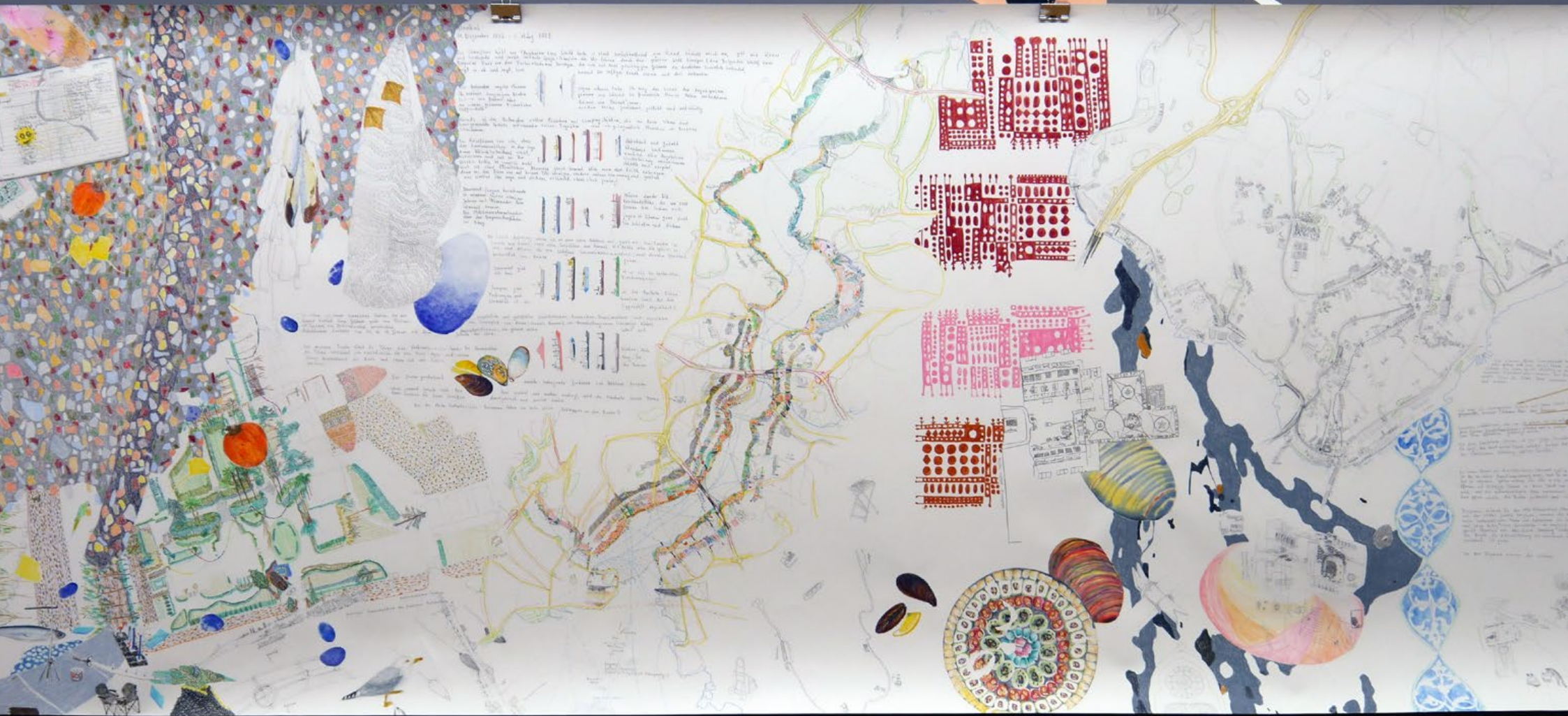


exhibition view, **Verzeichnungen**, Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf, 2024

mural, 2,8 x 41 meters, wall paint, **Grande Büfe (Istanbul)** 2023, 98 x 768 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, wax pastel on paper

Cartographic drawing on the sprawling city of Istanbul, which I explored by foot while terror alerts, raging storms and finally the devastating earthquakes shocked Turkey.

Photos: Florian Spring





exhibition view, **Sommerfestival**, Kulturakademie Tarabya, Istanbul, 2023

Grande Büfe (Istanbul) 2023, 98 x 768 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, wax pastel on paper, table display case, 109 x 779 x 80 cm

Cartographic drawing on the sprawling city of Istanbul, which I explored by foot while terror alerts, raging storms and finally the devastating earthquakes shocked Turkey.



