- silence is the sustained note -

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Keywords: life, substance, disease, disability, posthuman, biopolitics, ecology

Description

Sustain comes from the Latin word *sustinere*, literally meaning “hold from below”. The word could mean to strengthen or support, but also to bear or suffer something unpleasant, as in “sustain an injury”. And most notably in music bespoke its meaning of “maintain”, to make a note continue for an extended period of time without becoming less.

To sustain something therefore does not immediately settle the relationship between the sustained and the sustaining. A being can be sustained in silence, and kept alive while barely on the edge of maintenance. A life that is sustained could be a good life, a bad life, or a bare life.

Description cont.

What sustains us and what do we need to sustain? The first two chapters in this exhibition, “Sustaining Life” and “Life Unsustained”, explore the dynamics between the human life that is sustained and its sustaining substances. A human life can be sustained by material substances such as food and medication, while it sustains harms from environmental toxins and social discrimination. The sustainability of a life and its sustaining/ed substances are socio-economically and geo-politically distributed and many lives already live in the enduring danger of being unsustained. Such regulation and silencing of life through disease, disability, and discrimination is at the core of what Michel Foucault terms biopolitics.

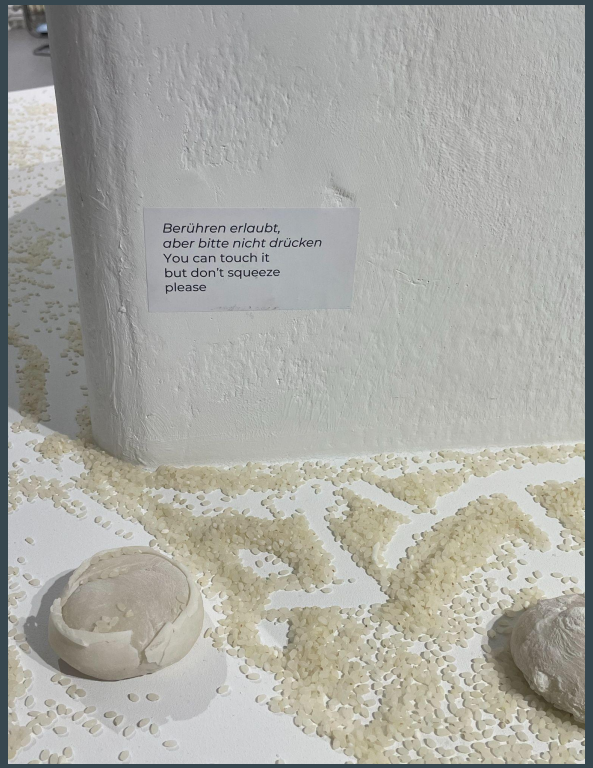
Description cont.

In the third chapter “Substantia”, the exhibition also searches for new paradigms for sustaining human life through its non-human counterpart. “Substantia”, the Latin root for substance, also means “being”. How to imagine a way of being that destructs the existing biopolitical and anthropocentric framework of “sustained”? To rethink sustainability, a word now so strongly related with ecology, rethinking human/non-human beings, relationality and commons may provide new light.

1. Sustaining Life



Ein Sommer in Berlin
Tomás Espinosa
Ceramics
Appx. 30*15*10 cm (each)
Space: Appx. 4*8m

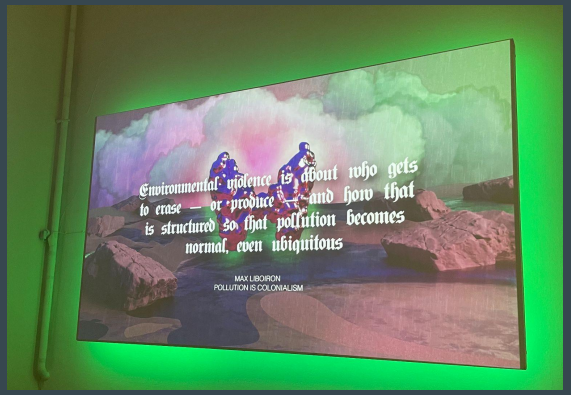


yes you can yes you can
Never Odd or Even
Installation, zine, video
Appx. 7*7*5 cm (each)
Space: Appx. 2*2m

