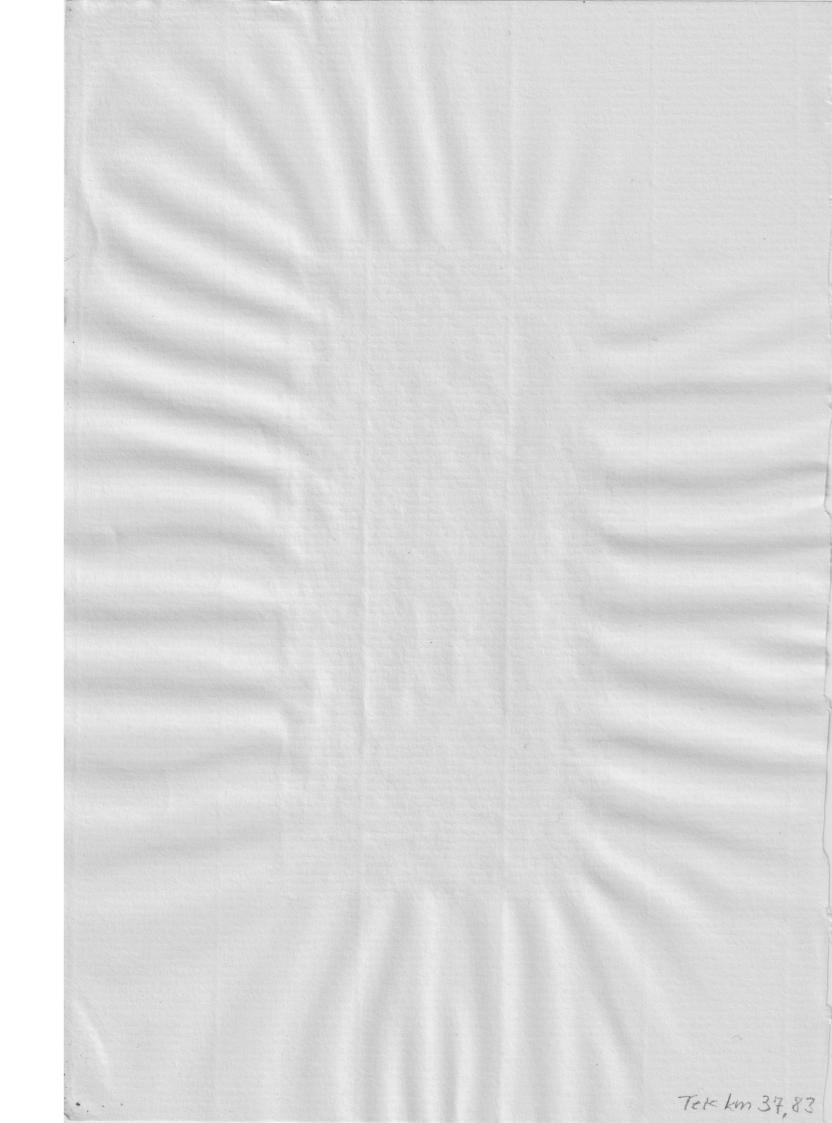
MARTINA FRIEDRICH

SELECTED WORKS | 2025

## TEK FINDING TELTOWKANAL

In Winter 2023/24 an investigation was undertaken into a body of water in the south of Berlin. Though hailed as an engineerial feat since it's opening over a century ago, the focus lay on the tracing of its stories and the connections to the artist's own "body of water": mapping the dis- and re-appearances of its flows, attempts of getting in touch in words, both written, drawn, recorded and re-recorded submerged in the water, and visited, repeatedly over time, establishing an intimate, visceral rapport. The longings, frustrations, incongruencies and affections all fed into a cumulative lecture, itself inconclusive, patchy, interrupted by the findings along the way.



### FINDING TELTOWKANAL TEK

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NH a heavy beart

what am I actually doing here? is it possible to get "in

trying to communicate with fellow bodies, in this case a

geophysical one. (or is it?) (as it is an engineered body,

it is also about finding the body of water in the engineered

what does it contain? what seeps into it (what seeps from

....h an entity so entirely different?

well, that is also the point. with Neimanis: as body of water

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Supple not recognist it.