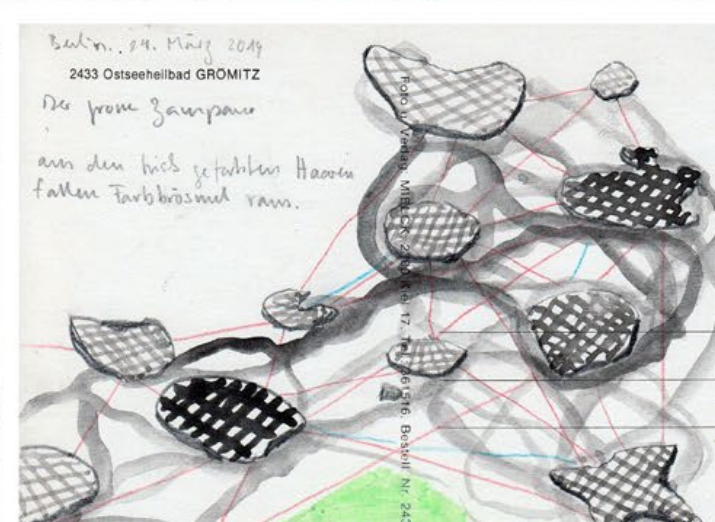
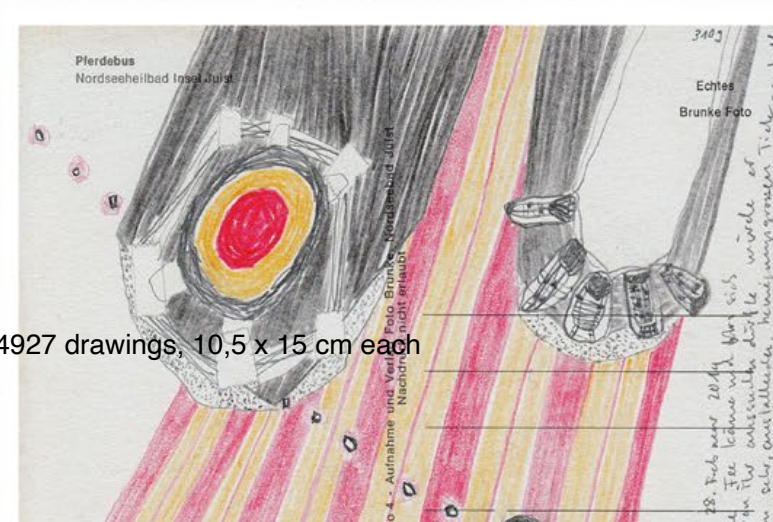
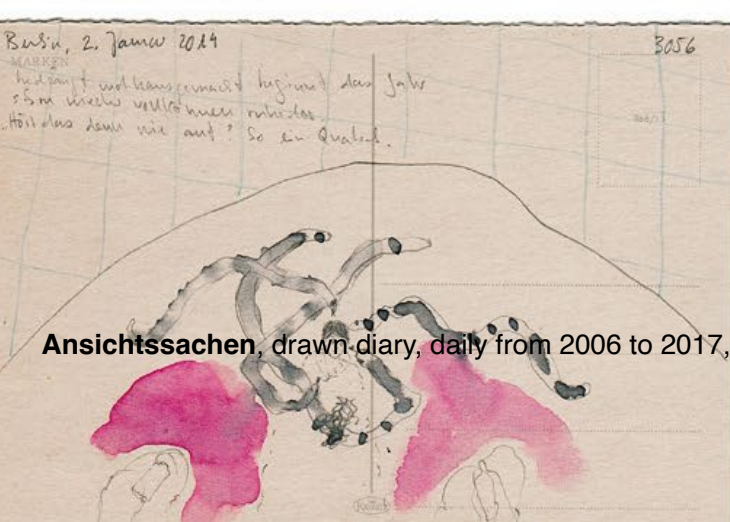
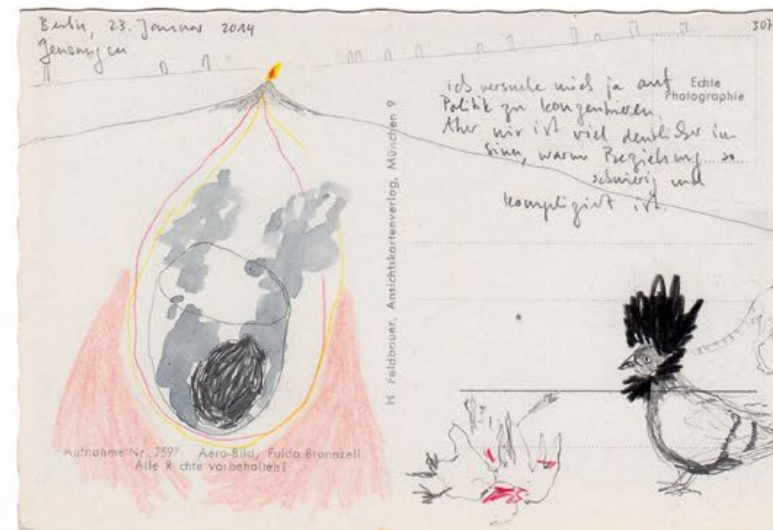
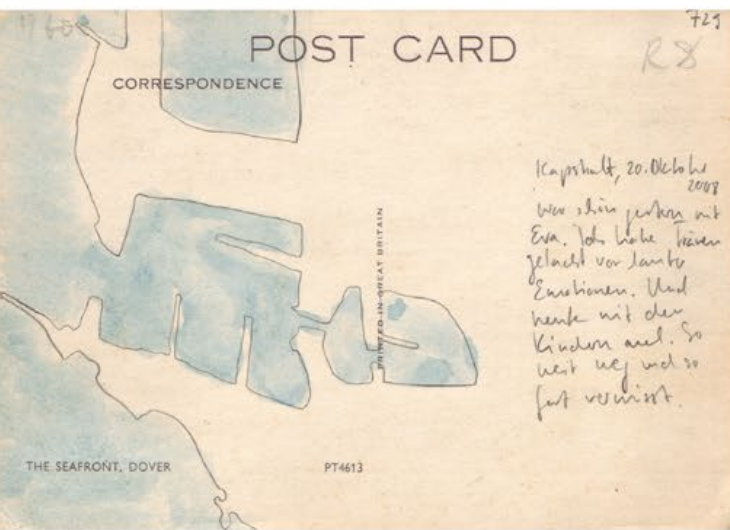
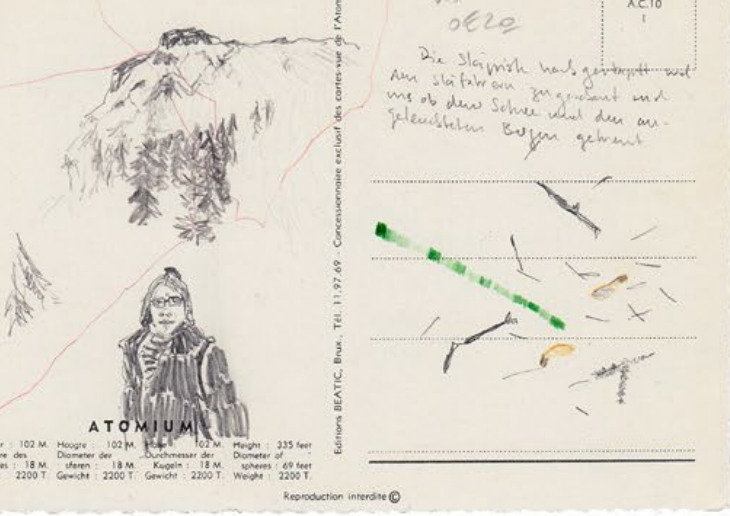
exhibition view, **Mindmapping Art**, Kunsthhaus Zofingen, 2023

installation of about 3000 diary drawings **gezeichnete Tage**, ongoing daily since 2017, 15 x 21 cm each, exhibited in transparent sleeves on 14 tables

