

META

MONUMENT

sources for a history

Ten functional fictions that describe potential uses for the abandoned trolley tunnels beneath Dupont Circle, formerly Pacific Circle. These dreams borrow liberally from cultural spaces in Berlin in an effort to address some of the fundamental challenges posed by the location.

Assembled by James Huckenpahler
Foreward by Paul M. Farber

Washington, DC
2012

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by the Dupont Underground

FORE WORDS

History is strange. In *Metamonument*, James Huckenpahler creates an open source workbook in order to imagine a potential future for the pair of defunct, voluminous trolley tunnels directly underneath D.C.'s Dupont Circle that have been dormant and in a perpetual stage of redevelopment since they closed for operations in 1961. He draws from an archive based on a summer of comparative research in Berlin, and a few lifetimes of the juiciest stories and images from his hometown of Washington, D.C. Huckenpahler plausibly denies being a historian by trade or preference, but he shepherds his reader through the deepest currents of the District's public memory and its best open secrets. He presents his findings through ten "functional fictions," along with an extensive appendix featuring a wealth of images and observations, collected and repackaged with his depraved overbite of digital alteration. Though grounded in D.C., the project has what he deems a "German aftertaste" from his Berlin adventures. Ja, genau. He can't help but offer up the most wayward tales of D.C. futurity, by way of the region's past and

lessons learned from Berlin. But Huckenpahler also advances pragmatic perspectives and imperatives for urban redevelopment in the age of shadow campaigns, museums-for-sale, and recessionary cultures. He does so like a diabolical architect of the uncanny or a DJ with a bone to pick with algorithmic playlists. This is no policy proposal for progress, just a remix that asks the essential questions – where have we been and where are we going in this exercise of historical placemaking?

If you're looking for a precedent to this sort of urban studies project, Huckenpahler's cited influence of Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities* exemplifies the strategies he carries out in *Metamonument*. He mines the temporal and spatial layers of the city through dialogical, imagistic, and occasional tall-taleing. But Huckenpahler's brand of fictive fervor and historical play has another important nurturing source: Paul Beatty's satirical and irreverent novel *Slumberland*. I know this because I insisted he read this while we were in Berlin, but the imaginative ends to which he employs the novel are brilliantly all his own. *Slumberland* is set in LA and then in Berlin during the days surrounding *die Wende* and German reunification. The book features Beatty's research of actual sites of memory in Berlin that he carried out while living there in the mid-1990s. Beatty's novel features protagonist Ferguson Sowell, who

goes by DJ Darky, the *sommelier* of the jukebox at West Berlin's Slumberland bar and a producer with a "phonographic memory" – he recalls everything he has ever heard. His esoteric appreciation of sonic fragments compel him to make songs with recorded loops of city noises and obscure samples. He fulfills his quest to make the perfect beat through collaboration and "contrapuntal effect of...discordant architectural styles." Huckenpahler doesn't strive for perfection, but like Beatty through his character Sowell, he fashions social commentary through fiction, sprinkled with actual source materials from city life that almost seem too good to be scripted.

Huckenpahler's stories are as fantastical as they are indulgent in feeding his creative relationship with his hometown. But *Metamonument* also leads to places of practicality and critical reflection. Huckenpahler re-imagines the Dupont underground tunnels in the funkiest and most fabulous kinds of ways, and pushes forward notions of cultural vitality and sustainable futures, a gift to his beloved D.C. Huckenpahler has been called many things by his colleagues that seem true: bold, encyclopedic, disciplined, cantankerous, feral. He is also a fellow traveler, a dear friend, and an artist-scholar of the highest order.

–Paul M. Farber

1

Pleistoscene Rewilding





The 2112, 23rd Annual International Conference
on Pleistocene Rewilding, Holiday Inn Inter-Pacific
Motel and Theme Park, Auckland, NZ

Keynote Address

Rainbow Ballroom, 9:30AM

The Role of Urban Wildlife Preserves
in Emergent Speciation,
by Dr. Grace Huckenpahler-Cho,
Director, Gates Center for Species Reanimation,
University of Auckland, NZ

Join Dr. Huckepahler-Cho as she presents the findings
and personal observations from her recent study of
the Jobs Wildlife Preserve, recently chartered by
AppleCorps in the heart of New Columbia.

Following the collapse of the US Government in the
early 2050s in the wake of the Great Eco-depression
of the 2030s, and the subsequent reversion of
states to corporate fiefdoms, the administration of
[and importantly, taxation of] the former District
of Columbia was tied up in various courts — most
significantly the Hague and the Economic Court of the
Commonwealth of Independent States. The recent,
tentative solution — the auctioning of the district, and
subsequent winning bid by AppleCorps — has made
a significant impact in revitalizing the city, creating

a visual symbol that reflects AppleCorps historical philosophy of 'walled gardens.'

In the roughly 50 years that the district remained untended, small pockets of wildlife have been closed off in the city's infrastructure, creating isolated ecosystems. As New Columbia begins to assess existing assets, exciting finds come light daily, demonstrating the natural world's dramatic capacity for repopulating ecological niches within time spans much shorter than previously guessed.

For Dr. Huckenpahler-Cho, the research expedition that led to the discovery of the Dupont Underground was a personal journey revealing views both into the past and the future. Returning to the city that her grandparents had fled after the Great Eco-depression stimulated a variety of meditations on the ways that her genetic lineage has shaped her worldview. Looking in the other direction in time, the exciting discovery of a vibrant and rapidly evolving ecosystem in the ancestral cave suggests a new conception of how fast the biosphere can recover from disaster with minimal or no intervention from the human world. Be awestruck by the Slash Run Miniature Blind Albino Alligators! Come see the Bioluminescent Schragg's Weed!

Light refreshments to be served.

Image Research for Pleistocene Rewilding



glockenspiel at the national zoo.

zeitkiste

kiste > BOX

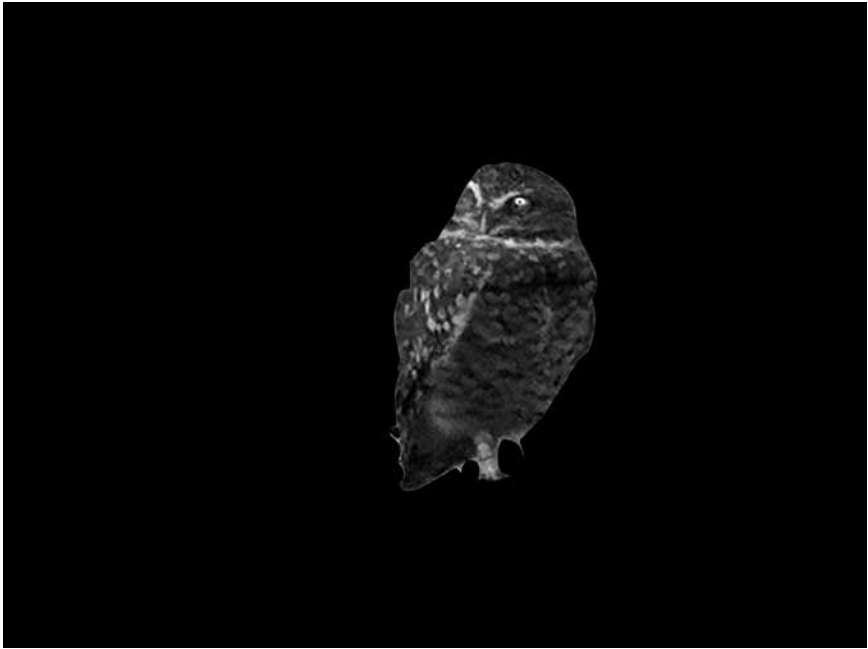
zeit > TIME



chapeau

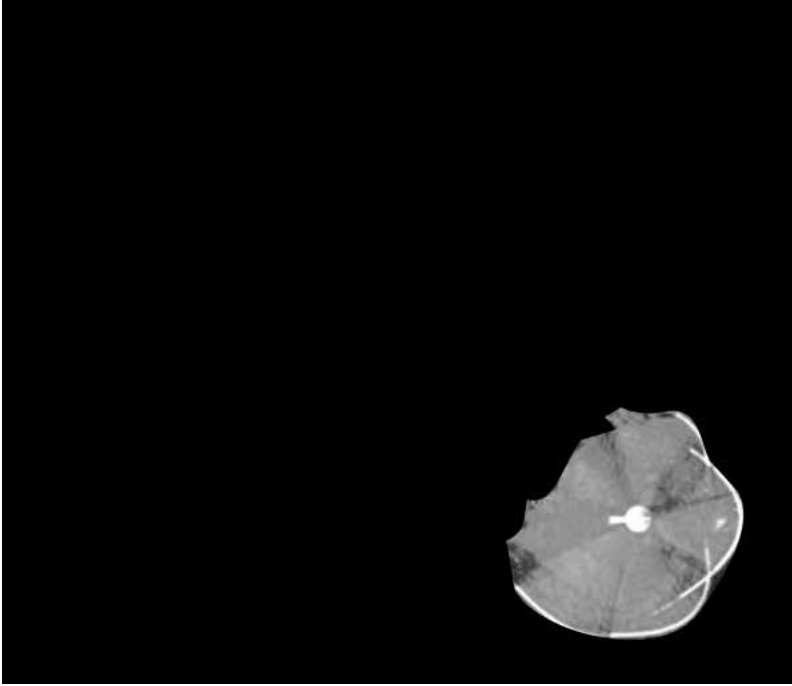
schönheitbauen

schönheit > beauty
bauen > construction



Flügelbauen

Flügel > wings
Bauen > construction



The aviary at the national zoo.

Flügelbau



*klingle road, abandoned,
running through rock creek*

wurzeinboden

*wurzeln > roots
boden > ground*



"January 5, 1926. "Miss Mary C. Foley [Benson], artist at Department of Agriculture."

"Mrs. Benson Also Finds Time for Aviation, Household Duties and Books on History of Development of Collars and Cuffs."

"... she is today a senior scientific illustrator in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the Department of Agriculture."

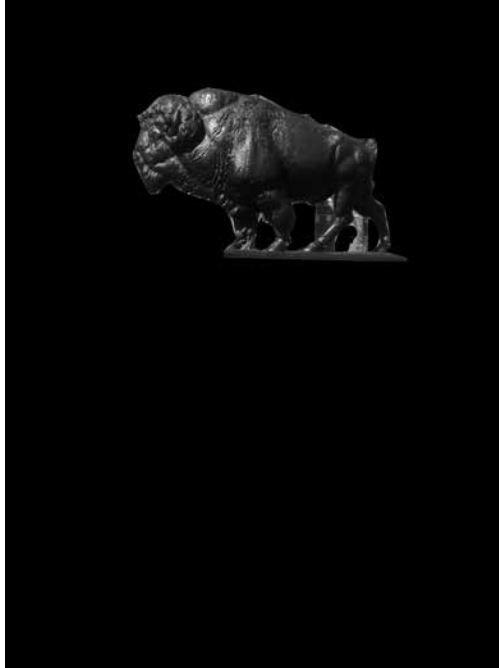
"An expert some time ago made the statement to Mrs. Benson that there is no artistic merit in insects."



beast

vergangenheit unmensch

*vergangenheit > past
monster > unmensch*



monument to extinct species

einsamkeitstein

stein > stone

einsamkeit > Loneliness



wildlife

oaseboden

oase > oasis

Boden > ground

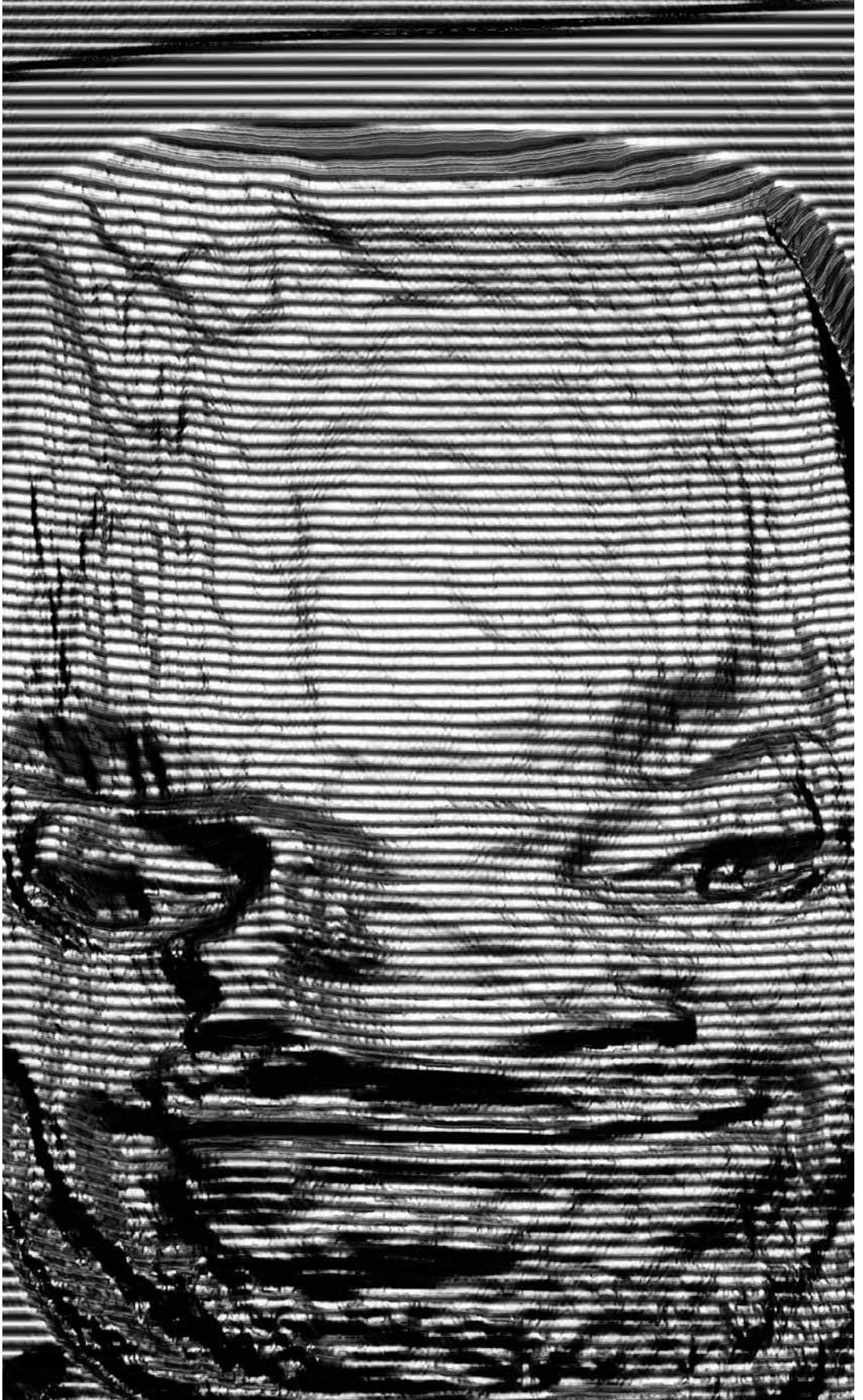


die himmel über washington

2

The New Corcoran





“I used to love overcast days, because the light was distributed quite evenly. One didn’t lose details in harsh shadows.

The girl blinked. The painting did not.

“What’s the weather like outside?” the picture continued. Waiting for an answer, the egg-shaped head in the gilt frame shifted slightly, looking away from her as if talking to someone else.

Alice didn’t know what to say to this: it wasn’t at all like conversation, she thought, as he never said anything to HER; in fact, his last remark was evidently addressed to a tree. Rather, on closer inspection, a sculpture of a genetically modified tree that grew human skin rather than bark.

It was a dreadfully hot summer afternoon, even though it was only November. Alice could remember, even in her short life, the years when it didn’t reach the 120s until mid-December. She had come down into the museum, ostensibly to complete a school assignment, but mostly because she knew that the tunnels would provide some relief from the weather.

‘Why do you sit out here all alone?’ said Alice, not wishing to begin an argument.

'Why, because there's nobody with me!' cried the painting. 'Did you think I didn't know the answer to THAT? Ask another.'

Alice paused a moment. She hadn't seen this artwork in previous visits, so she looked at the wall text to see if there might be any clues as to how it should be addressed. The text read:

EAT ME, 2031

by Lawrence cook,

(b. 1988 – d. 2093 washington DC)

OLED display and silicon microprocessor.

this seminal work by cook, prior to his international renown as an AI portrait artist, was an early attempt at modeling a sitter's psyche with enough detail that viewers might ask arbitrary questions of the picture and receive plausible responses. critics and historians have vigorously debated whether this study was unsuccessful due to insufficient psychic modeling, or that the sitter himself was simply belligerent and lacked depth as a human being. regardless, this work is generally considered a fascinating first step towards contemporary post-humanistic discourse.

it is believed that the sitter might be James Hickenpahler, a minor local Washington artist of the early 21st century, though there is much disagreement by academics, and the painting itself stubbornly refuses to disclose its identity.

Alice, already disinterested before she finished reading the text, turned back to the face that was studiously ignoring her, and asked it, "May I exit through the giftshop?"

Image Research for The New Corcoran



dark matter

schattenstein

schatten > shadow

stein > stone



Dark suit

EinsamkeitFarbe

Farbe > color
Einsamkeit > Loneliness



“October 19, 1938. Washington, D.C. ‘F.B.I. messenger to exhibit paintings in one-man show. William Samuel Noisette, 37, who is just plain Sam to regular visitors at the office of J. Edgar Hoover, head G-Man, yesterday issued a statement to the press, and when close-mouthed Sam issues a statement, it’s news. Sam’s statement started out with crime and criminals, but that was just a teaser to lure the reader into the real subject of the release -- Sam’s annual one-man art show, to be held at the local YMCA in Washington. Sam is shown with a view of Yellowstone Park painted in 1935, from a Kodak map. He has worked for 28 years in his spare time to create the exhibit.’”



The visual vernacular.

Cool Disco Dan

“Cool ‘Disco’ Dan has been spraying his tag since 1984. Part of the Go-Go scene of the 80’s in Washington; he managed to avoid being jailed or killed unlike a lot of his contemporaries by devoting himself to graffiti rather than becoming involved with drugs or gangs. The pervasiveness of his mark was reported frequently in the local press. He is featured in the book ‘Free Agents, a history of Washington, DC graffiti’ and has a page on ‘Art Crimes’ as a featured artist.”

Assembly.

Carriages will approach the Saloon by 11th, and depart by C street. mar 17—iftd

SUN PAINTING.—On Tuesday, 24th inst. at 11 o'clock precisely, in the parlor of the American Hotel, Pennsylvania Avenue, will be shown and explained, with a complete apparatus, the process of Mr. Daguerre of making permanent pictures on silver, without the use of brush, graver, or other tool.

The effect is obtained by the light of the sun. The lights and shades of Nature—in infinite gradations of tone—on linear and aerial perspective, are inconceivably beautiful and accurate, as reproduced by this almost magical invention, which is a combination of optical and chemical agents.

Tickets \$1, to admit a lady and gentleman; to be had at the exhibition room.

N. B. Should the weather interfere on Tuesday, the Lecture and demonstrations will take place on the first suitable day afterwards, at same hour and place. mar 23—td

EXHIBITION

OF ORIGINAL PAINTINGS, BY FRANCIS ANELLI.

1st. A large painting representing a Family Group during the

sun painting

schattenmalerei

schatten > shadow

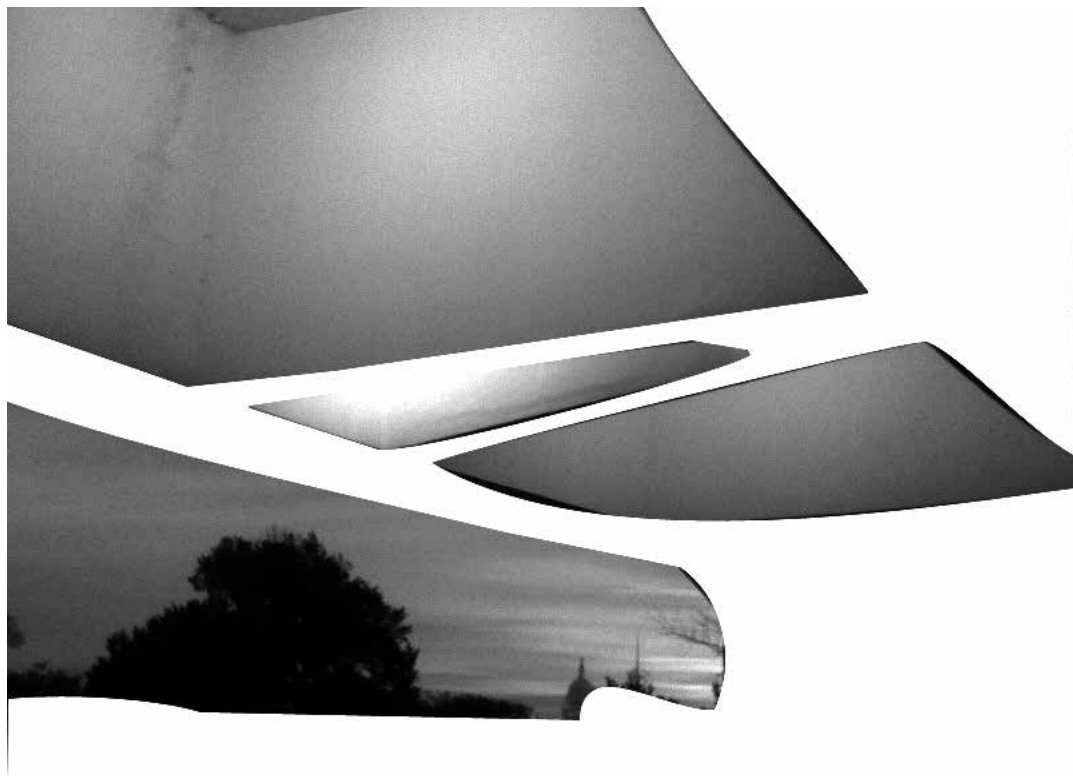
malerei > painting



straightedge. A wall at the Hirshhorn.

mauerrand

Rand > Edge
Mauer > wall



Hirshhorn

malereiRaum

Raum > space
malerei > painting



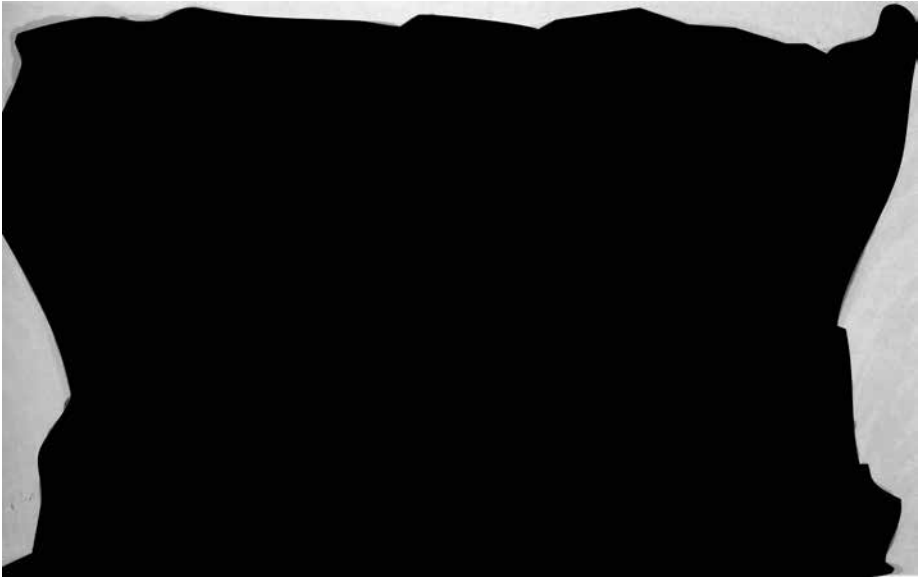
the floor of the national gallery of art

malereiboden

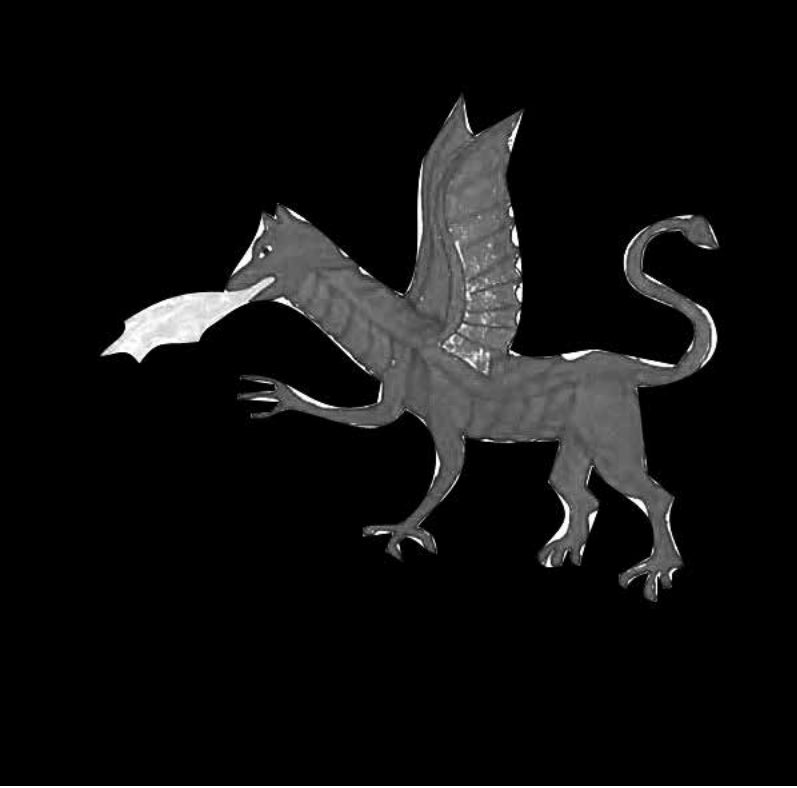
malerei > painting
boden > ground



“Magna is the brand name of an acrylic resin paint, developed by Leonard Bocour and sold by Bocour Artist Colors, Inc. in 1947. It is very different from modern acrylic paint, as it is composed of pigments ground in an acrylic resin brought into emulsion through the use of solvents. Bocour Artist Colors developed a ‘true’ acrylic paint in 1960 named Aqua-Tec. Modern acrylic paint is water soluble, while Magna is miscible with turpentine or mineral spirits, though both can dry rapidly to a matte or glossy finish. It was used by notable artists Morris Louis, Roy Lichtenstein, and Friedel Dzubas.”