2. Life Unsustained

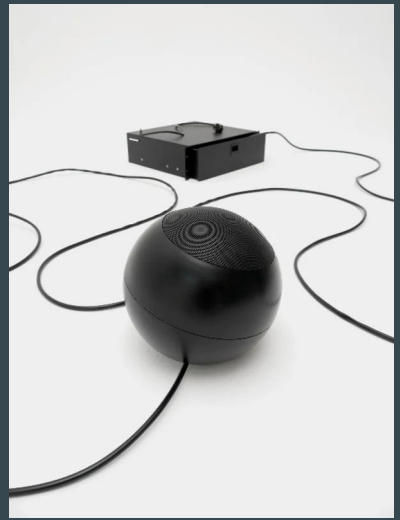


The communicating line (Gunter Trube: Eifel tower, Barking, Dinosaur, Big Bird))
Barbara Stauss
Photography
Appx.5*5 cm each (picture), 15*10cm (frame)

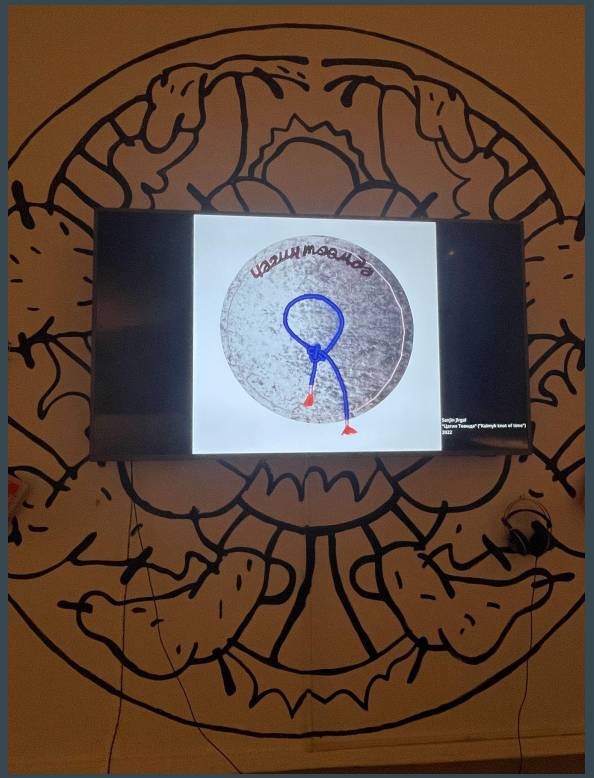


Thyroxia
Ptuška, Keo Gorgadze
Video
Appx. 2*1.2m

UNAIDS_FactSheet_en.pdf
Samuel Perea-Díaz
One speaker, amplifier, Max Patch, computer, 10 meters of black cable and metal drawer.
Space: Appx. 2.5*2.5m

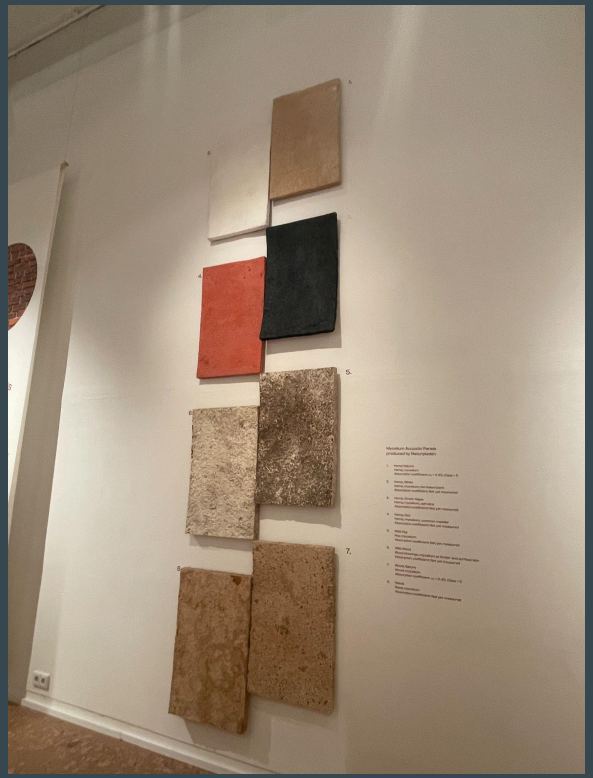


3. Substantia



ɵ
MU Collective
Video, zine, drawings
Appx. 20*15cm (zine), 2.5*2,5m (wall painting)

Mycelium Acoustic Panels, Architectural product
Naturpladen
Mycelium & other materials
Appx. 80*50*5cm



Design - Mood

- Immersive, ephemeral, dynamic
- A narrative spatial walkthrough
- Lowly lit with distributed lights

