



Jan Hofer – Selected Works



The New New Material at Aargauer Kunsthau, 2019



The New New Material at the Citizens panel of Uster, 2021



The New New Material at BINZ39, 2020



The New New Material, 2019 - ongoing

The New New Material is an unlimited edition made from fired clay. It's an attempt at re-enacting the forgotten Rumford Tile – a porous wall object which had the ability to absorb sound, especially in the acoustic range relevant to the audacity of human speech.

Originally, the Rumford Tile was invented in 1914 to break the echo in a protestant church where parishioners desired amore sermon-focused service. Later, thanks to its acoustic qualities, the tile was also used in other spaces. Over time though, the demand for the sound absorbing ceramic dwindled, its production came to an end and the material faded into obscurity.

About one hundred years later I have reverse engineered this material, using it to address current echo issues, acoustically, as well as metaphorically speaking.

The New New Material in the echo chamber of Empa Dübendorf

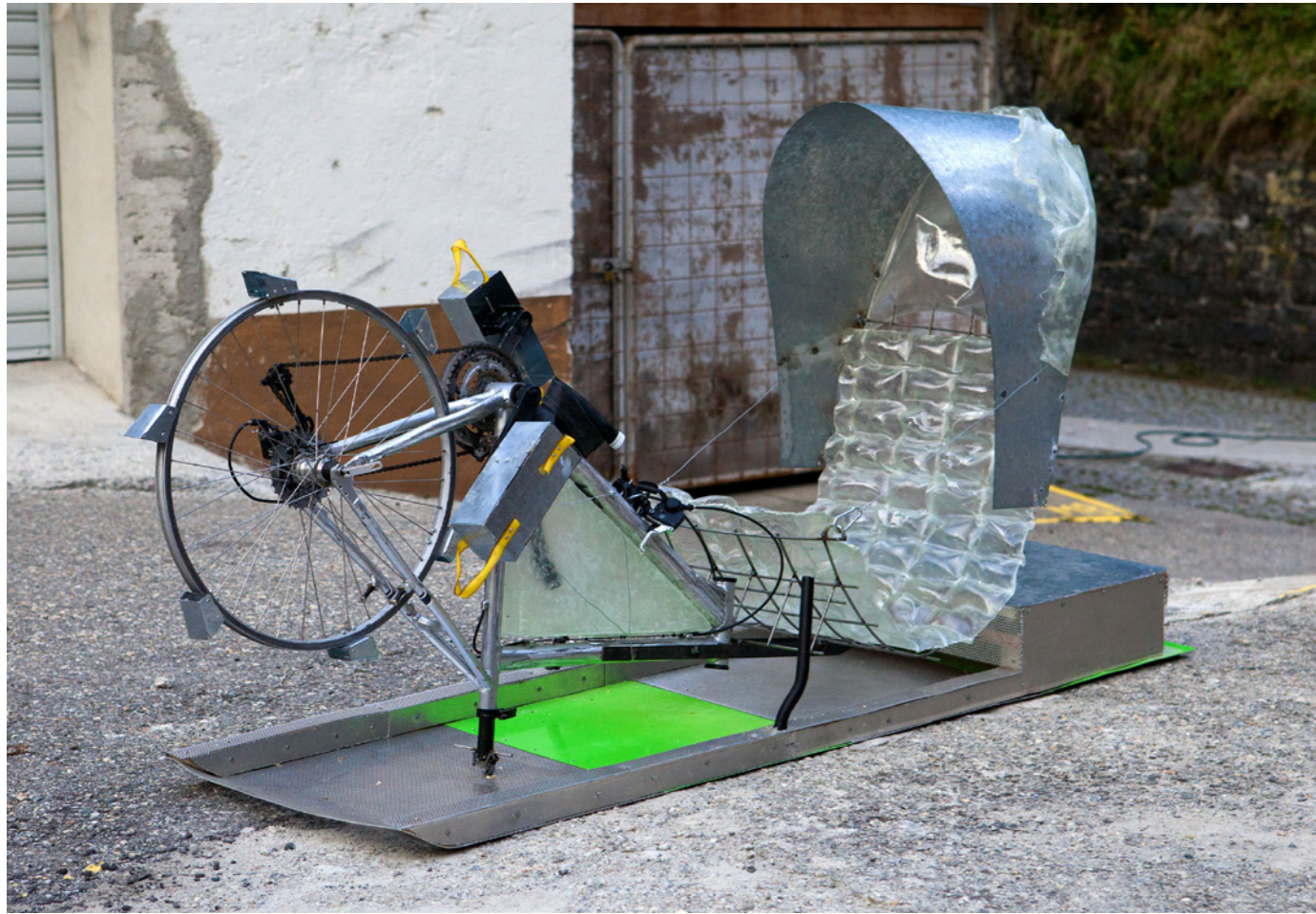


Versteck, 2022, with Kai Bührer

This work is dedicated to the builders, keepers and users of hideouts.

Versteck provides a secret place of retreat to those who need it. It has no fixed form, it adapts to its surroundings but it's always large enough to fit a person with a small piece of luggage.

The first iteration of *Versteck* at Aargauer Kunsthaus



Santa Barbara, 2021

Santa Barbara is a workshop named after the patron saint of architects, mathematicians, prisoners and tunnel diggers – but also after a distant traveling destination.

It's a workshop about building the «Do-It-Yourself Tunnel-Digging-Machine». A tool to challenge physical borders and other boundaries. A machine adapted to the human body, operated by hand, made from affordable materials. A vehicle which will initiate discussions about access, mobility and self-empowerment.

So far, *Santa Barbara* has taken place twice. Once with children of the curative education school Wattwil, and once with participants of the European Architecture Students Assembly. Both iterations resulted in a documentation video.

[Video documentation to *Santa Barbara* in Toggenburg](#)

[Video documentation to *Santa Barbara* in Torre](#)