Intentions:

pinpoint key places (ghost the outer fame)

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Teltowkanal near my house, the of the recognist it.

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drawings (how does wetness show i

(where) does the Inn come in? do biographical waters to Telto if Teltowkanal "flows backwards km 00,00) - do I need to invert m



TEK – getting in touch

2024

240127

thought processes: TWO TRAINS OF THOUGHT RELATI.

why not find access via V

playing back recording and re-recording with hydrophone vegetation was relevant and integral par

result of hibernal dormancy; not that this angle/access point/perspective/take would not be possible, but rather its

where last years (perceived) connection was based to a large extent on the waters movement (and mine) the connection between distant places, the directionality of its (narrative) flow

punctual, interrupted. There appe current hibernal conditions becomes less supple, less mobile, my surround(l)ings entered a Sti open, everything around it is also letter #04)

so seasonality results in a method? (or filter? or focus?) [TWO TRAINS OF THOUGHT RELATING FROM SS24]

intentions1:

TEK - Inn visiting shore 2024 glass jar with water from the river Inn, before being submerged

intenti TEK - letters, 2024, mixed media low prio

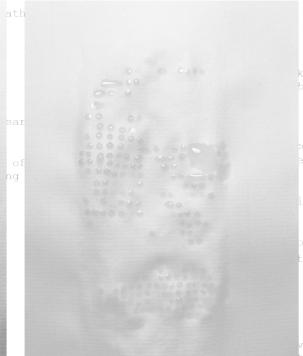
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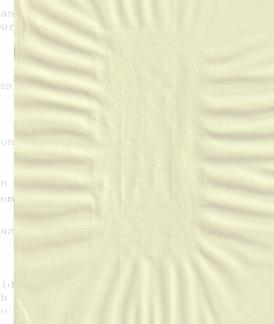
written correspondence

what am I actually doing here?

240110

240112 **a**ctions **t**ought





TEK - km 37,83, 2024, teltowkanal water on paper

intentions. "trans into wat what v

borrowe

doubts: what

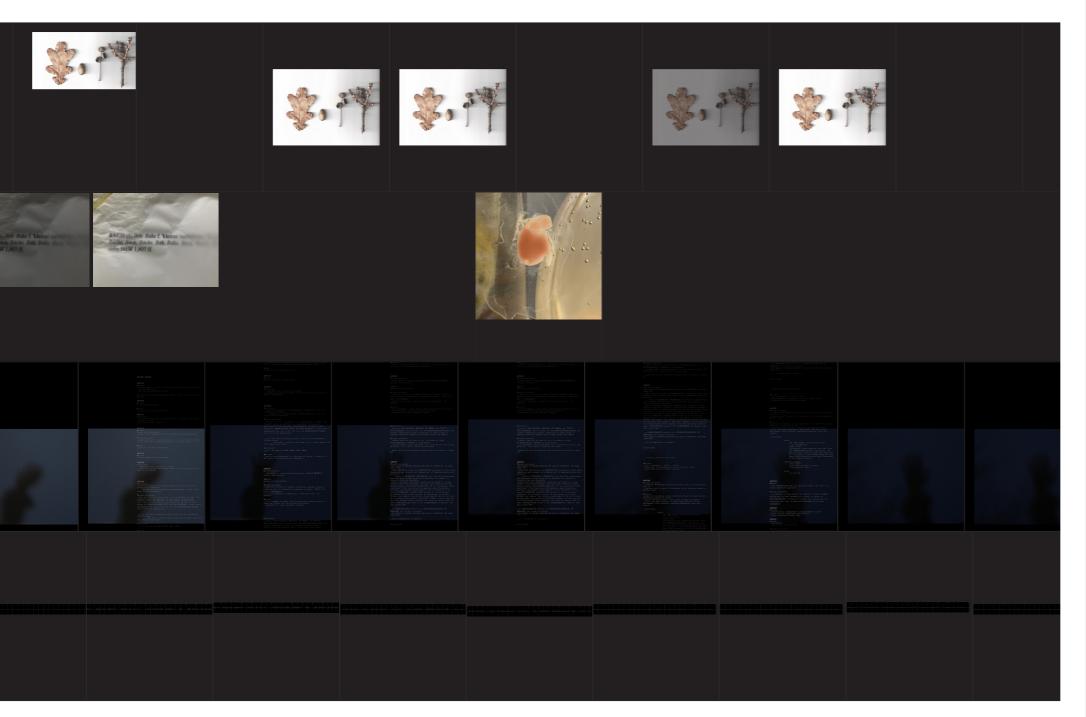
240116 **a**ctions

240119

intent:

## TEK FINDING TELTOWKANAL

TEK - (interrupted) lecture delivered Feb 14 2024, CUD TU Berlin



TEK - fragmentaries (stills), 2024, audiovisual projection, dimensions variable

#### intr

The Teltowkanal is a water body in the South of Berlin.

#### body

It was planned in order to act as a gaining and drainage stream for surface runoff, greywater and industrial water

and to shorten the shipping route between the rivers Elbe in the west and Oder in the

When it was designed and planned in the late 1800s the engineers did it in such a way as to utilise the bed of the river Bäke\_

The Bäke was a water body.

No, the Bäke is a water body in the south west of Berlin

It invisibly originates at Fichtenberg and invisibly, takes its course south,

where it briefly surfaces, forms a pond,

has its waters cleaned, underground, by a slurry tank,

before emptying into the Teltowkanal.

Or before becoming Teltowkanal.

The Teltowkanal stretches over a length of 37,83 km.

It flows from the Dahme (the Wendische Spree) westward to, but actually there is another branch that comes from the Spree, not the Wendische Spree, or Havel, but the proper Spree, the Britzer Verbindungskanal, and finds confluence with the Teltowkanal, the "real" Teltowkanal

at Brizer Hafen, where they're joined by Neuköllner Schifffahrskanal, also bringing waters from the Spree and Landwehrkanal. Together they travel westwards.

Kilometrage starts, for, like any federal water way, Tek features exact kilometrage, kilometrage starts at km 0,00.

But it doesn't commence at the beginning.

We have to go to the other end,  $38\ km$  downriver to the west, where it disappears in lake Griebnitz.

And yet, we are not at km 0,0 yet.

The canal, obscured, or swallowed, by Griebnitzsee, makes its way to Park Babelsberg, where it originates.

Or: Where its kilometrage originates and continues eastwards,

crossing Griebnitzsee as the first of four lakes it meets (or swallows) in its course.

So, in reverse, or correct, order, they are: Gribnitzsee, which was excavated during construction, as it proved too shallow for the Teltowkanal. Then, right after passing the sluice at Kleinmachnow, the Machnower See, which was excavated, also too shallow...

Incidentally, this means that, just a short distance further south, still in its old bed, supplied by the surrounding meadows (one source says: the torso is fed by them), the Bäke still exists and flows almost alongside its branch, or successor, or sibling water body.

They meet again just after the Machnower Schleuse,

but all the way along its former course (or slightly off to the side), the Bäke keeps reappearing. As pond. As swamp. As ditch. finally in the guise of the Kohlhasengraben.

Bäke does that. She keeps making her appearances all over west Berlin, even when there is no water to be seen, and be it in the name of a playground: like the Spielplatz am Bäkequell

Incidentally, it is near that playground that the Lanke used to meet the Bäke. Lanke, a water body, is said to have given Lankwitz its name.

But, following that tangent, which I'm reluctant to and really should not be doing, there could be Lankwitzes all over the place,

since it, like Bäke, Beek or Bach (of Beck), it is not a very inimitable name and can be attributed to a variety of aquatic morphologies. Often swamps. Much like the word Fenn.

Talking of Fenn: Am Alten Fenn is a small, rather insignificant path that runs alongside the southternmost edge of Königsheide.

We're in the east of Berlin now, near Tek km 30. I had always been surprised, since there was no water, or even wetness, there, but upon listening closely you can hear the

### TEK FINDING TELTOWKANAL

TEK - (interrupted) lecture, delivered Feb 14 2024, CUD TU Berlin (continued)



TEK – fragmentaries (stills), 2024, audiovisual projection, dimensions variable (continued)

Spieipiatz am Bakequei

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The surroundings are dry, though, the groundwater normally at five metres under ground.

