

Markus Butkerei

Results and Suppositions

Time and Uncertainty

“Mankind is at a turning point, the beginning of a new rationality in which science is no longer identified with certitude and probability with ignorance.”

Ilya Prigogine, The End of Certainty

Physics is considered the most basic of all disciplines. On its foundations, human beings have calculated the movements of the planets, have invented the steam engine, have constructed the atomic bomb. Since physicists seem to have the deepest insight into nature and how nature is constituted, their statements carry weight. Physics offers an explanation for the world.

When Isaac Newton laid the foundations of classical mechanics, he at the same time was suggesting certain definite ideas about time and space. The connection between forces and motion that is described in the Newtonian laws take place in absolute space. The development of a system is predictable. This means that a state is described in the present by the position and the speed of the total points, and can be calculated on the basis of physical laws for both the past and the future. Time, from Isaac Newton onwards and even for Albert Einstein, is always understood as being reversible.

The second law of thermodynamics makes statements about the direction of processes and introduces the principle of irreversibility. The historically oldest formulation, by the German physicist Robert Clausius, declares: "By itself, heat never transfers from a body with a lower temperature to a body with a higher temperature." In other words, in a closed system left to itself, entropy can never decrease. It can only either increase or remain constant.

The works of Markus Butkereiit play with the idea of entropy: in the closed mechanical installations Wall Panel Saw, Stone Magnet, Jackhammer, or Sprinkler – as a measure of disorder –, and in the quasi thermodynamic installations Kitchen Waste, Seesaw, and Balloon – as the degree of uncertainty in the experimental results.

The chemist Ilya Prigogine, who was cited above, carried out research in thermodynamics, the area of science which,

using the idea of entropy, introduced the concepts of irreversibility and the Arrow of Time into physics. Very early on, Prigogine noticed the disparity between the Arrow of Time of physics and that of biology and the historical sciences. While physicists view irreversibility and see disintegration, the loss of order and useable energy, biologists and historians view evolution and history and see creativity and the development from the simple to the complex.

In 1977, Prigogine was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his contribution to the thermodynamics of irreversibility, especially for the theory of dissipative structures. In his research, he was able to show points of branching out, known as bifurcations, from which a system could develop in various directions. Which path the system will choose seems, according to our present knowledge, completely up to chance.

Markus Butkereiit purposely creates unstable states, but the concept of bifurcation becomes particularly clear in the explosions: an initially unstable system transgresses the threshold of instability, loses its equilibrium, and in the moment of explosion leaps into a completely new unpredictable state.

His irreversible works make time itself the point of focus, not only in the experimental process and the process of formation, but also through classical vanitas motifs like smoke, candles, scraps of food, or the remains of flowers that turn up alongside contemporary symbols of change like infusion bags, broken umbrellas, and – again and again – explosive devices. But not only in the works Wall Panel Saw, Internal Injury, or Purple Rain is it uncertain whether the observer is witnessing disintegration or the coming into being of something completely new. Iris Hempelmann

Wandlinie 2012

Set-up and Execution:

A pedestal fan is set up in front of a wall in such a way that the propeller positioned horizontal to the floor. Centered over the fan hangs an infusion bag filled with diluted red wall paint. The fan is then turned on at its highest speed and the infusion bag's roller clamp is opened only slightly.

Supposition:

A red line will be produced on the wall.

Test video:

Wandlinie 4:14 min <https://vimeo.com/195593018> [Password: translatae12345]



Bodenkreis

2012



Set-up and Execution:

A table fan is set up on the floor so that the propeller is horizontal to the ground. Hanging centered over the fan is an infusion bag filled with diluted red floor-paint. The fan is then turned on at its highest speed and the infusion bag's roll clamp is opened only slightly.

Supposition:

On the floor around the fan, a red circle will be produced.

Test video:

Bodenkreis 7:42 min <https://vimeo.com/197166327> [Pw: translatae12345]

Internal Injury 2012



Set-up and Execution:

Three holes were drilled into the façade of an old hospital at the height of the uppermost floor. Inside, three buckets were set up that each contained red paint and a submersible pump. Each submersible pump was connected to a silicone tube and the three tubes were passed through the holes in the façade. The pumps were then turned on.

Result:

Red paint squirts out of the holes in the façade. Depending on the wind direction and speed the color gets distributed on the façade of the hospital.

Documentation:

The coloring of the façade is filmed from two different camera perspectives.

Videos:

A. Internal Injury — total 4:37 min <https://vimeo.com/196241221> [Pw: translatae12345]

B. Internal Injury — top shot 4:37 min <https://vimeo.com/197154334> [Pw: translatae12345]

Automatische Feuerlöscher

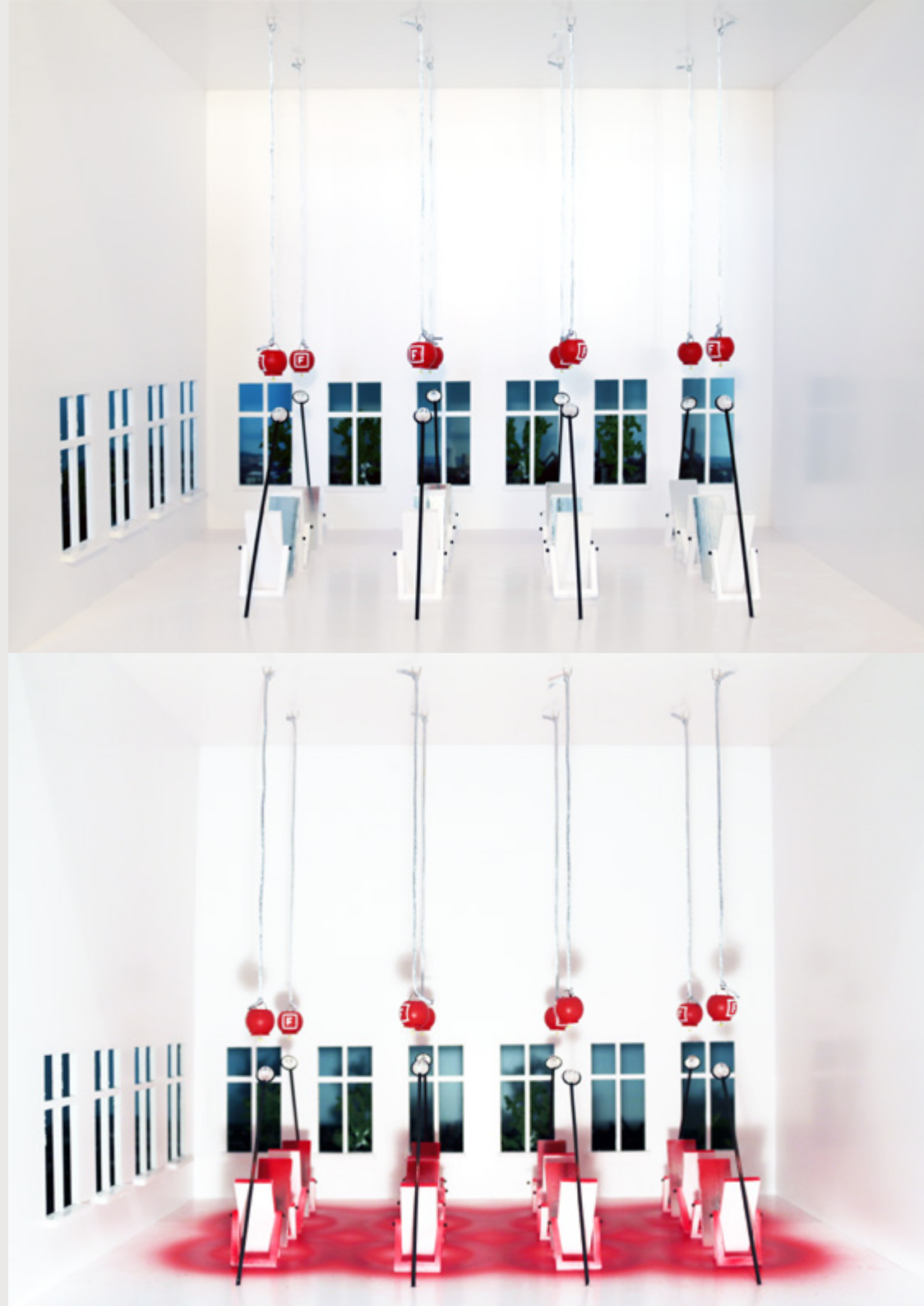
2016

Set-up and Execution:

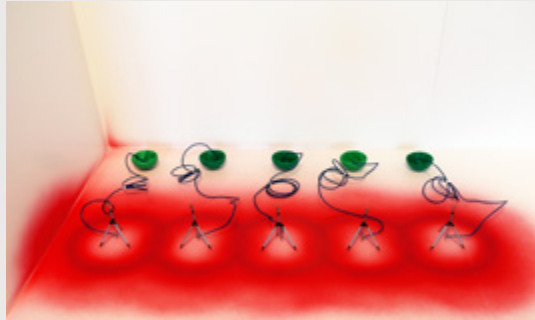
Eight automatic fire extinguishers are emptied, filled with red paint, and sealed under 6 bar of pressure. They are all hung by steel cables, at the same height and equidistant from one another, from the ceiling of a large room with many windows. Magnifying glasses attached to telescopic poles are positioned under the heat-sensitive ampules. Two full-length mirrors per fire extinguisher are positioned so that they reflect the light from the windows onto the magnifying glasses.

Supposition:

If enough sun shines through the windows, the fire extinguishers will be triggered and will start spraying their contents. On the floor, red circles will appear.



Sprinkler 2016



Set-up and Execution:

Five rotating garden sprinklers on tripods are set up in a room. Directly next to them are five self-erecting collecting tanks. In each tank is a submersible pump with a float as well as a bucket with liquid red pigment. The submersible pumps are connected to the rotating sprinklers by tubes.

Supposition:

Nothing will happen.

Purple Rain 2015



Set-up and Execution:

For this work, the rain gutters of an old transformer tower are stopped up. The gutters were filled with 4 liters of liquid red pigment.

Result:

When it rains, the rain gutters overflow and the rainwater mixed with red pigment flows down the outer walls of the transformer tower.

Documentation:

Five photographs show how the red coloration of the transformer tower changed over the period of one year.



Der Monolith 2016

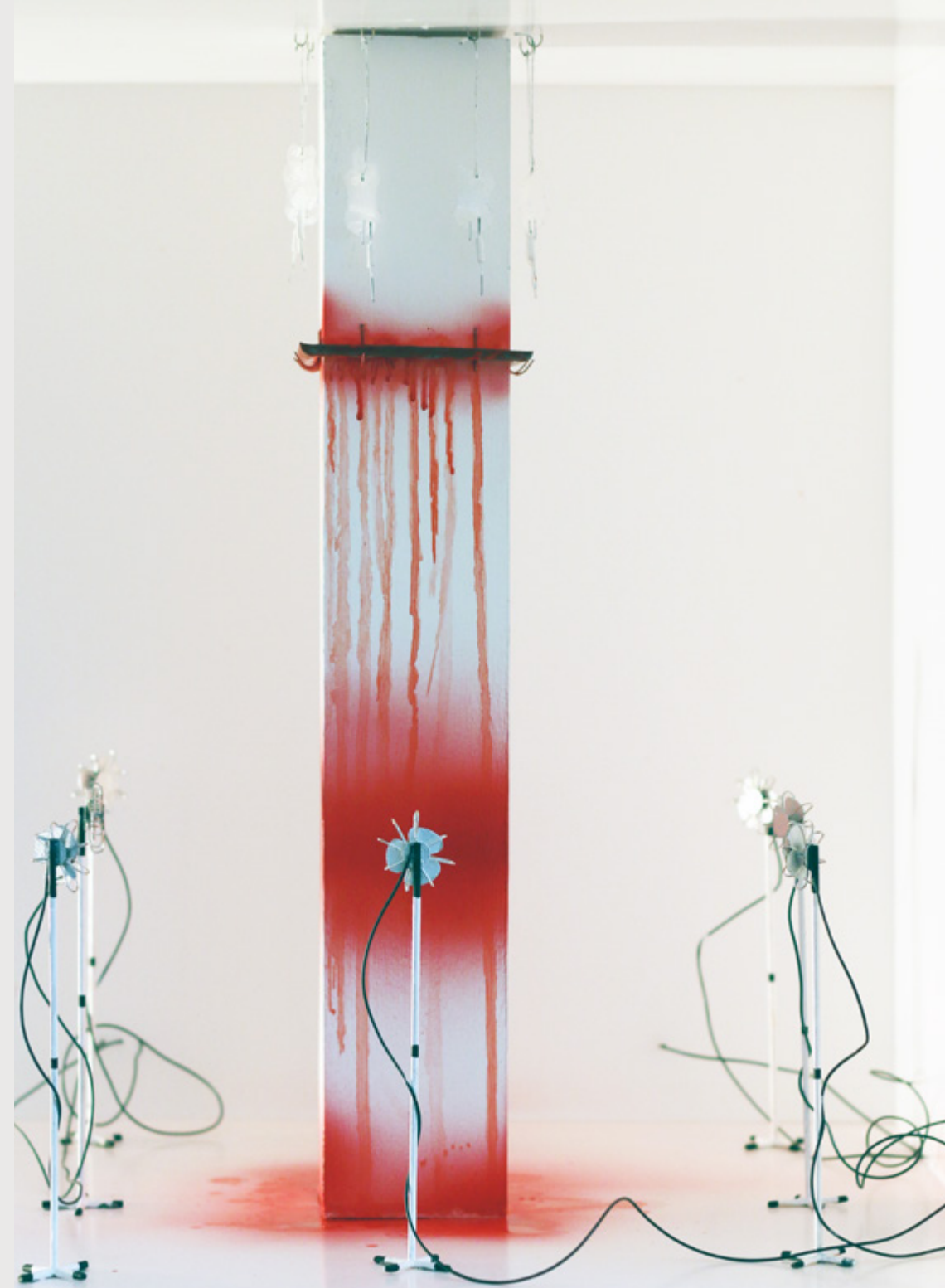


Set-up and Execution:

A pillar is installed in a room. Around the pillar, about two-thirds of the way up, a rain gutter is attached. On both sides, two infusion bags filled with water are hung from the ceiling and drip into the rain gutters. On the floor, on each side of the pillar, two fans are set up, directed towards the pillar. The fans are turned on and the infusion bags' roller clamps are opened.

Supposition:

The rain gutter will overflow. The red-colored water runs down the pillar and at the height of the eight fans the pillar becomes colored red.



Wandplattensäge 2016

ACHTUNG
Richtwand kein
Ansteller!
Absaugung
extra
zuschalten!

Set-up and Execution:

A wall panel saw is set up so that the port for the dust aspiration is directed towards the wall. No vacuum unit is connected. The saw is put into operation to cut to size an undetermined number of wood panels. The cuts are thrown out on the left side of the saw.

Supposition:

While to the left of the saw the pile of wood grows, a circular layer of sawdust forms on the wall.

Der Presslufthammer 2016



Set-up and Execution:

A kind of beam compass is constructed with the tip of the jackhammer. For that purpose, a pipe is anchored into the floor of a large room. To one side of another, about 3 cm long, pipe, a jackhammer is soldered, to the other a pipe clamp. The pipe clamp is screwed around the pipe, which is firmly anchored in the floor, but only so tightly that it can still rotate. The jackhammer is connected to a compressor by a tube.

Supposition:

The jackhammer will carve a circular track into the floor.



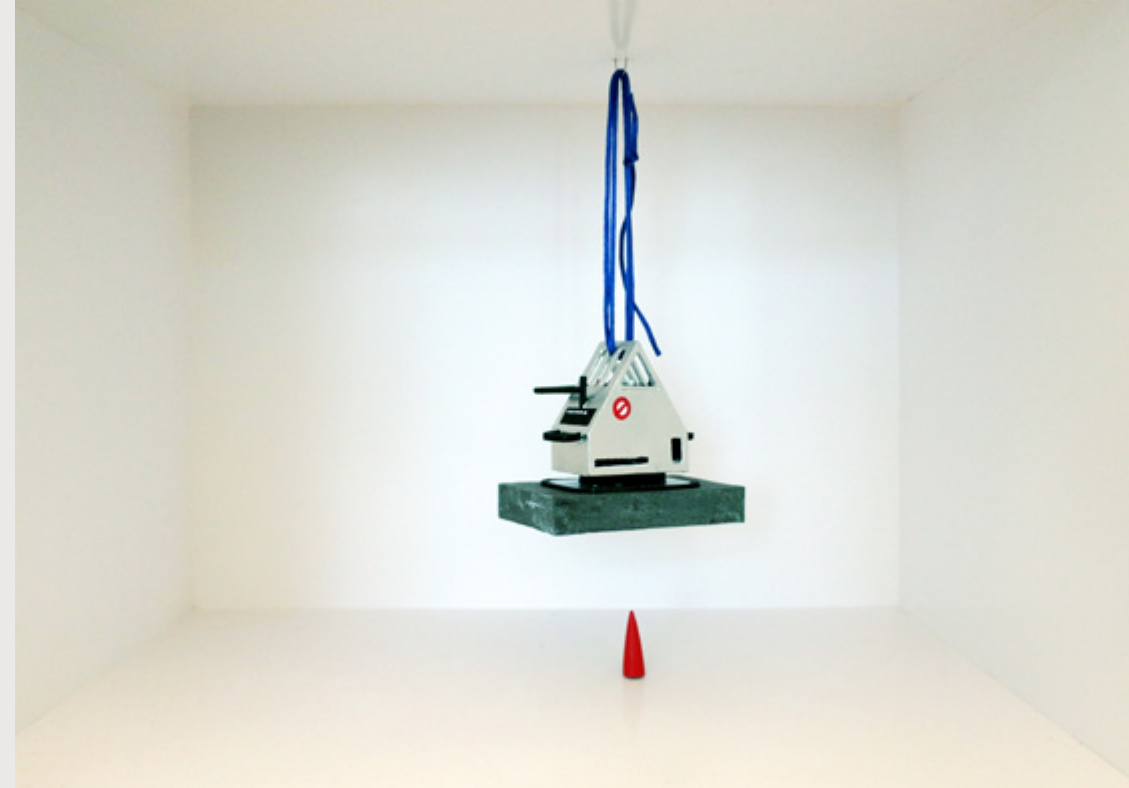
Stonemagnet 2016

Set-up and Execution:

A vacuum-stone magnet is hung from the ceiling by a steel cable. The apparatus hovers about 2 cm over the ground and lifts a heavy granite paving stone using suction. A steel cone is positioned centrally under the vacuum-stone magnet and the paving stone.

Supposition:

After about 20 minutes the granite plate will no longer adhere to the magnet, will fall onto the steel cone and break apart.



Teerblock 2016

Set-up and Execution:

A square block of tar especially made for the installation is hung from the ceiling by a steel cable. Eight gas burners are positioned around the block. The gas burners are then lit.

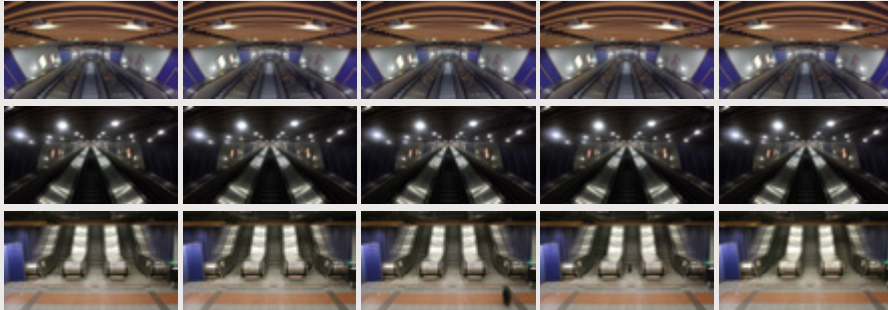
Supposition:

While the block of tar melts, a sculpture will grow on the ground.