Impressions from *Santa Barbara* in Torre



Canaries in a cold mine, 2020

Canaries in a cold mine is a series of hanging, lamp-like sculptures. They are built in a way, that allows them to monitor the air quality in the spaces where they are exhibited. In doing so, they reassure visitors that they are in a safe environment, but they also remind them, that this could potentially change from one moment to the next.



Installation views of *Canaries in a cold mine* at Bella, Zurich



Groundwork, 2018

Groundwork is a 23 minute video for all those who want to break in, break out, undermine things or connect people and places.

It was made in 2018 during a studio residency in East London where I was accommodated in a luxurious gated community. At first glance living there seemed very worthwhile but the longer I thought about it, the more I started to see this gated way of living as a metaphor for problematic tendencies affecting reality in the UK, Europe and the rest of the world.

[Video Link to *Groundwork*](#)



Screening *Groundwork* at Woosh Gallery in Dundee, Scotland



Take Down, 2016

During the 100 days of Manifesta 11 in Zurich, Cabaret Voltaire installed a stage for joint-venture performances. In each performance an artist would collaborate with a person coming from a different professional background. *Take Down* was the last performance of this program. On the final night the construction manager Billy Beck and I took down the stage.

[Video Link to *Take Down*](#)





Service Public (Gschwürtransport), 2016 - ongoing

Service Public is a series of transport performances in public space.

The project is centered around five colorful, misshapen, inflatable found-objects – the so-called Gschwür-Objects. I discovered them in the storage space of a Zurich based labor integration workshop. When the workshop closed down due to budget cuts, and the Gschwür-Objects were about to be trashed, I managed to inherit them and carry them to my studio – fully inflated. This was the first iteration of *Service Public*.

Half a year later I was given the chance to show this work at Aargauer Kunsthaus. On that occasion I realized a second transport. In the exhibition people would not see the objects but a video documenting the transport to the museum. In this way the work has been traveling to many other places since.



