

heidundgriess Artist Statement



We are an artist duo who have been working interdisciplinarily with installation art since 2011. Due to our diverse professional backgrounds, we combine the fields of art, architecture, and design in our collaborative practice.

Our work explores the impact of hyper-urbanization on nature and the shifting perception of what "nature" means in the Anthropocene. Through large-scale, site-specific installations, we investigate how human-made environments alter ecosystems and cultural notions of landscape.

We examine how humanity not only uses nature but continually constructs, shapes, and stages it according to economic and aesthetic ideals — creating new, hybrid landscapes in the process.

We see these dynamics not as isolated phenomena, but as part of a global condition, reflecting how cities worldwide construct and aestheticize "nature" to align with human ideas of beauty and harmony.

Our installations address the coexistence of technological progress and ecological fragility, and how artificial environments increasingly imitate or replace natural systems.

We frequently work with industrial materials and responsive mechanisms that behave like natural processes — expanding, collapsing, or reacting to environmental change. Imitation, simulation, and subtle irony are recurring strategies we use to question notions of authenticity and control, while exposing the fragility of what is perceived as "natural."

By presenting our site-specific works in galleries and public space, we aim to encourage diverse audiences to reflect on the paradoxes of progress and the ongoing transformation of our shared environment.

Alexandra Grieb:

Born 1977 in Hameln/Germany, living in Hamburg since 1995, 2001-2004 studies visual communication at the HAW (University of applied Science) in Hamburg, Germany. Since then working as an Artist and Photographer

Jorel Heid:

Born 1982 in Savigny/Switzerland, 2003-2006, education as a joiner in Tübingen/Germany. Since then working as an independent Joiner, Artist and Designer.

