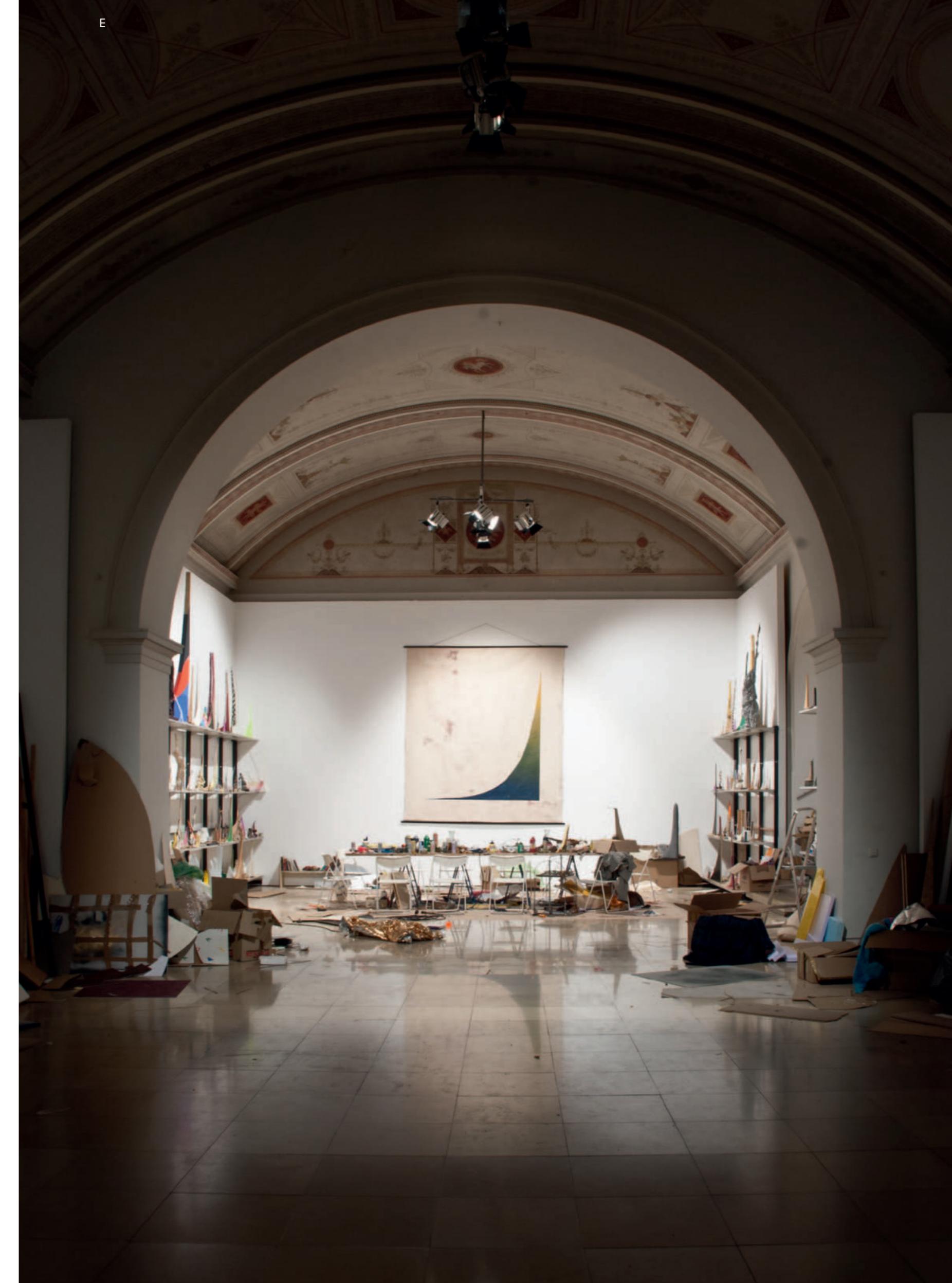
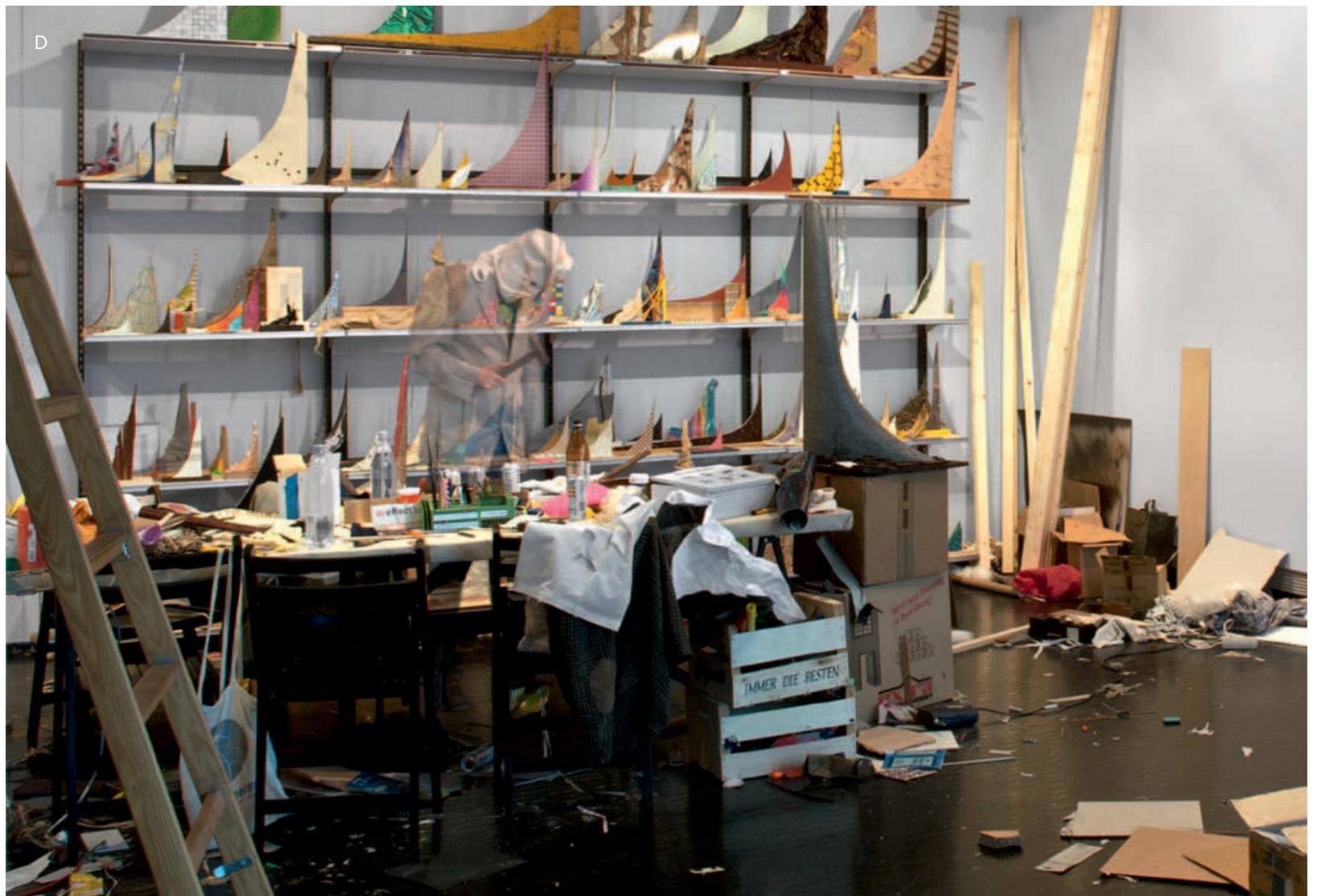