“The basic point about Louis’s work and that of other Color Field painters, sometimes known as the Washington Color School in contrast to most of the other new approaches of the late 1950s and early 1960s, is that they greatly simplified the idea of what constitutes the look of a finished painting. They continued in a tradition of painting exemplified by Jackson Pollock, Barnett Newman, Clyfford Still, Mark Rothko, Robert Motherwell, and Ad Reinhardt. Eliminating gestural, compositional drawing in favor of large areas of raw canvas, solid planes of thinned and fluid paint, utilizing an expressive and psychological use of flat, and intense color and all over, repetitive composition.”



mingering mike

schattenstimme

schatten > shadow

stimme > voice

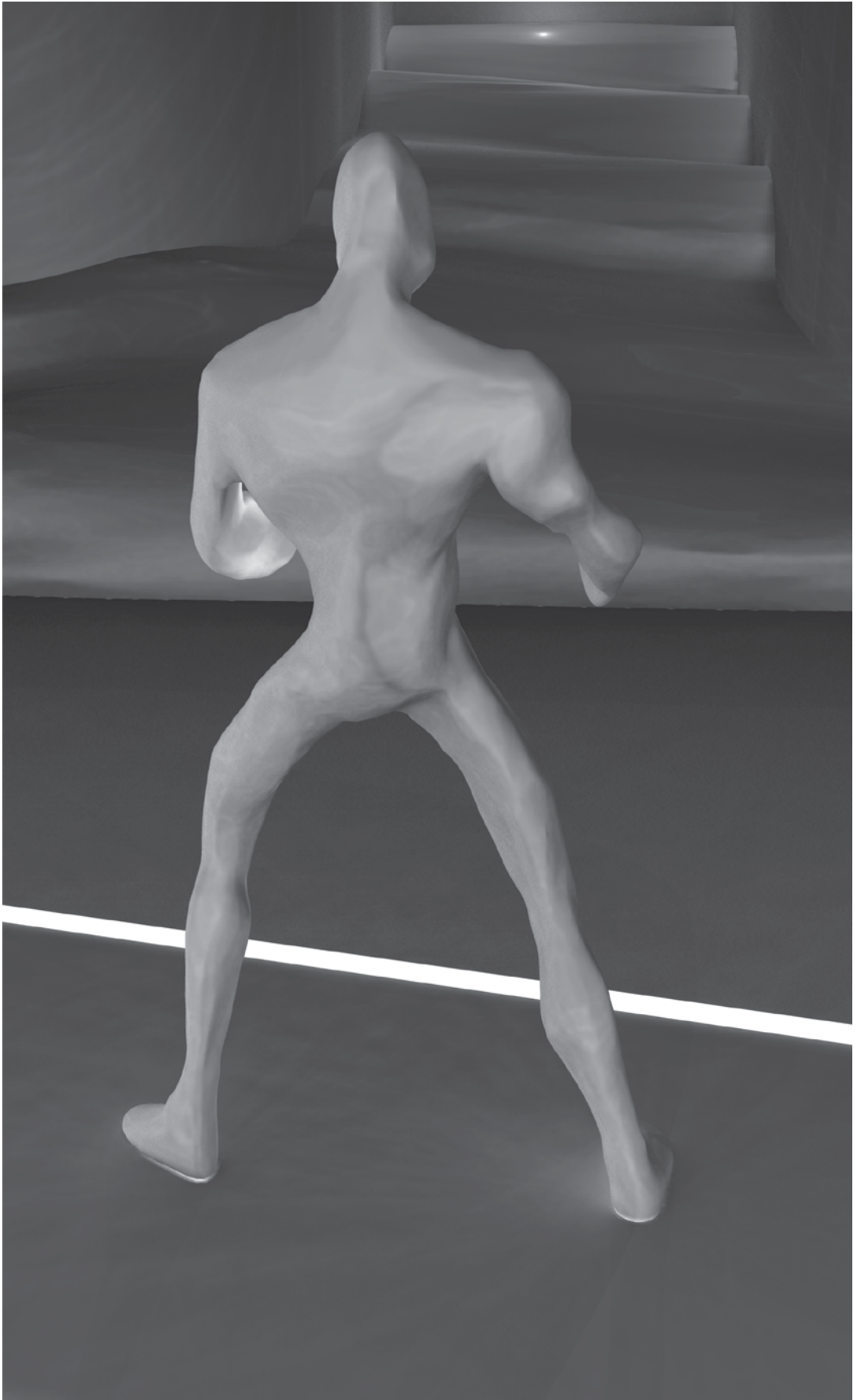


Carroll Sockwell

“This is the spot from which Carroll Sockwell leapt to his death, chased by Arabs on camels with thundering muskets, a stampede of villains set loose in his brain. [...] For hours his body lay there, unnoticed, and because it was his custom to carry nothing revealing in his pockets, police did not know who he was even after they found him. Another day passed before the dainty, well-dressed black male under the Pennsylvania Avenue bridge in Foggy Bottom was identified as one of Washington’s most acclaimed abstract artists.”

3

Surf Opera





Theater Review

Washington Postal

The Stations of Gilgamesh

Though October at the Dupont Janus Theater

by David G. Dixon

Friday, July 13, 2112

The Janus Theater, aptly-named for its pair of tunnels, is notoriously demanding of its productions. Directors often are often forced with the unenviable task of breaking their libretto's bones, dislocating joints, and imposing painful contortions. The results can range from moving public spectacle to highway rubbernecking. The current production, a heady pastiche of Gilgamesh, Orpheus, Aeneas, and Dante, romps through the entire gamut in just under 60 minutes.

In the Playbill notes, auteur Giacomo Joyce, claims to have been supernaturally drawn to this theater from his native Sicily, convinced that he is the composite reincarnation of several locals: a twentieth-century artist, a nineteenth-century tailor, and an eighteenth-century slave. And the show lives up to his schizophrenia, one moment a Gershwin-esque musical, the next a rock opera, the next passion play, &c.

The plot loosely follows the protagonist as he sings and surfs his way through the lost underground

waterways of the city, from his enforced servitude in the Northeast quadrant, crossing the 'Checkpoint Charlie' of the city's underground Slash Run at 16th Street, to freedom — political, economic, and spiritual — in Northwest. The audience follows Joyce as he rides his surfboard [cleverly affixed to the ancient trolley tracks of the tunnel] and encounters hellish obstacles, grim adventure and peril. The curvature and seriality imposed by the space offers wonderful opportunities for foreshadowing; Joyce takes advantage of this to full effect, placing villains and guides at distances such that they can be seen and heard continuously going about their business, without overwhelming the scene at hand.

In the close of the show, the 'feel-good' ending, while perhaps in keeping with Italian opera saccharine simplicity, fails to address the historical complexities of the district. It does little explicitly or allegorically to convey the causes and conditions of the city as a slave-trading hub prior to the mid-nineteenth-century, a racially and economically divided city well into the twenty-first, and as an unrepresented colony to the present day. This reviewer humbly suggests that you vote with your feet.

Image Research for Surf Opera



*the ceiling of a theater. the reverse of the game
grid. looking at it from underneath. the perspective
of the underclass.*



orphans

einsamkeitwurzeln

einsamkeit > loneliness

wurzeln > roots



Revenge

lieberand

Rand > Edge

Liebe > Love



mark

randinschrift

inschrift > inscription

rand > edge



criteron

kritikspielen

spielen > play
kritik > critique



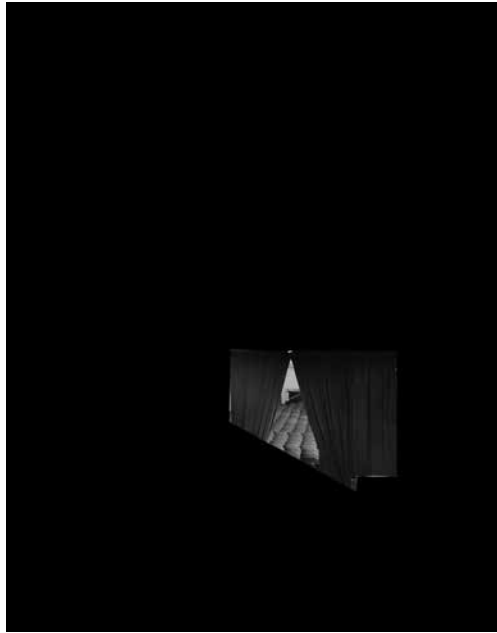
sheakesperean actors at Howard Theater

vergangenheitspielen

spielen > play
vergangenheit > past



“The Knickerbocker Theatre was a Washington, D.C., movie theater located at 18th Street and Columbia Road in the Adams Morgan neighborhood. It collapsed on January 28, 1922 under the weight of snow from a two-day blizzard that was later dubbed the Knickerbocker Storm. The theater was showing Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford at the time of the collapse, which killed 98 patrons and injured 133 more. The disaster ranks as one of the worst in Washington. D.C. history. The theater’s architect, Reginald Geare, and owner, Harry Crandall, later committed suicide, Geare in 1927 and Crandall in 1937.”



theater staircase

abfahrenträume

Träume > Dreams
Abfahren > Departure



machinery behind the scenes

trämebauen

Bauen > construction

träme > dreams

4

Museum of Politics



My name is White Way Way, and I'm on a vacation from Shenzhen, doing the tourist thing. I decided to come to DC because I'm third-generation clone of a guy who was 'born' there. The cloning process doesn't convey memories, but I'm curious to see this city that 'I come from,' so-to-speak. I wonder if I will see it with different eyes from my source code? Like a bad xerox, there's probably some generation loss...

Today I'm visiting the Museum of Politics, which is in some underground tunnels near Embassy Row. Maybe they want to bury most political systems. Certainly, the systems want to bury each other. One of the exhibits is about the history of embassies and diplomacy. They constructed fake embassy, The Embassy of Freedonia, and inside they show 'Duck Soup' by the Marx Brothers in loop. I could sit in there all day long.

I can't tell if the museum is supposed to be a Greek temple or an aboriginal garden. The architecture is all white marble. It starts out really structured but then grows kind of wild. The pillars are regularly spaced about ten feet apart, and at the base they are normal Corinthian columns, but as they ascend they turn completely into oak trees. Sort of like Bernini's Daphne. These galleries must be hard to dust.

The last exhibit is a bunch of guys on horses. Only guys, no women. The wall text describes the vocabulary of poses...

“A popular belief in the united states is that if the horse is rampant (both front legs in the air), the rider died in battle; one front leg up means the rider was wounded in battle or died of battle wounds; and if all four hooves are on the ground, the rider died outside battle; however, there is little evidence to support this belief.”

But that doesn't explain the monument to the George W. Bush administration. A bunch of the horse's legs are missing, and the rider is facing backwards.



Image Research for Museum of Politics



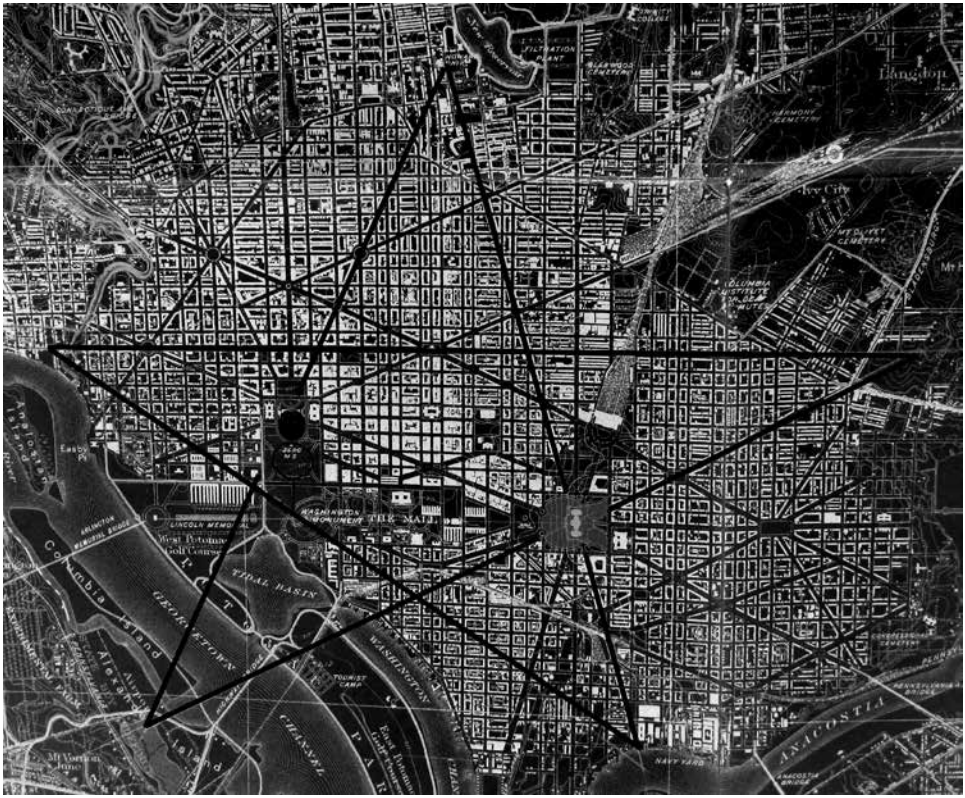
expressive matter

kulturschilder

schilder > signs
kultur > culture



“In February 1791, Major Andrew Ellicott, a member of the same family, hired Banneker to assist in the initial survey of the boundaries of the 100-square-mile (260 km²) federal district (initially, the Territory of Columbia; later, the District of Columbia) that Maryland and Virginia would cede to the federal government of the United States for the nation’s capital in accordance with the federal Residence Act of 1790 and later legislation (see Boundary Markers of the Original District of Columbia).”



“After all, it was a planned city built without regard to native americans, the only prior inhabitants I’m aware of. The soul of the city should have started there, but it was discarded (hierarchy of oppression).”

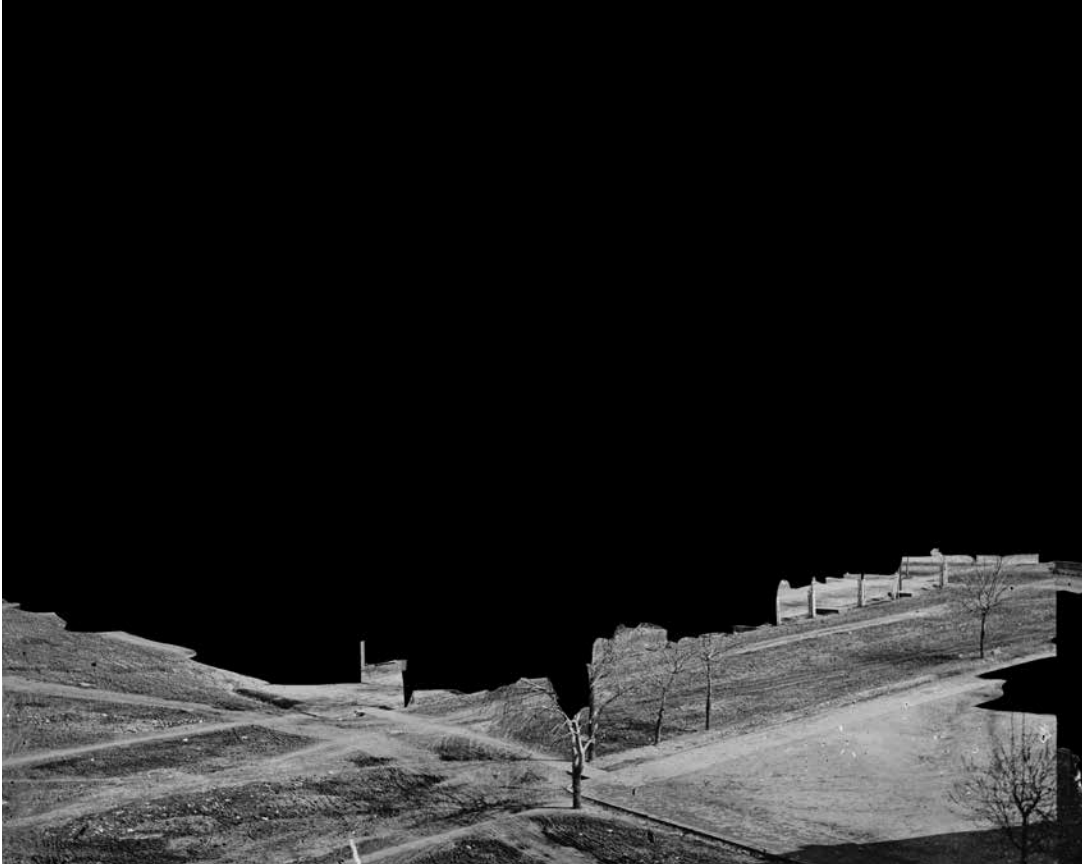
Don Russell
June 21, 2012



presidential pardon

vergangenheit Gemüse

*vergangenheit > past
Gemüse > vegetables*

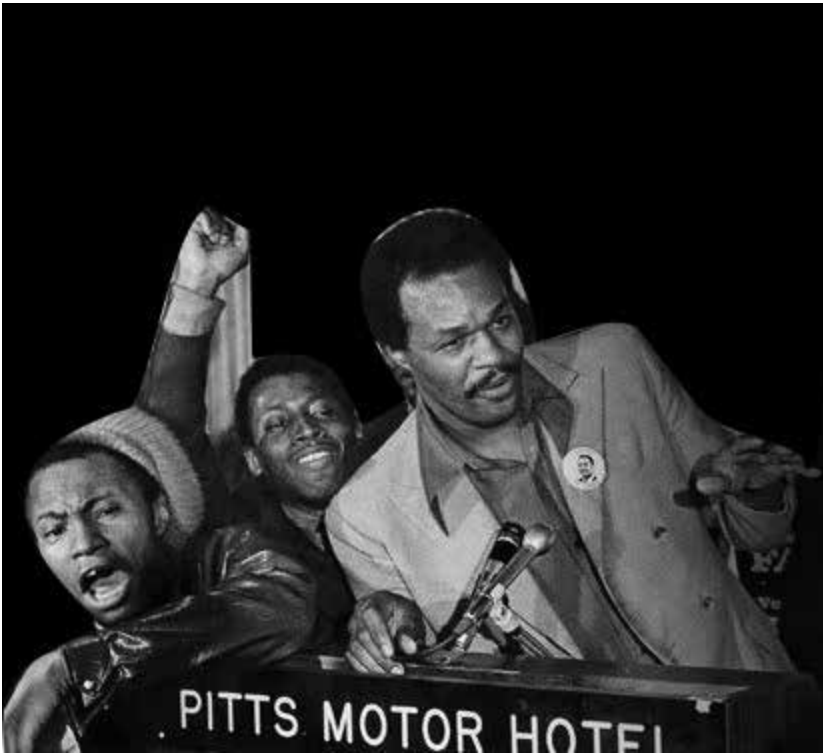


Priorities

RegierenBauen

Regieren > Governance

Bauen > Construction



smooth operator

kaltschnäuzigkeit bewegung



“Marcos Orlando Letelier del Solar (April 13, 1932 – September 21, 1976) was a Chilean economist, Socialist politician and diplomat during the presidency of Socialist President Salvador Allende. As a refugee from the military dictatorship of US-backed General Augusto Pinochet, Letelier accepted several academic positions in Washington, D.C., where he was assassinated by Pinochet’s DINA agents in 1976.”



"Letelier was killed by a car bomb explosion on September 21, 1976, in Sheridan Circle, along with his US assistant, Ronni Moffitt."



“Several people were prosecuted and convicted for the murder. Among them were Michael Townley, a DINA U.S. expatriate who had once worked for the CIA; General Manuel Contreras, former head of the DINA; and Brigadier Pedro Espinoza, also formerly of DINA. Townley was convicted in the United States in 1978 and served 62 months in prison for the murder; he is now free as a participant in the United States Federal Witness Protection Program. Contreras and Espinoza were convicted in Chile in 1993. General Augusto Pinochet, who died on December 10, 2006, was never brought to trial for the murders, although Townley implicated him as being responsible for them.”



general sheridan failed to protect Letelier.

regierenstein

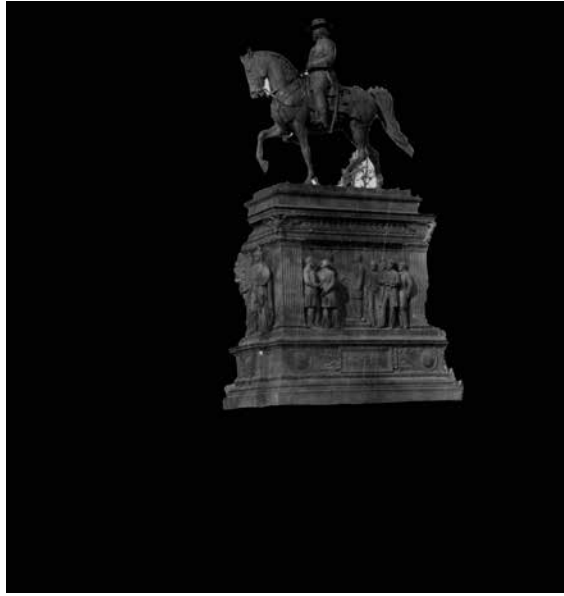
regieren > governance

stein > stone



cuy on horse

regierenstein



man on horse

regierenstein



monument to himself

regierenstein



“Mary Eno Pinchot Meyer (October 14, 1920 – October 12, 1964) was an American socialite, painter, former wife of Central Intelligence Agency official Cord Meyer and intimate friend of United States president John F. Kennedy, who was often noted for her desirable physique and social skills. Meyer’s murder, two days before her 44th birthday, in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C., during the fall of 1964 would later stir speculation relating to Kennedy’s presidency and assassination.”



purple heart

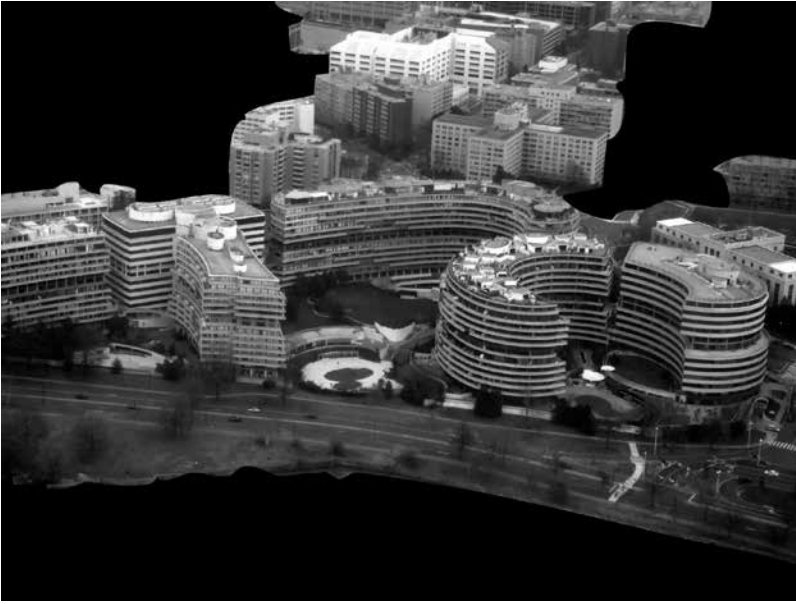
mittere regieren

regieren > governance

Mitte > center



“President Kennedy’s supposed mistress, Judith Campbell Exner was established in the hotel and supposedly sneaked into the White House when his wife was away. [...] The Mayflower was also the location where Lewinsky had been photographed with President Clinton at a campaign event not long before the 1996 election; this photograph would become an iconic component of the media coverage of the scandal. [...] On March 10, 2008, The New York Times reported that New York Governor Eliot Spitzer had on the evening of February 13 patronized a high class prostitution service called Emperors Club VIP and met for over two hours with a \$1,000-an-hour call girl in room 871 [...]”