Tires

2015



Set-up and Execution:

Three different automobile tires are pushed down three parallel escalators: the first tire down the upwards-moving escalator on the right, the second down the middle immobile escalator, and the third down the downwards-moving escalator on the left.

Result:

All the tires roll down the escalators at high speed and land against a tile wall in the subway station. A few tiles break.

Documentation:

The paths of the automobile tires are filmed from three different camera perspectives.

Videos:

- A. Tires — front 1:43 min <https://vimeo.com/197688190> [Pw: translatae12345]
- B. Tires — down 1:34 min <https://vimeo.com/197688988> [Pw: translatae12345]
- C. Tires — up 1:34 min <https://vimeo.com/197688876> [Pw: translatae12345]



Kilomètre Lancé 256

2015



Set-up and Execution:

An old folding chair was attached to a pair of skis and ski poles were mounted on to the arms of the chair. The chair was released to slide down the highest gravel hill in Göteborg.

Result:

After a few meters, the construction somersaults and breaks to pieces in the gravel. Some pieces slide down a few more meters and then come to a halt.

Documentation:

A video shows the ride of the folding chair.

Video:

Kilomètre Lancé 256 0:20 min <https://vimeo.com/197157306> [Pw: translate12345]

Parapluie 2015

Set-up and Execution:

Thirty umbrellas are thrown down, one after the other, from the highest bridge in Göteborg [24 defective umbrellas that had previously been collected from the streets of Göteborg, and 6 new ones]

Result:

Some umbrellas fall like stones, some float down in circular movements. All the umbrellas land in the river Göta Älv. Some of them float to shore, others sink after a few minutes.

Documentation:

The paths of the umbrellas are filmed from two different camera perspectives.

Videos:

A. Parapluie — total 2:42 min <https://vimeo.com/197158088> [Pw: translate12345]

B. Parapluie — top shot 2:42 min <https://vimeo.com/197158950> [Pw: translate12345]

Sense 8 2016

Set-up and Execution:

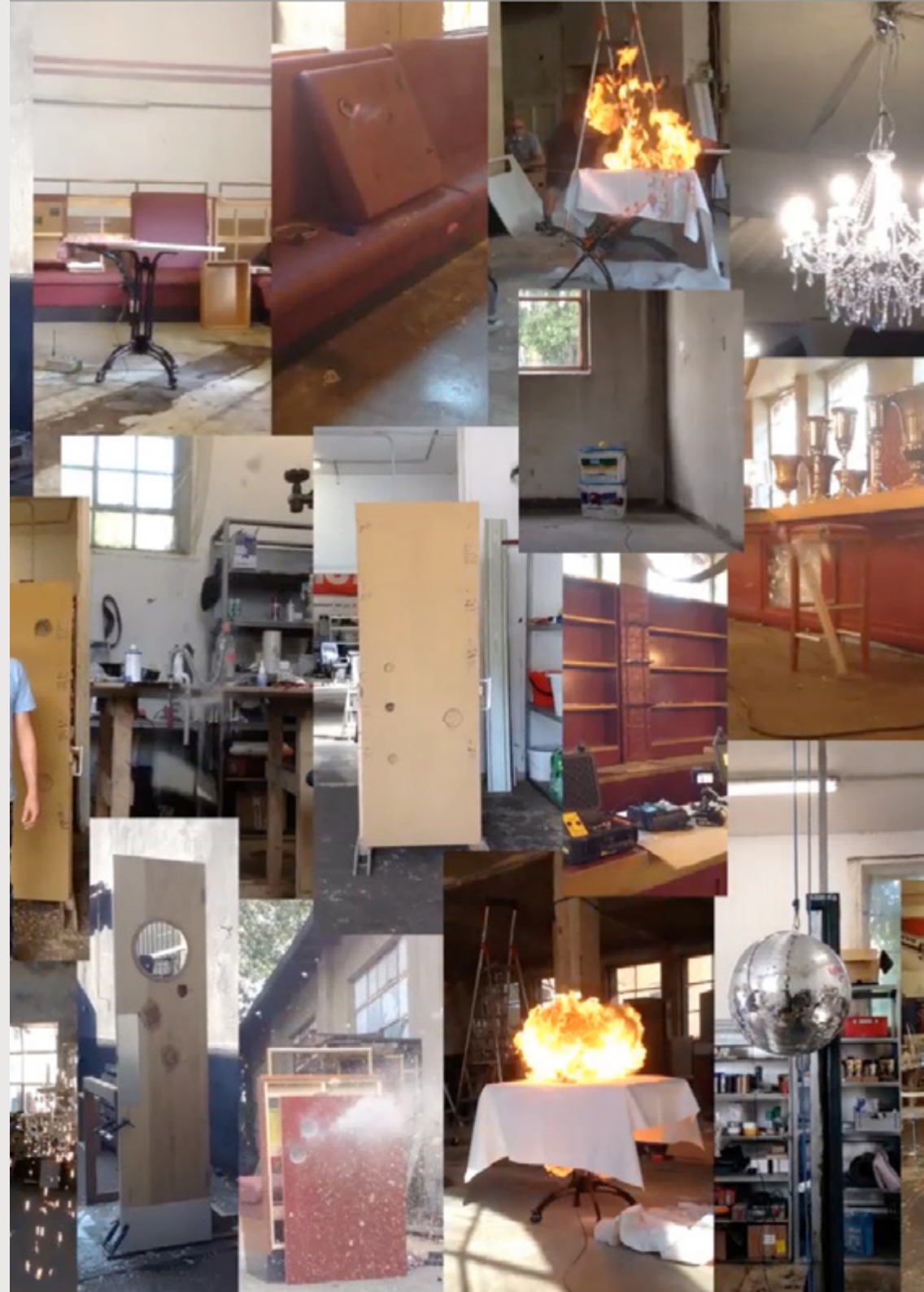
For the Netflix series **Sense 8**, the special effects technicians carried out pyrotechnical tests: flame tests with lycopodium, tests of shots into bodies, walls, bar stools, sofas, ball mirrors, tables, and tests for shooting chandeliers into pieces. So called squibs, i.e. miniature explosive devices, were used which were produced especially for these tests.