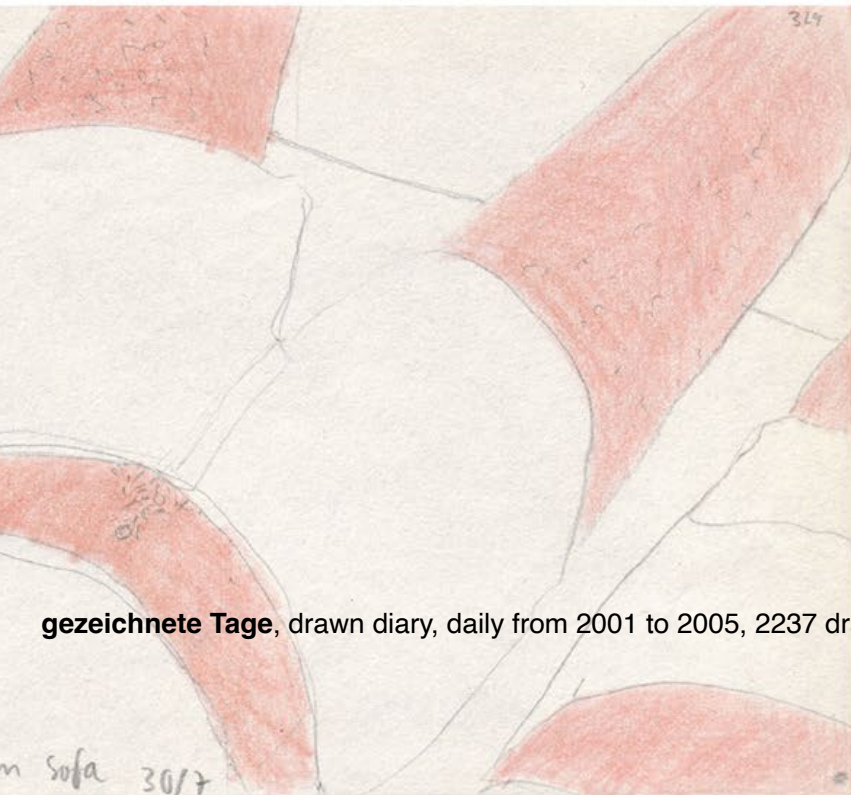
on the wall, **fremd bin ich eingezogen, fremd zieh ich wieder aus**, 2013, 220 x 330 cm

Photos: Rachel Bühlmann





Ansichtssachen, drawn-diary, daily from 2006 to 2017, 4927 drawings, 10,5 x 15 cm each



gezeichnete Tage, drawn diary, daily from 2001 to 2005, 2237 drawings, 15 x 21 cm each