- 2026 (G) 3 Installations at „There is a ghost in the room for sure“, Schloß Moyland, Bedburg-Hau, Germany
- 2025 (G) „pool II“ Installation in public space, at „UIT“ Art Festival in Tartu, Estonia
- 2024 (G) Finalists Exhibition, 2nd Price, International Share Prize XVI, Torino, Italy
- 2024 (G) „Metamorphosis“, Millepiani, Rome, Italy
- 2024 (G) „Wildbits“, European Culture Capital Tartu 24, Maajaam, Estonia
- 2023 (G) Contemporary Landscapes 2024, CICA Art Museum, Incheon, South Korea
- 2023 (G) „Petromelancholia“, group exhibition, Brutus, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2023 Finalist Combat Art Prize, section: Photography, group exhibition, Museo G Fattori, Livorno, Italy
- 2023 Artist residency, „Freesam“, Pico Island, Azores
- 2022 (S) „Transforming Landscapes I“, Soloshow at Mundhalle Hamburg, Germany
- 2022 Finalist 11th Edition, „Contemporary Talents“, Francois Schneider Foundation
- 2022 Artist residency and exhibition, Arctic Resort, Kakslauttanen, Finland
- 2022 (G) Exhibition „Wildbits“, Kaunas, Latvia
- 2022 (G) „Ups and downs“, Outdoor technological art Festival „Wildbits“, Installation, Maajaam, Estonia
- 2022 Investigation Residency „Obenstadt“, Goethe Institute, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2022 (G) „dissolve“, „Between Ebb & Flow“, Installation, Public Art Festival, Hamburg, Germany
- 2022 (S) Permanent Installation „swarm“, Herring Era Museum, Siglufjörður, Iceland.
- 2021 (G) „Poetry of Translation“, Installation, Merano Arte, Merano, Italy
- 2021 (S) Exhibition, „Hamburger Kultursommer“, Freiluftgalerie Mundhalle, Hamburg, Germany
- 2021 (S) „throbbber“, Installation in public space, Toronto, Canada
- 2020 (S) „highway=footway, layer 1“, Installations at Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof, Hamburg, Germany
- 2020 (G) A4 ARIE Online Exhibition: 60 Days of Lockdown, Chengdu, China
- 2019 (G) „perspects“ 4.8., Exhibition at A5 Gallery, Chengdu, China
- 2019 Exhibition stipend and artist residency A4 Museum / Chengdu, China
- 2019 (S) Winning design: „connector“, international Art//Design//Architecture competition:
„Icebreakers“, Toronto, Canada
- 2018 (S) pure simulation, Galerie Bridget Stern, Hamburg, Germany
- 2018 (S) Winning design: „make some noise!!!“, international Art//Design//Architecture competition:
„Winterstations“, Toronto, Canada
- 2018 (S) „Dentro del tiempo“, Installation in public space, Pinea Gallery, Cadiz, Spain
- 2017 1st Jury-price at the Festival of Performing Arts, „restructuring“, a collaboration with
Veronique Langlott and Kathrin Bethge, Hamburg, Germany
- 2017 (G) offshore art // „access point“, Geheimagentur, Hamburg, Germany
- 2017 (G) „swimming pool“, Installation, „Battle of Baakenhöft“, Geheimagentur, Hamburg, Germany
- 2017 (G) „housing the many“, Urbanize Festival, Galerie Speckstrasse, Hamburg, Germany
- 2016 (S) „56,4 tons bed ash“, Installation, Art & Music Festival „Fusion“, Lärz, Germany
- 2016 (S) „15,3 m3 glow“, Installation, „A Summer`s Tale“, Lohmühlen, Germany
- 2016 (G) 14 Segments, Installation, „a brave new world“, Affenfaust Galerie, Hamburg, Germany
- 2015 Artist residency, Siglufjörður, Iceland
- 2015 (S) 251 „Zugvögel“ & „18qm glow“, Installations, „A Summer`s Tale“, Lohmühlen, Germany
- 2015 (S) Installation „black is black“, Art & Music Festival „Fusion“, Lärz, Germany
- 2015 (G) Exhibition: „Young International Contest of Contemporary Art“, Lugano, Switzerland
- 2014 (G) „Gewuchs teil III mit ton“, Installation, Westwerk, Hamburg, Germany
- 2014 (S) Installations, Art & Music Festival, „Off the radar“, Te Arai, New Zealand
- 2014 (S) „210 klappen“, Installation Art & Music Festival „Fusion“, Lärz, Germany
- 2013 (G) „Emerging Artist“, Exhibition, Affordable Artfair, Hamburg, Germany
- 2013 (G) Installations at temporary Gallery „Kapriole“, Hamburg, Germany
- 2013 (G) „glauben / wissen“, Exhibition, Kunsthaus Speckstrasse, Hamburg, Germany
- 2013 (G) „was weiss ich schwarz II“, Exhibition, Galerie Linda, Hamburg, Germany
- 2013 (G) Installation, romantik 2.0, Magdeburg, Germany
- 2013 (G) „Das Rechteck in seiner natürlichen Umgebung“, exhibition, „weisses Blatt Galerie“,
Leipzig, Germany
- 2012 (G) Cloud-spotter visuell, Exhibition, Galerie Westwerk, Hamburg, Germany
- 2011 (G) „was weiss ich schwarz I“, Kunsthaus Speckstrasse, Hamburg, Germany

works // ups and downs I



[Link to video](#)

5 x 7m faketrees, 5 programmed blowers,
„ups and downs" is an installation / intervention consisting of 5 manipulated airtubes, that rise and fall in regular intervals. Their external appearance is adapted to the surface real of burches. W ith this obvious fake trees and their steady and unnatural up and down movement, we want to point out the worldwide intervention of humans in a natural cycle, which opposes with their own economically motivation. Trees are cut down, reforestation follows then they are cut down again, then they are again reforested, then they are cut down again, etc. W ith this installation we would like to question this cycle and ask whether the forest manipulated by humans is still an attractive functioning habitat and what consequences result from it in the long term. It was shown as part of the „ Wildbits" Exhibition at MAAJAAM, Estonia , 2022 + 2024 and in Kaunas Lithuania, 2022.

works // ups and downs II



[Link to video](#)

"ups and downs II", kinetic installation consisting of a fir tree divided into segments, a (wooden) gear, rope, pulleys and a rotary motor.

In a continuous time loop, the dismembered tree is briefly erected by the varying degrees of tension of the rope connecting it, but immediately collapses again. It was part of a soloshow at Mundhalle in 2022, xpon Art Gallery in Hamburg, Germany in 2023 and won the 2nd price at International Share Prize XVI, Torino, Italy.