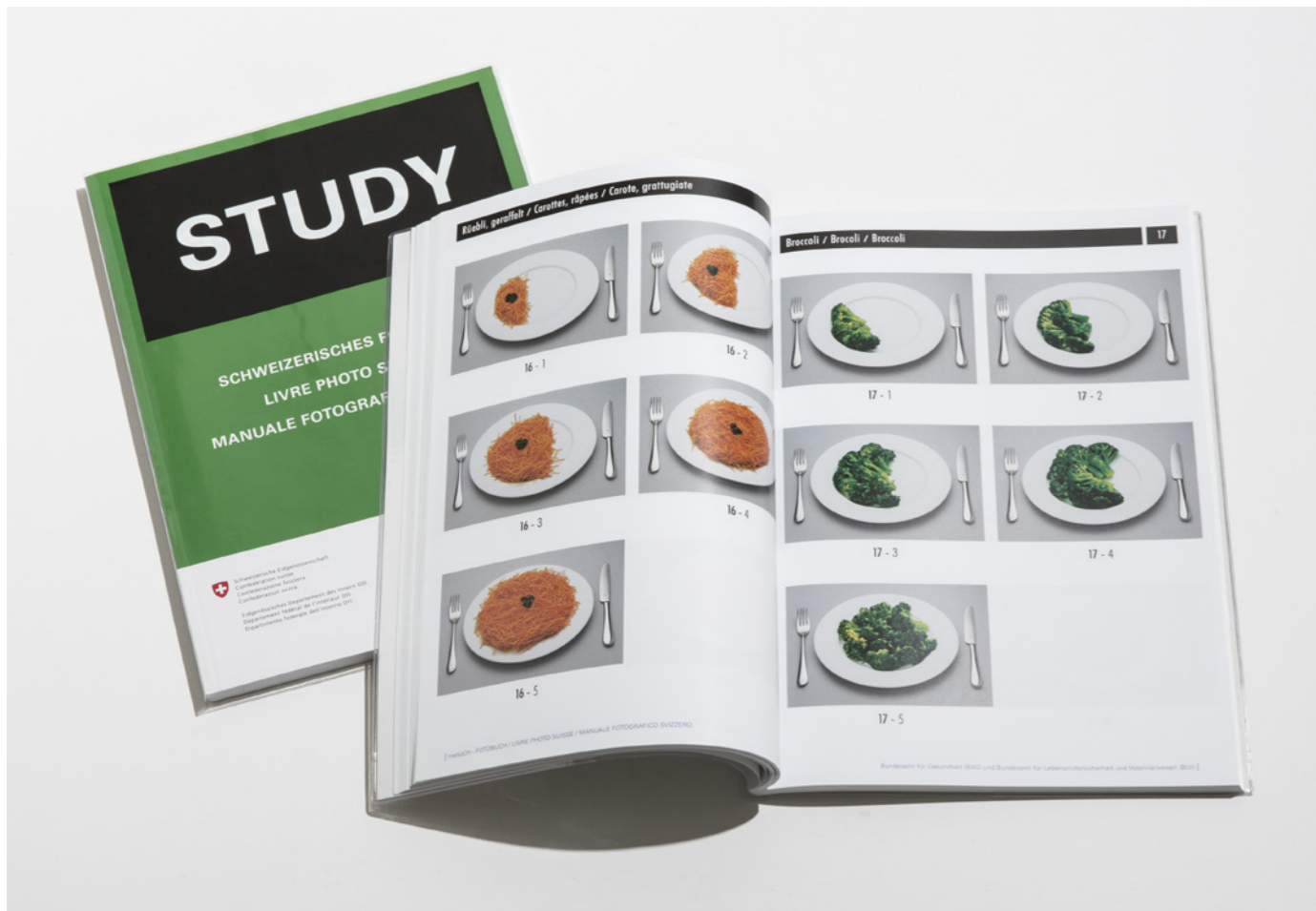
The first iteration of *Service Public* going from Mythenquai to my studio at Sihlquai in Zurich, 2016



STUDY, 2019

STUDY develops around 'Schweizerisches Fotobuch', a book originally published in 2014 by the Swiss government as a visual aid in the context of a nationwide nutrition survey.

In 2019 Severin Zaugg and I organised three events throughout Switzerland aiming to revisit this book as a telling object in its own right.