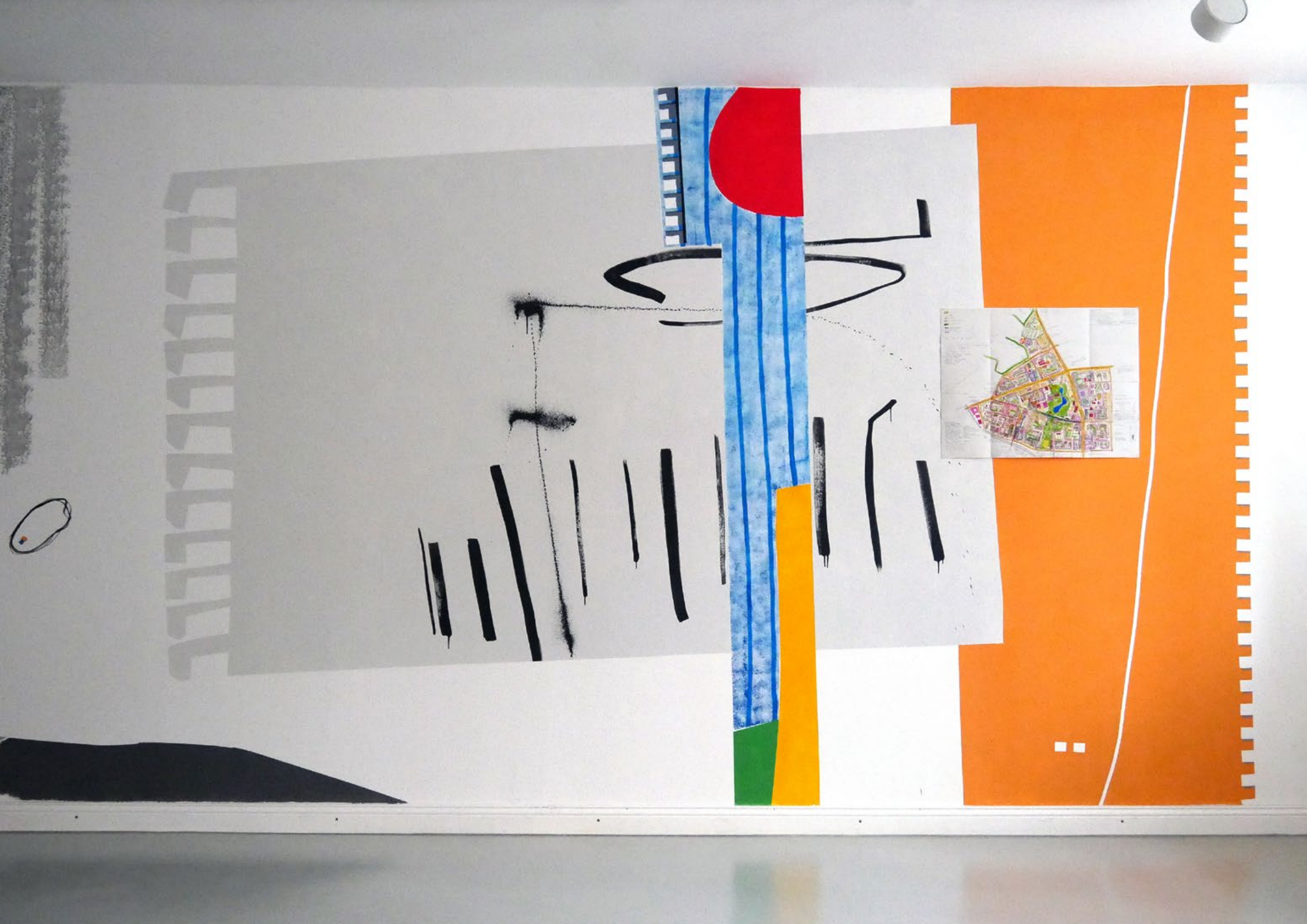


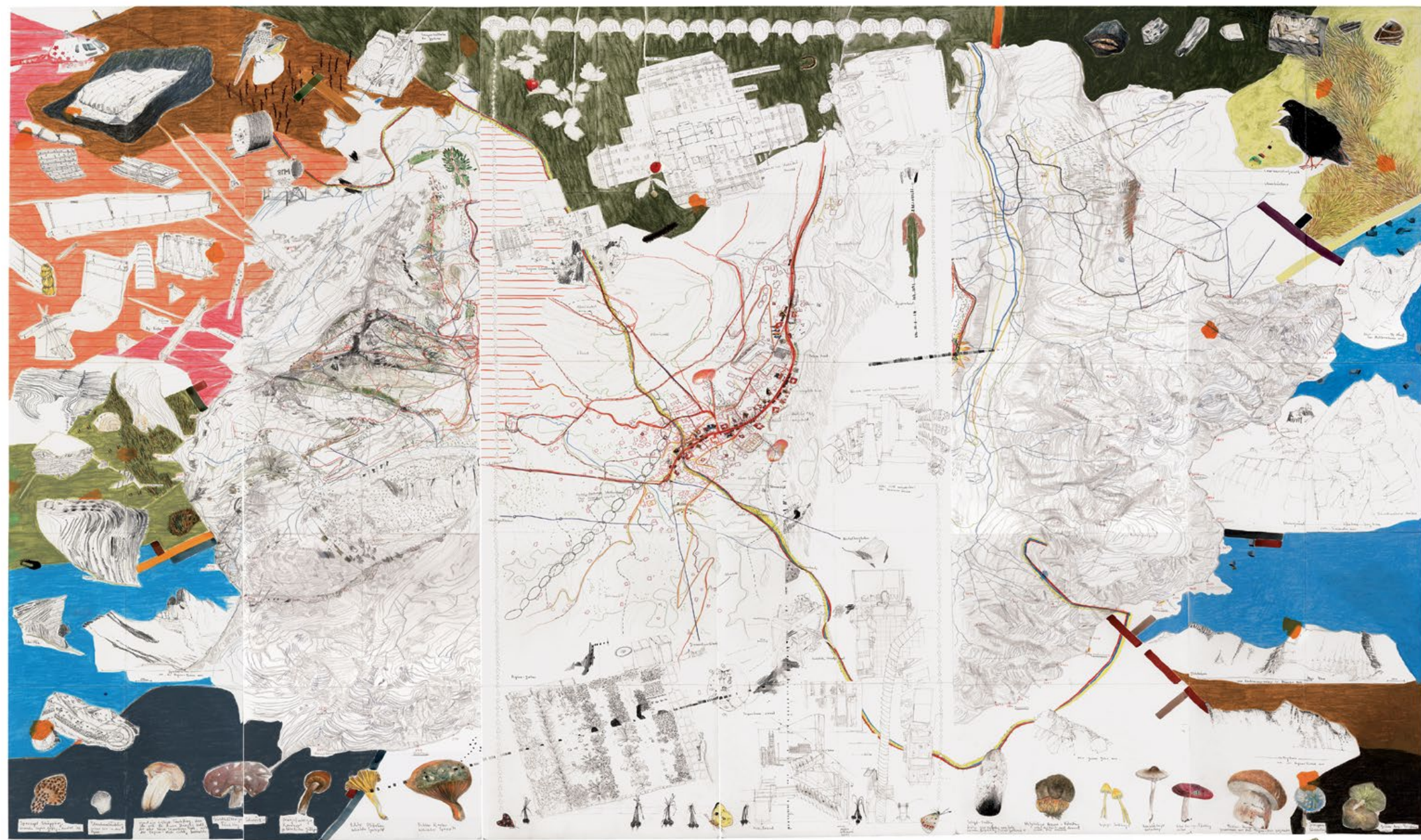
exhibition view, **NachSpielZeit**, rk Galerie für zeitgenössische Kunst im Ratskeller Berlin, 2022

mural, 2,5 x 15 meters, wall paint, **Ortsbildpflege Fennpfuhl**, 2022, 5 drawings, 49 x 65 cm each, pencil, crayon, ink on paper

Site specific installation on GDR prefab buildings in a coherent large housing estate in Berlin.







d'obe luftet's (Mürren), 2022

97,7 x 149,6 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, wax pastel on folded paper

Cartographic drawing that is dealing with the small mountain village in the Bernese Alps.





exhibition view, **Texte, Kunst ... 15 Jahre Kunstzeitschrift von hundert**, RL16, Berlin, 2022

wo ich war, ongoing since 2004, collection of index cards with private notes on exhibitions, performances, concerts etc., 4 card index boxes, 20 x 25 x 14 cm each, currently containing more than 1700 index cards, 10,5 x 15 cm each, with photographs for folding, 9 x 13 cm each

HOLZAPFEL OLAF
The Perfect Path
Galerie Daniel Marzona, Berlin

14. Mai 2016

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HOLZAPFEL OLAF
The Perfect Path
Galerie Daniel Marzona, Berlin

14. Mai 2016

+ der Tagesspiegel hat eines der Chaguarbilder
abgedruckt und wir sassen begeistert beim Frühstück und
sind gleich darauf in die Galerie gerannt. Chaguar ist
eine Kakteenfaser, die seit Jahrhunderten von den
argentinischen Wichi gewonnen, gefärbt und zu Bildern
gehäkelt werden. Traditionellerweise bilden sie
grafische Muster-Landschaften ab. Holzappel haben die
Textilbilder an Mondrian und Bauhaus erinnert und ihn
veranlasst, eigene Vorlagen am Computer zu entwerfen
und diese dann – mit allen dazugehörigen
Missverständnissen, Übersetzungsfehlern und
Abänderungen – nachhäkeln zu lassen. Und da sind sie
nun, wunderschön, sauber gerahmt und sündhaft teuer.