With the constant and unnatural up and down movement, we want to draw attention to man's global intervention in a natural cycle, which he counters with his own economic motivation.

In most parts of Europe, trees are felled, followed by monocultural reforestation, then they are felled again, then they are reforested, then they are felled again, and so on.

This method can serve as an example of the way man tries to force nature into a time frame and shape reality in terms of economic gains, regardless of the natural timelines.

works // transforming landscapes



Transforming Landscapes is an ongoing intervention and photography project that began during a month-long residency in Kakslauttanen in Finnish Lapland in 2022. By felling tree trunks and moving them sideways and cutting branches in a precise horizontal line, we create minimal irritation and transform what appears to be a natural landscape into one artificially altered by humans. We want to draw attention to man's persistent need, worldwide, to enter a natural cycle and subjugate it for economic motives. We invite viewers to question whether the human-manipulated forest is still an attractive, functioning habitat and how we will deal with the resulting consequences in the long term.

works // Fragile

"Fragile" was made during an Artist Residency on Pico Island on the Acores. We were invited to realize this work in the sculptural garden at Nu'vem organised by "Freesam". The Installation that in an abstracted form resembles a row of dominoes that seems to stand still the moment they fall over. It immediately provoke the expectation that another one would have to fall at any moment. The non-fulfillment of this expectation, the break with the usual perception of time and the fragile pause raises questions as to whether the implied sequence of events is decelerated, presented (in slow motion) and the timeline extends to months, years, decades or even millennia...?



works // oil on canvas II

crude oil, also known as "black gold", is a key driver and most important resource for our global economy and for the social prosperity of industrialised nations, and its processing has made the "growing city" possible in the first place.

The list of products made from this finite, fossilised raw material or the substances extracted from it seems endless.

On the other hand, this material is highly conflictual, as it contributes enormously to climate change through its extraction and processing, and the finite nature of this raw material only hints at the catastrophic consequences this could and will have for the world's population.

In the installation "Oil on Canvas II", the fossil raw material oil is placed in the artificial context of a gallery.

It is made with several water pumps behind the canvas, which constantly pump black waste oil over the canvas, which flows over the surface in waves. It is questioning our approach on natural resources and the traditions and expectations towards art and exhibitions. The Installation was part of the show „Petromelancholia“ at Brutus in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in 2023 and has become part of the gallery's collection in 2024.

Link to video

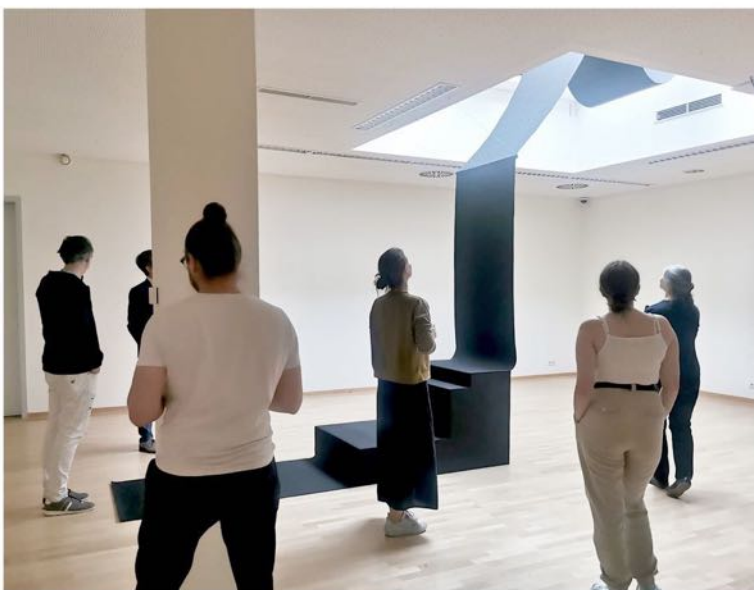
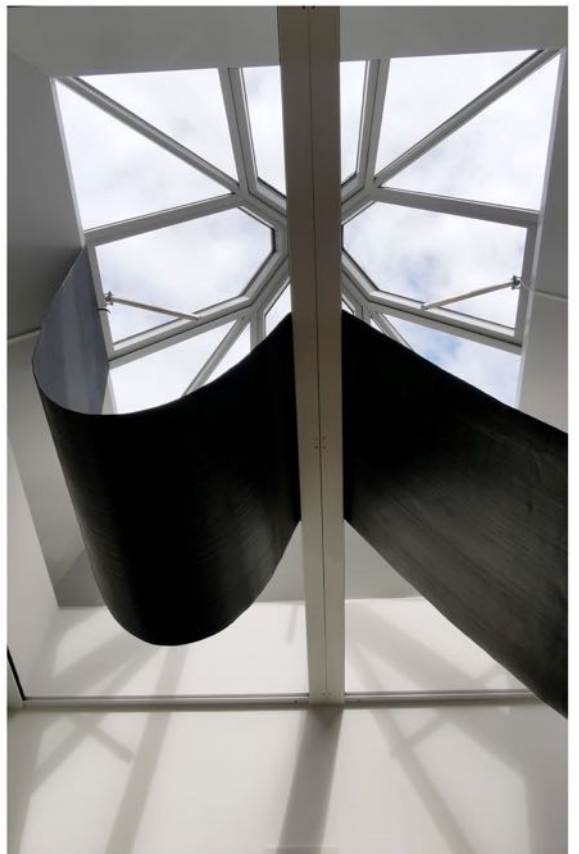