“The Watergate scandal was a political scandal that occurred in the United States in the 1970s as a result of the June 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C., and the Nixon administration’s attempted cover-up of its involvement. The scandal eventually led to the resignation of Richard Nixon, the President of the United States, on August 9, 1974, the only resignation of a U.S. President.”



“Washington led a city that was torn by racial divisions, both locally and congressionally. When he sent his first budget to Congress in late 1967, Representative John L. McMillan, chair of the House Committee on the District of Columbia, responded by having a truckload of watermelons delivered to Washington’s office.”

“Walter Edward Washington, (April 15, 1915 – October 27, 2003) was an American politician, the first home-rule mayor of the District of Columbia. He was also the last presidentially appointed executive of Washington, D.C., and the only person to serve as Mayor-Commissioner of the city.”



political theater

regieregkiste



girl gang

schönheitskritik

schönheit > beauty
kritik > critique



girl gang

schönheitskritik

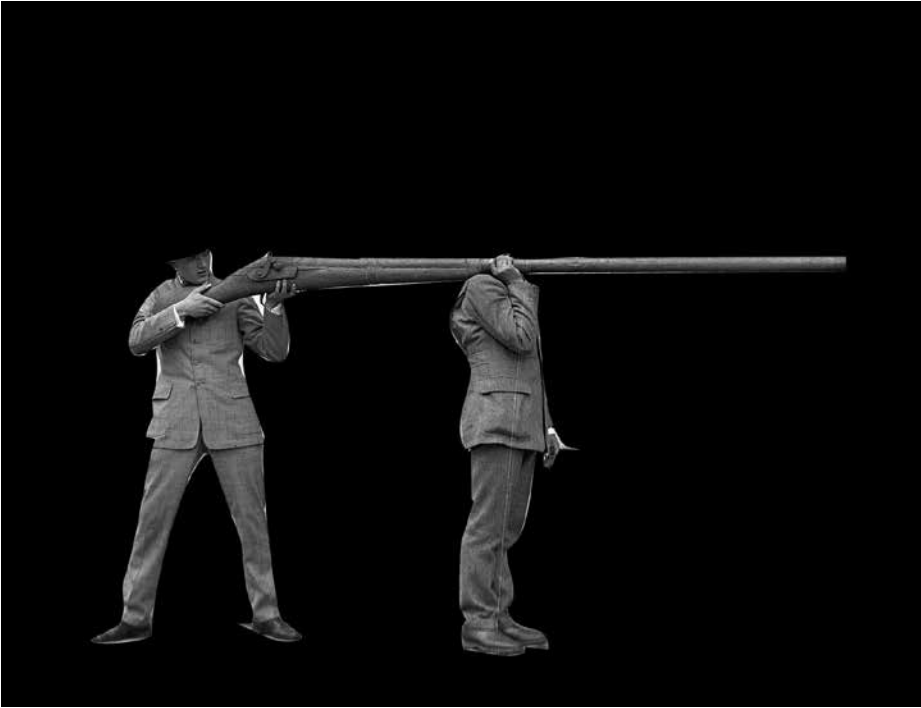


cals with guns

kaltschnäuzigkeitschönheit

schönheit > beauty

kaltschnäuzigkeit > brazenness



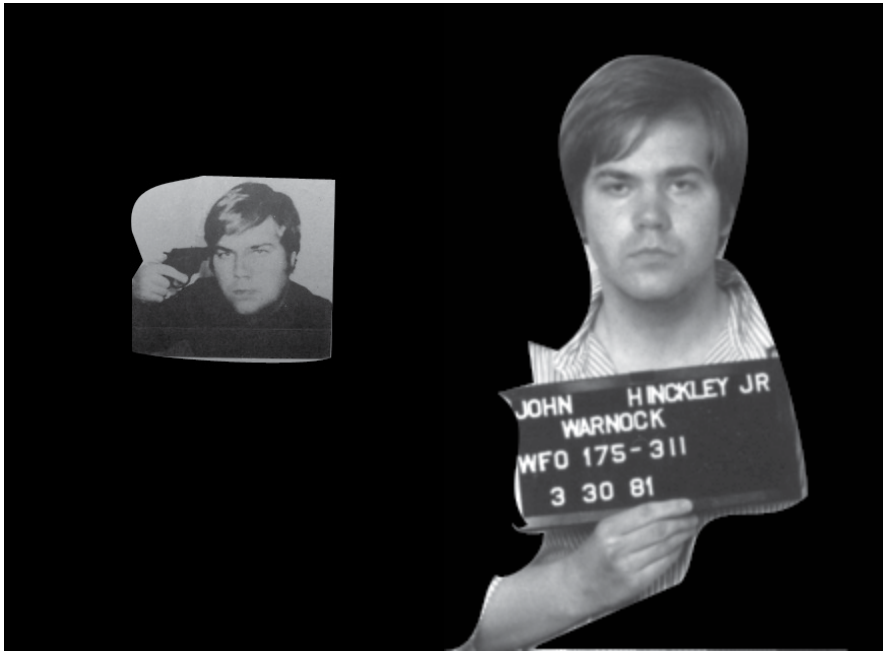
“Carl Thomas Rowan was an American government official, journalist and author. ” [...]Rowan gained public notoriety on June 14, 1988, when he shot a teenage trespasser, Neil Smith, who was on his property illegally. He was charged for firing a gun that he did not legally own. Rowan was arrested and tried. [...] Critics charged hypocrisy, since Rowan was a strict gun control advocate. In a 1981 column, he advocated “a law that says anyone found in possession of a handgun except a legitimate officer of the law goes to jail—period.” In 1985, he called for “A complete and universal federal ban on the sale, manufacture, importation and possession of handguns (except for authorized police and military personnel).”



The Washington Hilton

“The Secret Service first announced “shots fired” over its radio network at 2:27 pm Reagan—codename “Rawhide”—was taken away by the agents in the limousine (“Stagecoach”). At first, no one knew that he had been shot, and Parr stated that “Rawhide is OK...we’re going to Crown” (the White House), as he preferred its medical facilities to an unsecured hospital.”

Reagan removed his oxygen mask to joke, “I hope you are all Republicans.”



*from one celebrity to another,
celebrity is political currency*

notariety = political currency

regierenstimme

*stimme > voice
regieren > governance*



Frat Boy

puffstimme

stimme > voice

puff > Brothel



cheerleader

puffstimme



world domination

Bauenraum



With best wishes, Dick Cheney

“Following 9/11, Cheney was instrumental in providing a primary justification for entering into a war with Iraq. Cheney helped shape Bush’s approach to the “War on Terrorism”, making numerous public statements alleging Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, and made several personal visits to CIA headquarters, where he questioned mid-level agency analysts on their conclusions.”



pre-911 flight restrictions.

raumschiffflügel

flügel > wings
raumschiff > spaceship



death penalty

verwandlungstein

verwandlung > transformation
stein > stone



complex

BauenRaum

Bauen > construction
Raum > space



war machines

BauenRaum

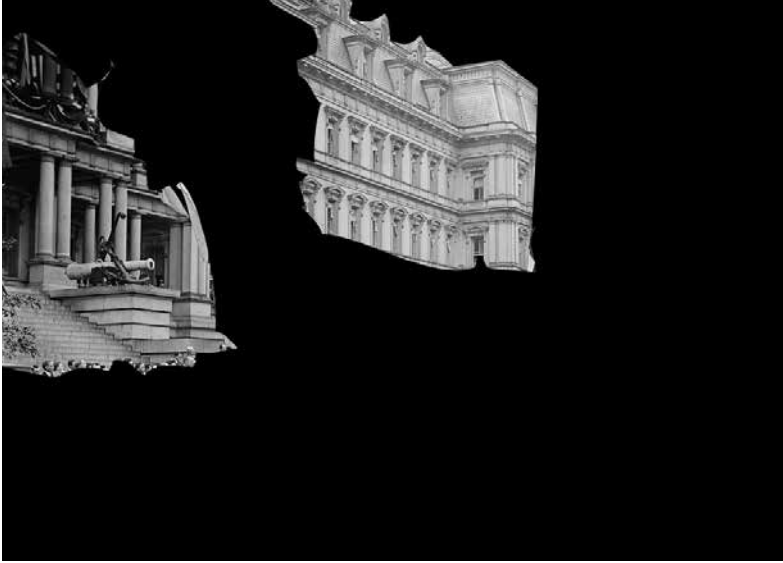


the first telephone. who ya' gonna' call?

stimmekiste

stimme > voice

kiste > BOX



department of war

steinkiste

stein > stone

kiste > BOX





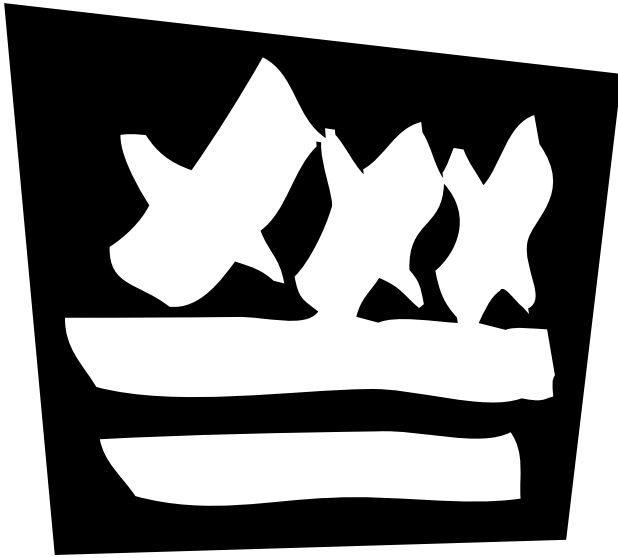


terminator

mittecritique

kritik > critique

mitte > center



dc flag

kulturschilder

5

Mausoleum





My ghost hangs around Dupont Circle, long after the body is gone. Beneath the circle is a mausoleum. It memorializes the AIDS epidemic, and in a more general sense, how western culture tolerates disease and difference. Above the main staircase down into space are engraved the words,

Abandon all hope, ye who enter. MCMLXXXII.

My ghost unobtrusively slips in with a tour group, hanging back, and generally trying to be invisible. At the bottom of the steps, the first large chamber is filled with memorabilia and recreations from 1981. From his tweed overcoat he removes a small notebook, in which he jots down his observations of the tourists. A man glides around a DeLorean, caressing its stainless steel lines. Another watches a video projection of the first space shuttle launch and wonders why spaceships don't look that cool anymore. An elderly woman admires Lady Diana's wedding dress. Some kids play Donkey Kong. The last item before leaving the chamber, is a New York Times article from 1982, blown up large.

*NEW HOMOSEXUAL DISORDER WORRIES
HEALTH OFFICIALS*

And highlighted is the text:

the cause of the disorder is unknown. researchers call it A.I.D., for acquired immunodeficiency disease, or GRID, for gay-related immunodeficiency. it has been reported in 20 states and seven countries.

My ghost follows the crowd through the tunnel, a physical timeline tracing the events connected to the epidemic.

The signs have become less frequent. The passage gets progressively narrower, until finally it's so narrow that only a wheelchair can pass through it. On crowded days, you can't go back. Because there are people behind you, you move inexorably forward.

The path splits. Both choices are the same width as the preceding stretch, so one is still forced to continue on, and make a blind choice. Signs have long since disappeared. So have the lights. Occasionally, a mischievous visitor will leave a mark graffitied on the wall in a vain attempt to give some clue as to what lies ahead, but the cleaning staff routinely removes the signs. Some of the indicators were so clever that a curator began documenting them: chalked hobo signs, magic-markered riddles, scratches in the concrete,

piles of pebbles. A collection of photographs of these marks can be found on a web page linked off of the main wikipedia entry on the monument.

The right passage leads a short distance to a small chamber, perhaps twelve feet by fifteen feet. It is filled with a low, warm light. There is a granite bench in the center, a floating slab that is one foot by four feet by nine feet. The walls are hung with a suite of Mark Rothko paintings on loan from the Philips Collection. On the far wall is an exit that leads one up the stairs, and out to the street.

The left passage leads a longer distance, to a larger chamber. This one is comparable to the first chamber at the entrance, about thirty feet by fifty feet. In the center is a granite slab that is one foot by four feet by nine feet. It's a sarcophagus that doesn't contain a body. Rather, within the granite slab is a DNA sample stored in a flask of liquid nitrogen. The sample comes from the last human to die from AIDS-related causes.

My ghost thinks of Mark Stewart Holmes and doodles an innocent little sketch, a flyer for an imaginary band playing an imaginary gig at an imaginary club.

Image Research for Mausoleum



“Mr. Chalk owned the building in Georgetown Washington DC with the famous steps where the part of the film “The Exorcist” was filmed. The building was part of the Washington trolley system which circulated through Washington DC.”



“Meanwhile, Father Damien Karras (Jason Miller), a young priest at Georgetown University, begins to doubt his faith [...] While filming near her temporary residence in Georgetown, actress Chris MacNeil notices dramatic and dangerous changes in the behavior of her 12-year-old daughter, Regan [...] Karras strikes her and chokes her, challenging the demon to leave Regan and enter him. The demon does so, whereupon the priest regains enough control and throws himself through Regan’s bedroom window and falls down the steps outside.”



from the aether. palms read and greased.

unsichtinschrift

unsichtbarkeit > invisibility

inschrift > inscription



i learned about root shops in DC from Rene Stout.

wurzelschönheit

*wurzeln > roots
schönheit > beauty*



count Gore Devol

kulturkiste

kultur > culture

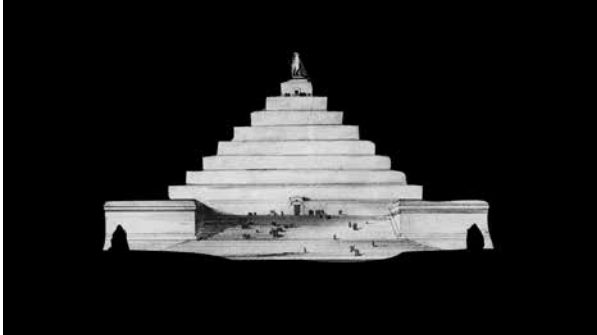
kiste > BOX



*cilgamesh/Aneas/Dante returning
from the underworld.*

unbewusstsein/boden

*boden > ground
unbewusstsein > subconsciousness*

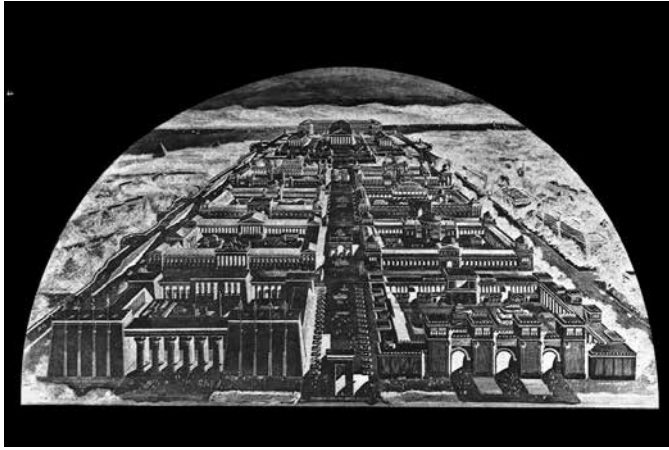


too mystical

träumekiste

Träume > Dreams

Kiste > BOX



Alternate history national gallery

wurzelträume

wurzeln > roots
träume > dreams



masonic temple at 16th street & columbia road

steinkiste

kiste > BOX

stein > stone



non-descript corridor with fluorescent lighting

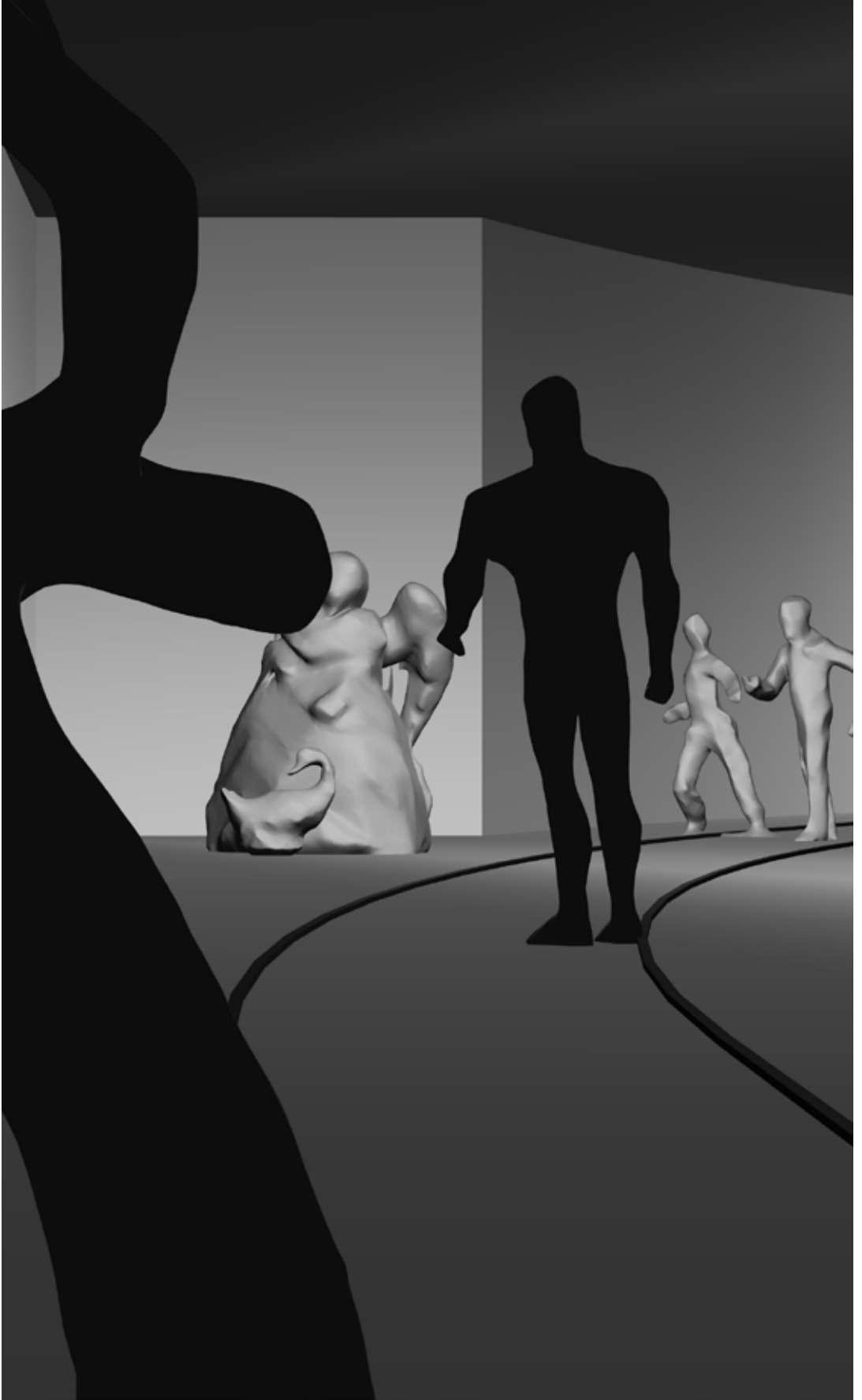
RohreBauen

Rohre > pipes

Bauen > construction

6

The Swan, a Shelter for Common Men





I am James Huckenpahler, whoever he was, wearing his moth-ball-smelling tweed overcoat, and using the IDs in his wallet to re-invent myself. The coat was a steal, literally, from a thrift store on Benning Road, as I dodged cops, and stole from there to here, The Swan, A Shelter for Common Men. The Swan is an underground dance club, literally. Now that I'm here, I'll lose myself, literally, in the heaving crowd of pretty men, all of them losing their identities for real imitations, signing their own certificates of authenticity, to a soundtrack of reckless abandon. I make no bones about the fact that my aesthetic project is borrowed from McDermott and McGough, a conceptual time machine back to the previous century, when James Huckenpahler roamed the earth, literally. All the pretty men here are recreations, remixes, and pastiches layered on top of the beat *presque parfait*. There's Carroll, the nineteenth-century dandy with a crisp celluloid collar flaunting his momma's silverware, carrying his own head on a platter. There's the 32 bus drivers. There's Otis P. Driftwood, the owner, obsessively correcting the lighting, working the dimmers like a DJ. And there's the Curator of Shit, in Weimar drag, lecturing on the merits and failures of prefab housing. The jukebox sommelier cued up a track by Charles Stone a.k.a. 'The Schwa' that had as its foundation, the beat *presque parfait*, a loop by DJ Darky. The crowd is shaken not stirred, and if flatfeet are still tailing me, they won't find me now.

The crowd swirls righteously into the world's longest running game of roundhouse ping pong (170 days and counting...) I will spend the night here, a convenient homeless shelter for a common man.

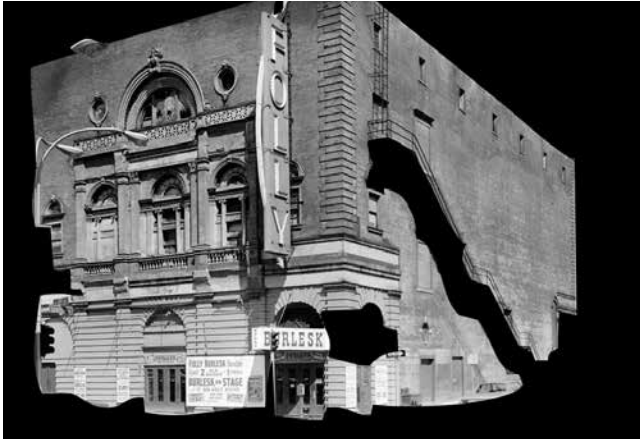
Image Research
for The Swan,
A Shelter for Common Men



willard hotel

mittestadt

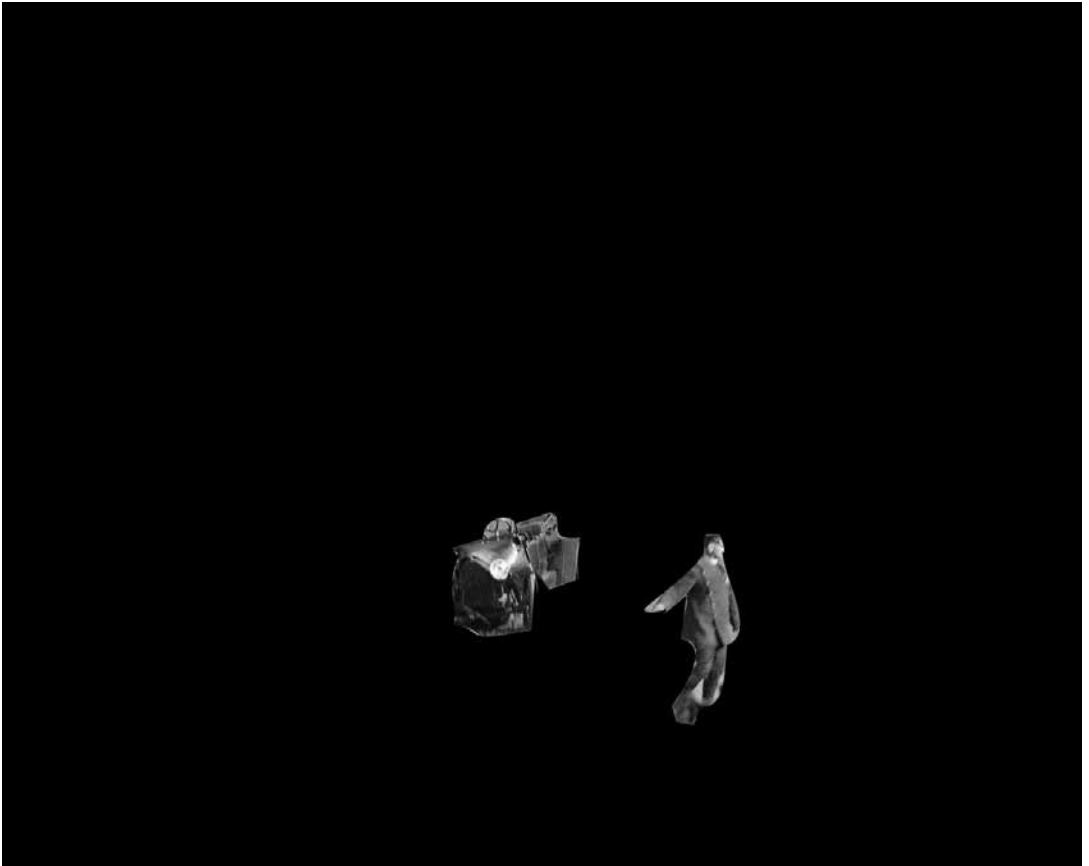
Mitte > center
stadt > city



transient population

Einsamkeit unterwegs

*Einsamkeit > Loneliness
unterwegs > in transit*



neighborhood wreck

vorstadtschilder

vorstadt > suburbia
schilder > signs



i had never been to this street until three years ago.

unsichtstrasse



society of the spectacle

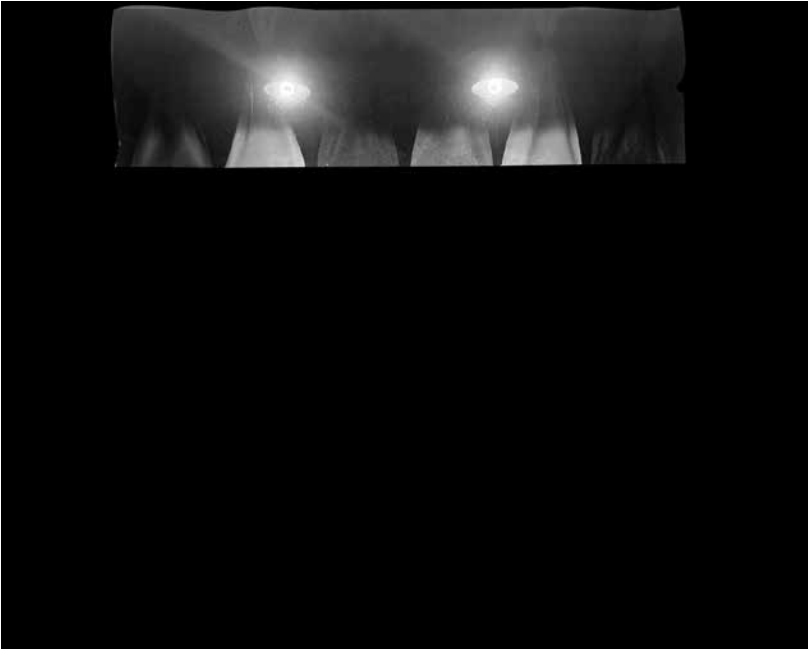
Alltagsbilder

schilder > signs
Alltag > everyday life



society of the spectacle

Alltagsbilder



Abundance
Alltagsbilder



SALE!