Frankfurter Flanierkarte, 2022
 159,5 x 168,5 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, wax pastel on folded paper
 Cartographic drawing that is dealing with the city of Frankfurt.

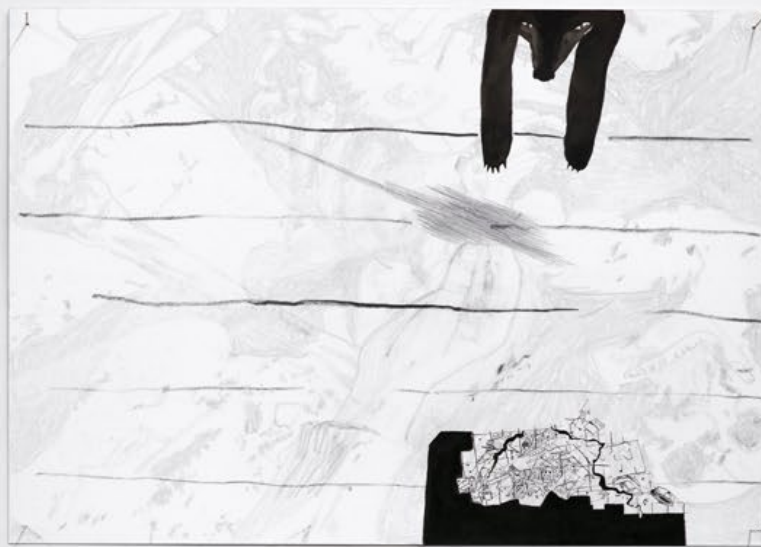


exhibition view, **P20**, space25, Basel, 2024

Gute Nacht, du falsche Welt, 2020 / 2021, series of 47 drawings, 31 x 23 cm / 31 x 41 cm / 41 x 31 cm / 46 x 61 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, charcoal, graphite powder, pastel chalk on paper

Series of drawings on encrypted messages in nightmares with associations of wasted landscapes, natural disasters, finds and digs.

Photos: Peter Steinmann









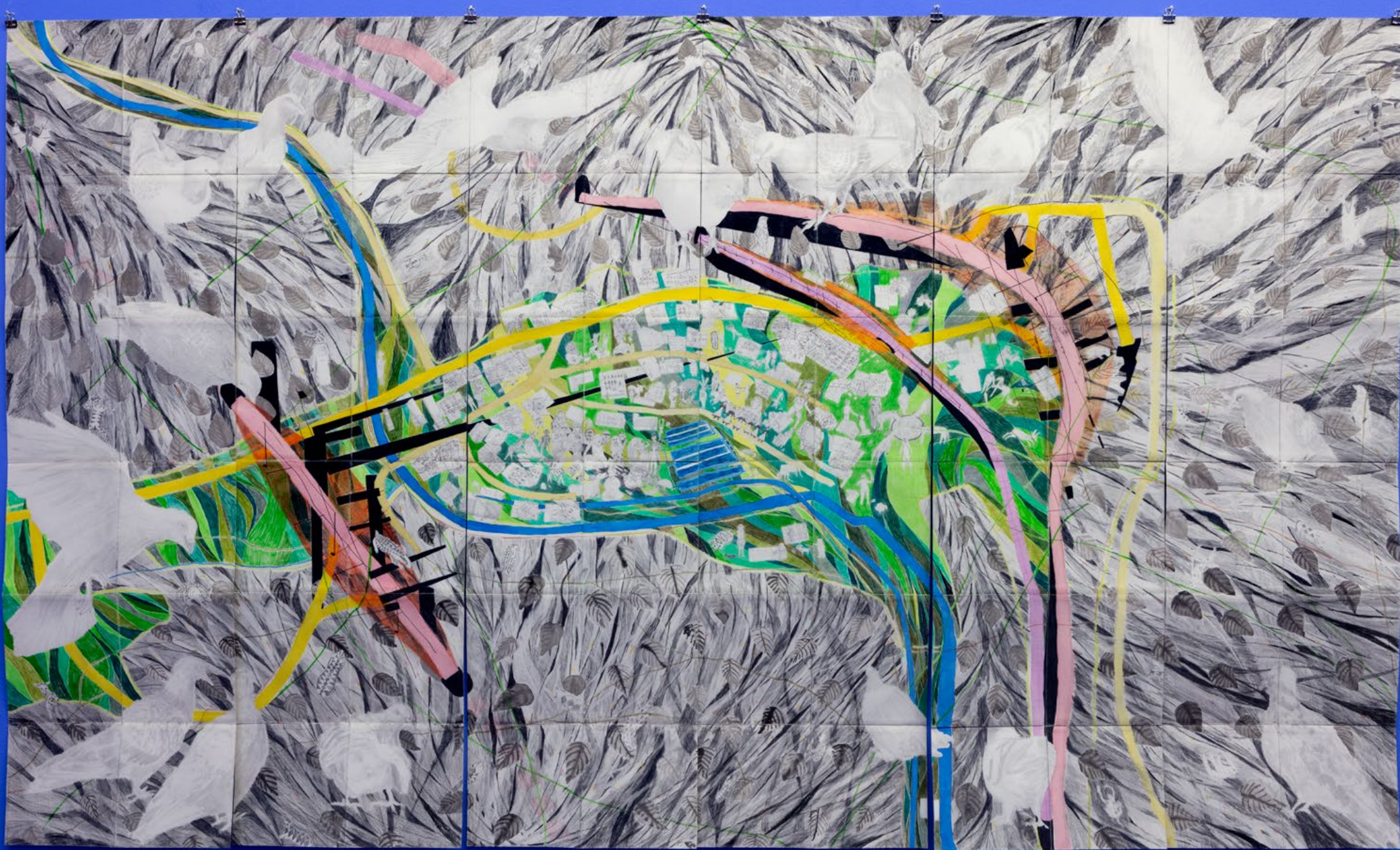




exhibition view, **Der Welt gegenüber. Landschaftsräume**, akku Emmenbrücke, 2021

Taubenloch, 2017, 112 x 177 cm, pencil, crayon, ink on folded paper, **Servus #12, #15, #23**, 2015, pencil, crayon, ink, charcoal, graphite powder, oil chalk, pastel chalk on paper, **Santorin, Robben Island** from the series **Anlandungen**, 2016 / 2017, 88 x 134 cm each, ink, pencil, crayon, charcoal, gold leaf, oil chalk on folded Chinese rice paper

Photos: Andri Stadler







exhibition view, **presentation of Deutsche Akademie Rom**, Casa Baldi, Olevano, 2020

Steindorf, Altstadt, Schandloch, Neubau, 2020, 237 x 147 cm, pencil, crayon, watercolor on folded paper

Orientierungsläufe Olevano, 2020, 125,5 x 176 cm, pencil, crayon, watercolor on folded paper

2 cartographic drawings that condense my cognition of experiences with the compact stone-village in the back-country of Rome.



