

steffenschöni
Heidi Schöni Steffen
Karl Steffen-Schöni
Schmidshof 1
CH-9565 Schmidshof
tel. + 41 71 651 18 26

e mail:
homepage:

steffenschoeni@hallek.org
<http://www.hallek.org/steffenschoeni>
<http://www.kuenstlerarchiv.ch>

Heidi Schöni, born 1953. Education as a school teacher. Further studies at the Zurich University of the Arts, ZHdK. Since 1981 artist and lecturer at the PHTG.

Karl Steffen, born 1953. Education as a chemistry lab technician, ETH Zurich. Further studies in biochemistry and photography, University of Florida and Salzburg College (Illinois University). Since 1980 artist and lecturer.

Heidi Schöni and Karl Steffen live and work in Schmidshof, Canton Thurgau.

2015

SingenKunst 2015, Art Museum Singen

2014

Gartenträume-Traumgärten, Art Museum Thurgau, Kartause Ittingen

2013

Werkschau Thurgau, Art Museum Thurgau

Aktuelle Positionen, Museum Bickel, Walenstadt

Die zweite Dekade, Kunsthalle Arbon

2012

Spiel, Ekkehard, St. Gallen

Konglomerat, Kunsthalle Neuwerk, Konstanz

project space, Galerie Adrian Bleisch, Arbon

20 years summer studio, Remise, Weinfelden

2011

Sabbatical in Istanbul, project at the Kadir Has University Istanbul

*5üfnstern, open artists' studios, Schmidshof

2010

Visiting Japan, Japanese vegetable gardens project

Shqipëria / sehen wie das ist, Salon Précaire forumanderemusik, Frauenfeld

2009

Shqipëria / sehen wie das ist, 35min road movie to Tirana, Wängi

Small Dig, Lichtinseln II, Siebenbergen Island, Kassel

Grant for artists of the Canton Thurgau

Torso 2, Kunsthalle Neuwerk, Konstanz

2008

A4 / Aggregat 4, Nothing to declare, 4. Triennale of Contemporary Art, Friedrichshafen

Torso 1 - X, eingleisig, Frauenfeld-Wil

form follows function, deconstructing eden, project space ExEx, St. Gallen

2007

*5üfnstern, open artists' studios, Schmidshof

paradise puzzle, Seh(n)sucht; Paradies, Neuer Shed, Frauenfeld

form follows function, Arthur # 2, Kunsthalle(n) Toggenburg, Wattwil

zone Ø, lakeshore Horn

2005

Zero Position III, Alte Badi Ohm41, Wil

2006

videOst, Videosampler of the association Ostschweizer media artist

Gallery oxyd Winterthur, Kunstraum exex St. Gallen

2004

seestück; basic(s)II, harbor area Romanshorn

2003

sprout lab, www.meet.einander.li, Vaduz and Frauenfeld

BASIC(S), Kunsthalle Arbon

2002

Ost Zone West, Ohm02, Wildwechsel, Wil

2001

Hermes geht vorbei, Ohmart, Wil

2000

ZONE , Hausbesetzung, Villa Ulmberg Ermatingen

HALLE K, CD-ROM, VIPER, Basel

1980 – 2000 various solo and group exhibitions

Publications

2015, SingenKunst, exhibition catalog. Art Museum Singen. Bauer, C. Wuhler, J. Weber, R.

2012, Hatake, booklet. Neidhart, C., Preisser, M. Sulgen: publisher Benteli

2009, Lichtinseln, catalog. Hutter, M., Thol, H., Hannover/Kassel.

2008, zeroposition. 0 to 18, book. Projekts 1987 bis 2007. Kramer, T., Messmer, D. Sulgen: publisher Niggli.

2008, Nothing to declare, 4. Triennale contemporary art, catalog. Drabble, B., Messmer, D., Omlin, S. publisher Nürnberg.

2007, Strandgut, catalog. Bienz, F., Tekenbroek, I., Fritz, U., Schatz, C. Horn.

1997, Lesarten, catalog. Schwarzbauer, F., Kaltenmark, H. Städtische Galerie Meersburg.



<Nix>

Nix (water garden), 2014,
Installation for the Art Museum Thurgau,
Kartause Ittingen.

For the exhibition „Gartenträume – Traumgärten“ („Garden Dreams - Dream Gardens“) steffenschöni transferred one of their experimental sculptures into the north courtyard of the art museum Thurgau.

Right next to an underground water pipeline, leading at monastery times from the forest to the wine cellar, a kind of „Water Garden“ materialized.

Based on the theme of walled gardens, steffenschöni created one hundred eight miniature water habitats, made of timeworn, colored buckets. The water comes from the ponds on the grounds of the Kartause Ittingen.