Re-release of Schweizerisches Fotobuch at Material, Zurich



Digital Radar Camera System – Noch ist nichts geschehen, 2013

In 2013 Severin Zaugg and I released a book with 41 photographs showing the city of Zurich. The pictures were given to us by the Zurich traffic police who had taken them as part of their routine at the beginning of mobile radar controls throughout the city.

Since 2015 we are continuing this work as a series of photo prints. So far this series consists of 8 pictures.



Meeting with the Zurich traffic police for *Digital Radar Camera System*



The Careful Movers, 2013

On late night walks I discovered that the people of Zurich make remarkable cardboard constellations and place them at the side of the road where the recycling department would pick them up the next morning.

To preserve these telling one night sculptures I documented them in a series of photographs.



Shooting at night for *The Careful Movers*, Zurich

JAN HOFER (*1988 in Zürich) works in sculpture, performance and video, often entering into collaborations with people outside the art world. He studied Visual Communication at the Zurich University of the Arts (2009-13), was a Visiting Student in Prof. Christian Jankowski's class at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart (2015-16), Artistic Researcher at the School of Commons (2018-19) and co-curator of the the off space [Bella](#) in Zurich (2022-24).

EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** **Handlungsraum**
Haus zur Glocke, Steckborn
- Auswahl 22**
Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau
- 2022** **Seven Winds**
Kunsthalle Bern
- Life is an Interesting Day**
Secret Movie Club, Los Angeles
- True Sentiments**
Gessnerallee, Zurich (with PRICE)
- 2021** **Service Public**
Zabriskie, Geneva (solo)
- 2020** **If it ever happened it could be very like this**
Bella, Zurich (solo)
- Über Stimme, Stimmung, Zustimmung und Widerspruch**
Binz39, Zurich (solo)
- True Grid Irl**
Unanimous Consent, Zurich
- Unreal Estate**
Hamlet, Zurich
- For Topical Reasons**
Dan's House, Wales
Set Space, London
Wharf Chambers, Leeds
Wooosh Gallery, Dundee
SB34 – the pool, Brussels
- 2019** **Apotheose**
HuMBase, Stuttgart (solo)
- ABCD**
Indiana, Vevey (solo)
- 100 Sculptures**
No Gallery, Los Angeles
Anonymous Pop-Up, Paris
- 2018** **Noch ist nichts geschehen**
Dear Photography, Hamburg (solo)
- Zimmermannhaus**
Zimmermannhaus, Brugg (solo)

WORKSHOPS AND PUBLIC ENCOUNTERS

- 2022** **Santa Barbara in Torre**
with European Architecture Students Assembly, EASA
- Santa Barbara in Toggenbrugg**
with Heilpädagogische Schule Wattwil
- 2021** **A New New Material in Direct Democracy**
with Demoscan by Nenad Stojanovic
- Workshop – a conversation Workshop**
Hochschule Luzern, HSLU

WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- 2023** **The New New Material**
Materialarchiv, Zürich
- 2019** **The New New Material**
Collection of Aargauer Kunsthauses
- 2017** **Digital Radar Camera System**
Collection of Fotomuseums Winterthur
- 2015** **Heimliche Schenkung**
Collection of Kunstmuseums St. Gallen

AWARDS AND FUNDING

- 2022** **Research Travel Grant USA**
Aargauer Kuratorium
- Advancement Grant**
Aargauer Kuratorium
- 2021** **Work Grant Covid-19**
Stadt Zürich Kultur
- Studio Residency Lichtensteig**
Dogo Residenz für Neue Kunst
- 2020** **Project Grant Ceramics**
Ikea Stiftung Schweiz
- 2019** **Studio Residency Cité des Arts Paris**
Visarte Schweiz
- 2018** **Work Grant**
Aargauer Kuratorium
- Studio Residency London**
Aargauer Kuratorium
- Grant for Photographic Publications**
Pro Helvetia
- 2017** **Special Mention**
Plattform 17 / Fotomuseum Winterthur
- 2014** **Swiss Photo Award**
ewz selection