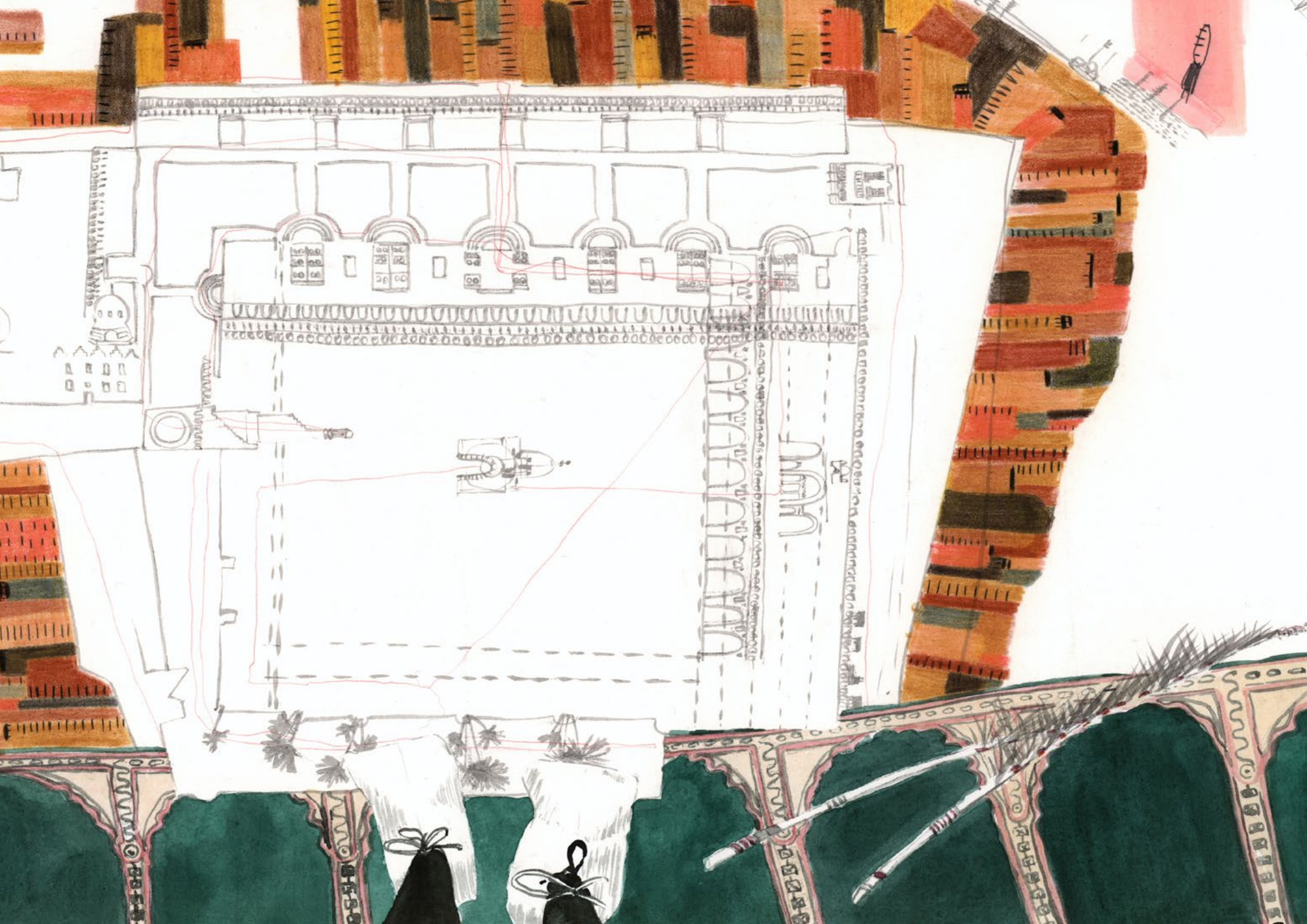




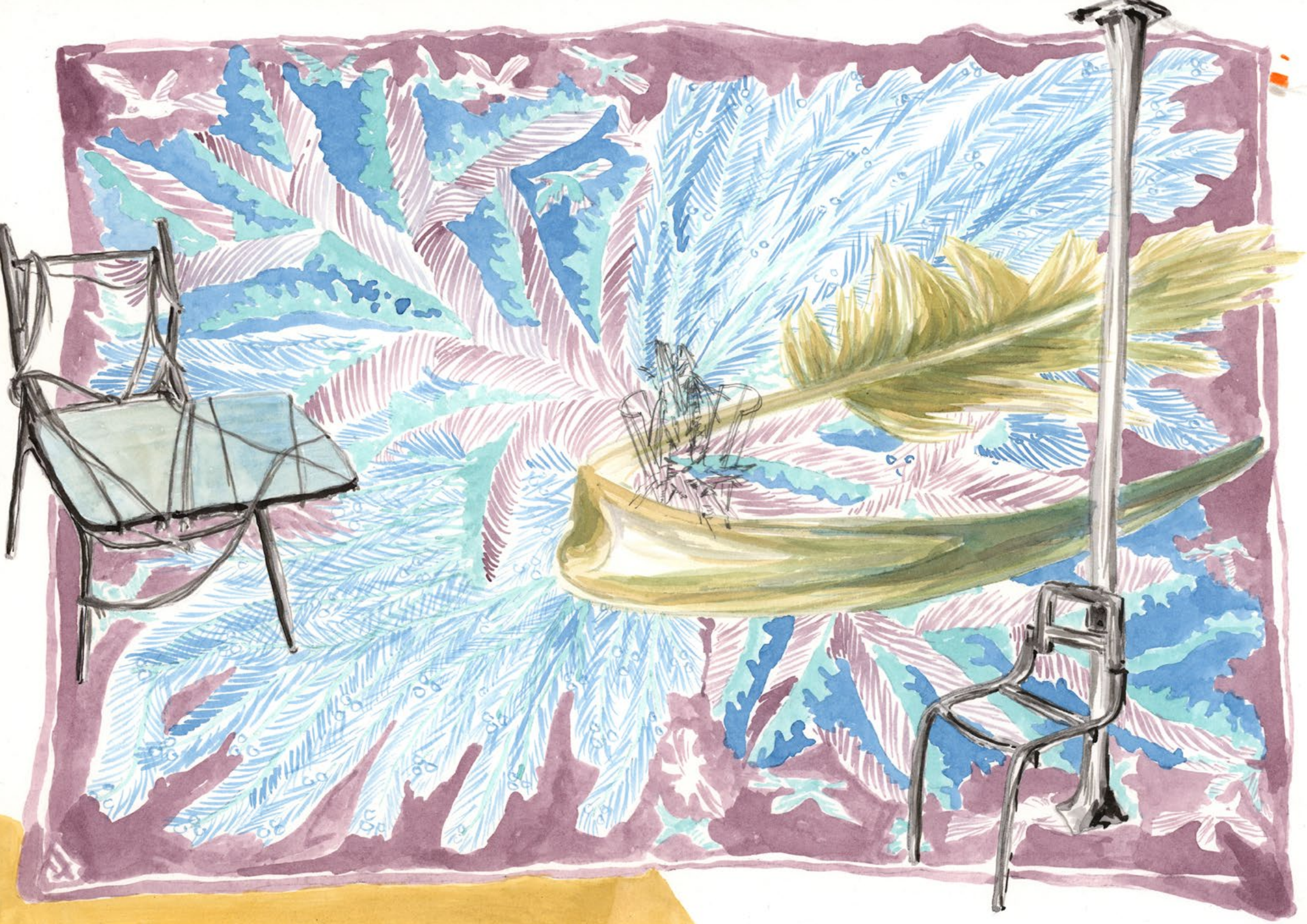
exhibition view, **Jahresausstellung**, Kunstmuseum Olten, 2019

Cairo Notes, Remake, 2019, 100 x 612 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, pastel chalk on paper, on fabric

42 cartographic drawings that are dealing with the city of Cairo.









exhibition view, **Gleisdreieck, Objekt des Monats**, Märkisches Museum Berlin, 2019
Gleisdreieck, 2018, 159,5 x 251 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, pastel chalk, on folded paper
Cartographical drawing that is dealing with the eponymous Berlin public green.