It provides the raw material for the growth process that will take place in the next few months.

The title of the installation „Nix“ refers to a water spirit from the Norse mythology named Nix. He is responsible for small ponds and water holes and unlike his female counterpart the Mermaid, his character is rather deceitful and sometimes malicious.

The colorful buckets act like found objects, positioned after a certain system into a 9 x 12 pattern.

The geometric shape reminds of the minimalist or neo-geo-currents of the 1960s and 1980s.

But this rigidity disappears immediately: in the buckets, below the water line, you can discover diverse plants, algae, clay-shards, pottery fragments, rubble and also plaster casts.

steffenschöni repeatedly use this technique of producing negative molds in their work processes. Thereby they cite methods used in archaeology, history of art and forensic examinations but take advantage of that for their own aesthetic interventions.

In the coming months a water garden evolves in each bucket, the change process of this small microcosms controlled now by weather and season. A look into the bucket finds its counterpart in the interior of the museum. (Text: Stefanie Hoch)





<Nix>

video projection (2014)
Art Museum, Kartause Ittingen

In the lower cellar of the museum, in a hidden room, we come across a „satellite“, or better an „offshoot“ of the north courtyard installation:

a projection, which provides an insight into the buckets, or is it rather a kind of precursor, a trial version or a prophecy of what could take place outdoors?

Each of the circular microcosms is constantly replaced by another colored universe.

The motion pictures are accompanied by recordings of electromagnetic waves, translated into the audible range by the Voyager expedition, flying past planets like Neptune.

Neptune in turn is the Roman god of the sea - so to speak, the father figure of the water spirit Nix who contributed the name of the installation.

In a playful way steffenschöni casted with „kai awase“ and „Nix“ a net of citations over the art museum of the Kartause Ittingen.

Their found and landscaped gardens bring together science and craftsmanship, the aesthetic and the coincidental, as well as a research perspective with a twinkle in the eye.

(Text: Stefanie Hoch)





<kai awase>

2010 – 2016

2014 – 2015 Art Museum Kartause Ittingen
Installation with table
Layout with 400 double-sided photo blocks,
stacked and aligned

2015 – 2016 Art Museum Singen
Installation with table
Layout with 600 double-sided photo blocks,
stacked and aligned

Photography in low print quality on MDF,
200 pieces. 10 x 15 x 1cm / laminated
double-sided

2010 steffenschöni traveled in Japan.
During that time their photographic survey
on Japanese vegetable gardens was
developed.

The installation „kai awase“ isn't showing
only gardens, but also being on the road
in search of the Japanese (garden) culture.
steffenschöni approached the environments,
customs and traditions of the other culture
cautiously.

Their photographs work as visual memory
fragments that have already received a
slight patina.

In the form of small photo-plates they turn
out to be material, haptic objects each with
two picture sides,
changing neighborhoods and various
connotations.

It's kind of an everyday-life archaeological
fieldwork, which shows a sensitive pleasure
on discovery and an open-minded curiosity.
(Text: Stefanie Hoch)





<core>

2013 Art Museum Kartause Ittingen

18 crates with drill cores, artefacts and found pieces:

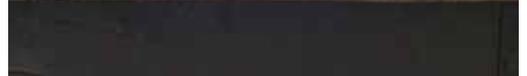
building-fragments, plant parts, various site-specific artefacts and fragments made by steffenschöni

For each location objects will be manufactured and collected and the installation adapted to the requirements of the specific exhibit space.

Dimension of the overall installation:

18 wooden boxes, 204cm x 16cm x 16cm

Required floor space: about 3m x 9m





<styropor>

2013

Tower of Styrofoam boxes, growing plants, video installation and surveillance cameras.

In the the work, <styropor>, we reclaim fragments from <BASIC(S)>, our 2003 exhibition in the Kunsthalle Arbon (surveillance camera, monitors, plants).

At the same time we refer to some of the current projects, in particular the Japanese garden (Facetten 14 booklet „Hatake“).

<styropor> was built for the 20 year anniversary exhibition of the Kunsthalle Arbon.

Styrofoam boxes left over from the fish trade are reused in the Japanese house and sidewalk gardens to grow vegetables, flowers or bonsais.

In our current work we recycle transport crates, made from polystyrene, from the European fish trade.

Video: <Happii> from the <man at work> series.

A team of Japanese gardeners, with white working gloves, are planting a bamboo forest on sky plaza, the top floor on the 15-storey building of the ultra-modern glass and steel train station of Kyoto.