Documentation:

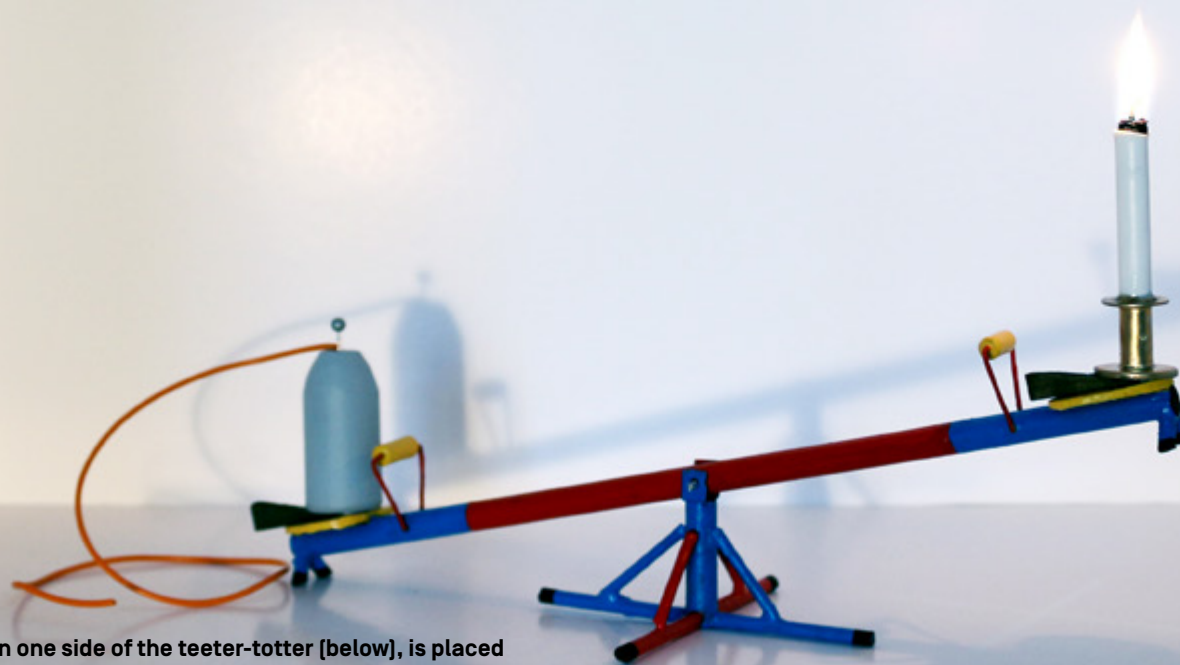
37 tests were filmed and edited to create a video collage.

Video:

Sense 8 0:06 min <https://vimeo.com/197690945> [Pw: translatae12345]



Wippe 2016



Set-up and Execution:

A teeter-totter is set up in a room. On one side of the teeter-totter [below], is placed an empty 11-kilogram gas cylinder, on the other side [above] a candle. The candle is lit and the valve of the gas cylinder is opened.

Supposition:

At some point the candle burns down.

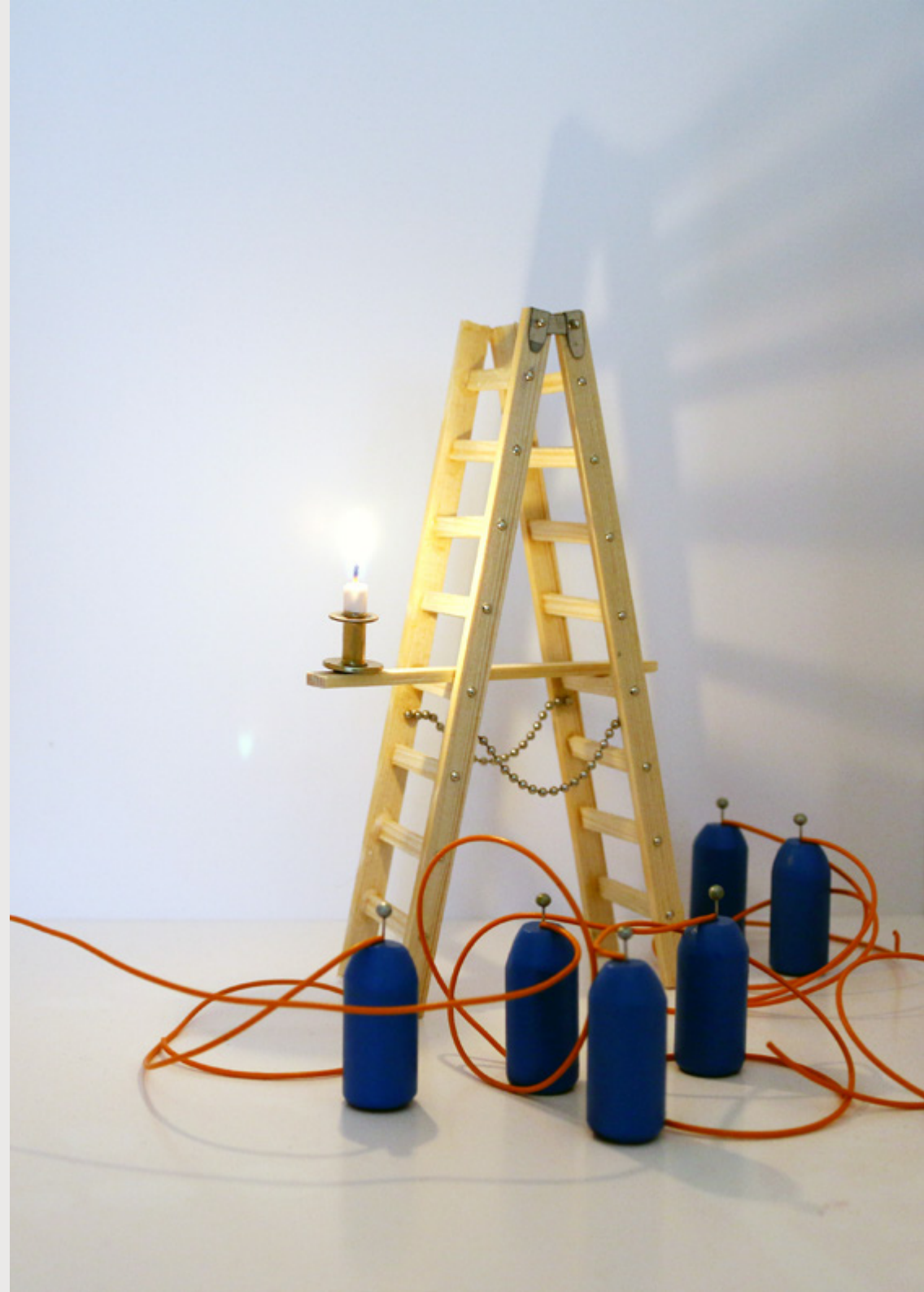
Die Leiter 2016

Set-up and Execution:

A large collapsible ladder is erected. At the height of about 1.5 meters, a plank is pushed through the ladder so that it is lying upon two of the rungs. A candle is placed upon the plank. On the floor next to the ladder are placed 12 empty 11-kilogram gas cylinders. The candle is lit and the valves of the gas cylinders are opened.