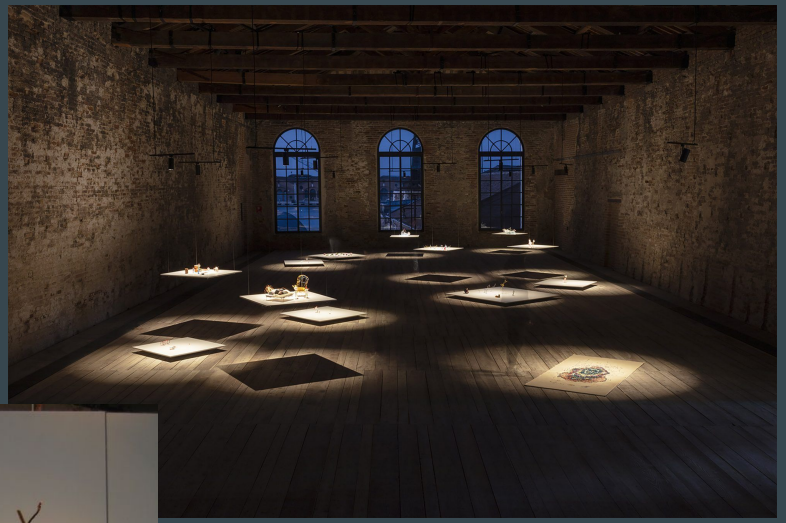






Design - Mood cont.