Alltagschilder



package design

schönheitkiste

schönheit > beauty

kiste > BOX



packaging

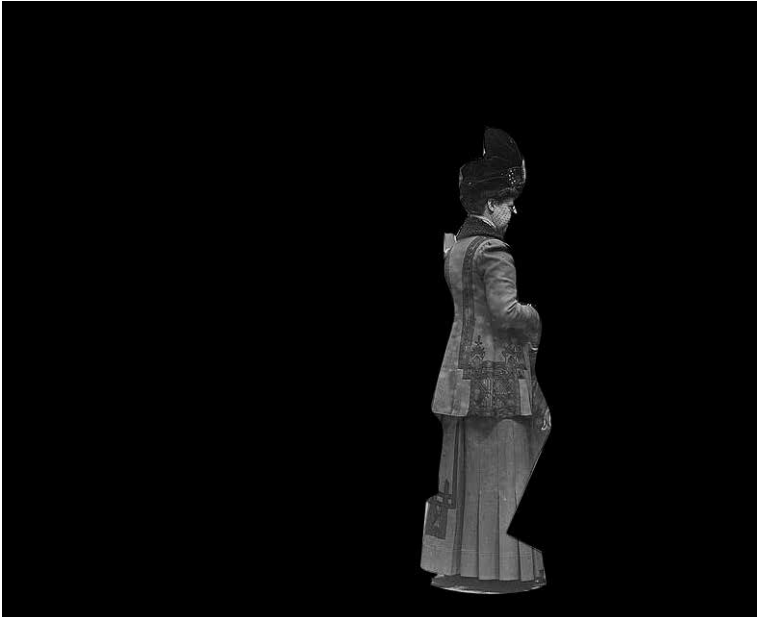
unterwegskiste

unterwegs > in transit

kiste > BOX



“Georgetown shop, Commander Salamander, which surprisingly has its very own definition in the urbandictionary, will be shutting it’s Wisconsin Avenue doors shortly. The shop known for it’s puny t-shirts, colorful trucks and gag gifts has long been a staple of the Georgetown shopping scene.”



Awesome coat

schönheitinschrift

schönheit > beauty
inschrift > inscription



packages

unterwegskiste



“In Ward 8, or Anacostia, long predominantly black and poor, the unemployment rate is more than 25 percent, highest in the nation.”

Pricing the Soul Out of Washington, D.C.

By Maurice Jackson

June 18, 2012

<http://chronicle.com/article/Pricing-the-Soul-Out-of/132259/?key=SGx1cFc5biIbZXEWNT4RZmoGaiBrORh1NXRIaXRwbl1cFA%3D%3D>



Alley culture

alleekultur



the alley where i played as a kid.

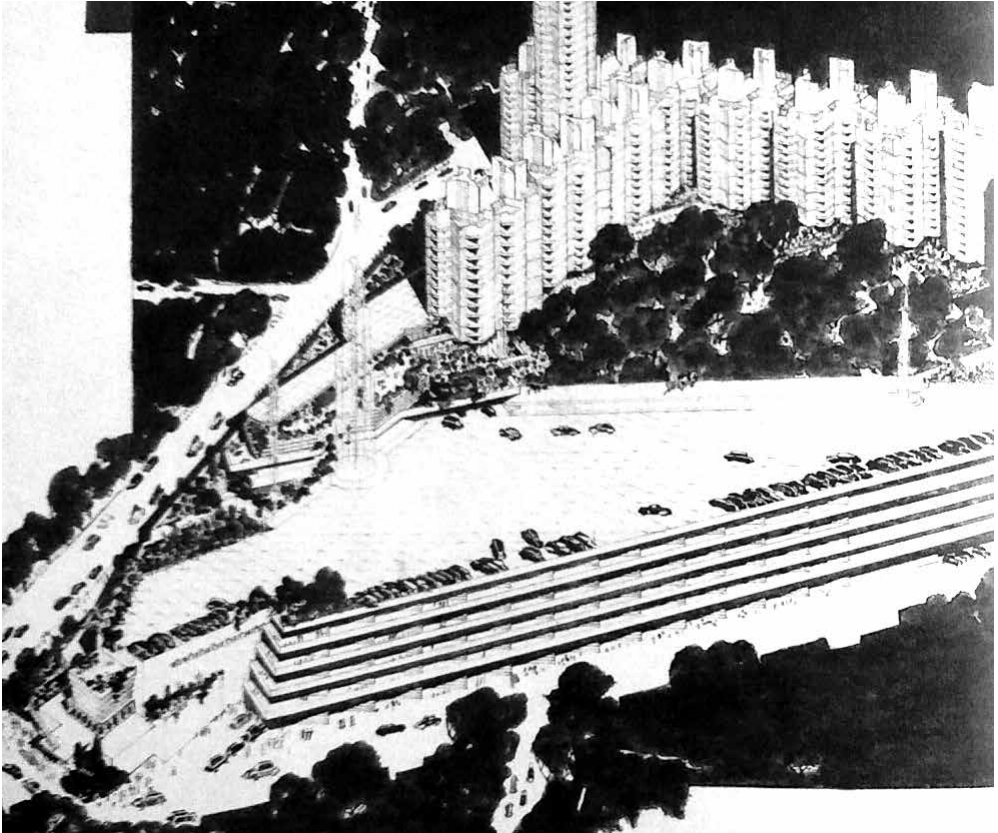
nostalgiallee



*the hilton.
multiple vanishing points
seamlessly woven together.*

verbindungsblick

*blick > view
verbindung > connection*

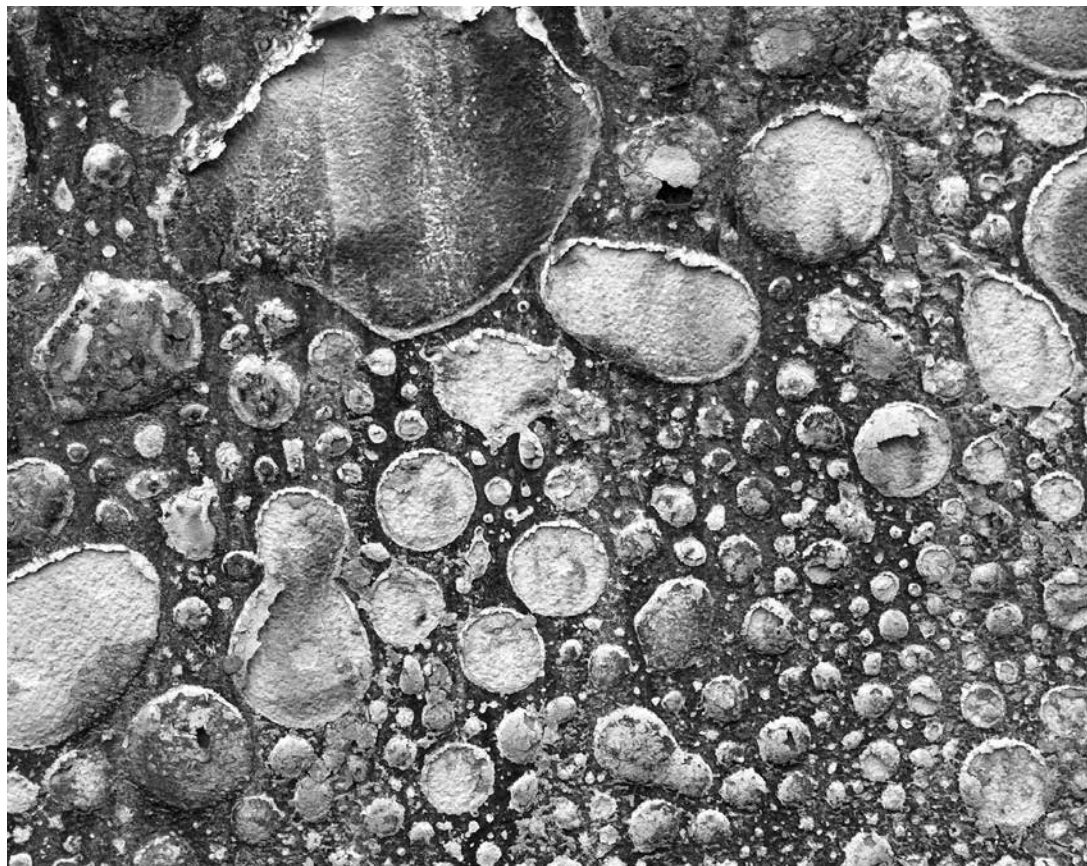


*Frank Lloyd Wright's proposal for Crystal Heights,
where the Universal Building is now.*

zeitvorstadt

vorstadt > suburbia

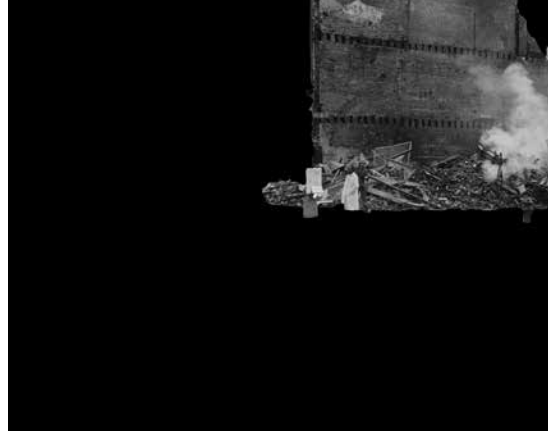
zeit > time



*the north side of the universal building,
after the transformer fire.*

verwandlungrand

*Rand > Edge
verwandlung > transformation*



white dudes on u street

kaltschnäuzigstadt

*kaltschnäuzigkeit > brazenness
stadt > city*



Aftermath of the riots.

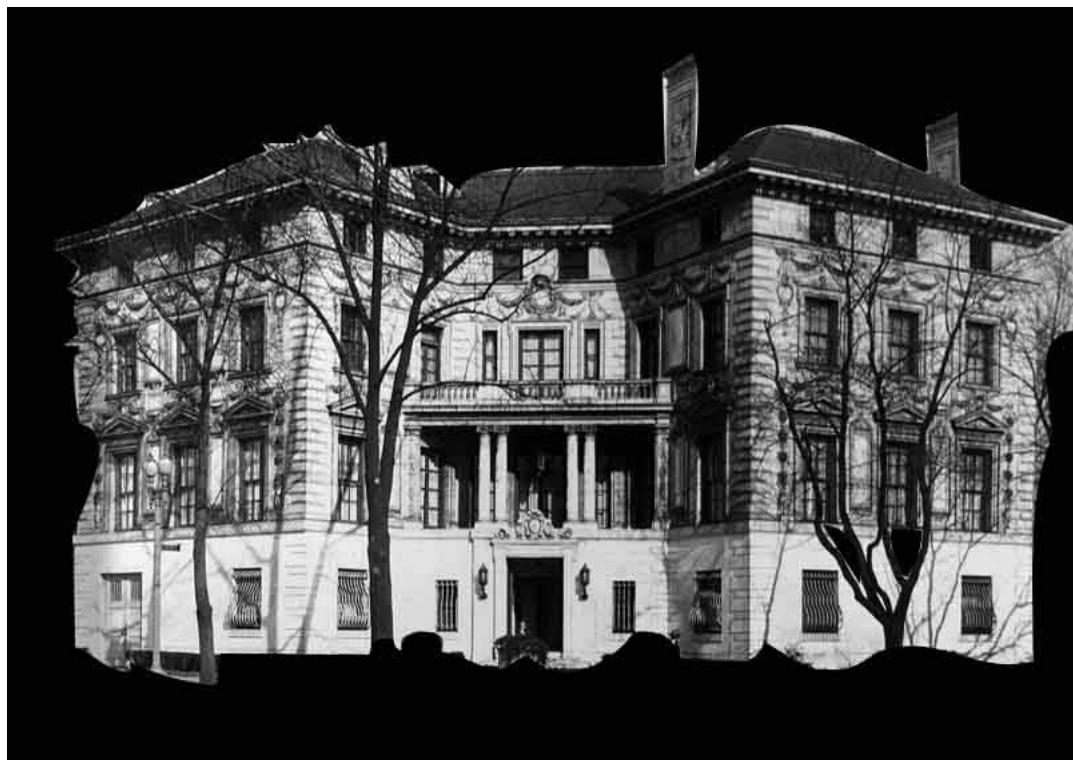
vergangenheit verwandlung

*vergangenheit > past
verwandlung > transformation*



our gang

kultur > culture



no longer at Pacific circle



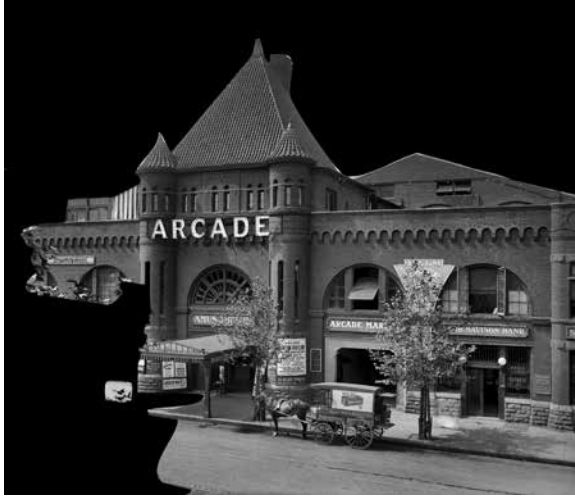
pimped

kaltschnäuzigschönheit



hooptie

reisenkiste



I spent much of my adolescence in arcades. Came time at Dupont Circle, and just 4 Fun on 19th Street, a few blocks south of the circle.



patent examiner inspects the first baseball.

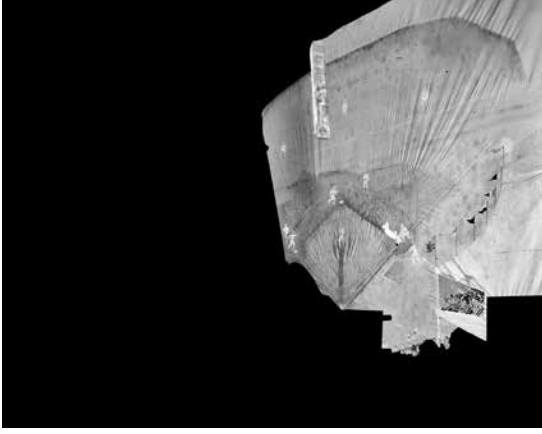
Fliegenspielen

*Fliegen > Flying
spielen > play*



“Walter Perry Johnson (November 6, 1887 – December 10, 1946), nicknamed “Barney” and “The Big Train”, was a Major League Baseball right-handed pitcher. He played his entire 21-year baseball career for the Washington Senators (1907–1927). He would later serve as manager of the Senators from 1929 through 1932 and for the Cleveland Indians from 1933 through 1935.”

“Speech is a remarkable feat of skilled movement, and the hypothesis is that evolving the ability to throw made the capacity to speak an option, which Homo sapiens then took.”

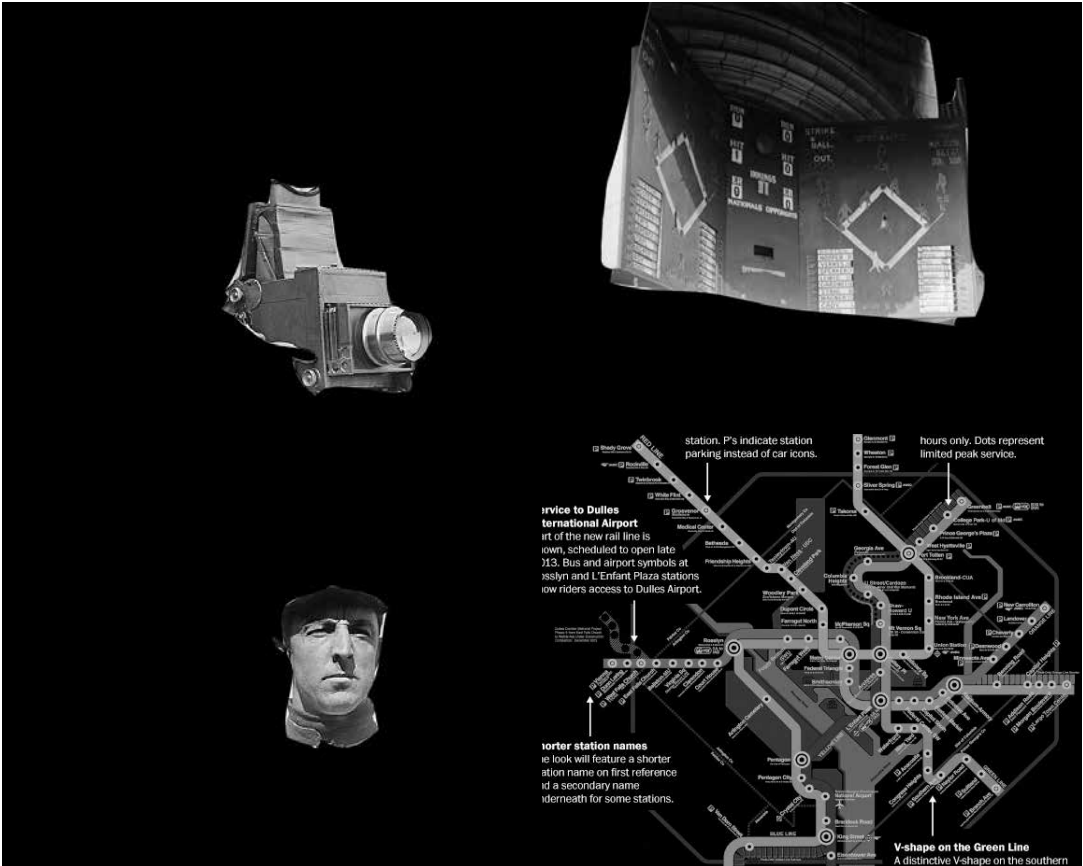


the diamond machine

bauenstein

stein > stone

Bauen > construction



The diabolical district diamond

bauenstein



“The Hope Diamond, also known as ‘Le bleu de France’ or ‘Le Bijou du Roi’, is a large, 45.52-carat (9.10 g), deep-blue diamond, now housed in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C. [...]”

“My best friend’s mother played with Evalyn’s daughter when they were children. One day while playing on the big overstuffed sofa, Julie reached down between the cushions and pulled up the Hope diamond. Mrs. Maclean told her that a thief would never find it there.”

“It has been described as the ‘most famous diamond in the world’ and is said to be the second most-visited artwork in the world, after the Mona Lisa.”

“Several accounts, based on remarks written by the gem’s first known owner, French gem merchant Jean Baptiste Tavernier, suggest the gemstone originated in India, in the Kollur mine in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh (which at the time had been part of the Golconda kingdom), in the seventeenth century.”

“The Hope Diamond was formed deep within the Earth approximately 1.1 billion years ago.”

“There were reports that she misplaced it at parties, deliberately and frequently, and then make a children’s game out of ‘finding the Hope,’ and times when she hid the diamond somewhere on her estate during the ‘lavish parties she threw and invite guests to find it.’”

“The stone exhibits an unusually intense and strongly colored type of luminescence: after exposure to short-wave ultraviolet light, the diamond produces a brilliant red phosphorescence (‘glow-in-the-dark’ effect) that persists for some time after the light source has been switched off, and this strange quality may have helped fuel ‘its reputation of being cursed.’”



“Both Ned McLean and his pretty wife are quite young, and in a way unsophisticated, although they were born and reared in an atmosphere of wealth and luxury. All their lives they have known more of jewelry, finery, banquets, automobiles, horses, and other articles of pleasure than they have of books, with their wealth of knowledge.”

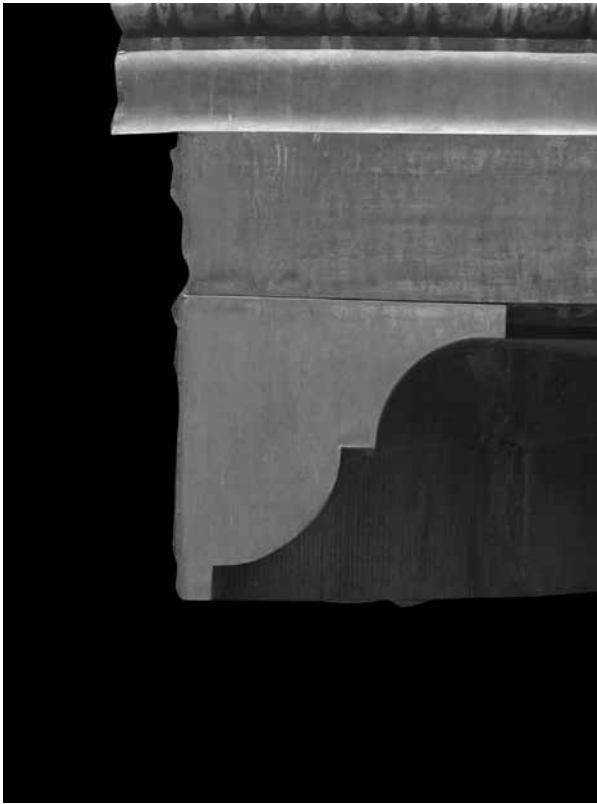
“Evalyn McLean, the Post publisher’s wife, was a confidante of Mrs. Harding and an admitted intermittent morphine addict. Despite Prohibition, she also was a heavy drinker and speakeasy regular – but then, so were her husband and other ranking government officials [...]”

“During a party at Smith and Daugherty’s ‘Love Nest,’ some New York chorus girls were brought down to entertain a stag party. In attendance was the president. When glasses and bottles were being flung off the table so the dancing girls could perform, one Washington prostitute, identified only as a Miss Walsh, was knocked unconscious. Harding was hustled out. The woman died and was buried in a potter’s field. In recently discovered transcripts of her taped revelations, Evalyn McLean recalled that the FBI director ‘railroaded’ the woman’s brother into St. Elizabeths mental hospital when he suggested a blackmail payment. Smith’s activities (it’s said [who?] he sold bonded liquor to bootleggers, and was associated with a notorious house at 1625 K Street) became an embarrassment to Harding and Daugherty as the Teapot Dome scandal focused increased scrutiny on Harding and his supporters.”



Warren Gamaliel Harding made Bill Clinton look like a boy scout. It was the Roaring 20s.