Supposition:

At some point the candle burns down.



Burner 2015



Set-up and Execution:

In an abandoned building, a can of spray paint is hung from a ceiling by a nylon string. A fuse head is attached to the nylon string, and on the floor, exactly under the can a caltrop is set up. The fuse head is let from 4 meters away.

Result:

The nylon string breaks, the spray can falls on the caltrop, which makes a hole in the spray can. Because of the pressure of the gas, the spray can turns in circles and sprays the paint. A spark ignites the propane – butane mixture from the can, and the huge fireball scorches the wallpaper in the room and singes my eyebrows. I quickly put out the fire in the room.

Documentation:

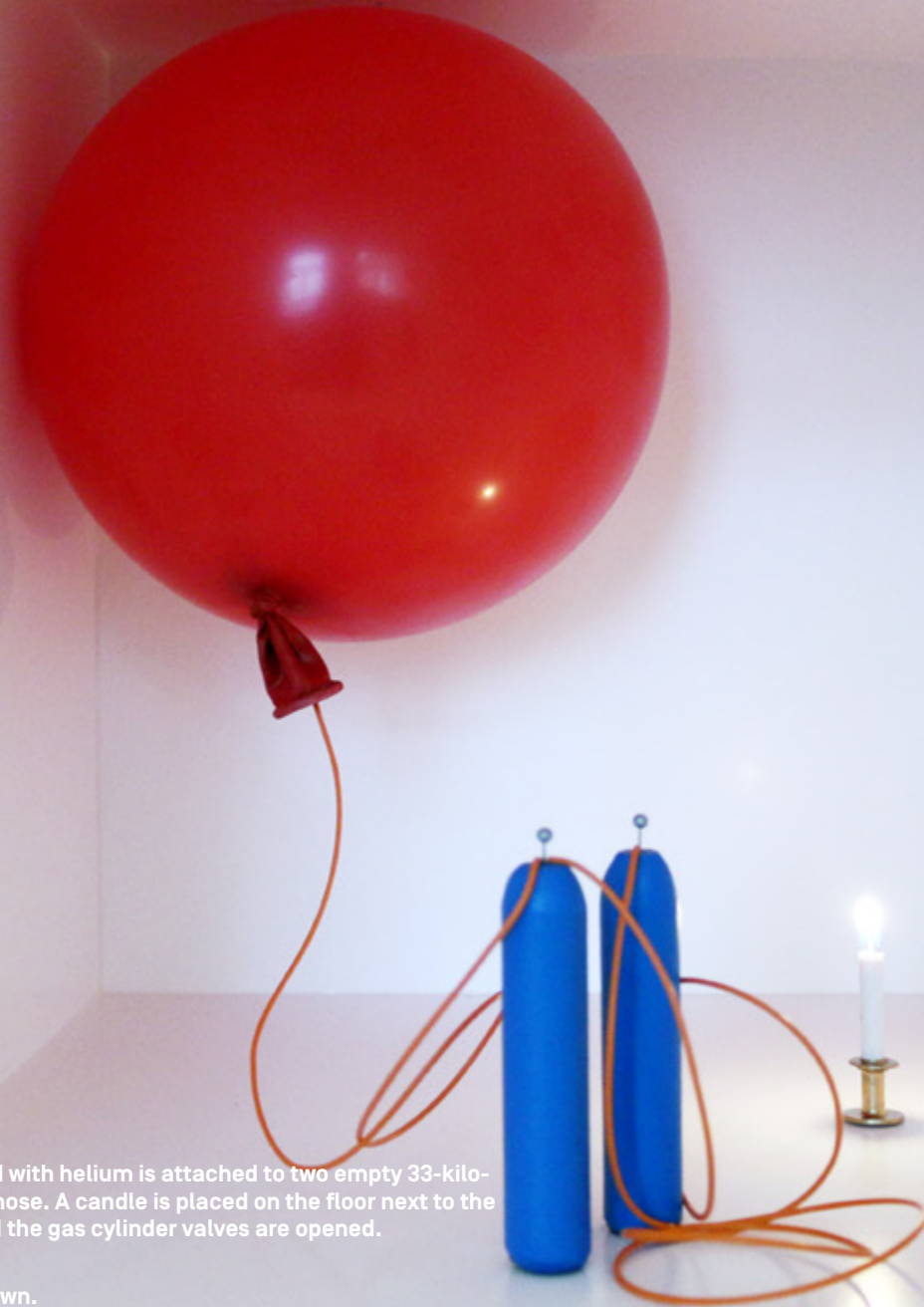
A video shows the event.

Video:

Burner 2:16 min <https://vimeo.com/195103287> [Pw: translatae12345]



Ballon 2016



Set-up and Execution:

For this work, a giant balloon filled with helium is attached to two empty 33-kilo-gram gas cylinders using a filling hose. A candle is placed on the floor next to the gas cylinders. The candle is lit and the gas cylinder valves are opened.

Supposition:

At some point the candle burns down.

Burn out II 2016

Set-up and Execution:

Five electric stoves are set up in front of a wall and connected. The sieve is removed from five espresso makers. The lower section is filled with water and the funnel is filled with espresso powder. The powder is pressed in firmly. The espresso makers are screwed shut and placed on the stove. The appropriate burners are turned on.

Supposition:

There will be a sudden discharge of steam and the espresso powder and water mixture will be spread all over the wall, the ceiling, and the floor. It will smell like freshly-made espresso.

Test video:

Burn out II 0:50 min <https://vimeo.com/195093283> [Pw: translatae12345]



Black Machine Gun 2011

Set-up and Execution:

Nine plastic bottles were each filled with a pyrotechnical powder stick and black paint. A 10-meter-long ignition cable was attached to each powder stick and a 10-meter-long rope was knotted around each of the bottlenecks. The ends of the rope were attached to the roof of an empty furniture store and then lowered down the façade. The ignition cables were attached to the igniter and the ignition switches were successively closed.

Result:

There are nine explosions and 9 big black spots show up on the façade of the furniture store.

Documentation:

The video shows explosions on the façade of the furniture store.

The video shows the preparations for the nightly presentation of the work: an orientation walk through the empty furniture store.

A log of the times of the rounds made by the security company, newspaper articles about the bankruptcy of the furniture company, the senate's development plans for the property, photos and hand-drawn plans of the building document the planning phase of the work Black Machine Gun.

Videos / Research Materials:

A. Black Machine Gun 0:44 min <https://vimeo.com/197180303> [Pw: translatae12345]

B. Entrance Black Machine Gun 3:22 min <https://vimeo.com/196236592> [Pw: translatae12345]

C. Research Materials

Tent 2015 2015



Set-up and Execution:

In a gravel-pit, a tent was erected. Four pyrotechnical powder sticks were placed in the tent and on top of each of them a plastic sack containing 1.5 liters of petroleum benzene. The cables of the powder sticks were lengthened and attached to an igniter. The ignition switch was closed.