When Teltowkanal was built, vegetation, which was described as lush and proliferous, soon started showing signs of drought.

Also, the fauna changed, European Adders that sought shelter in the humid undergrowth no longer find suitable conditions.

And where the "noxious mists" were deemed unsanitary in other parts, namely near the Bäke- swamps, the Königsheide had been well on the way to developing into a climatic spa bearing the name Bad Johannisthal. There are also reports on a mineral spring, disappeared also.

As has, incidentally, the spring of the Heidekampgraben, which is nearby, though there is still a pond on the grounds of the tree nursery Späth, bearing witness to its former presence.

The Heidekampgraben itself still exists, now originating in Britzer Verbindungskanal, near Chris Gueffroy-Allee (named after 20 year old Chris Gueffroy who was the last person to be shot dead when trying to cross the inner german border).

Because, in this segment of the Britzer Verbindungskanal, and, past Britzer Hafen continuing upriver to the place where the A13 now crosses th Teltowkanal, doubled as the inner German border.

And since the fortifications were designed in such a way that the immediate shore would not be accessible to the public, after 1961 vegetation there flourished, still long after the wall had come down.

The nearby Wegedornbrücke, the next bridge upriver and the first entirely on east german ground, might, in its name, hint at the local vegetation.

(As the adjacent street) it was named after the plant Wegedorn, Rhamnus cathartica, or purging buckthorn, native to riparian areas,

but also widely used in bioengineering, for its roots run deep.

Also: its berries were (and still are) used for producing water soluble pigments, sap green but also a yellow and a blue colourant.

In this listing, we're missing blue here. We have to go elsewhere for that.

About five km north, right near where Britzer Verbindungskanal branches off from the Spree,

a chemical plant used to produce the pigment Berlin Blue,

though closely related to cyanide,

not deemed toxic, but rather used medicinally to treat radiation poisoning.

It was even fed to wild boar (and reindeer) for that purpose.

So, the Chemie-Fabrik Kanne was,

as was the nearby Forester's house Kanne, named after the little stream Kanne, the Flüsschen Kanne, that dried up at some point at the turn of the last century, but left an imprint still visible now in the Königsheide.

But, I'm running out of time

conclusion

To conclude,

risking an outlook for future planning, we could concede that

the Teltowkanal is a water body in the south of berlin.

Haus W is located in Stahnsdorf, in direct neighbourhood to the Südwestkirchhof cemetery, beyond the southeasternmost edge of Berlin (and thus the former innergerman border), inhabited by an artist in his eighties.

Historical layers, accounts and tales of the inhabitants, stories told by rocks in the trainbed and stones in the masonry, signs, artwork - all amalgamate to a body of information of highest density: palimpsest becoming black hole.

Over the course of several weeks repeated approaches of the site are undertaken. First by bicycle, as it comes most naturally, then using trains and buses (trying to emulate itineraries that hold significance to the site), covering pivotal routes (the former Friedhofsbahn, the neighbourging cemetery) on foot. The way there and back, the choice of route is essential to the endeavour. The starting points – though seemingly unrelated to the site in focus – determine the resulting trails. The subjectivity of any vantage point in an investigation becomes manifest.

I start with what is familiar: vegetation, movement, the drawn line

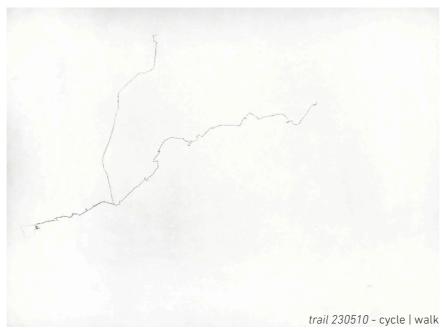
- finding a way in.