works // access point II

Access Point II // Bitumen, wooden construction

This installation was created as part of a one-week research stay at the Goethe-Institut in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in 2022.

The topic was the accessibility of roofs for the public and the benefits for the residents /community.



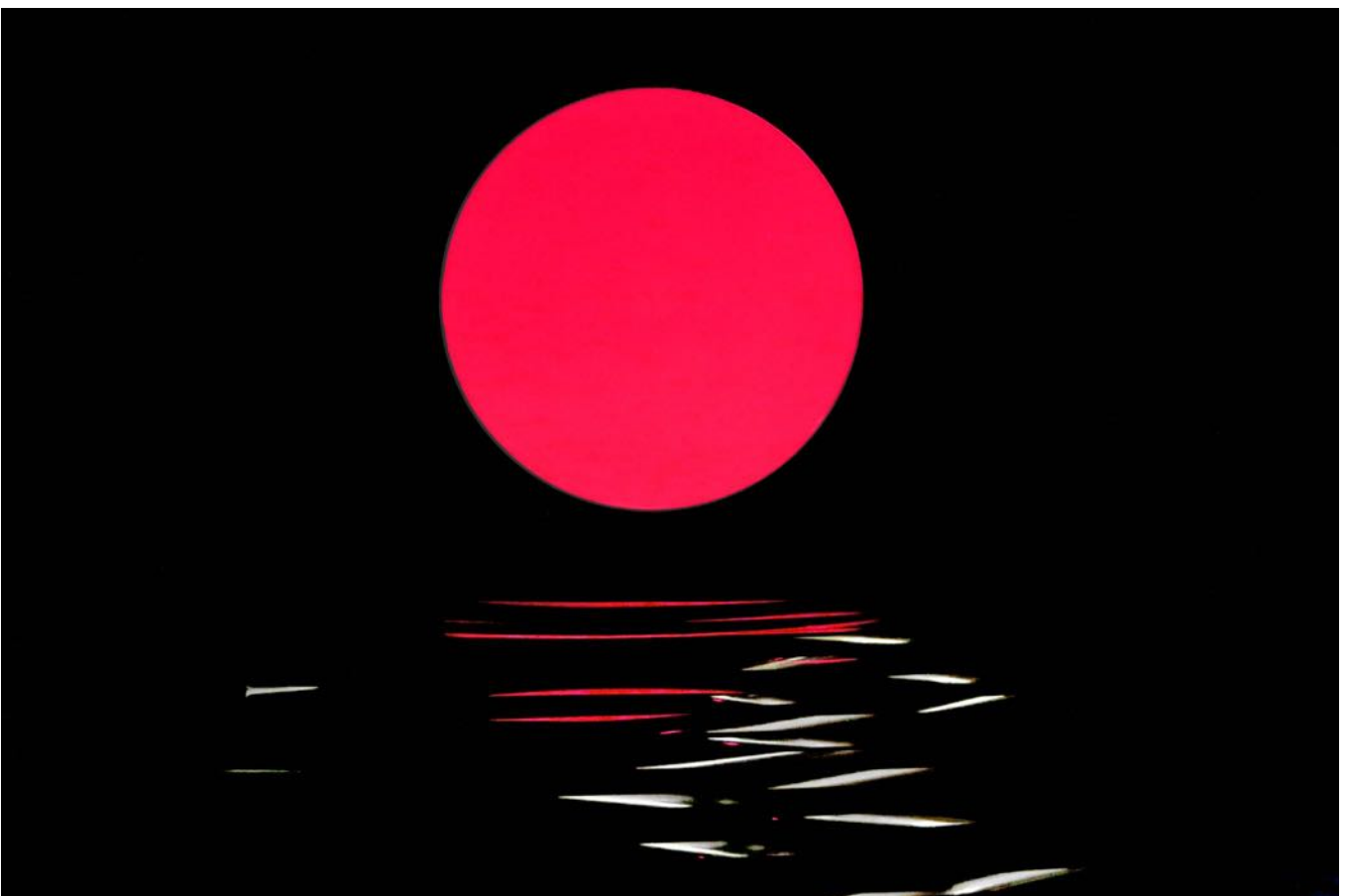
works // in Between



The installation and sound work *In Between* is a piece that will be on display at the Museum Schloss Moyland in Germany until the end of 2026. A giant balloon is wedged between two walls. From the balloon, a sound can be heard as if the balloon is being inflated. The concept of the "Shepard's Staircase" is applied, creating an auditory illusion. It seems to the listeners as if the balloon is becoming fuller and fuller, and it gives the impression that the balloon is about to burst at any moment.

works // Horizon