Result:

It explodes, the wave of pressure from the explosion rips the plastic sacks with the petroleum benzene, the benzene atomizes and is ignited. The flames from the fiery explosion reach a height of almost 10 meters and a column of smoke forms. There is nothing left of the tent.

Documentation:

A video shows the event.

Video:

Tent 2015 12:05 min <https://vimeo.com/195311306> [Pw: translatae12345]



Trash Can Paris 2016

Set-up and Execution:

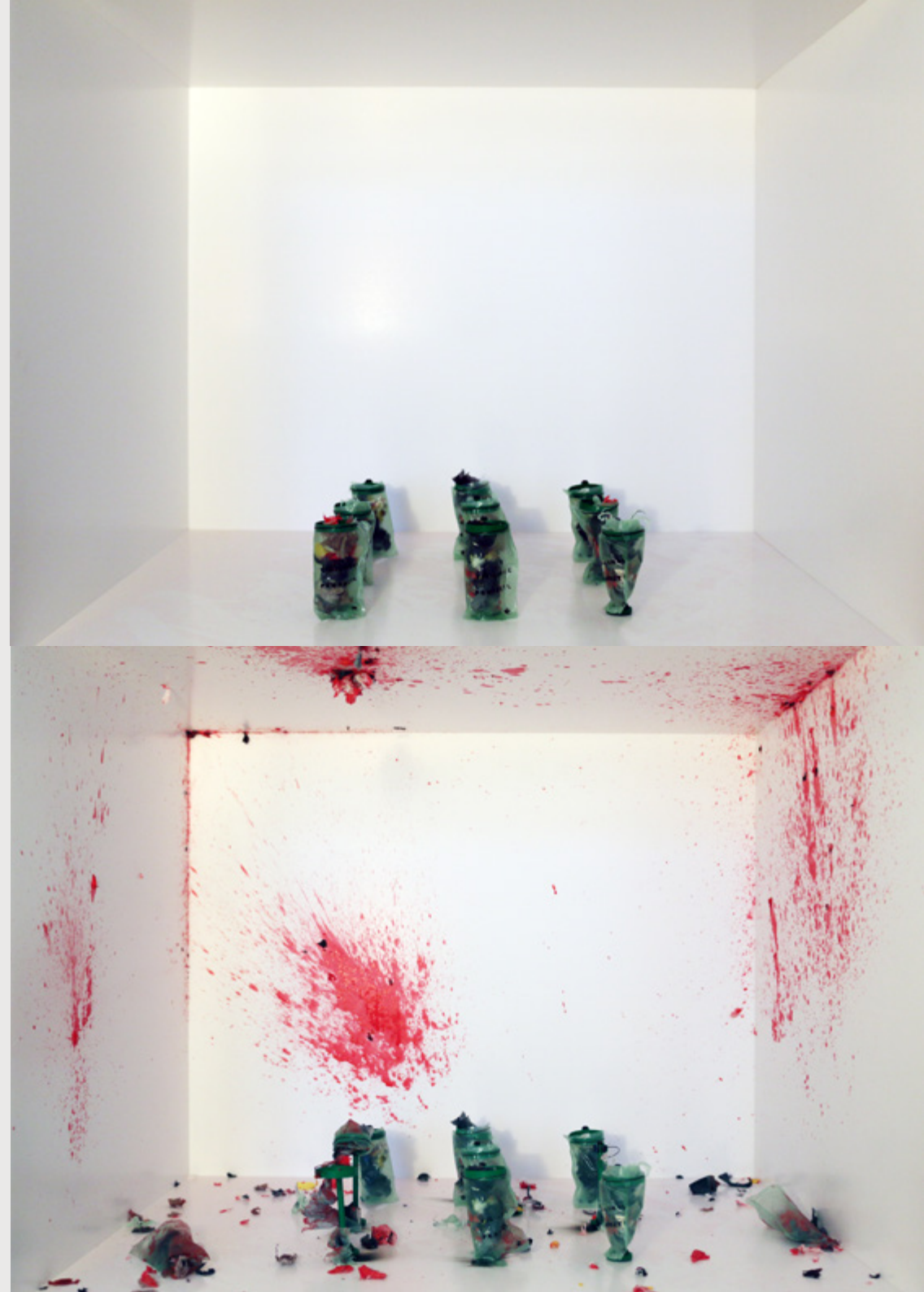
Nine trash cans, of the type used in Paris, were set up forming a square in three rows of three trashcans each. A pyrotechnical explosive charge was placed in five of the trashcans and then filled with normal street trash, but also with animal organs as well as a few liters of pig blood. The pyrotechnical explosive charges were then successively detonated.

Supposition:

The mixture of street trash, animal organs, and pig blood will be spread out on the walls, the ceiling, and the floor.

Test video:

Trash Can - Paris 0:13 min <https://vimeo.com/195091876> [Pw: translatae12345]



Kitchen waste 2016



Set-up and Execution:

For this work, four transparent trash cans are placed in a room. The trash cans are filled with organic kitchen trash and then sealed tightly with tape and silicon. In front of each trash can is placed a candle.

Supposition:

At some point the candle burns down.

Broken Flowers 2015



Set-up and Execution:

Three flowers were stolen from the prettiest gardens in Schöppingen and transplanted to a large meadow. A pyrotechnical explosive charge was attached to each of the flowers and ignited.

Result:

There was an bang, the blossoms, leaves, buds, and small branches flew around and there was smoke.

Documentation:

The detonation was filmed.

Richard Reid 2015



Set-up and Execution:

For this work, a hole was cut into each of the soles of a pair of sport shoes and in each of these was placed a pyrotechnical explosive charge. The ignition cables of the explosive charges were lengthened by about 10 meters and each attached to an electrical ignition device. The ignition switch was closed.

Result:

There is a bang and both shoes fly through the air as a result of the explosion. One shoe falls to shreds from the blast and the other is hardly damaged.

Documentation:

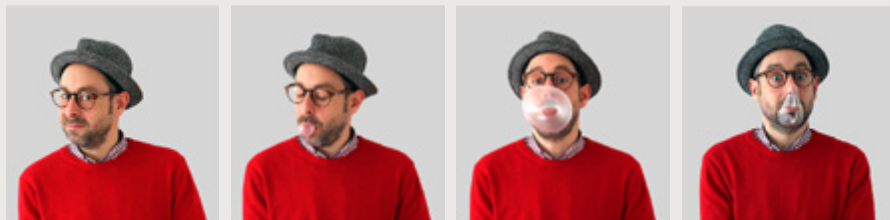
The detonation was filmed, and the sport shoes archived.