“President Harding rewarded friends and political contributors, referred to as the Ohio Gang, with financially powerful positions. Scandals and corruption, including the notorious Teapot Dome scandal, eventually pervaded his administration; one of his own cabinet and several of his appointees were eventually tried, convicted, and sent to prison for bribery or defrauding the federal government.”



architectural detail from the heurich mansion



architectural detail from the Heurich mansion

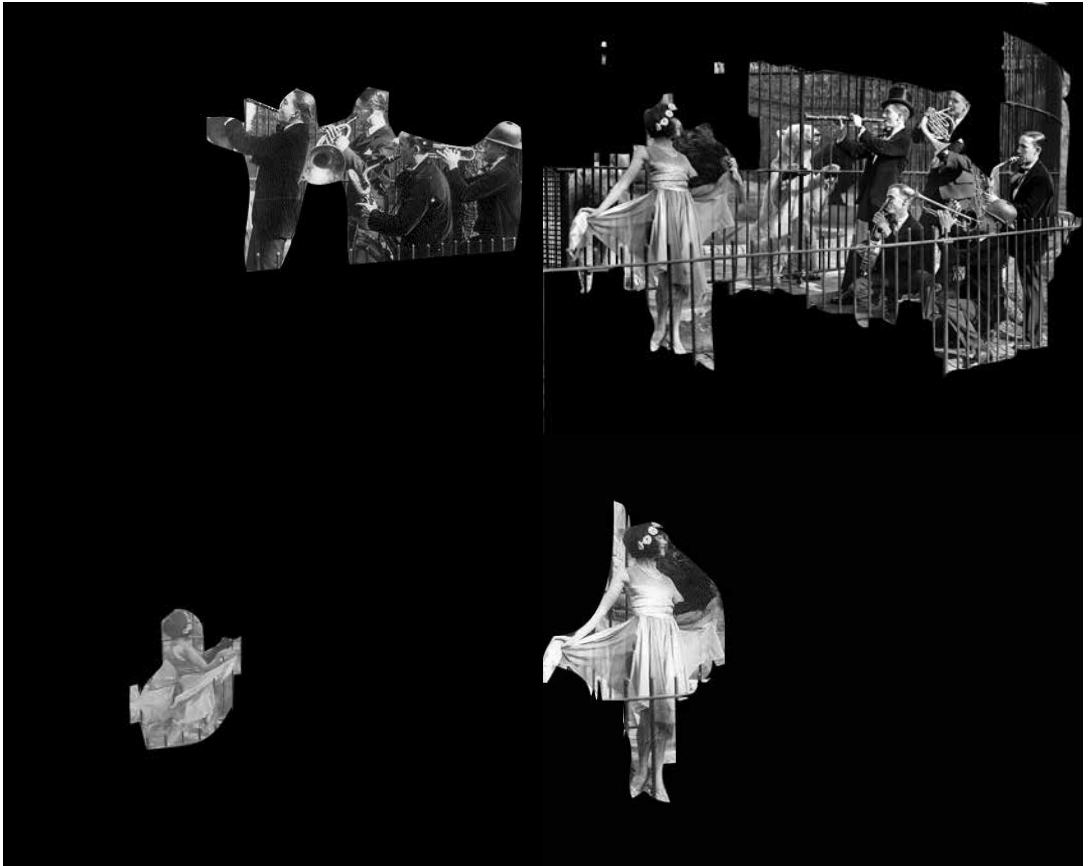


“The most sensational allegations include one that President Harding and Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty participated in bacchanalian orgies at the Ohio Gang’s Little Green House on K Street in Washington, D.C. [...] The Little Green House on K Street was a residence at 1625 K Street, NW, in Washington, DC, USA, that served as the unofficial headquarters of the Ohio Gang during the Presidential Administration of Warren G. Harding. [...] During the early 1920s, it was rented by associates of Attorney General Harry Daugherty, including Jess Smith and Howard Mannington, and served as the location for numerous Presidential poker parties.”



ArtAttack, 427 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 1988/89,
Washington, DC, USA

“Art Attack is a collective which was founded in 1979 in Los Angeles, California, as a guerilla art group. The group moved to Washington, D.C., in 1981 and subsequently to New York City. Throughout this timeframe the group’s evolution led to a structured format and it is now incorporated as a not-for-profit organization.”



entertaining the animals at the national zoo

spielenraum

spielen > play
raum > space



“It was located at what was then 3 Green Court, across from what is today’s Green Lantern gay bar, located in an old stable building in an alley just southeast of Thomas Circle. It was coined the Krazy Kat.”

“The club’s entrance was along the side of the Green lantern building today leading to Massachusetts Avenue, with a small sign that read ‘Syne of ye Krazy Kat’ seen in the images here, taken on July 15, 1921, along with a warning at the top of the door that read ‘All soap abandon ye who enter here.’ Inside, patrons found a tree house reached by a precarious ladder, pebble floor, and al fresco dining. It was the site of frequent artist exhibitions and painting classes.”



“Margaret Gorman is best known for being the very first Miss America, from the year 1921. [...] Gorman was chosen from a photo popularity contest and finalist round as the first ‘Miss Washington, D.C.,’ and was invited on that count to join the Second Annual Atlantic City Pageant as an honored guest. She won two titles, ‘Inter-City Beauty, Amateur,’ and ‘The Most Beautiful Bathing Girl in America’ after competing in the Bather’s Revue. Finally, she won the grand prize, the Golden Mermaid trophy. She was expected to defend her positions the next year, but since someone else was ‘Miss Washington, D.C.,’ and her other titles were a bit awkward, they decided to crown her ‘Miss America.’”



prohibition

nostalgieschatten

schatten > shadow

nostalgie > nostalgia



shoreham hotel, rhinemaïdens listening to wagner.

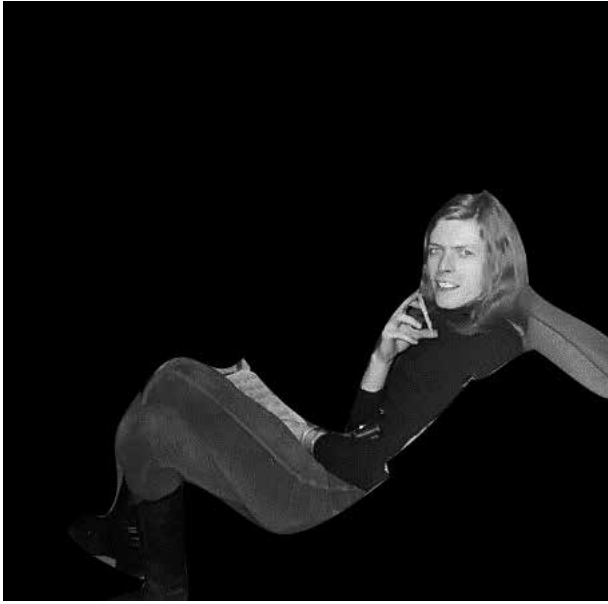
badenkultur

*baden > bathing
kultur > culture*



Mississippi John Hurt

"After a man discovered a copy of one of his recordings, 'Avalon Blues,' which gave the location of his hometown, there became increased interest in his whereabouts. Tom Hoskins, a blues enthusiast, would be the first to locate Hurt in 1963. He convinced Hurt to relocate to Washington, D.C., where he was recorded by the Library of Congress in 1964. This rediscovery helped further the American folk music revival, which had led to the rediscovery of many other bluesmen of Hurt's era."



*David Bowie's first night in the US,
somebody's house, silver spring, MD, 1971.*

vorstadtzelten

*vorstadt > suburbia
zelten > camping*



the rites of spring. the birth of emo.

badenkultur



bad brains

stadtraum

raum > space

stadt > city



*ian macaye, lounge singer in an alternate reality.
would love to hear his cover of 'strange fruit.'*

knieperaum

*kneipe > bar
raum > space*



“Chuck Brown (August 22, 1936 – May 16, 2012) was a guitarist and singer who is affectionately called ‘the Godfather of Go-go.’ Go-go is a subgenre of funk music developed in and around Washington, D.C. in the mid and late 1970s. While its musical classification, influences, and origins are debated, Brown is regarded as the fundamental force behind the creation of go-go music.”



“MacKaye decided he wanted a project that was “like the Stooges with reggae, [...]”

“The group still needed a name, so MacKaye chose the word ‘fugazi’ from Mark Baker’s Nam, a compilation of stories of Vietnam War veterans, where it was used as slang for ‘fucked up,’ or, to be precise, ‘Fucked Up, Got Ambushed, Zipped In [into a body bag].”

“The band began inviting Picciotto to practices. Inspired by use of a foil in hip hop, Picciotto sang backup vocals. After his band Happy Go Licky broke up, he became more involved with Fugazi.”



Founded by Dody DiSanto and Jon Bowers, the 9:30 Club was the home for alternative music in D.C. during the early 1980s and was a regular stopping point for bands touring the east coast as well as local D.C. artists, such as Chuck Brown, Maiesha & The Hip Huggers featuring E.U., Root Boy Slim, and the Sex Change Band. Other performers in the early days of the venue included X, Blue Angel (with lead singer Cyndi Lauper), The Bangles, Marti Jones, Marshall Crenshaw, Mod Fun, Nash the Slash, The Go-Go's, and Betty (Alyson Palmer of Betty tended bar in the club at the time).



chocolate city

unsichtstadt

stadt > city

unsichtbarkeit > invisibility



postponed monument

schattenstein

schatten > shadow
stein > stone



resurrection city

kritikzelten

zelten > camping
kritik > critique



“Organized by Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Poor People’s Campaign addressed the issues of economic justice and housing for the poor in the United States.”

“Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968. The SCLC and other leaders decided to continue the campaign in King’s honor. A month later on May 12, 1968, demonstrators began a two-week protest in Washington, D.C.. The same month thousands of poor people of all races set up a shantytown known as ‘Resurrection City.’ The city was closed down in mid-June and the economic bill of rights was never passed.”



“In the spring of 1932 thousands of these veterans formed what was called a ‘Bonus Army’ and marched on Washington demanding early payment. Congress refused and an Army contingent led by General Douglas MacArthur, and Majors Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton was ordered to forcefully remove the veterans from their encampments in the city.”

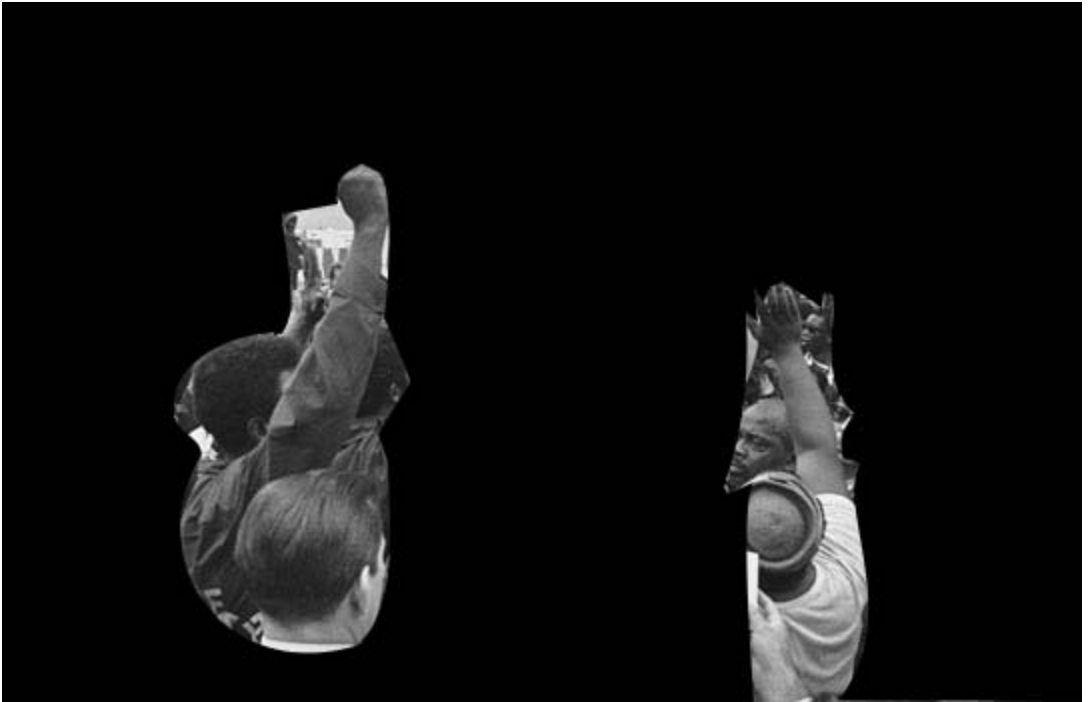


“I’m eating a lot of ice cream,’ he says.”

“Occupy D.C. is a non-partisan occupation of public space in Washington, D.C. based at McPherson Square and connected to the Occupy movements that sprung up across the United States in Fall 2011. The group has been demonstrating in McPherson Square since October 1, 2011, and in Freedom Plaza since October 6th. Despite crackdowns on other Occupy projects across the country, federal authorities claimed on November 15 that they have no plans to clear McPherson Square Park. The National Park Service decided against eviction after meeting with activists and discussing health and safety conditions.”



“Coxey’s Army was a protest march by unemployed workers from the United States, led by the populist Jacob Coxey. They marched on Washington D.C. in 1894, the second year of a four-year economic depression that was the worst in United States history to that time. Officially named the Army of the Commonweal in Christ, its nickname came from its leader and was more enduring. It was the first significant popular protest march on Washington and the expression ‘Enough food to feed Coxey’s Army’ originates from this march.”



fight the power

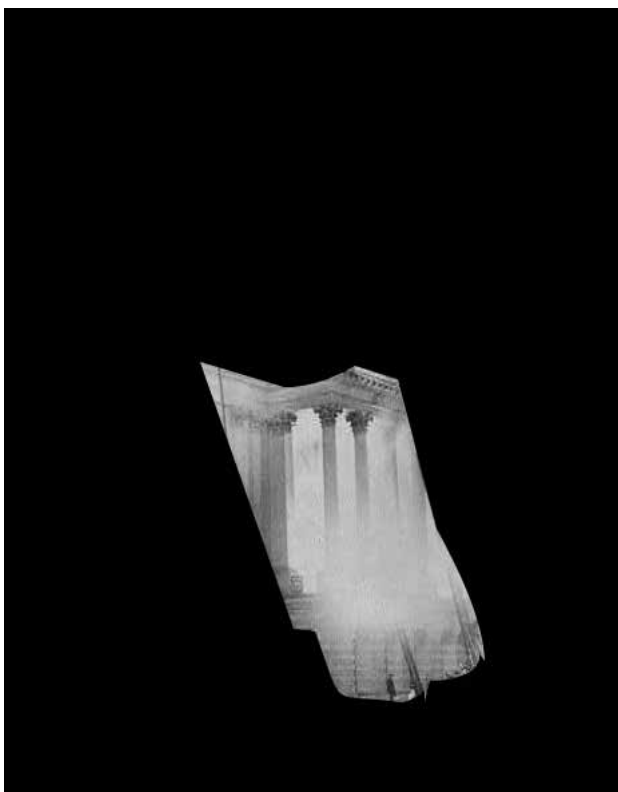
alltagkritik

Alltag > everyday life
kritik > critique



Hamaas Abdul Khaalis

“On March 9–11, 1977, three buildings in Washington, D.C. were seized by 12 African American Muslim gunmen, led by Hamaas Abdul Khaalis, who took 149 hostages and killed a radio journalist and a police officer. After a 39-hour standoff, all other hostages were released from the District Building (the city hall; now called the John A. Wilson Building), B’nai B’rith headquarters, and the Islamic Center of Washington.”



Fire

regieren verbindung

verbindung > connection

regieren > governance



occupy DC

zeltzeit

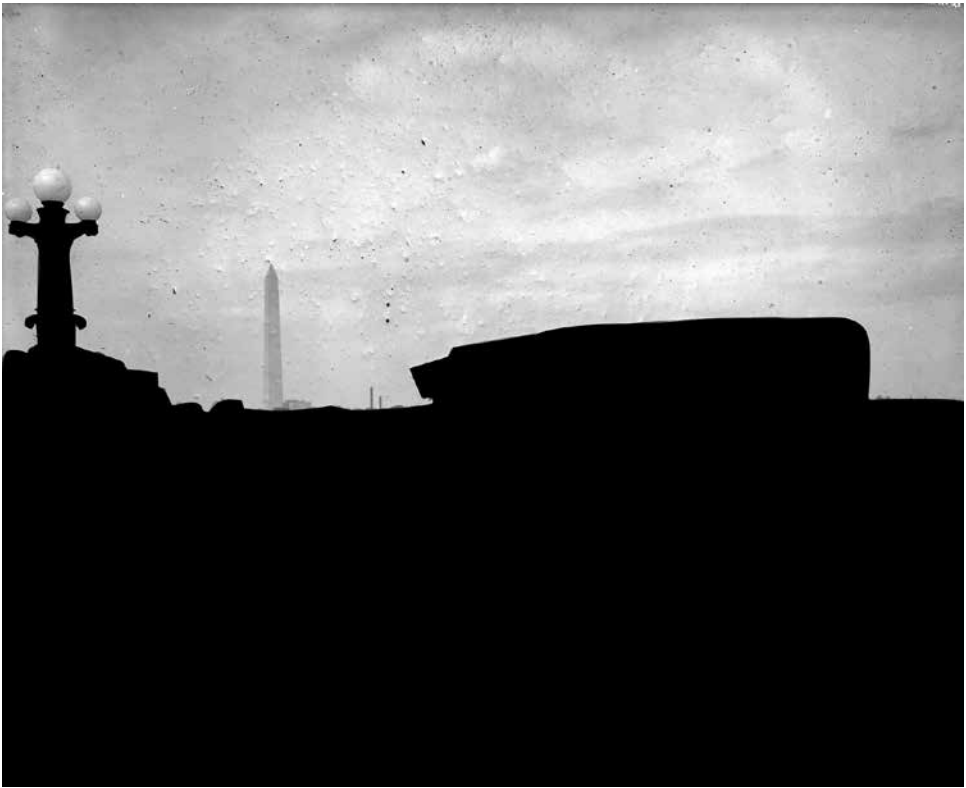
zelten > camping
zeit > time



occupy DC

Regierenzelten

zelten > camping
Regieren > governance

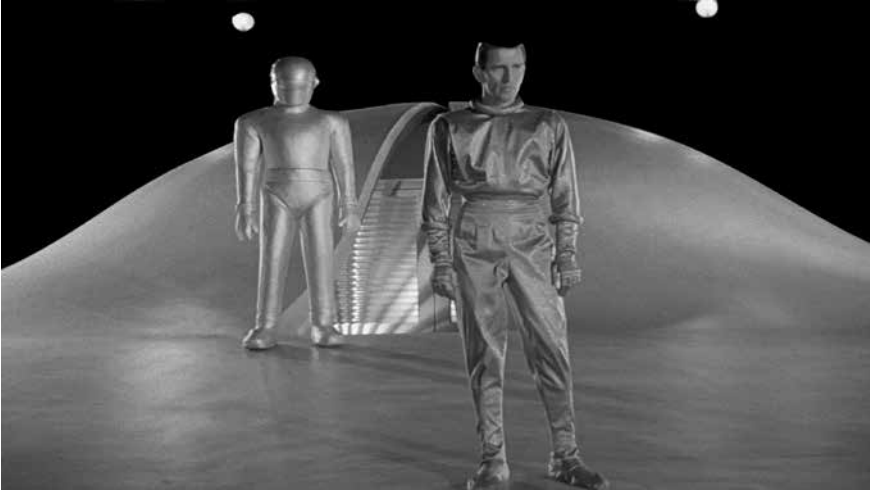


hooptie

reisenkiste

kiste > BOX

reisen > Travel



was Dr. King an emissary from the heavens?

träumeraumschiff

raumschiff > spaceship

träume > dreams



Social change on the mall.

“Parliament-Funkadelic’s legendary stage prop -- The Mothership — will find a new home at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Washington Post reports. [...] “I’m about to cry! They’re taking the Mothership! They’re shipping it out! But I’m glad it’s going to have a nice home there.” [...] And if there’s one thing we need more of in this town, it’s obviously spaceships. [...] Mothership debuted in 1976 -- but in 1982, the band’s rising debts forced their management company to ditch the Mothership in a Prince George’s County scrap yard.”

7

The Peoples' Library





Welcome to The Peoples' Library at Dupont Circle. If this is your first time here, please take a moment to read this quick FAQ.

How do I get a library card?

The collection is created by **you.** To become a card-carrying member of the library you must contribute **at least** one book each time you renew your card. You are welcome to contribute more than one book per year, but your membership will only be renewed for one year at a time.

How often must my card be renewed?

Cards are good for one year. In this way we can continually refresh the collection.

What kinds of books will you accept?

Think about books that you would want to share with as many people as possible, about the books that you love the most, about the books you would want to be. Choose one, and bring it in. You might want to look at our online catalog first to see if we already have it. We won't turn away a book if we already have it, but ask that you help select new books that aren't already in the collection.

How is the library organized?

All of the books are arranged alphabetically, by author. We want you to discover things you've never seen before, to think things you've never thought before. We believe in serendipity. There is a separate section for each letter, and each section is staffed with a volunteer librarian.

Does the collection contain other media?

No. The library limits itself to the printed word, and does not include periodicals, music, video, photographic archives, maps, or other objects.

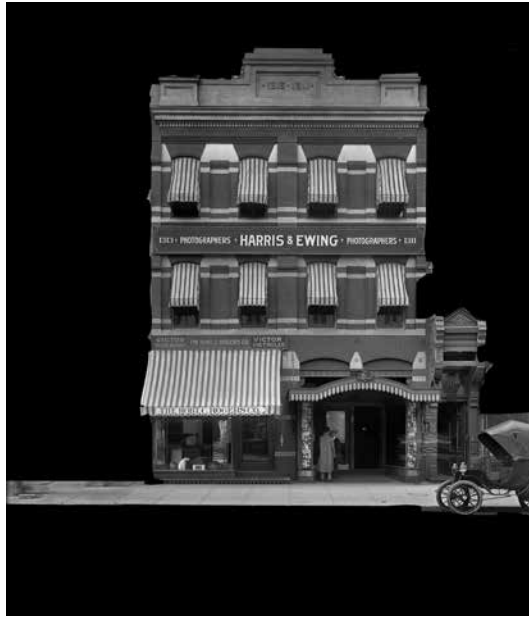
Does the library host public events?

Yes. We host a curated poetry series, regular readings by authors, small theatrical events including Fringe Festival performances, and reading groups. Complete information on our programming can be found on the calendar on our web site.

Can I reserve space for a public event?

Yes. The library space includes two small theaters, as well as several small, medium, and large meeting rooms. Please contact the Director of Events Programming via the form on the web site.

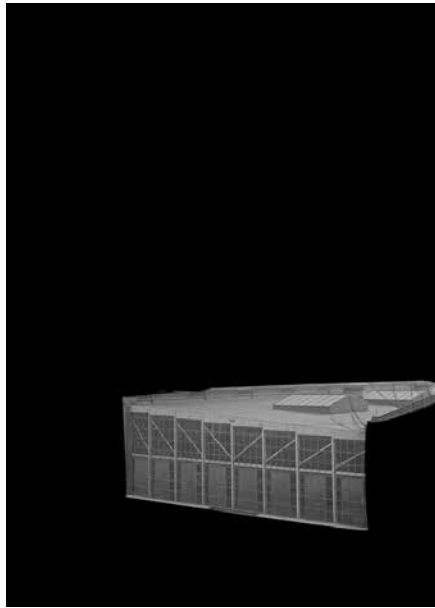
Image Research for The Peoples' Library



“Harris & Ewing Inc. was a photographic studio in Washington, D.C., owned and run by George W. Harris and Martha Ewing.”

“According to the papers nominating the studio to the National Register of Historic Places, ‘the president personally urged him to start a photographic news service in Washington because it was so difficult at that time for out-of-town newspapers to get timely photographs of notable people and events in the Nation’s Capital.’”

“Harris and Ewing opened their studio in 1905.”