In the kinetic installation Horizon, which will be on display at the Museum Schloss Moyland in Germany until the end of 2026, a sunset over the sea is staged in a vaulted corridor painted in deep matte black. Due to the intense darkness, the visitor is unable to perceive distances and proportions. A pinspot at the end of the tunnel illuminates the sun, and below it, strips of foil are stretched, set in motion by fans. The foil reflects the surrounding light, creating a fake sunset effect.



works // throbbber

Throbbber was one of the winning designs of the competition: "winterstations" in Toronto, 2020. It was shown in public spaces in spring/summer 2021.

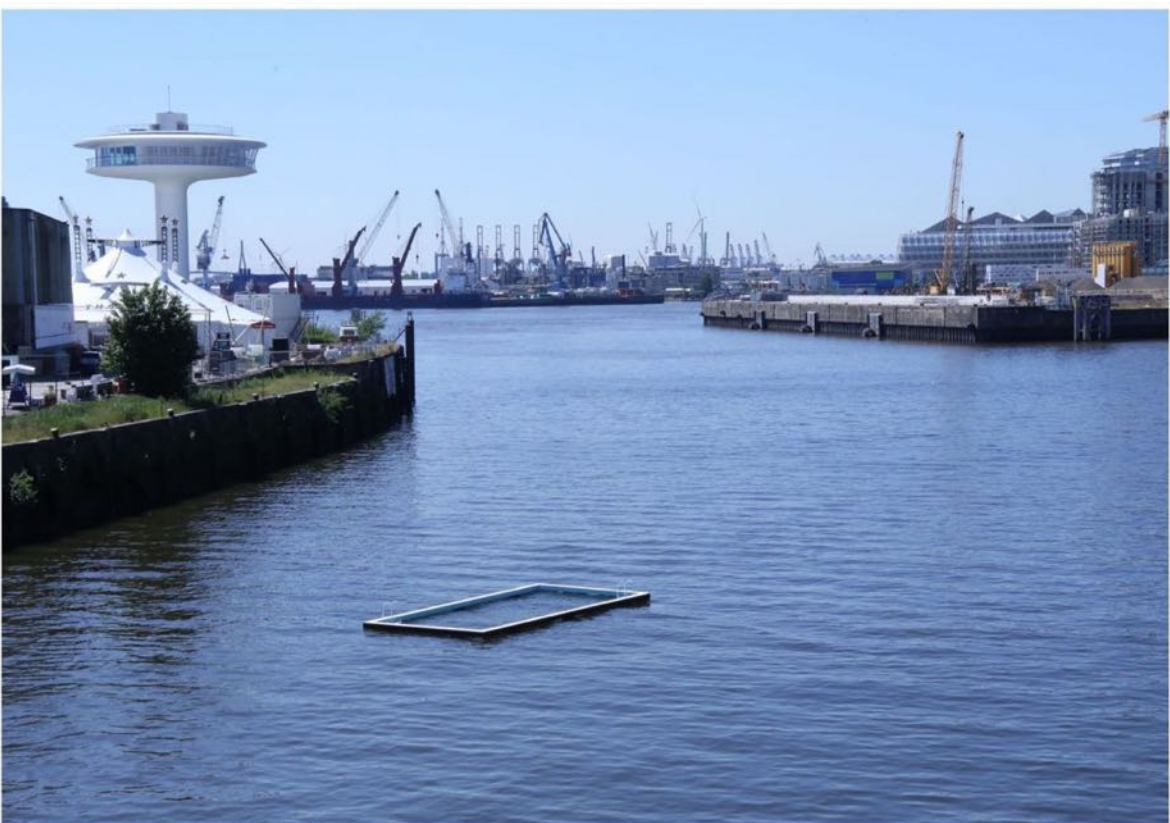
The Installation responds to the theme: "refuge" with 10 walkable trapezoidal shelters that pointing out the similarities of people who seek for refuge for many different reasons but all have one thing in common: They wait. We translated the buffering icon from the digital world into reality. 10 trapezoidal shelters made of coloured timber.