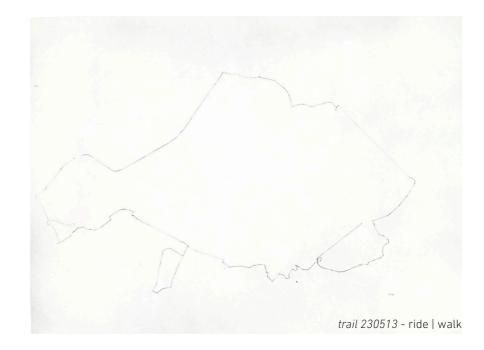


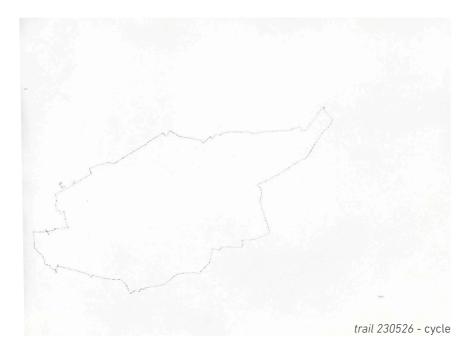


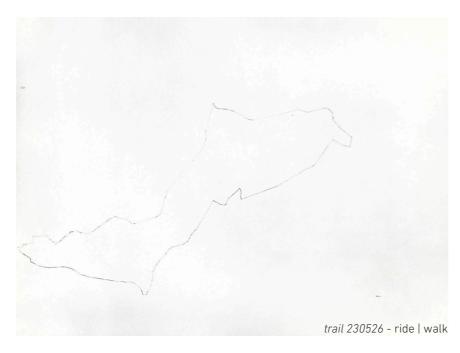
TEK - trails pencil on paper, 2024











*Haus W* – tracks 2024, pencil on paper

Haus W – garden inventory 2023, list of ocurring species, registered on replicate of "Hausbuch" page





*Haus W* – cemeteries | water 2024, pencil on paper

Along with the tracking of trails, cemeteries are mapped, varying in visibility depending on their closeness to the trails. Similarly, water structures are traced. The most visible strain hereby is the Teltowkanal, a waterway of - yet again - highly subjective significance, originating in nearby Gribnitzsee and flowing into the Spree very near "home".

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*Haus W* – 230510\_1 2023, pencil on paper

transcript of train of thought approaching Haus W



ant sample: Rumex obtusifolius | tracks left by



plant sample: Datura stramonium with seeds | highly toxic in all parts | found near the end of the Friedhofsbahn | akin and next to some tank traps |



plant sample: Senecio vulgaris | old-man-in-thespring | collected when sad | mistaking it for Hypericum | near the *Autobahn* | near *Dreilinden* 







rock | taken from the remains of the trackbed of the Friedhofsbahn

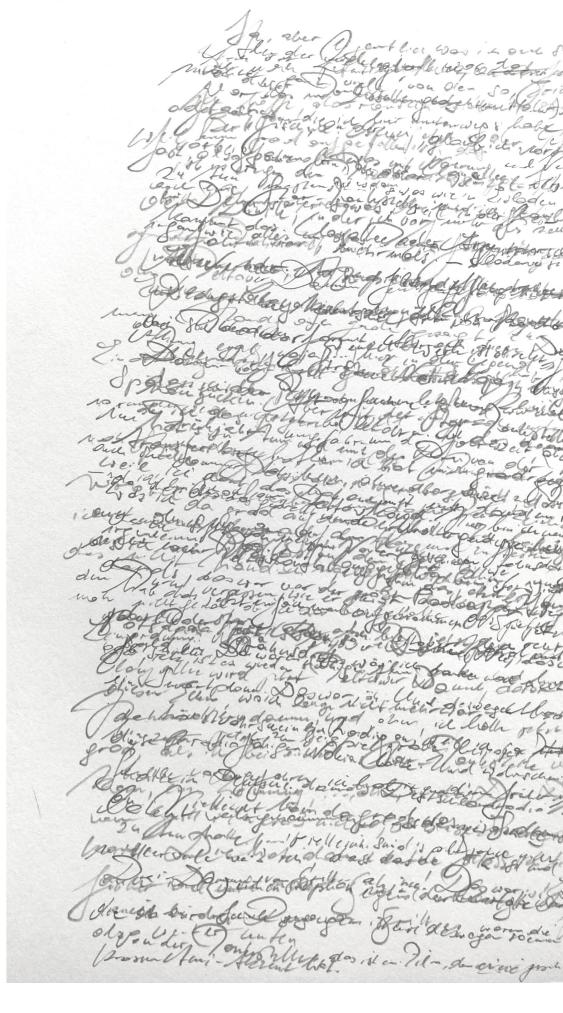


soil sample | collected along the way | north of Südwestkirchhof |

above: Haus W – find 2023, pencil on paper

below: Haus W - hidden track 2023, pencil on paper

The back garden borders on the, now derelict, Friedhofsbahn. The trainbed only exists in fragments, most of it lives on as a valley, now roamed by wild boar.