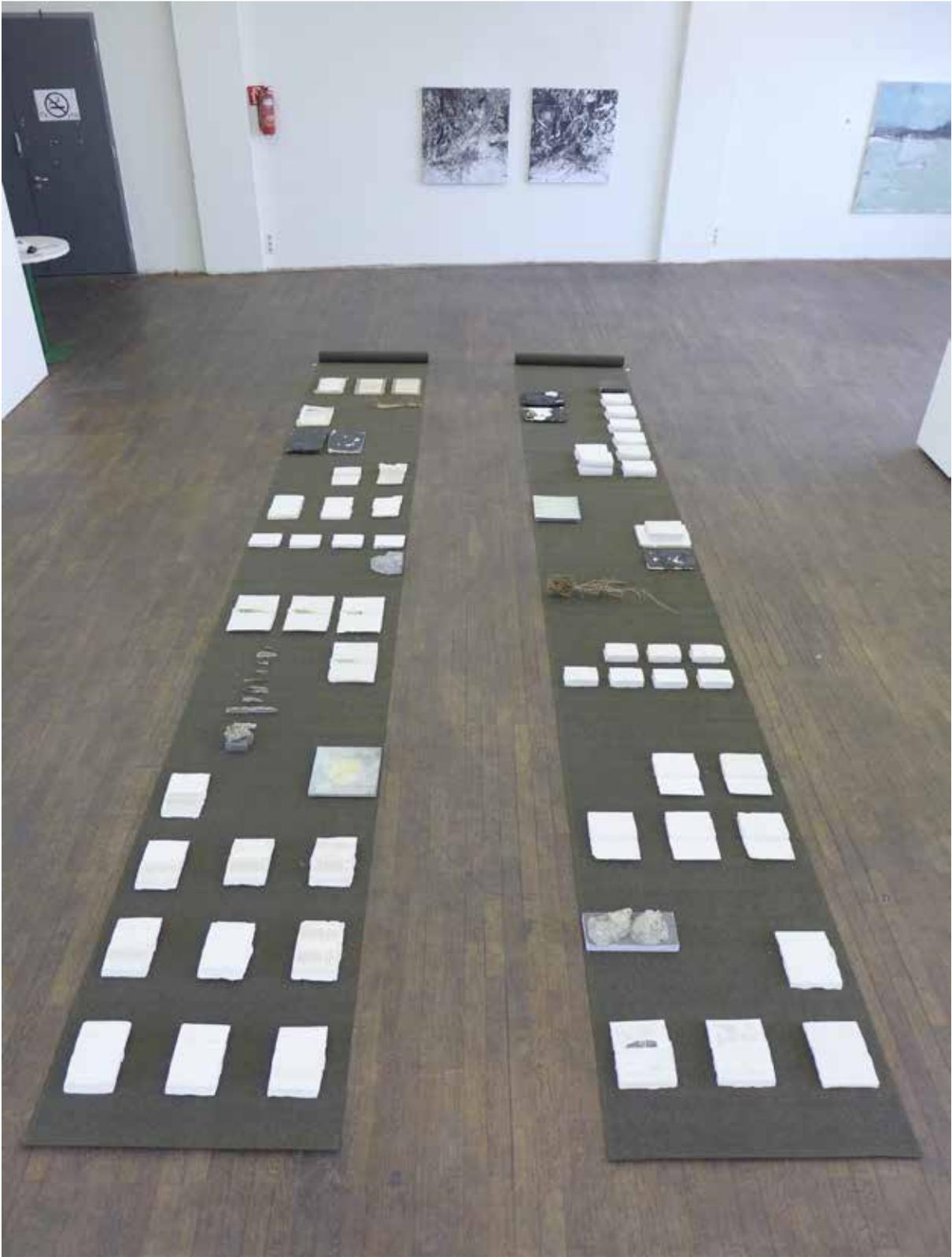
Sound track: Railway information and safety announcements from a female speaker,

repeatedly ending with:
arrigato gozeimasu = thank you
(live sound).

Additional: nuclear power plant siren blares and Geiger counter sounds.
Surveillance cameras on growing plants: homegrown food plants (corn, beans, cucumbers, wheat and barley).

Basic food / <BASIC(S)> was the title of our 2003 exhibition in the Kunsthalle Arbon.