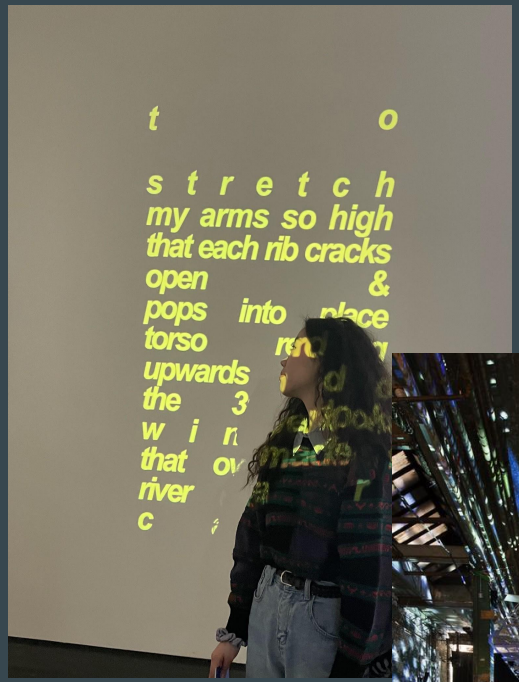


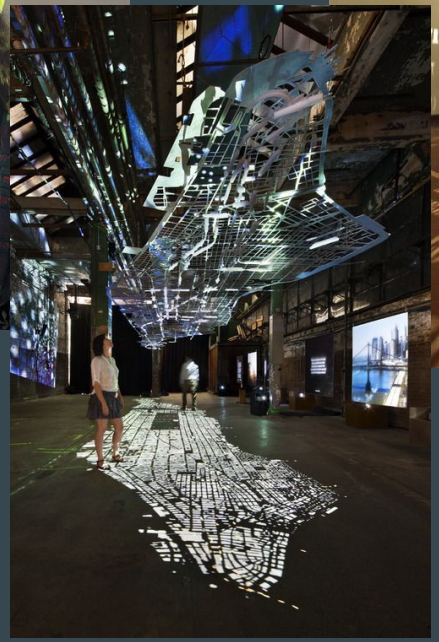


Design

Description text: light, projection, moving, spatial



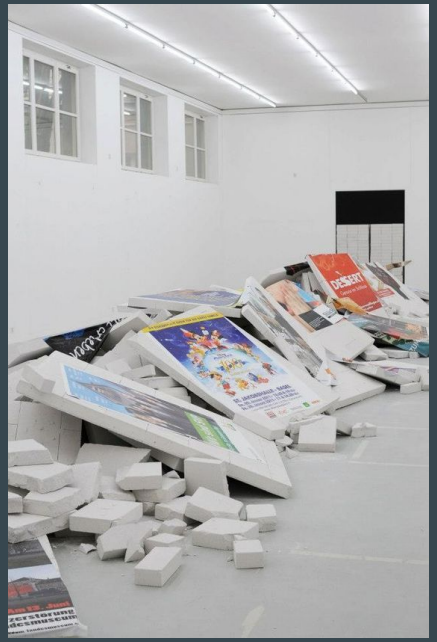


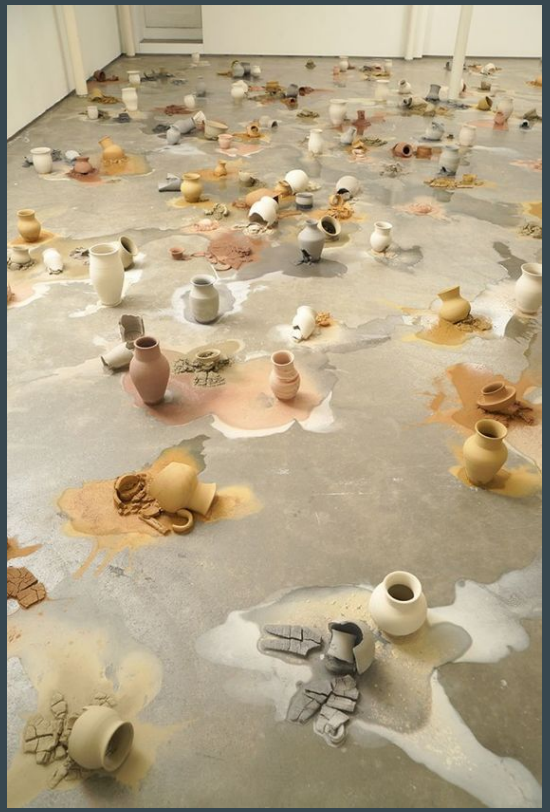