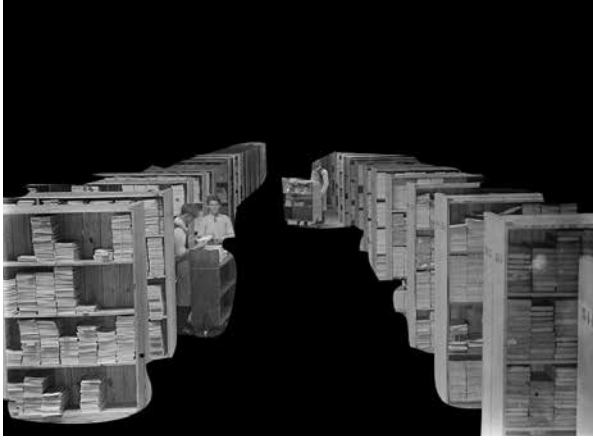


GPO

stimme inschrift

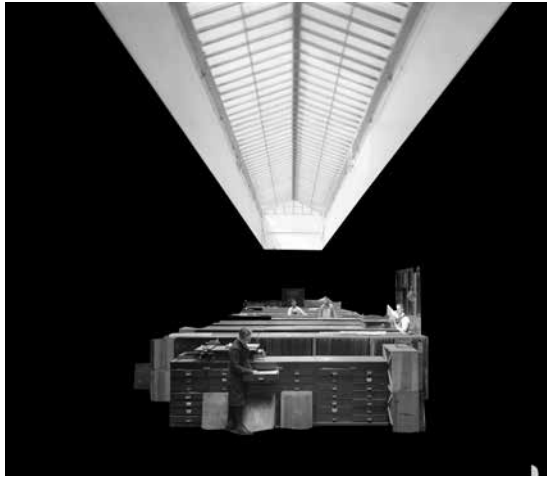
inschrift > inscription

stimme > voice



the policy industry

RegierenBauen



good light

unsichtbarkeit schönheit

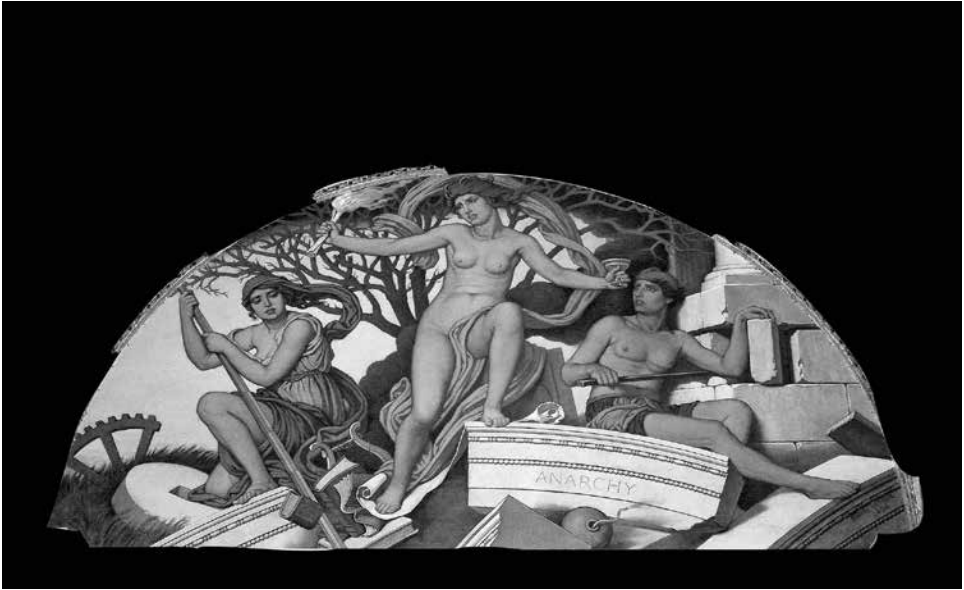
schönheit > beauty
unsichtbarkeit > invisibility



NOW SAAM

kulturkiste

kiste > BOX
kultur > culture



anarchy mural by Elihu Vedder, Library of Congress

unbewusstseinsmalerei

malerei > painting
unbewusstsein > subconsciousness



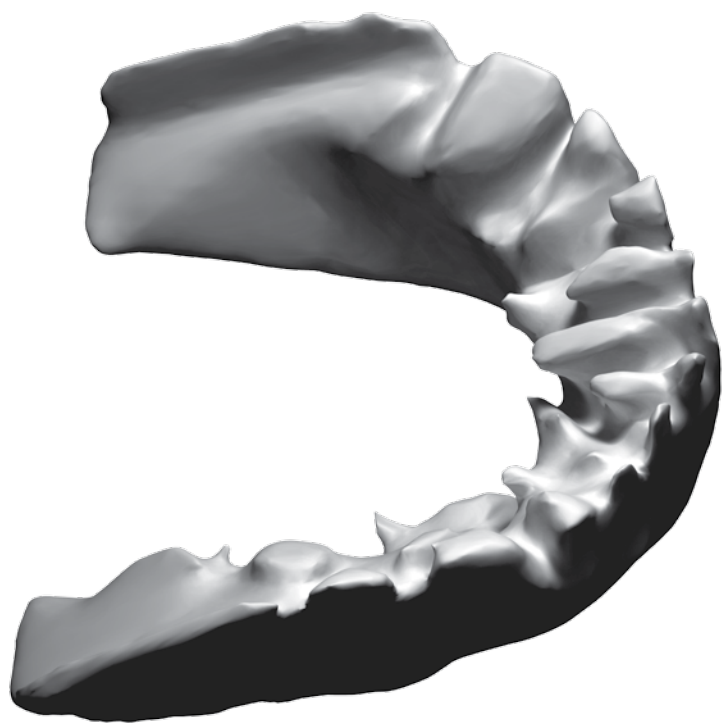
Dirty slush

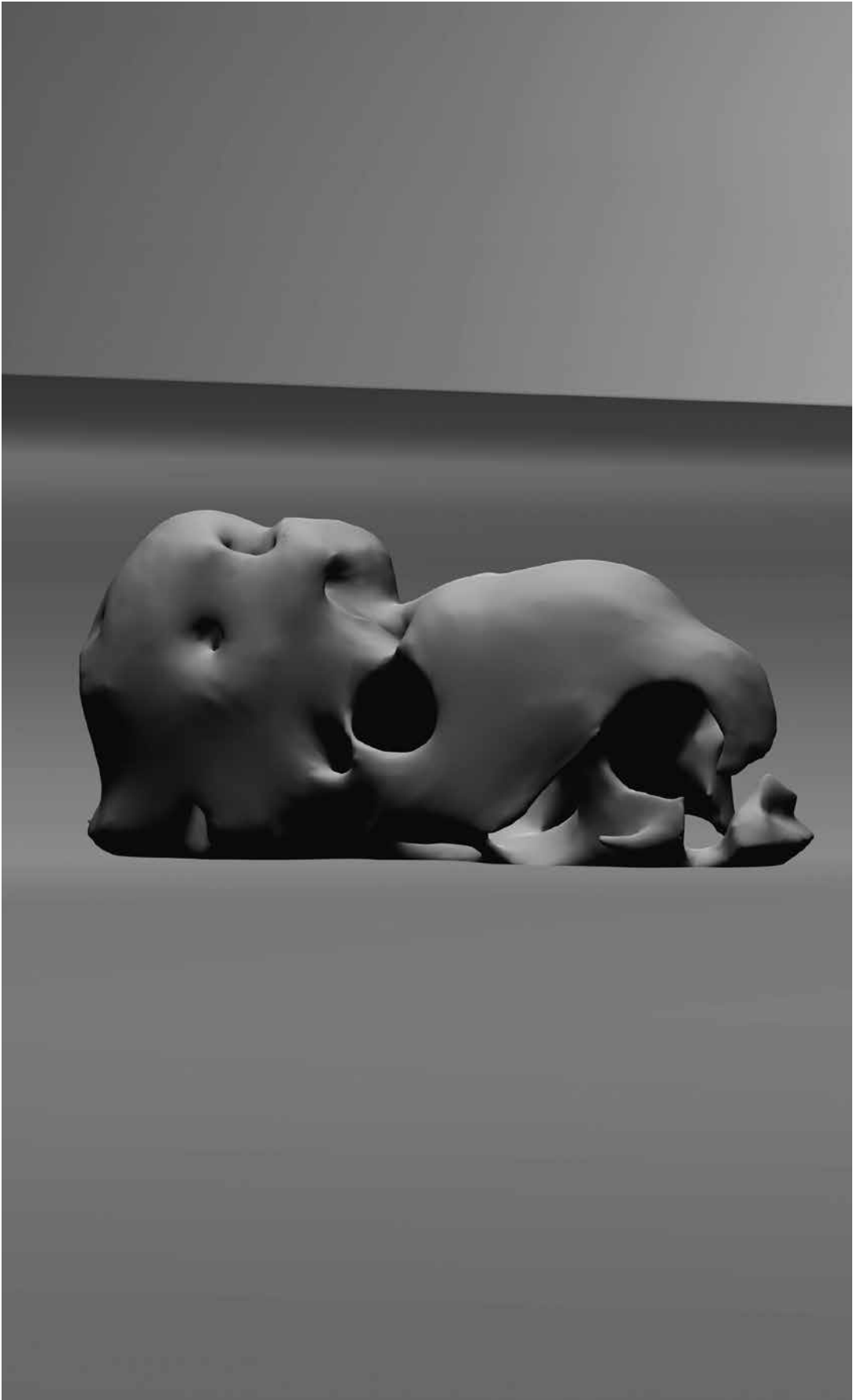
Alltagboden

Alltag > Everyday life
Boden > ground

8

College of Open Source Medicine





Dupont General
Episode 6273
Air date July 15, 2112

DR. OCTAGON, a swarthy but handsome Venusian, and the chief surgeon of the famous DUPONT GENERAL HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE OF OPEN SOURCE MEDICINE is distracted by a messy relationship with MRS. CLAYPOOL while an unidentifiable grey goo seeps under the double door of the E.R. and into the waiting room outside. Concerned relatives gasp with horror at the unintended consequences of a human reanimation accident.

(Cue sound of muffled animal screams from E.R.)

The subject of the experiment is in fact the long-dead great-grandfather of Mrs. Claypool, a very wealthy MR. HUCKENPAHLER, who did indeed 'take it with him' when he passed. Mrs. Claypool hopes to get the codes to the Swiss accounts from the reanimated corpse. Meanwhile, Dr. Octagon has been ardently wooing Mrs. Claypool, while hoping to avoid a pre-nup and cash out in a few years.

The situation is complicated by the presence of a surly and unscrupulous performance evaluator (played by Rick Springfield), DR. BENWAY who has the authority to fire any doctors who are costing the

hospital administration too much money. He just wants his fare share.

(Cue sexy nurse P.A. announcement, "Paging Dr. Octagon...")

Dr. Benway arrives at Dr. Octagon's office to rehearse their good doc/bad doc strategy for dealing with Mrs. Claypool. Dr. Octagon, sitting lotus-style on a Persian carpet in the center of the room, wearing a turban and silk pants, suggests that the next time they try to reanimate the subject, they should double the dosage of cocaine to 180 kilos.

(Cut to shot of heaping pile of white powder at the edge of the carpet.)

Back in the waiting room outside of surgery, Mrs. Claypool is sitting with her accountant. They silently acknowledge each other with pregnant glances.

(Cue music: anxious string section)

Meanwhile three nurses are having a torrid affair, a love/hate triangle which is very nearly uncovered by an orderly when he finds their lace panties in the corridor leading to the hospital waiting room.

(Cue sound of nuclear blast.)

Dr. Octagon examines one patient who has a severe infection in her penis that may cost her livelihood as an artist if it is not smoked quickly.

(Cut to closeup of diploma on the wall of Dr. Octagon's office. Diploma is from School of Open Source Medicine and is signed by Dr. Benway.)

Dr. Benway reviews X-rays revealing that another uncooperative patient has had a syringe mysteriously lodged inside his colon in a life-threatening manner.

After an hour of melodramatic work, Drs. Benway and Octagon meet in the hospital hallway.

DR. BENWAY: "He was an impure vessel."

DR. OCTAGON: "I'm gettin' outta' here, me!"

Dr. Octagon returns to his secret love nest to Mrs. Claypool with a test tube of chocolates and the nurses' panties, only to find...

(Cut to shot of unidentifiable puddle of biofluids seeping across the carpet.)

(Cue orchestra hit.)

FADE TO BLACK.

Image Research for College of Open Source Medicine

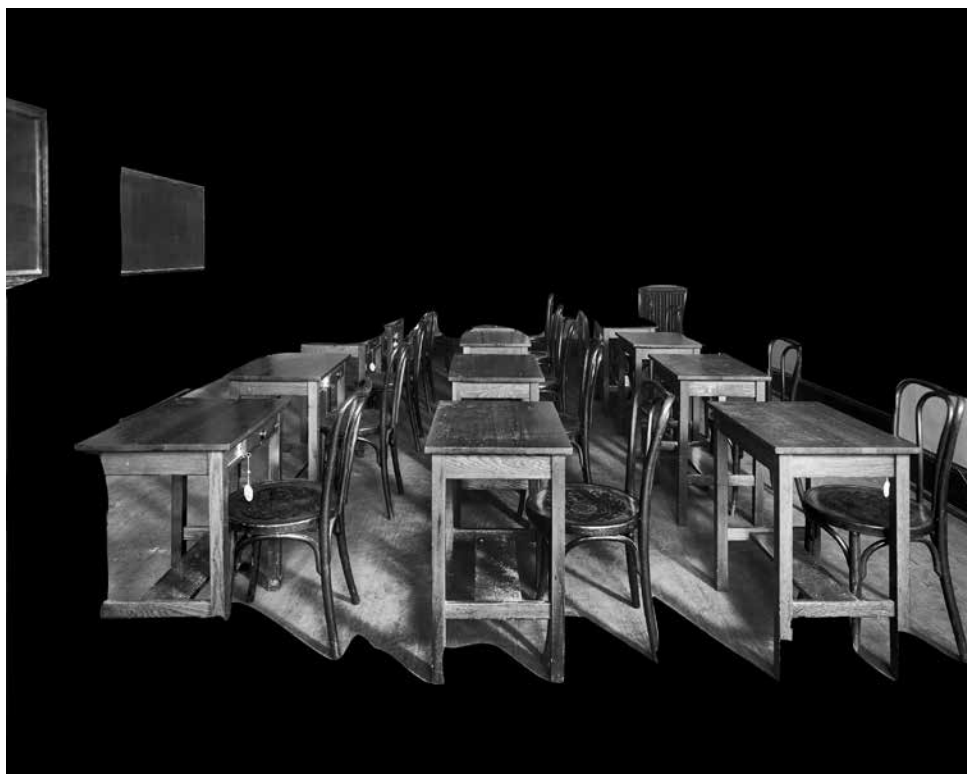


pacific circle

baden > bathing



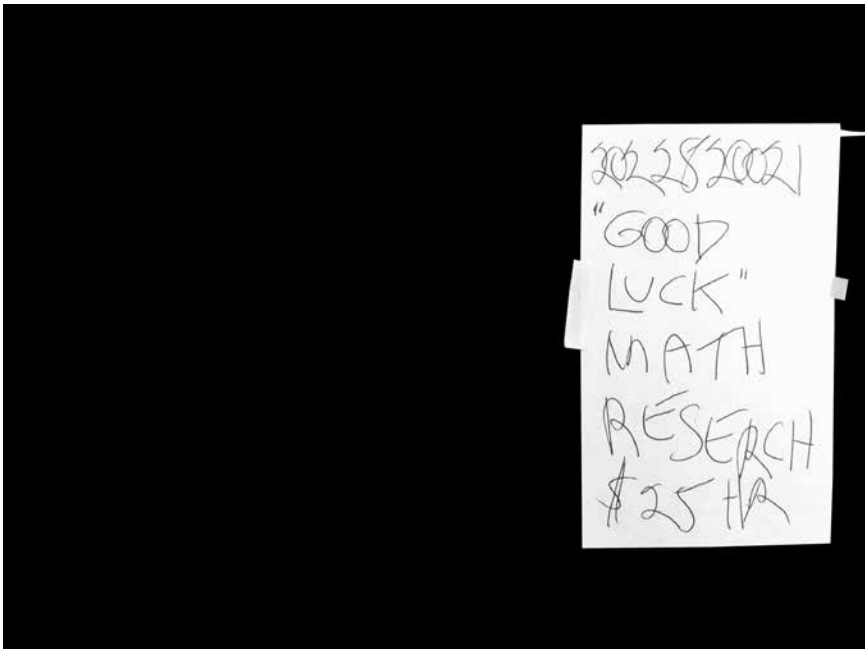
“Before 1882, Dupont Circle was referred to as Pacific Circle, a name designation instituted by city planner Charles L’Enfant. On February 25th of that year, the U.S. Congress officially designated it as Dupont Circle, and within the following two decades, large and lavish homes began to appear around its perimeter, having been developed far later than Logan Circle. Dupont Circle itself was landscaped with lush plantings, 850 ornamental trees, and exotic flowering species, and in 1884, a bronze statue of Admiral Samuel F. Dupont was placed atop a granite base at its center. It was sculpted by artist Launt Thompson.”



classy

schönheitskritik

kritik > critique
schönheit > beauty



bad Luck spelling, for hire at a bus stop.

müllstation

*müll > trash
station > station*

15 Things Charles and Ray Eames Teach Us

Keep good company

Notice the ordinary

Preserve the ephemeral

Design not for the elite but for the masses

Explain it to a child

Get lost in the content

Get to the heart of the matter

Never tolerate "O.K. anything."

Remember your responsibility as a storyteller

Zoom out

Switch

Prototype it

Pun

Make design your life... and life, your design.

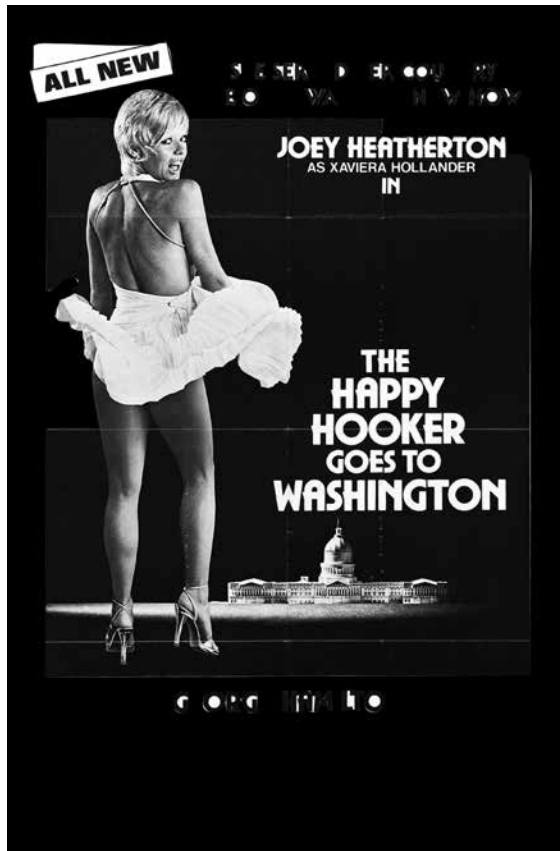
Leave something behind.



Education

sitzenRaum

sitzen > sitting
Raum > space



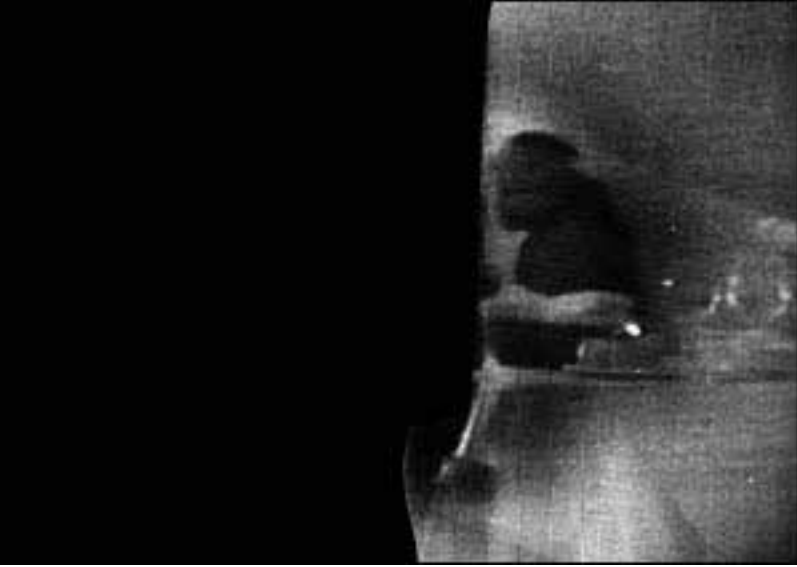
“Deep Throat was first introduced to the public in the 1974 book All the President’s Men, written by Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein,”



models for dupont circle?

badenschönheit

*baden > bathing
schönheit > beauty*



bitch set me up.

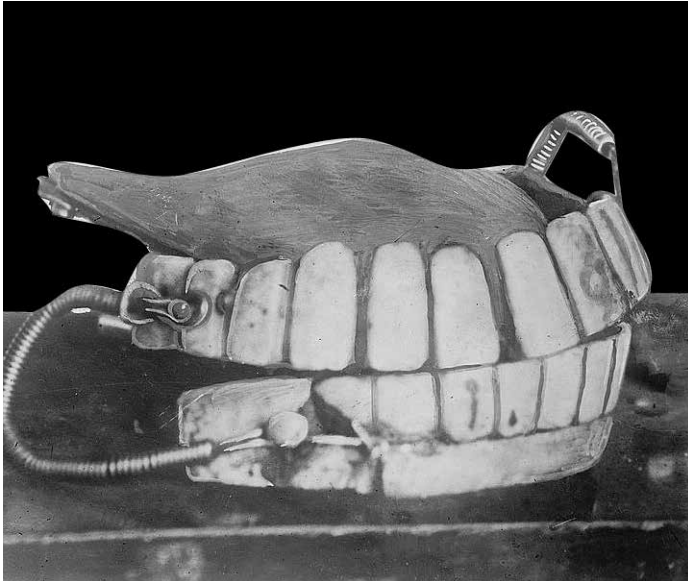
kaltschnäuzigschönheit

schönheit > beauty
kaltschnäuzigkeit > brazenness



protest party

kaltschnäuzigschönheit

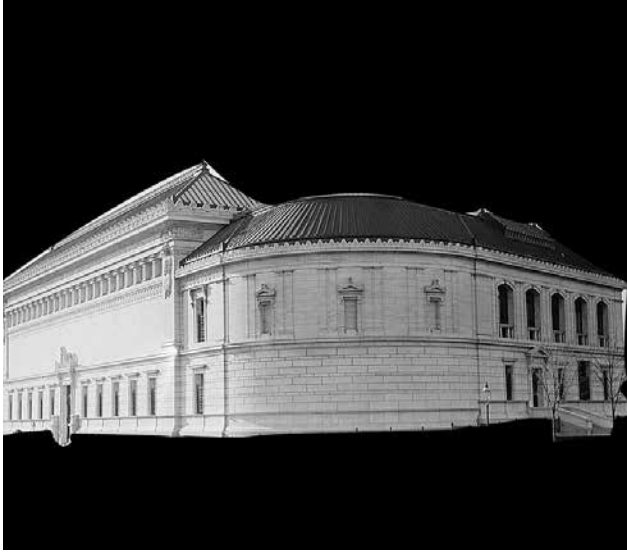


george washington's teeth

bauenrand

Bauen > construction

Rand > edge

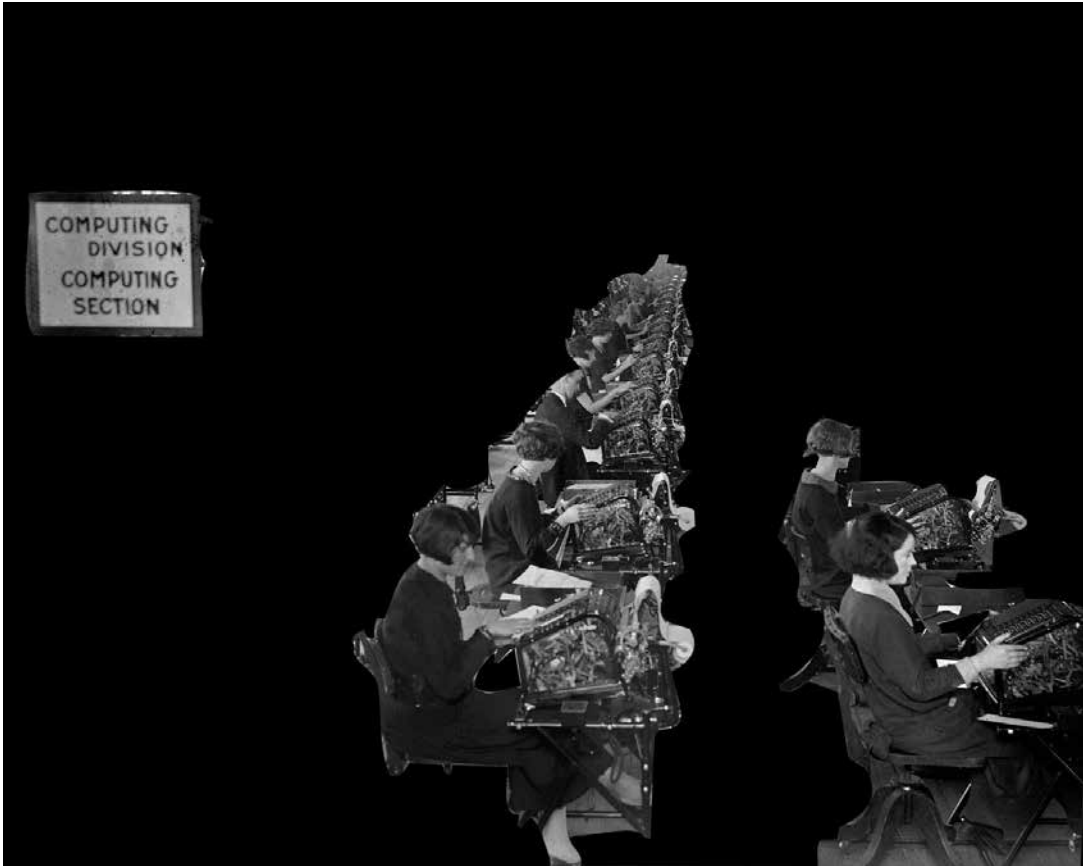


Alma mater

kulturkiste

kultur > culture

kiste > BOX



computors

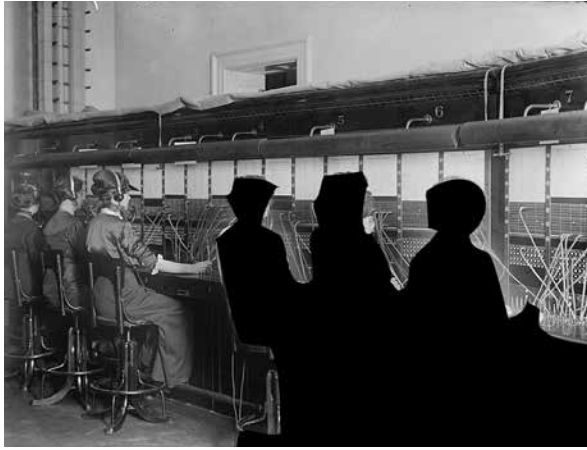
mathematicians



“Mary Texanna Loomis, founder and proprietor of the Loomis Radio School in Washington, D.C.”