exhibition view, **Raumgeschichten**, Kunstraum Baden, 2018

mural, 4 x 15 meters, wall paint

Cairo Notes, 2018, cartographic notes, series of 80 drawings, 21 x 29 cm each, pencil, crayon, watercolour on paper



exhibition view, **Raumgeschichten**, Kunstraum Baden, 2018

mural, 4 x 15 meters, wall paint

Cairo Notes, 2018, cartographic notes, series of 80 drawings, 21 x 29 cm each, pencil, crayon, watercolour on paper

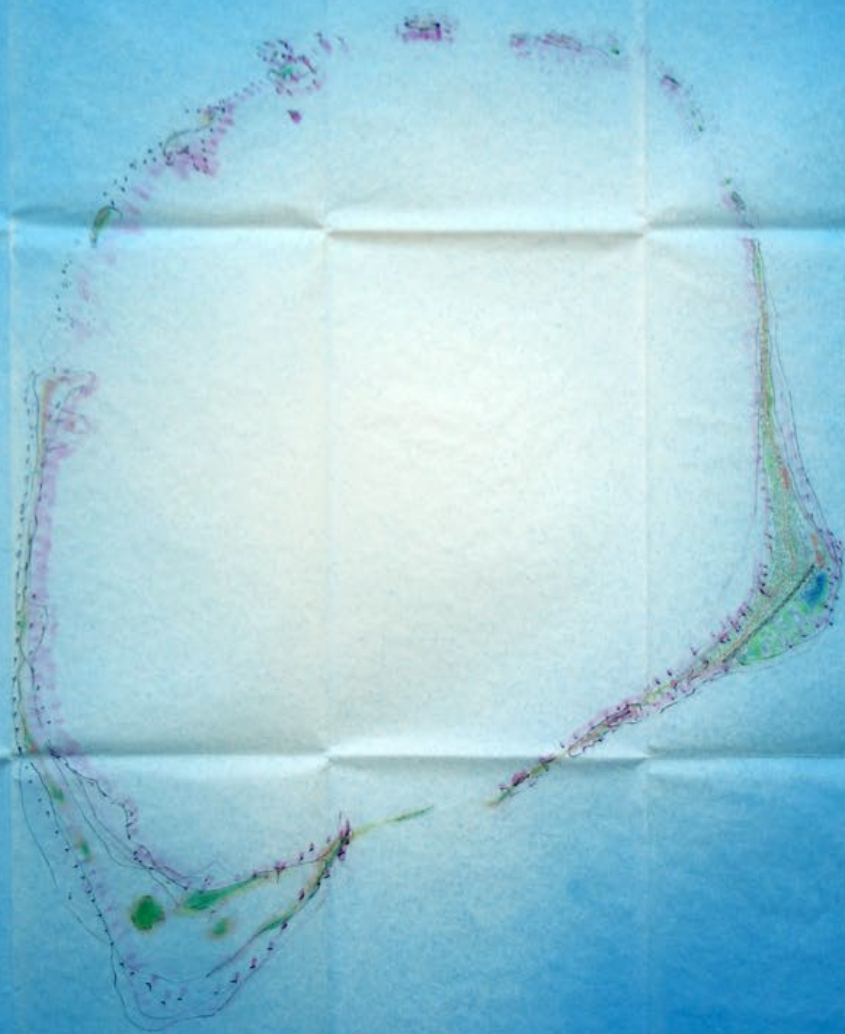


exhibition view, **Ohne Verfallsdatum**, Kunstmuseum Bern, 2019

from the series **Anlandungen**, 2016 / 2017, 88 x 134 cm each, ink, pencil, crayon, charcoal, gold leaf, oil chalk on folded Chinese rice paper