Design

Installation art



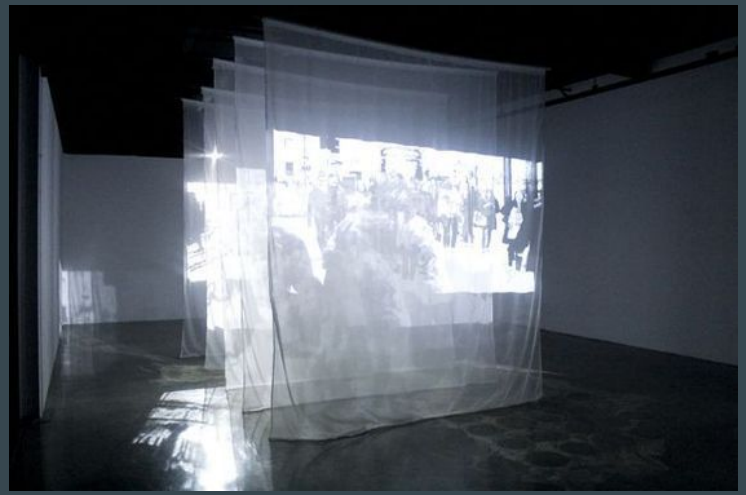




Design

Video art



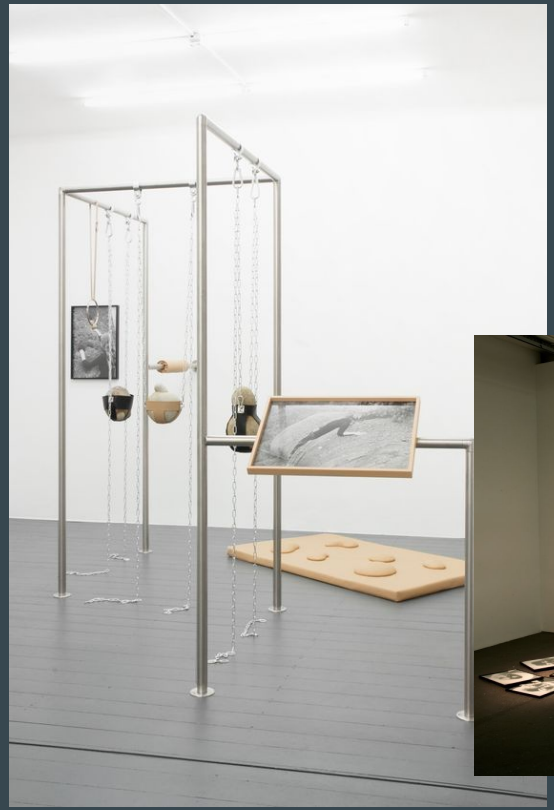




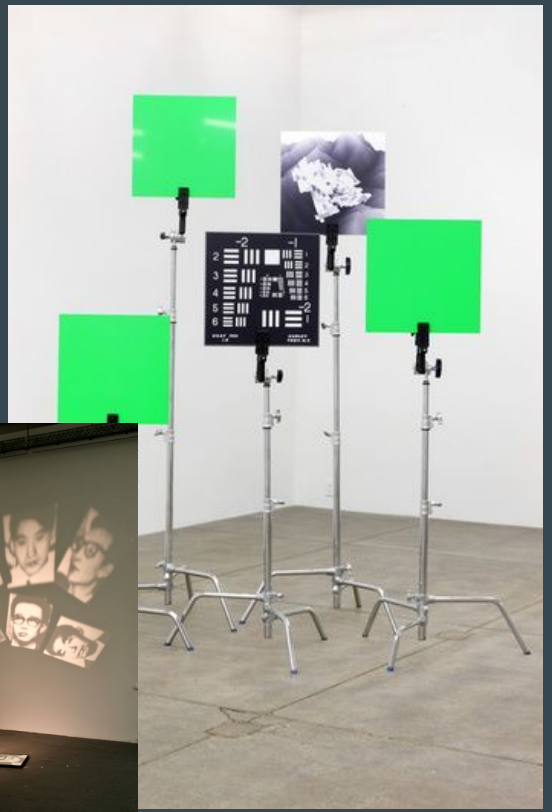
Design

Photography



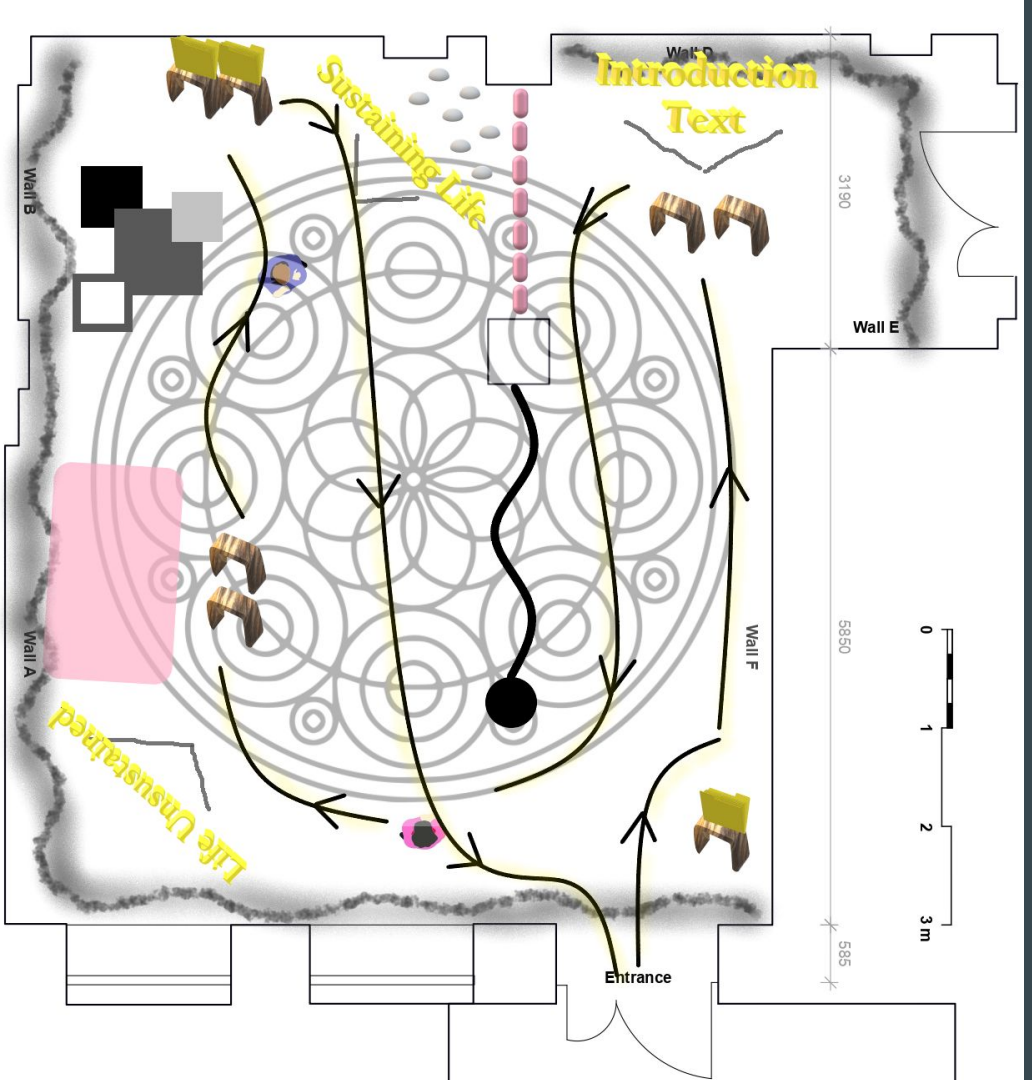