“Among the folks in history count Miss Mary Texanna Loomis, the only extant woman ‘boss’ of a radio college for men.”

“Miss Loomis, who is a regular octopus when it comes to having embraced different lines of activity, is the proprietor and founder of a well-known radio school. She is a cousin of Dr. Mahon Loomis, who is said to have obtained a patent on a device for sending messages without wires in 1872, some years before Marconi first announced his discoveries.”



Arterial

stimmerohre

stimme > voice

rohre > pipes



mysterious architecture

seltsamkuppel

seltsam > strange
kuppel > dome

9

Amish Power Plant





My brain is in a robot body, and man do I need a tune-up. When the city gets this humid and pollen-saturated my joints freeze up. The best place to go in town is over to the Amish Power Plant.

After the subway system completed its death spiral [not so incidentally taking a lot of DC government, physical infrastructure and human services with it,] the Amish caravanned in from the county with their horses and buggies, and set up shop. They didn't really ask anyone for permission. There wasn't anybody to ask. They just started doing it, and since they did it well, nobody stopped them.

They'd figured out how to do pneumatics cheap and green. Once they were done down there, the subways were re-engineered as giant pneumatic tubes, whooshing people and cargo all over the city. They are credited with jump-starting the economy.

The air-punks' research wing is located just over the old Dupont Circle station, in a shallower set of tunnels abandoned a couple of centuries ago. But those tunnels are basically the storefront. Wander down the stairs and follow the Gene Davis stripes 'til you can strike up a friendly conversation with a guy sporting a lab coat and Lincoln-esque facial fur. Fashion aside, they're better than any of the doctors I had when I was meat.

Image Research for Amish Power Plant



snowpocalypse at Pacific circle

badenmitte

*baden > bathing
mitte > center*



Locked out of the unconscious.

unbewusstseinkiste

unbewusstsein > subconsciousness

kiste > BOX



union station

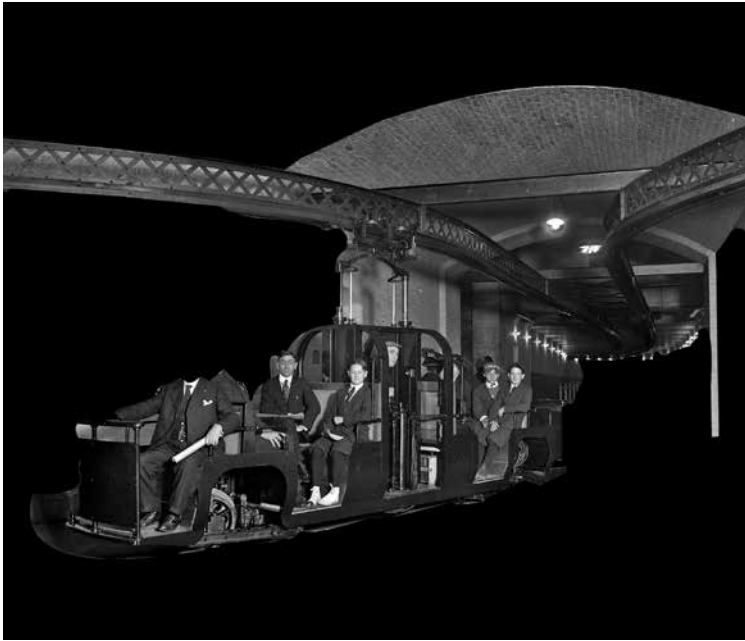
träumestation



“But it was not always this way. When public buses were first introduced in Washington, D.C. in the early 1900s, many riders viewed them as a more comfortable, ‘modern’ alternative to the existing streetcar system. By the 1960s, the city’s streetcar lines were abandoned and dismantled. In 2009, D.C. began laying track for a new line of (exorbitantly expensive) streetcars, including along some ‘blighted’ corridors of the city, all of them already served by city buses. The plan was targeted less at getting commuters where they needed to go and more at coaxing them to move in this ‘new,’ exciting way—maybe even to parts of town they previously avoided.”



“The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) had its foundations in 1862 with workers signing, separating, and trimming sheets of Demand Notes in the Treasury building. Gradually, more and more work, including engraving and printing, was entrusted to the organization. Within a few years, the BEP was producing Fractional Currency, revenue stamps, government obligations, and other security documents for many federal agencies. In 1877, the BEP became the sole producer of all United States currency. The addition of postage stamp production to its workload in 1894 established the BEP as the nation’s security printer, responding to the needs of the U.S. Government in both times of peace and war.”



the other subway system

rohrestadt

*rohre > pipes
stadt > city*



“... how we move in and around the city is influenced less by short-term choices and more by long-term events like getting a job, starting a family, or moving homes.”

“In the past decade some transportation scholars have started to address this limitation with a research approach called ‘mobility biographies.’”

What’s Your ‘Mobility Biography’?

Eric Jaffe

June 18, 2012

<http://m.theatlanticcities.com/commute/2012/06/whats-your-mobility-biography/2302/>



my unconscious

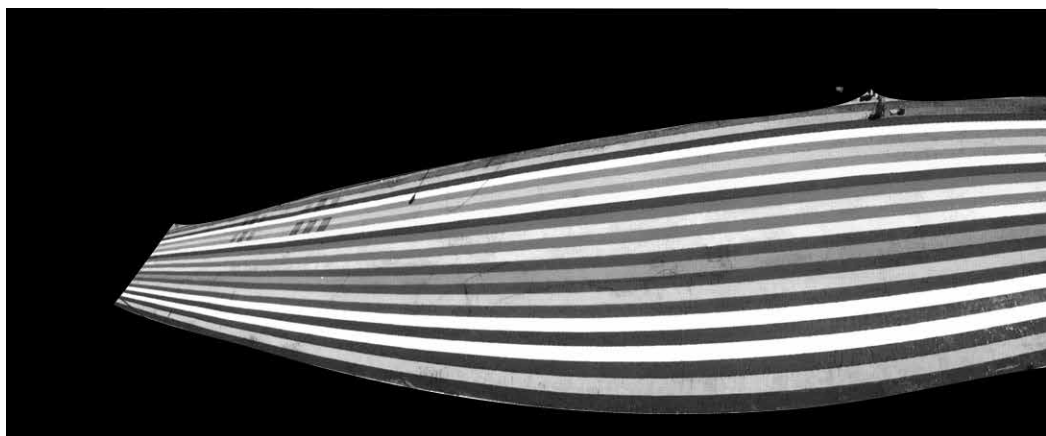
unbewusstsein unterwegs

unbewusstsein > subconsciousness
unterwegs > in transit



“Davis was born in Washington D.C. in 1920, and spent nearly all his life there. Before he began to paint in 1949, he worked as a sportswriter, covering the Washington Redskins and other local teams. Working as a journalist in the late 1940s, he covered the Roosevelt and Truman presidential administrations, and was often President Truman’s partner for poker games. His first art studio was in his apartment on Scott Circle, and later he worked out of a studio on Pennsylvania Avenue.”

“Davis’s first solo exhibition of drawings was at the Dupont Theater Gallery in 1952,”



*in 1987, i painted the 7th stripe from the top
[bright yellow] and bill newman painted
the blue stripe next to it.*

Farberohre

Rohre > pipes

Farbe > color



the wildlife in DC's subconscious

rohrekultur

*rohre > pipes
kultur > culture*



Expressive matter in DC's unconscious

rohreschilder

*rohre > pipes
schilder > signs*



neglected infrastructure.

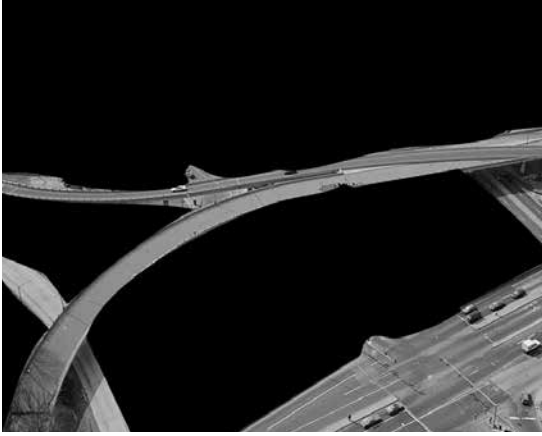
*most of my bad dreams come from anxieties
associated with the guilt of neglecting
responsibilities.*



vestigial artery

sitzenanhänger

sitzen > sitting
anhänger > trailer



auto lobby

unterwegskultur

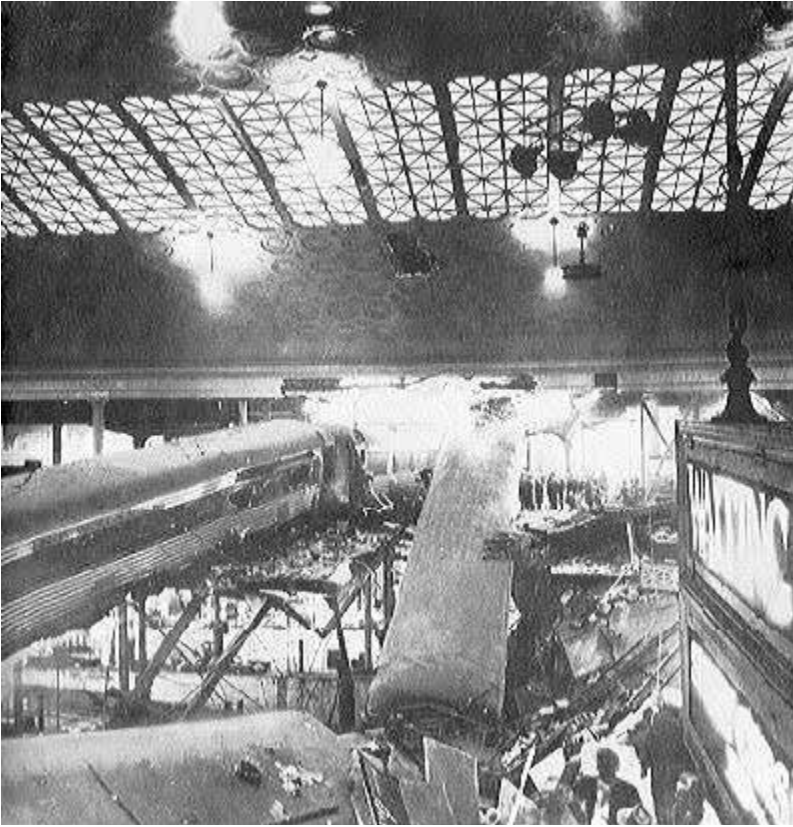
unterwegs > in transit
kultur > culture



p street beach
unterwegskultur



“On the night of January 14, 1953, Train #173, THE FEDERAL EXPRESS, left Boston on time for its scheduled arrival at Washington Union Station, 459 miles and 9-1/2 hours away. This was one of many trains bringing people to Washington for Eisenhower’s first inauguration. Runaway train - On the night of January 14, 1953, Train #173, THE FEDERAL EXPRESS, left Boston on time for its scheduled arrival at Washington Union Station, 459 miles and 9-1/2 hours away. This was one of many trains bringing people to Washington for Eisenhower’s first inauguration.”



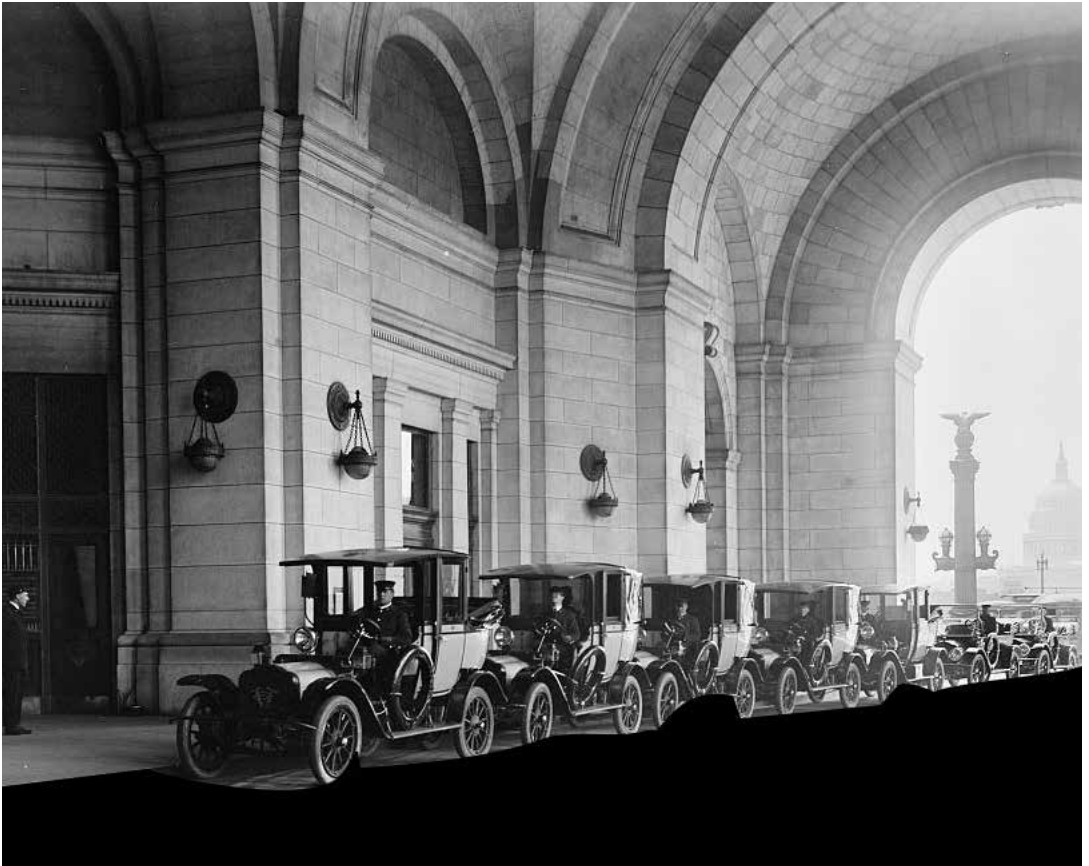
(Union station has a secret important persons waiting room that is still used)



trainwreck

verbindung unterwegs

unterwegs > in transit
verbindung > connection

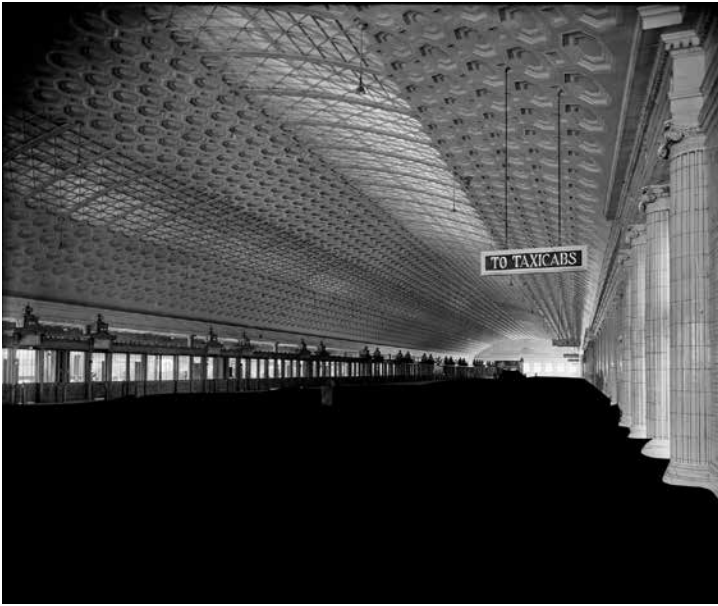


union station

träumestation

station > station

träume > dreams



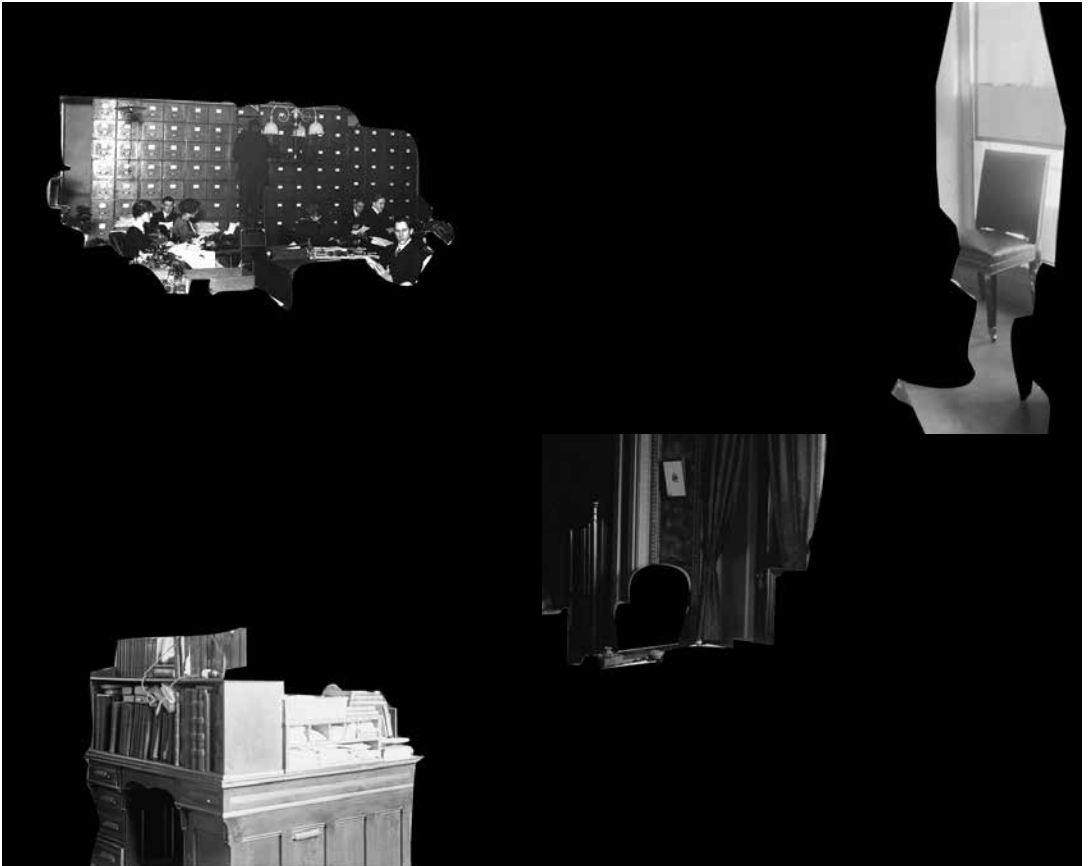
union station

träumestation



union station

träumestation

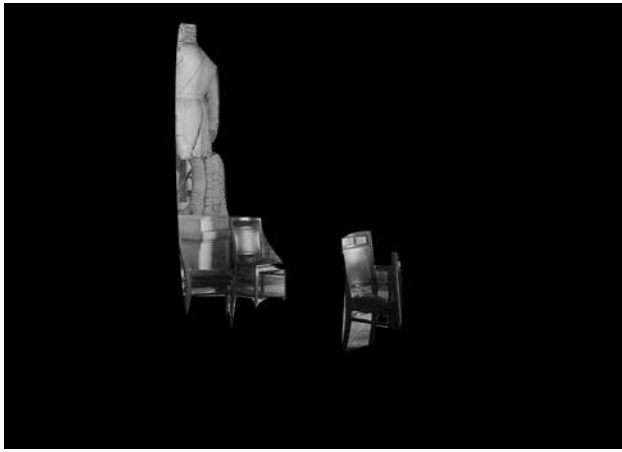


dark offices of the policy industry

schattenraum

schatten > shadow

raum > space



dark room

schattenraum



dark offices
schattenraum



business

träumekultur
(this is my business at hand)

kultur > culture
träume > dreams



Dark office
schattenraum

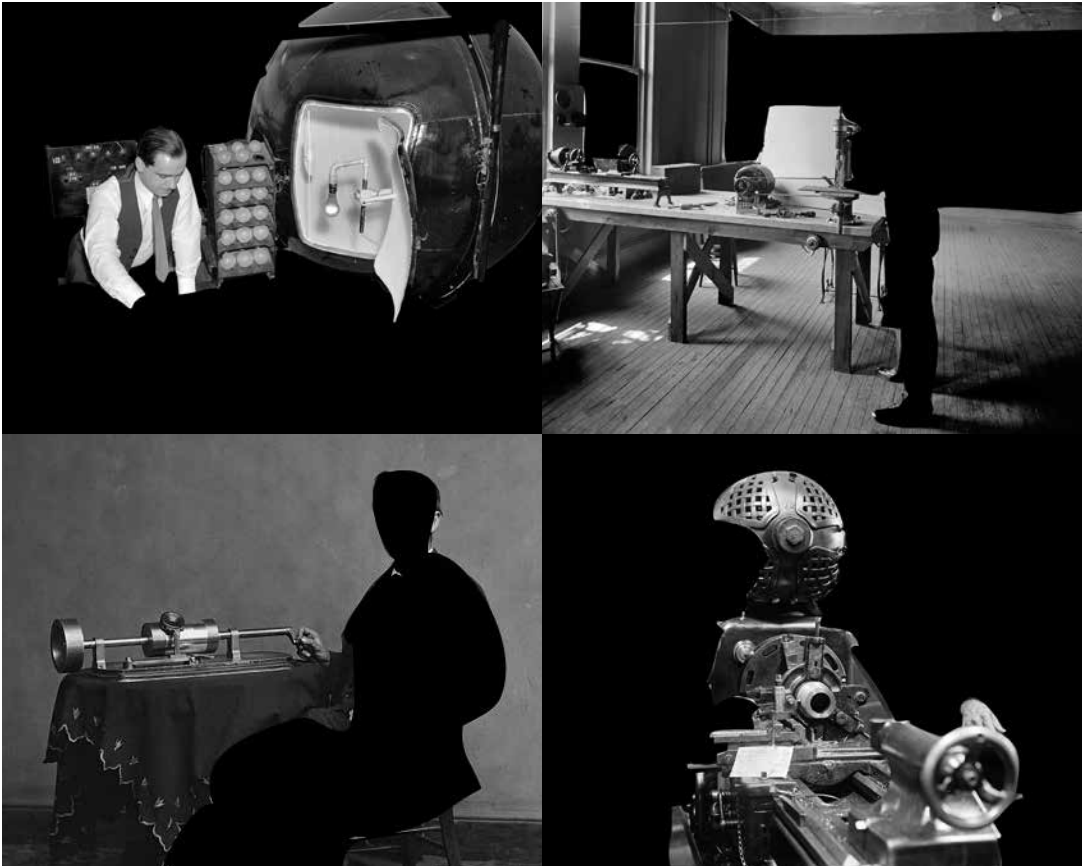


authority

kritikbauen

bauen > construction

kritik > critique

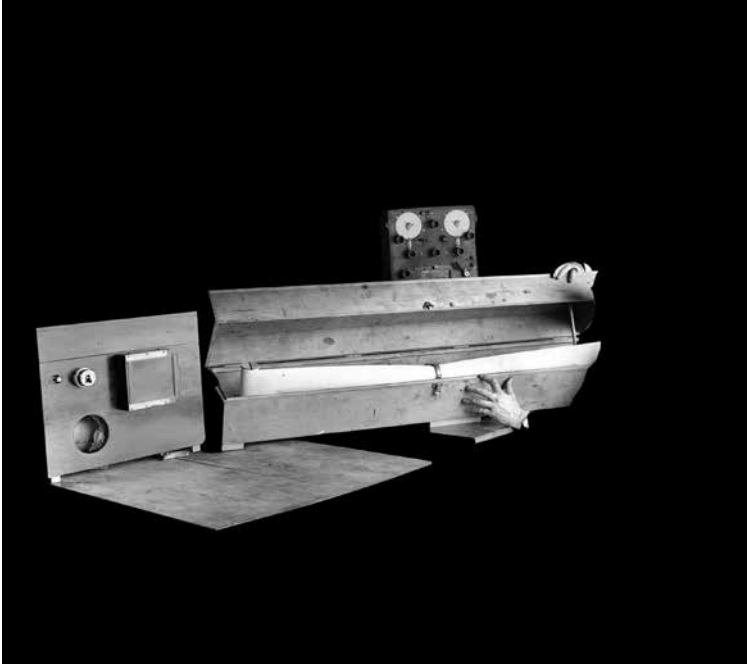


Testing

RohreBauen

rohre > pipes

Bauen > construction



invention

rohrebaueu



in case of emergency

seltsamstadtmöbel

seltsam > strange
stadtmöbel > urban furnishings



no-one looks like this anymore.

blickkiste

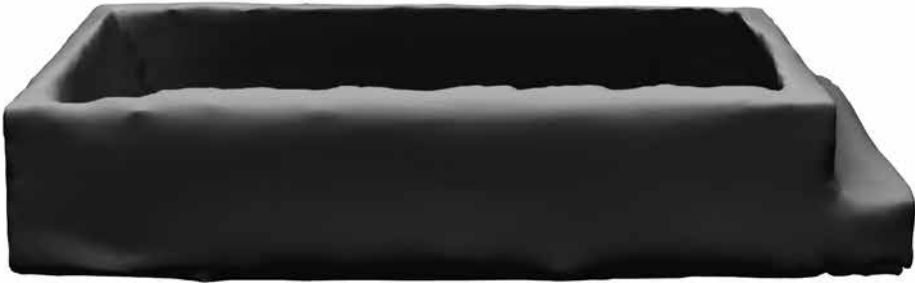
blick > view

kiste > BOX

10

The Psychic Spa





All electronics are forbidden. Anything that uses electricity and/or contains a chipset must be left at the door.