Human Time Fuse 2016



1976 born in Berlin, Germany



Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 Tigerpicture, B.Z.Z.T. II cold coffee and foot massage, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 Ūgon no Taiyō Shikkoku naru Yoake, Stoffwechsel Galerie, Mannheim, Germany
- 2011 Drive - by shooting, Diagonales 61, Marseille, France
- 2011 Dr. Mabuse, Addict Gallery, Paris, France
- 2010 Himmelfahrt Nr.1 - 53, Urban art info, Berlin, Germany

Group Exhibitions

- 2016 Geben Sie ihm keine Zigarette, er ist noch ein Kind!, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 To connect sign up today, Goteborgs Konsthall, Göteborg, Sweden
- 2015 Igenom, Hammerkullen Konsthall, Göteborg, Sweden
- 2015 Views, The Chemistry Gallery, Prag, Czech Republic
- 2015 Backjumps 20 +1, Kunstraum Kreuzberg Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
- 2014 Serious TV week 47-48, Tys Exhibition Space, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2014 Nomadic Spaces & Former Future Nows, Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany
- 2014 Galerie Nomades Archist 03, Art-cade, Marseille, France
- 2013 Backjumps Christmas Spezial, Kunstraum Kreuzberg - Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 Contemporary Art, Stadtmuseum München, München, Germany
- 2013 Wir kommen alle, Artsquad Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 Public Arena, Associazione Barriera, Torino, Italy
- 2013 On your marks, get set, go, Elias Canetti Society, Ruse, Bulgaria
- 2013 Tchikebe Studio, Slick Art Fair, Brüssel, Belgium
- 2012 Salat Komplett mit Alles, Rock the Block, Vierte Welt, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 Quarter 12, Chmielna, Quarter Gallery, Warsaw, Poland
- 2011 G & O, Silkscreenprints, Tchikebe Studio, Marseille, France
- 2011 Gamerz 07, École Supérieure d'Art Aix en Provence, Aix en Provence, France
- 2011 Berliner Zimmer Genossen, Funkhaus Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2011 Diamonds - Supersentai, Lucas Carrieri Art Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2011 24 h Abandoned Munic, Galeria Autonmica, München, Germany
- 2011 Du mur à l'atelier et l'art urbain, Addict Gallery, Paris, France
- 2010 L'Art Urbain...du mur à l'atelier..., Addict Gallery, Paris, France
- 2010 Berlin Metting, Czech Embassy, Berlin, Germany
- 2010 Diamonds - Millionen Körper, Senatsresevenspeicher Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2009 Muss alles raus?, Urban art info, Berlin/ Germany
- 2009 Art Totale, Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany
- 2009 Wir sind nicht die Affen in deiner Horde, Urban art info, Berlin, Germany

Public Projects

- 2016 Behind the fence, Projectroom// S85, Berlin, Germany
- 2016 Auf der Palme, Projectroom// Big Walls, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 Goteborgs Konsthall, Tryckverkstaden, Göteborg, Sweden
- 2014 Galerie Nomades Archist 03, Art-cade, Marseille, France
- 2013 Invisible Cities - Ruse, Elias Canetti Society, Ruse, Bulgaria
- 2013 Reclaim the subway, Elias Canetti Society, Ruse, Bulgaria
- 2013 On your marks, get set, go, Elias Canetti Society, Ruse, Bulgaria
- 2012 Quarter 12, Chmielna, Warsaw, Poland
- 2011 Goals & Objectives, Praha, Berlin, Brüssel, Paris, Aix en provence, Marseille, Baden-Baden
- 2009 Art Totale, Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany
- 2005 City of Names, Backjumps Issue II, Kunstraum Kreuzberg - Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
- 2003 City of Names, Jazzstylecorner, Götheburg, Sweden

Lectures, workshops

2016 Newspaper today and Elias Canetti, lecture, Hidden Indexes Projectroom, Berlin, Germany
2015 Artist talk with Liv Stoltz, Goteborg's Konsthall, Göteborg, Sweden
2015 Studiotalk with Linda Tedsdotter, Konstepedemin, Göteborg, Sweden
2015 Graffiti as a urban calligraphy, lecture, Konstepedemin, Göteborg, Sweden
2015 Instinctive identities and unconsciously symbols, lecture, Konstepedemin, Göteborg, Sweden
2013 Invisible Cities - Ruse, lecture, Elias Canetti Society, Ruse, Bulgaria
2013 Human sun, lecture, Elias Canetti Society, Ruse, Bulgaria
2013 Reclaim the subway, workshop, Elias Canetti Society, Ruse, Bulgaria
2011 Goals & Objectives, lecture, Zinc, Arts cultures Numériques, Marseille, France
2004 Typomesse, lecture, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany

Residencies, awards

2015 Artist in residence, Goteborg's Konsthall, Göteborg, Sweden
2015 Artist in residence, Iaspis, The Swedish Arts Grants, Stockholm, Sweden
2015 Artist in residence, Künstlerdorf Schöppingen, Schöppingen, Germany
2013 Artist in residence, Elias Canetti Society, Ruse, Bulgaria
2009 Art Totale, Leuphana University, 1st video award, Lüneburg, Germany

Bibliography, books, exhibition catalogues

2016 B.Z.Z.T. II, published by Hidden Indexes
2016 B.Z.Z.T.I, published by Hidden Indexes
2015 Open House catalogue, Iaspis grant holders, published by Iaspis, The Swedish Arts Grants
2014 Our Idols are dead, 32 Notes on Graffiti, published by Klick Klack Magazin
2014 B.Z.Z.T. Newspaper, published by Markus Butkereit
2013 Public Arena, exhibition catalogue, published by Artegiovane, Associazione Barriera
2013 Left hand pieces, book, published by Markus Butkereit
2012 Left hand pieces - sketches, book, published by Markus Butkereit
2011 Arts multimedia, exhibition catalogue, published by Association M2F Créations
2011 Diamonds - Supersentai, exhibition catalogue, published by Diamonds Press
2010 Diamonds - Millionen Körper, exhibition catalogue, published by Diamonds Press
2010 Himmelfahrt Nr. 1 - 53, book, published by Urban art info Verlag
2009 Galeria Autonomica, exhibition catalogue, published by Autonomica Press
2007 Urban Art Photography, documentation, published by Die Gestalten Verlag
2007 Translatæ Stillæ Pluviae, Writing the memory of the city, book, published by Dokument Verlag
2005 Style writing, documentation, published by Publikat Verlag
2005 Black Book - Silkscreenprints, book, published by Fleischerei
2004 Writing - Urban calligraphy and beyond, book, published by Die Gestalten Verlag
2003 Haushalten - Ein Künstlerprojekt, Bezirksamt Pankow, published by Galerie Pankow