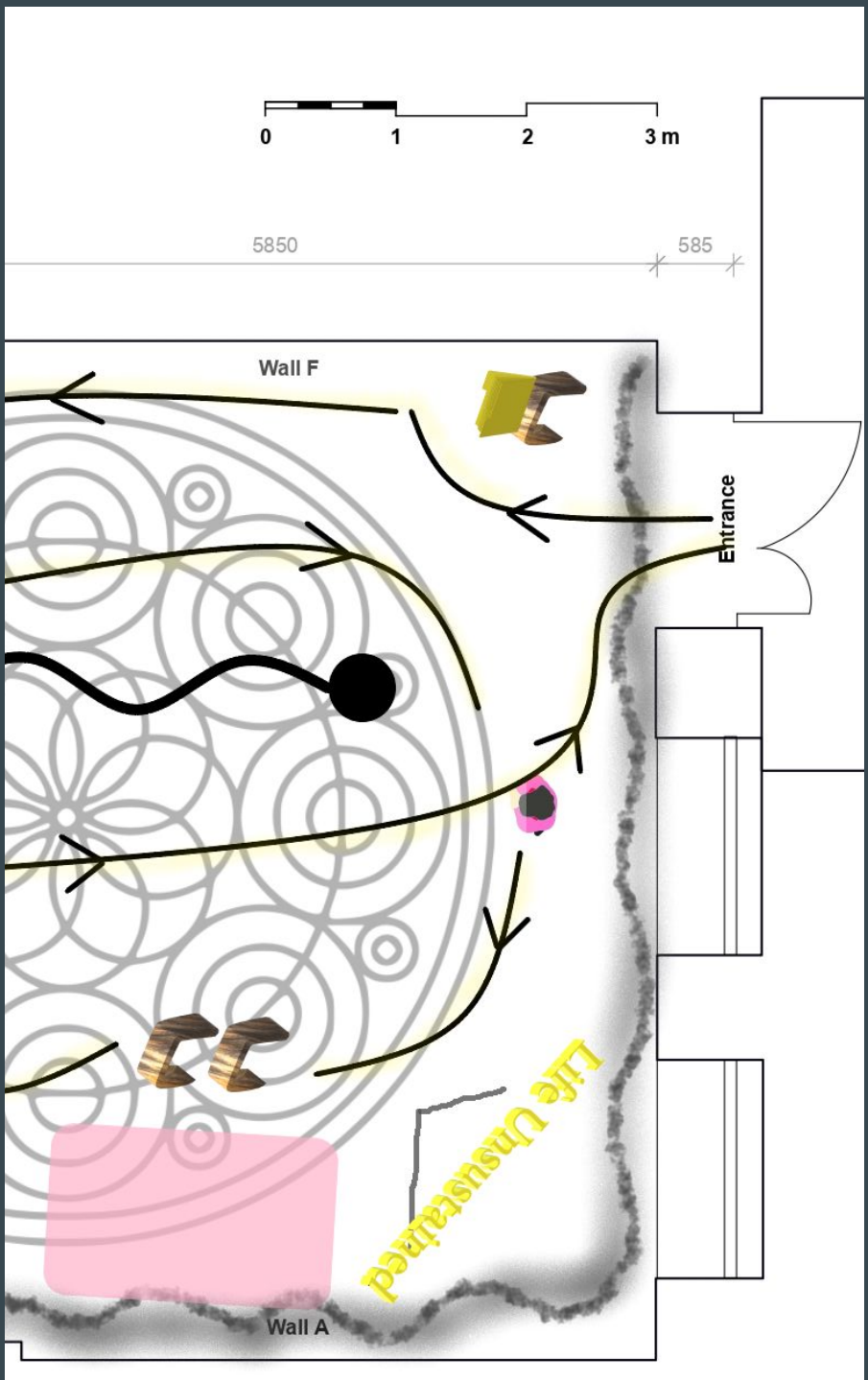


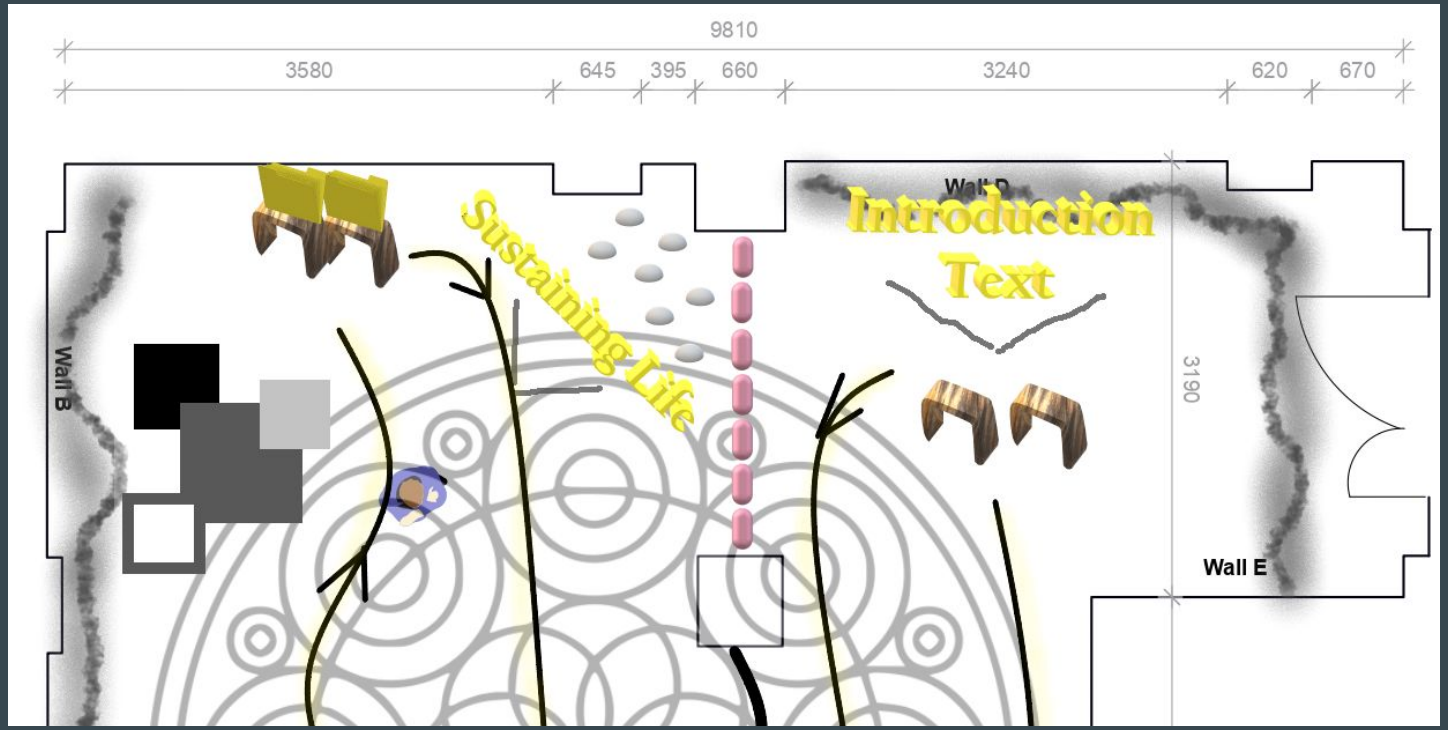


Spatial plan

- Hanging curtains
  - Heavy, sound- & light- proof
  - Audience needs to enter through the curtains
  - Background for projections & works
- Projection lights
  - Introduction text as a moving scroll, both on curtains & floor
  - Chapter titles projected on the ground, moving gif / flickering
  - Thyroxia projected on top
- Separation of space by artworks