Descend the stairs from street level. As you enter the main chamber, get fresh towels from an attendant. Proceed down the tunnel. Watch your step, as the only light source is low, bioluminescent blue-green laid into the trolley tracks.

The baths line the walls on either side of the tunnel. Each is a minimal, white, marble rectangle with four-inch walls. Notice that many of the baths have soft green moss growing on their outer sides. The interior cavity is roughly a foot deep, four feet wide, and nine feet long. They are regularly refilled by attendants with cool spring water until the surface tension creates a faint pillow at the lip of the marble. Find an unoccupied bath. Remove your clothes and place them on the shelf at the head of the bath. Get into the bath, close your eyes, and turn off your mind.

This is ruin porn. Everything is designed to degrade gracefully, including your body.

Image Research for The Psychic Spa



cool chicks at Pacific Circle

badenschönheit







the beach on the potomac. legs.

badenschönheit



beach

badenschönheit



dames gone wild

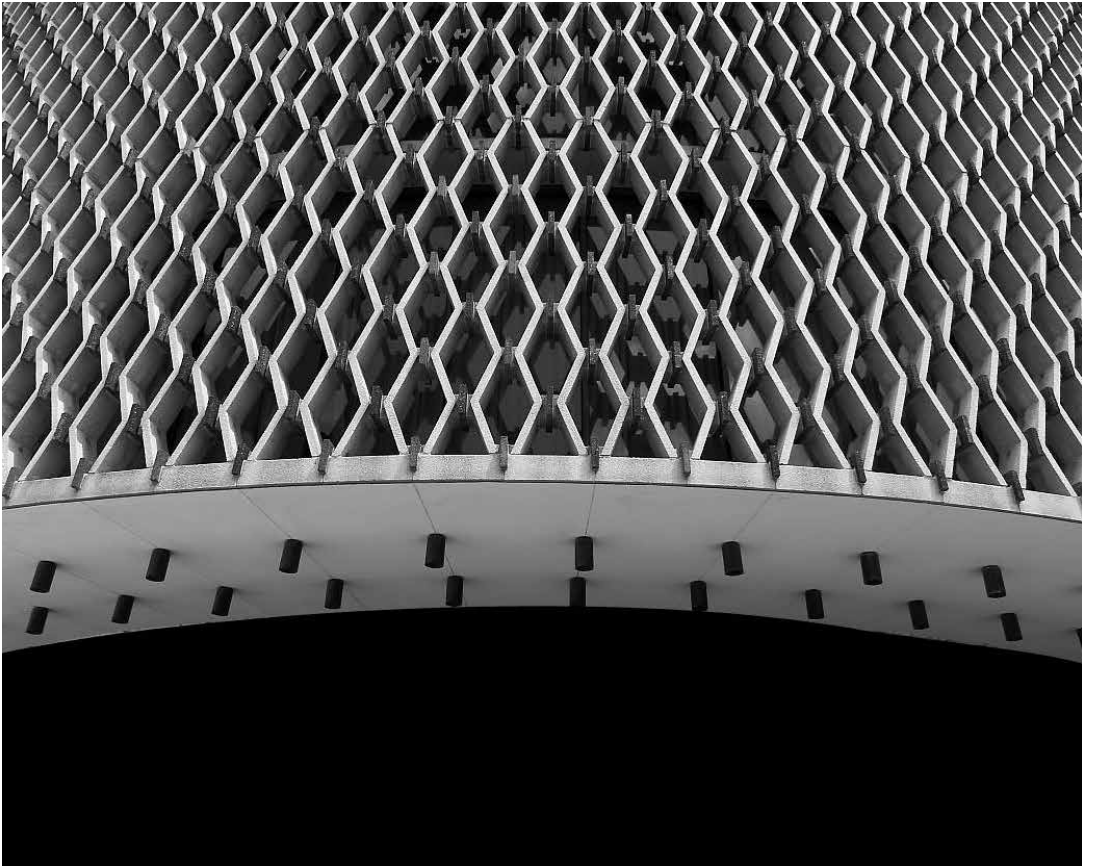
badenschönheit



curved architecture

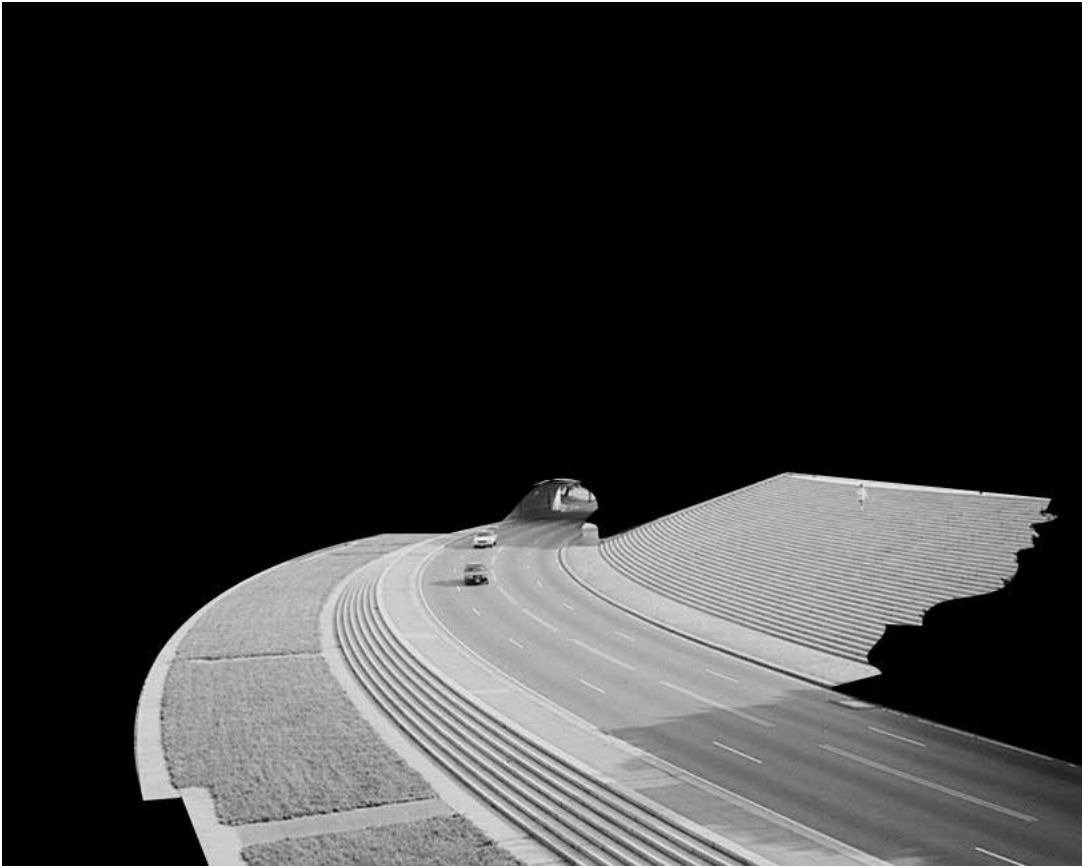
gewölbtstruktur

gewölbt > curved
struktur > structure



curved architecture

gewölbtstruktur



staircases are the greatest architectural invention.

fliegenboden

*Fliegen > Flying
Boden > ground*



not sure where this is... maybe i just dreamt it.

träumeraum

Träume > Dreams

Raum > space



After the flood

bodennachdenken

nachdenken > reflection

Boden > ground

AFTER WORDS

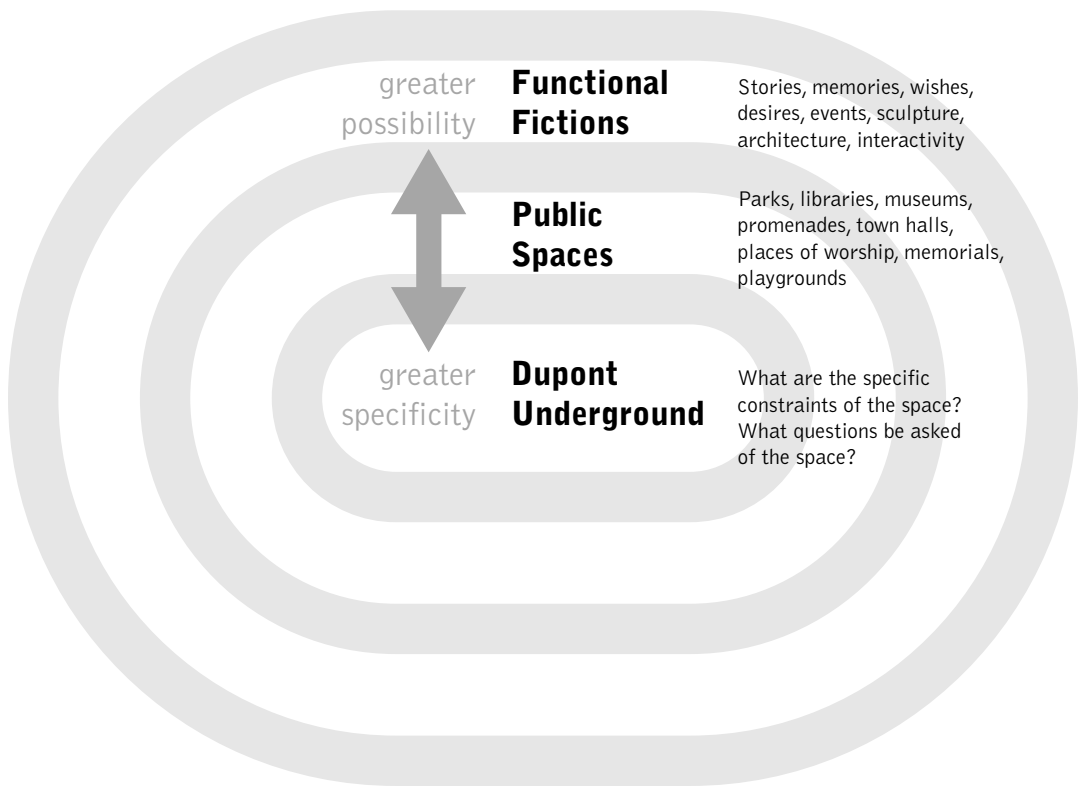
The volume you are holding is the embodiment of my inquiry into how fallow spaces might be re-imagined as places where communities come together for richer cultural interactions. It contains much that I had been collecting prior to the Parks & Passages residency — materials and ideas for a broader project that encompasses the history (and pre-history) of the District of Columbia.

The residency, administered by Provisions Library, has provided a concrete focus for both my ongoing research and for my formal methods as applied to a specific case: the abandoned trolley tunnels beneath Dupont Circle. Another unique feature of this project was opportunity to get outside of my familiar context by traveling to Berlin, where I (along with my colleagues Edgar Endress, Paul Farber, and Pam Jordan) observed a similar project that brought artists and thinkers together to re-imagine an underutilized GDR-era theme park. That in turn led to examining other cultural spaces around Berlin, with an eye towards poetic inspiration as well as practical solutions to the broader inquiry. Thus, the distinctly German aftertaste throughout the book... an index of the questions that I considered and the potential answers I found in Berlin follows this note.

My colleagues and I spent many fruitful weeks expanding and contracting the scope of our

thinking, turning it on its head, flipping it around, inside out, remixing it, mashing it up, and so on. Their intellectual thumbprints are all over this book, no matter how hard I tried to hide the evidence. In particular, we spent much time trying to come up with organizing principles that could help us get our arms around the wealth of material we collected. I don't think we ever reached consensus, but below I share an idea proposed by Edgar which resonated with me more than other formulations. (Apologies to Edgar for the few liberties I've taken with language and design, but fundamentally it remains his insight.)

Schema of the embodiment of the Parks & Passages research



INDEX

of questions
suggested by
the Dupont
Underground

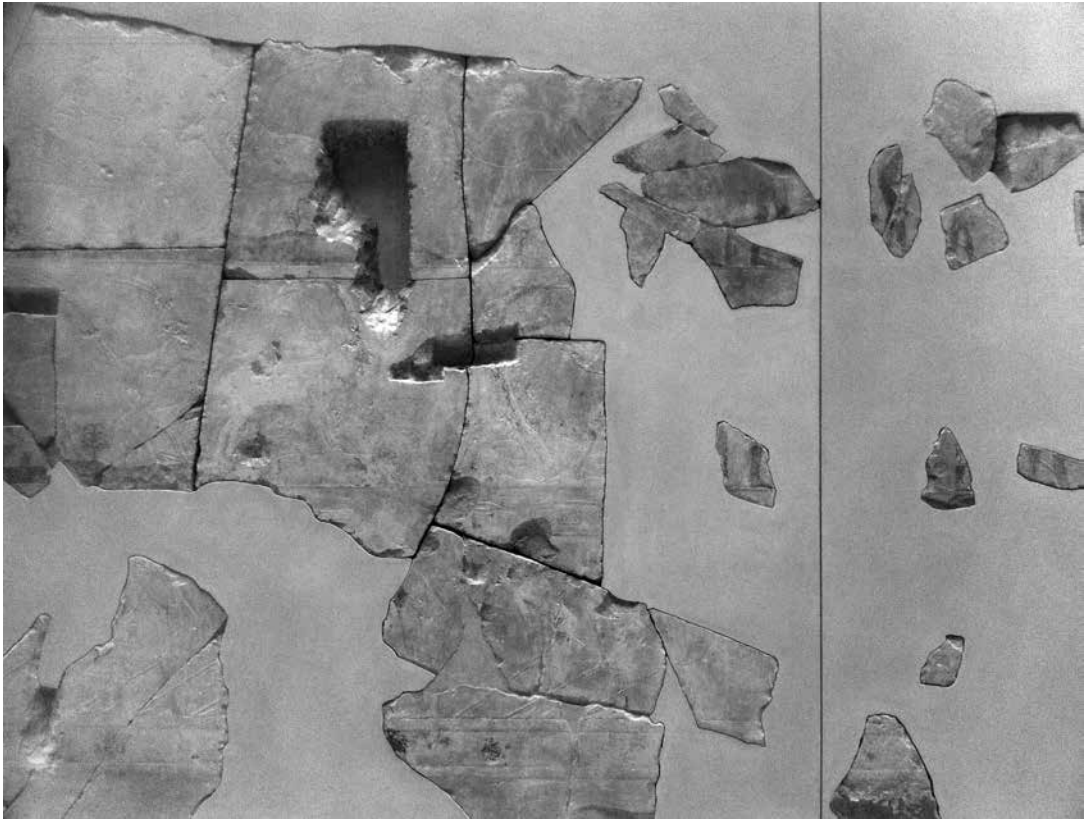
Commerce versus commons: where is the balance?
The value of 'space' has priced out the capacity to sit, peoplewatch, browse books, play a game, interact, promenade. Yet space needs to be self-sufficient and sustainable.

Mauerpark is similarly looking to balance the spontaneous emergence of conviviality with the pressure to monetize valuable real estate. The park emerged much like 'desire lines.'

"A desire path (also known as a desire line, social trail, goat track or bootleg trail) is a path developed by erosion caused by footfall or by bicycle. The width and amount of erosion of the line represents the amount of demand."

"Desire paths emerge as shortcuts where constructed ways take a circuitous route, have gaps or are lacking entirely. The paths take on an organically grown appearance by being unbiased toward existing constructed routes."

"Desire paths manifest on the surface of the earth where original movement by individuals indicates, thereby encouraging more travel. Explorers tread through foliage or grass, leaving a trail "of least resistance" for followers." - Wikipedia



To what extent does a space express its history? Can we reach a consensus on what we want to preserve for our children, and what we can allow to fall away? Can we create a crowdsourced collection of histories?

A presenter at the PREOCCUPIED conference in Berlin described the notion of 'temporal co-occupation' in the same space, using Neues Museum as an example. It is a space containing the plunder of other cultures that displays a 'bullet hole constellation,' as evidence of its own plunder. The underground could be a constellation of Native-, African-American, and contemporary cultures? Could it be greater than the sum of its parts?



How can the interior and exterior be interwoven? Are there landmarks above ground that can lead people in? Are there interior elements that can point to things outside? Can the interior act as a meaningful nexus for underserved parts of the city? Can it connect H Street to Embassy Row? Can it connect Anacostia to the rest of the city?

The 'Topology of Terror' describes its place in the city, and at the same time points to other locations of note in the city? If the Underground were a monument to the African-American migrations through the city, what other locations would it point to? Anacostia? H Street? U Street? Howard University?



Can the site commemorate the period of time the DC had the largest African population outside of Africa?
 Can it convey the significance of a majority black population in America?

A monument to migrations of African-American's into and out of the District requires a narrative of some kind. The 'Topology of Terror' is a concise narrative of the rise and fall National Socialism.



Can a site monumentalize the irony that the city that hosts the capitol of the world's most significant democracy does not have fair representation in that government?

The open graffiti wall at Mauerpark suggested the idea of making the underground a soapbox for graffiti artists. I saw similar spaces all over Paris. Designated walls where anyone could put up graffiti. These spaces change daily, as does the wall at Mauerpark.



Can a site bridge the economic/social/racial divide?
Can it connect the native [often racial minority]
population with the transient [often affluent]
population?

[Checkpoint Charlie]



How do you create a space where people want to play?

Inspired by an abandoned ride at Plänterweld, what if the underground were transformed into a giant merry-go-round? What if all horses were dark horses? Every citizen is a dark horse.

The earliest-known use of the phrase is in Benjamin Disraeli's novel 'The Young Duke' (1831). Disraeli's protagonist, the Duke of St. James, attends a horse race with a surprise finish: "A dark horse which had never been thought of, and which the careless St. James had never even observed in the list, rushed past the grandstand in sweeping triumph." - wikipedia



How do you create a space where people grow?

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, featured in Wim Wenders' 'Die Himmel Über Berlin' presents library-as-temple, where individuals comes together to learn, grow, share and participate in the life of the mind.



How do you create a space that attracts lots of people, without upsetting the people who live in the neighborhood? [Think trash, parking, noise.] Where can I put my trash? Who will take out the trash? This speaks to the larger question of who is responsible for administering the Underground? The National Park Service? DC Department of Parks and Recreation?

[Typical Berlin neighborhood ephemera.]



How do I get in?

The entrance to Soviet War Memorial offers a beautiful passage to an unexpected corner where the viewer turns to discover a dramatic, monument-filled vista.

das Mitführen und Abstellen von Fahrrädern und ähnlichen Gerätschaften,
das Rauchen und der Genuss alkoholischer Getränke.

4. Alle Anweisungen des ausgewiesenen Sicherheitspersonals sind zu befolgen.

Regulations for Visitors

1. Throughout the year, entry to the Field of Stelae is at the risk of the individual.
2. Without exception, the Field of Stelae can only be entered slowly and on foot. There are 13 pathways which are wheelchair accessible and especially suited for visitors with mobility impairment.
3. The following is not permitted:
Loud noise of any kind.
Jumping from one stela to the next.
Bringing dogs and other pets onto the grounds,
Bringing and parking bicycles or similar equipment,
Smoking and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
4. Visitors are requested to follow any instructions given to them by authorised security personnel.

Stiftung Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas
Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe Foundation

Cora-Berliner-Straße 1, 10117 Berlin
www.stiftung-denkmal.de, info@stiftung-denkmal.de

Where can I get help?

Signage at locations on the periphery of the Eisenman Memorial, can be read as rules of a game. What rules might apply to the underground? Whatever the space becomes, visitors [players!] will need to know what the rules of the game are. Information booths? Signage? From James Carse's book, 'Finite and Infinite Games':

"Infinite players have rules; they just do not forget that rules are an expression of agreement and not a requirement for agreement."



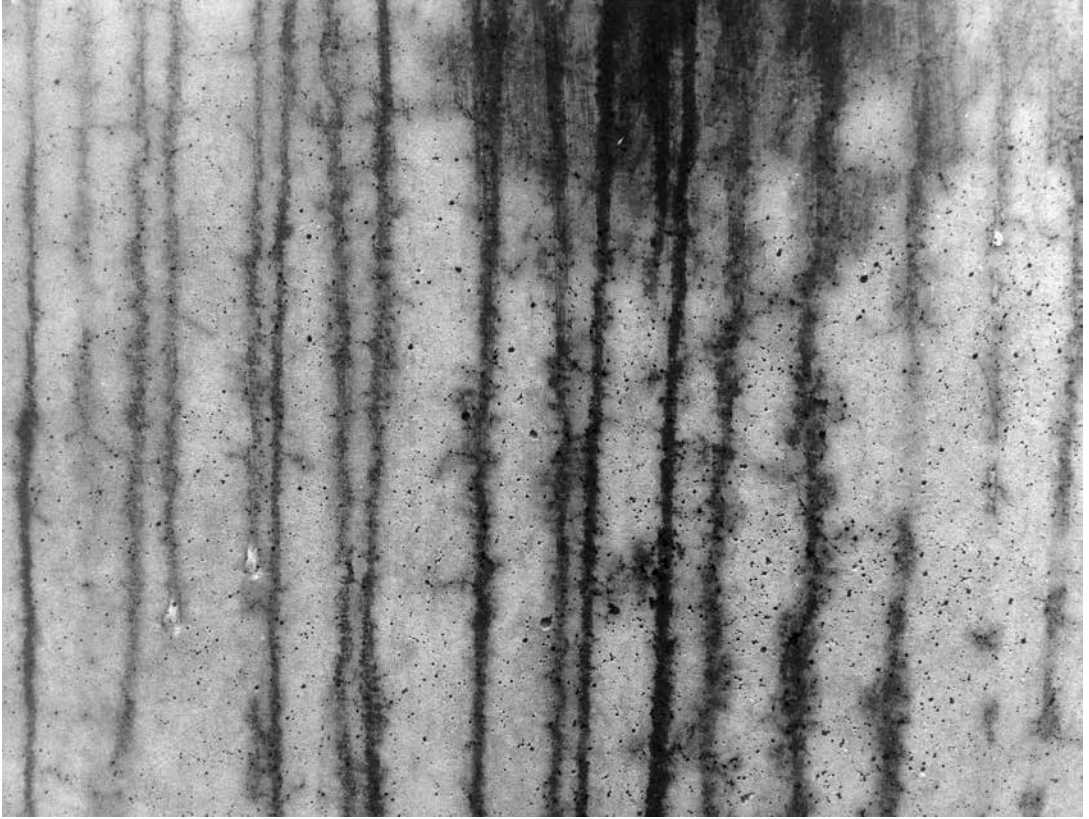
How do I get out? Do I have enough light? Where am I? How do I orient myself?

The Boros Collection, assembled in a former bunker, still shows traces of the phosphorescent paint used to orient citizens in case of power failure.



Can I get my wheelchair through there? Can I get a drink of water? Do I have enough air? Am I safe?

Again, the Eisenman Memorial is a great example. among its myriad passages are a handful of extra-wide lanes to accomodate different kinds of mobility. While it does not address all of the above questions, it is a well-considered community space.



Is there natural beauty in the materials of the Underground at it exists now? Are there elements that could be gently modified to make the space more humane and natural?

The Eisenman memorial 'degrades gracefully' on a rainy day.

Unless otherwise attributed, sources for the found texts generally come from wikipedia.com or shorpy.com. As I am not a scholar, and this is a poetic rather than scholarly text, I've neglected to track all of my sources.

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