<fragment> Extended version 2013
50 cast objects (alabaster plaster)

Book casting of:

William Shakespear, Königsdramen (Royal Dramas), 1889

Friedrich Schiller, Dramatische Fragmente (Dramatic Fragments),
1909

Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Dichtung und Wahrheit (Poetry and Truth),
1900

Jules Verne, 20 000 Meilen unter Meer (20,000 leagues under the
sea), 1971/72

Wilhelm Lübke, Grundriss der Kunstgeschichte (outline of the history
of art), 1866

American Society Mechanical Engineers, year book 1917

Whittaker`s Electrical Engineer Pocket Book, 1920

5 panels made of cast, broken pieces and bitumen

Various site-specific found objects

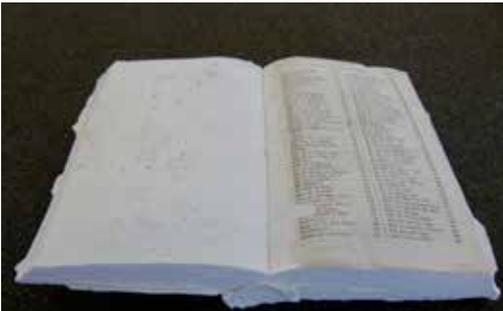
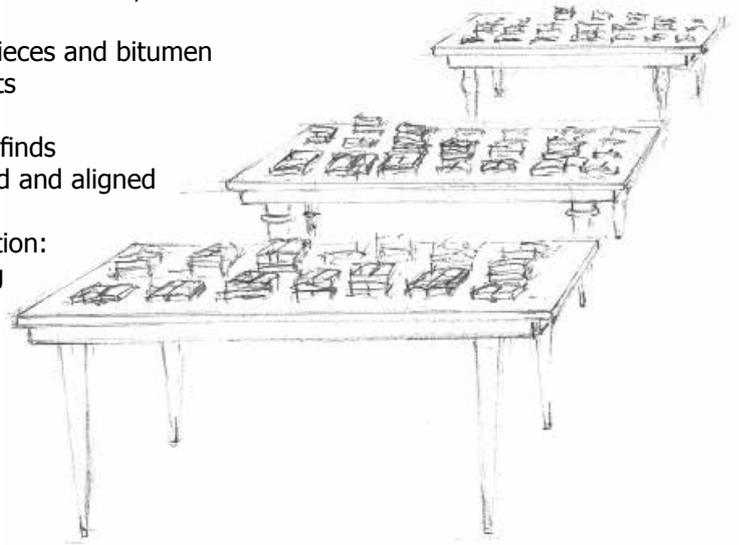
Installation with 3 tables,

Layout with 50 cast objects and finds

(cast and found objects), stacked and aligned

Dimension of the overall installation:

3 tables 90cm x 180cm including
the surrounding space

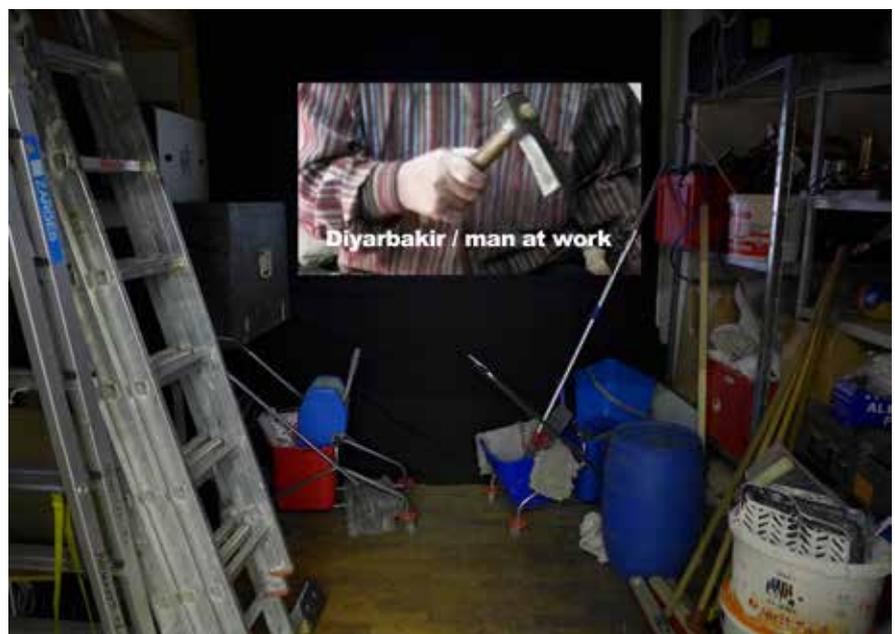


<man at work> 2012

Kunsthalle Neuwerk, Konstanz
2 video-installations

<Ortaköy> 5 minutes
<Diyarbakir> 5 minutes

long time project 2010 - 20xx
Video stills



Videostills from <man at work> 2012

Publication 2012

<Hatake>

Publication Facetten 14
Kulturstiftung d. Kt. Thurgau
30 double-page photographs
Text booklet
Benteli publishing house 2012

<http://www.benteli.ch/de/facetten-14-steffenschoni-hatake.html>



Portrait steffenschöni
Heidi Schöni
Karl Steffen