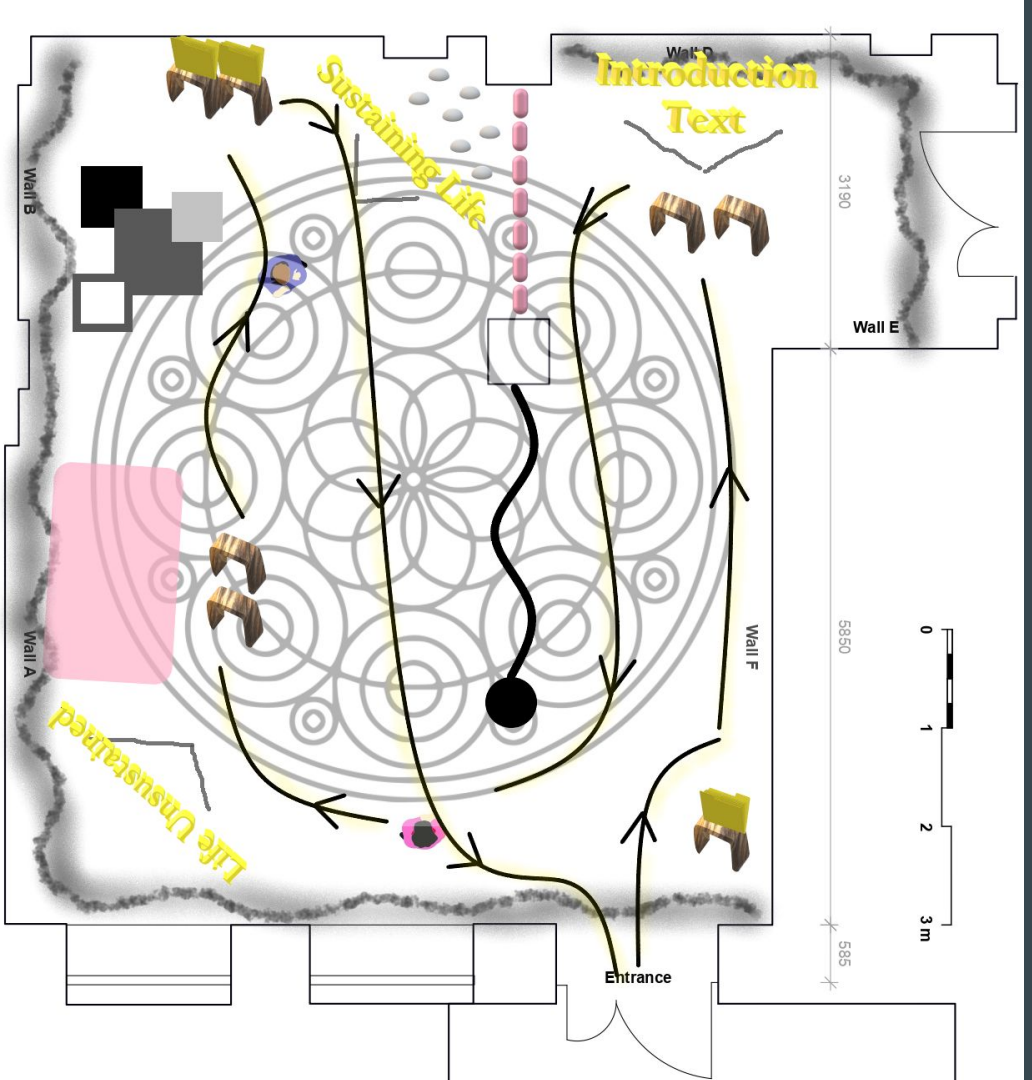



0
1
2
3 m
5850
585
Wall F
Entrance
Life Unsustained
Wall A


9810
3580
645
395
660
3240
620
670
Wall B
Sustaining Life
Introduction
Text
3190
Wall E

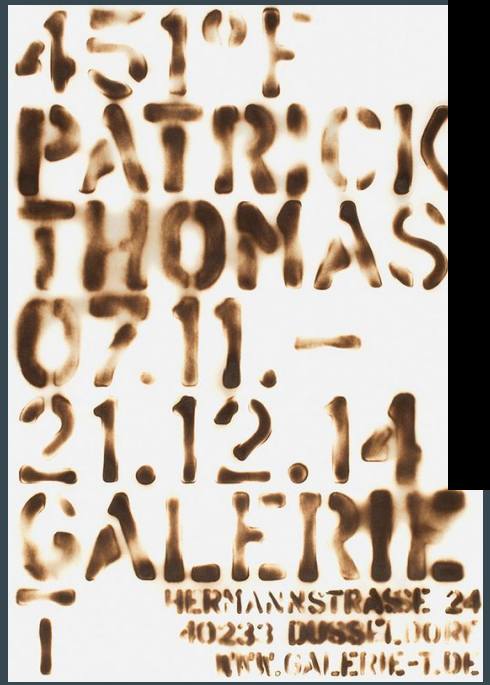
Spatial plan

- Ground level
  - Mandala circle
  - Part of intro text
  - “Sustaining Life”
  - “Life Unsustained”
  - Ein Sommer in Berlin
  - Yes you can
  - UNAIDS
- Wall level
  - Hanging curtains
  - Part of intro text
  - Thyroxia
  - Communicating Line
  - Mycelium stools

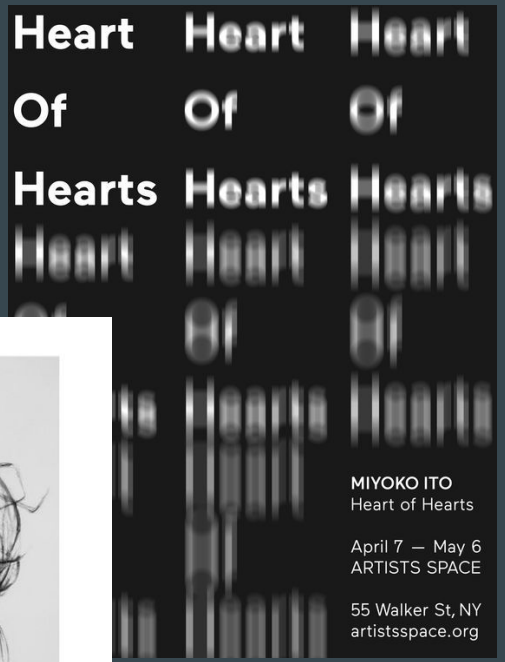


Graphic Design









Exhibition Materials

- Handout with introduction texts to exhibition & artworks
- Posters, postcards, website
- Guided tours
  - English, German, sign language, for visually impaired
- Public programs
  - Lectures on biopolitics, capitalism, and sustainability
  - Discussions on disability, accessibility, and care
  - Info sessions on medical resources and institutional supports
  - Mochi making workshop
  - Mycelium and fungi workshop
  - Eco-somatic meditation