Plastic Island, Cyprus

Photo: Lucas Ziegler







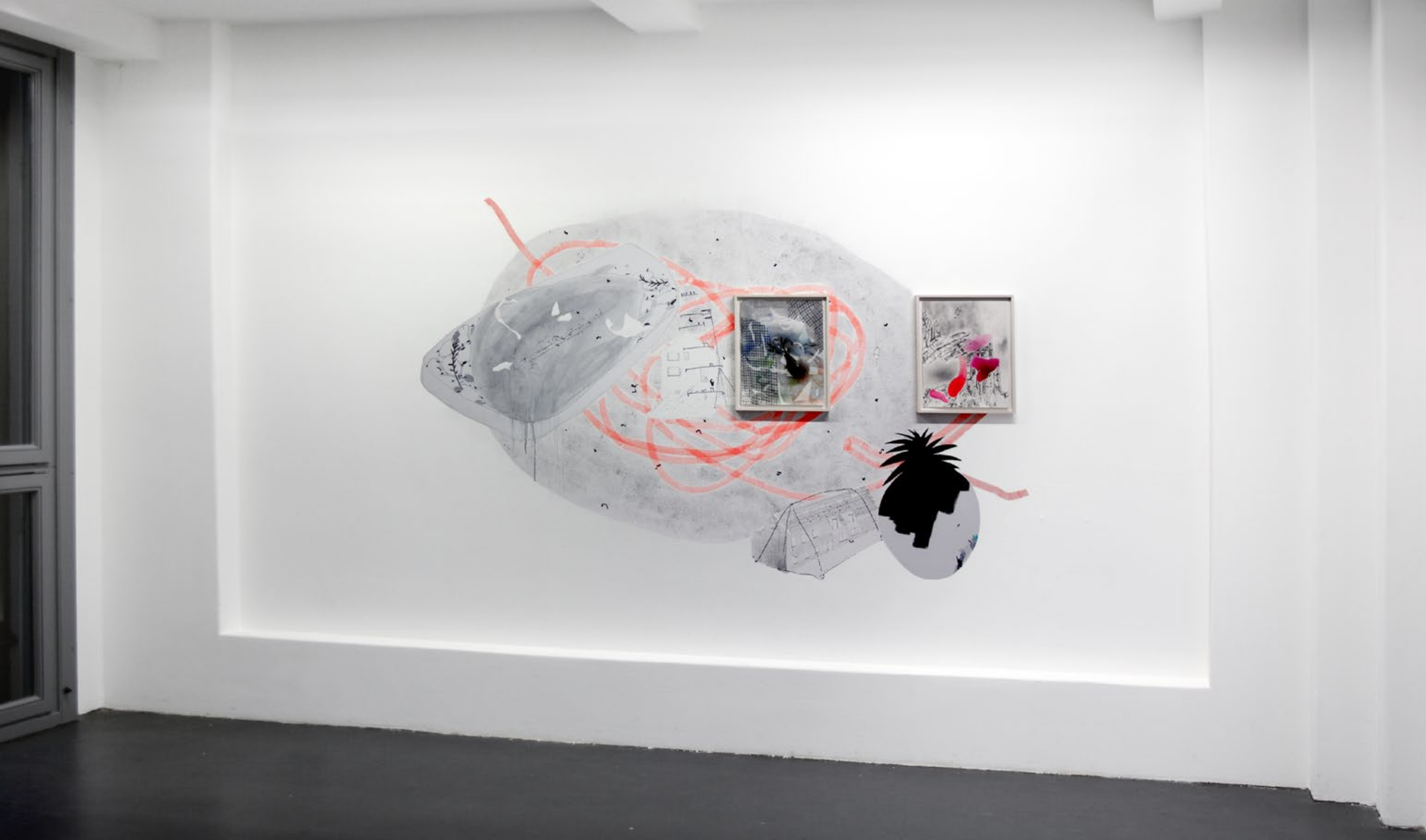
exhibition view, **Wer radiert, verliert**, Konsumverein Braunschweig, 2017

mural, 3,6 x 6 meters, wall paint

Rest um Rest, gepresst, ongoing since 2003, floor installation out of 110 pieces, 17,5 x 23 cm each

wo ich war, ongoing since 2004, 4 card index boxes containing about 850 index cards, 10,5 x 15 cm each





exhibition view, **Handbeglittert**, Kulturwerk T66, Freiburg, 2016

mural, 1,6 x 2,8 meters, wall paint

2 drawings from the series **Servus heisst Knecht**, 2015, 41 x 31 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, charcoal, graphite powder, pastel chalk, oil chalk on paper



exhibition view, **My Spell On You**, Kunsthhaus Baselland, 2016

5 murals, 9 loans of the Kunstsammlung des Kanton Baselland

In this solo show I was concerned with the art collection of the Canton of Baselland from which I loaned 9 art works that are different regarding its means, techniques and times of creation. The murals function as a kind of juxtapositions that show my thoughts and connotations regarding the loans and create a dialogue.



exhibition view, **doch**, Schlösschen Vorder-Bleichenberg, Biberist, 2015

mural, 2,2 x 4,8 meters, wall paint

3 drawings from the series **Servus heisst Knecht**, 2015, 31 x 23 cm / 41 x 31 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, charcoal, graphite powder, oil chalk, pastel chalk on paper



exhibition view, **Servus heisst Knecht**, Hauser Gallery, Zürich, 2015

mural, 4 x, 8,5 meters, wall paint

Servus heisst Knecht, series of 23 drawings, 2015, 31 x 23 cm / 41 x 31 cm / 46 x 61 cm, pencil, crayon, ink, charcoal, graphite powder, oil chalk, pastel chalk on paper





exhibition view, **Zwischen mir und dem Anderen**, Kunsthaus Grenchen, 2014

mural, 3,8 x 40 meters, wall paint

fremd bin ich eingezogen, fremd zieh ich wieder aus, 2013, 220 x 330 cm, **Heimatverzeichnis**, 2013, 42 x 30 cm, **ist es ich**, 2012, 144 x 190 cm

Photos: Alexandra Roth