Haus W - specimen, 2024, found objects

# **GHOSTS**

For a series of installations titled *garden*, between the years of 2007 and 2010, grass seeds were left to germinate within glass jars, suspended on the surface of water.

What is left, *ghosts*, still exists and keeps informing more recent work.



# **GHOSTS**

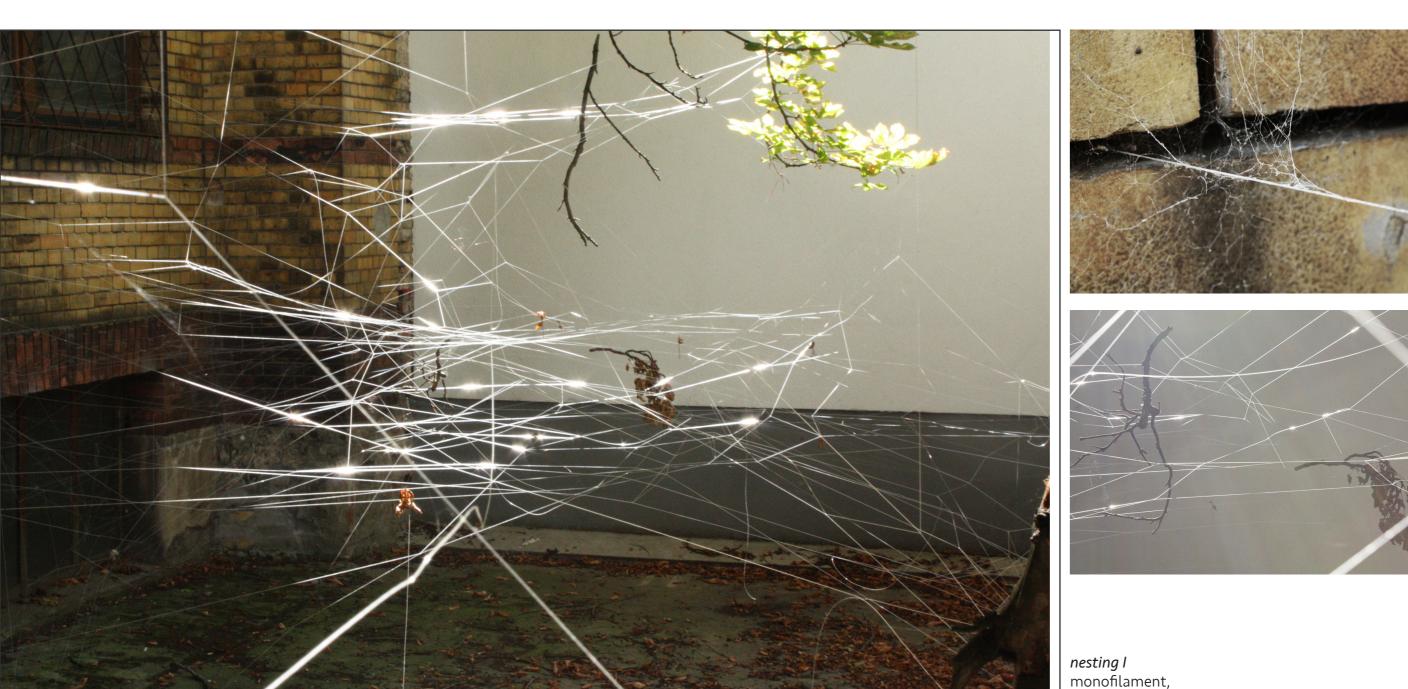


ghosts, 2009 - , series of photographs, dimensions variable

# **NESTING**

A series of installations using monofilament to create a web in a found space – to measure it, spend time in it, get to know it.









nesting I monofilament, installation view, 2009