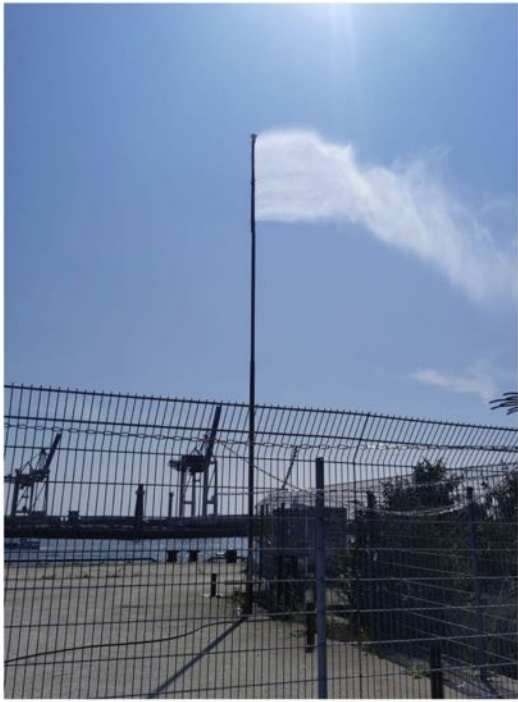
works //access point // pool II

With the floating Installation „Access point“ in 2017 on the river Elbe near the harbour of Hamburg Germany, attention was drawn to the inaccessibility for the public to water areas, which account 1/3 of the city area. The pool is a coloured wooden frame that represents the outlines of a public swimming pool. „pool II“ was exhibited 2025 in Tartu, Estonia at the „UIT“ a Public Art Festival and invites people passing by to swim, jump, step, dive, float, balance, crawl, climb – over, under, through, and across its boundaries. The work playfully explores the perception and interpretation of public space, addressing the human need for clear, comprehensible structures. At the same time, it points to the fact that our ideas of space and its boundaries are shaped and defined by social and cultural concepts and framings.

[Link to video](#)



works // dissolve



[Link to video](#)

In the installation "dissolve", a flag is replaced by volatile water mist and installed on a flagpole. On a direct level, the spraying symbolises a fleeting existence, life itself.

-The element of water is the source of life and is essential for the survival of humans and all living things. This natural resource is not equally accessible to everyone in the world. It is regulated, sold and fuels social inequality in many countries around the world

-The flag is a symbol that is understood like no other symbol in all countries of the world. In its capacity, it marks an affiliation, indicates privileges and rights of a group of people or a nationality. The work counteracts the attributions, levels of meaning and handling of "classic" flags; their fluidity contradicts the symbolic meaning they have acquired throughout history: It cannot be touched, hoisted or folded. Hamburg, Germany, 2021