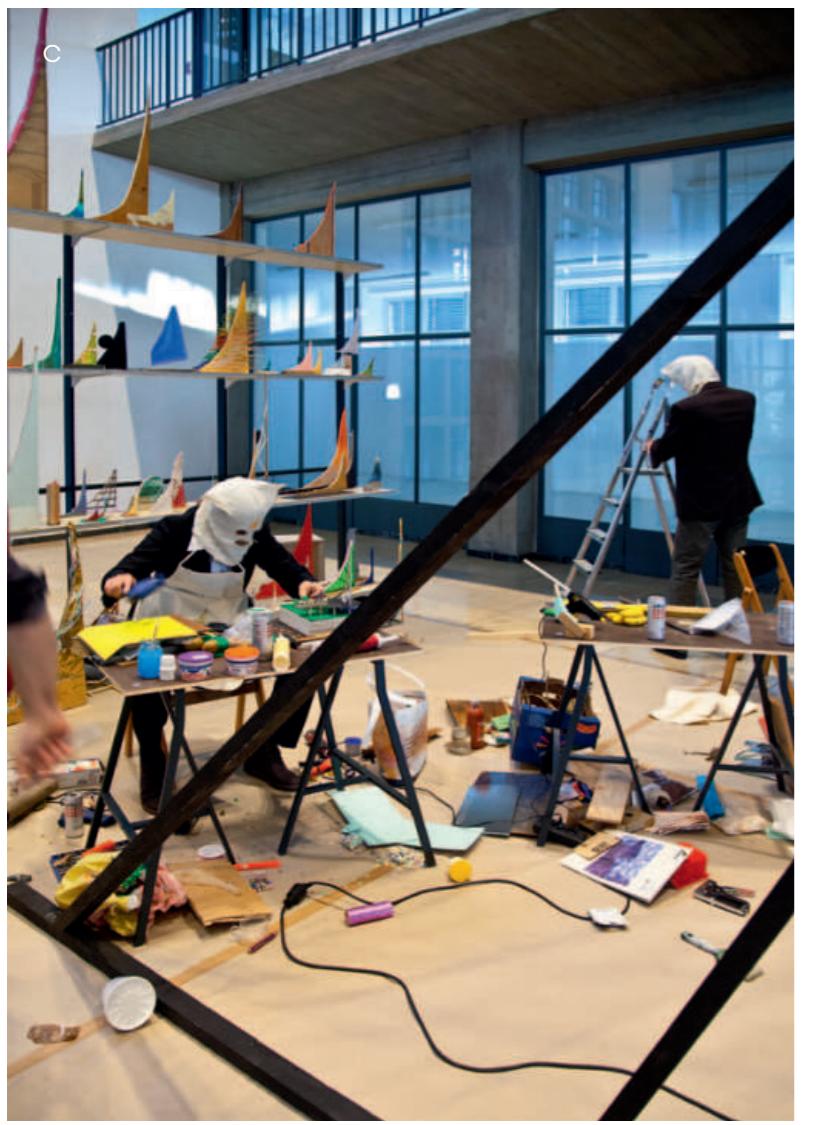


Mehrung





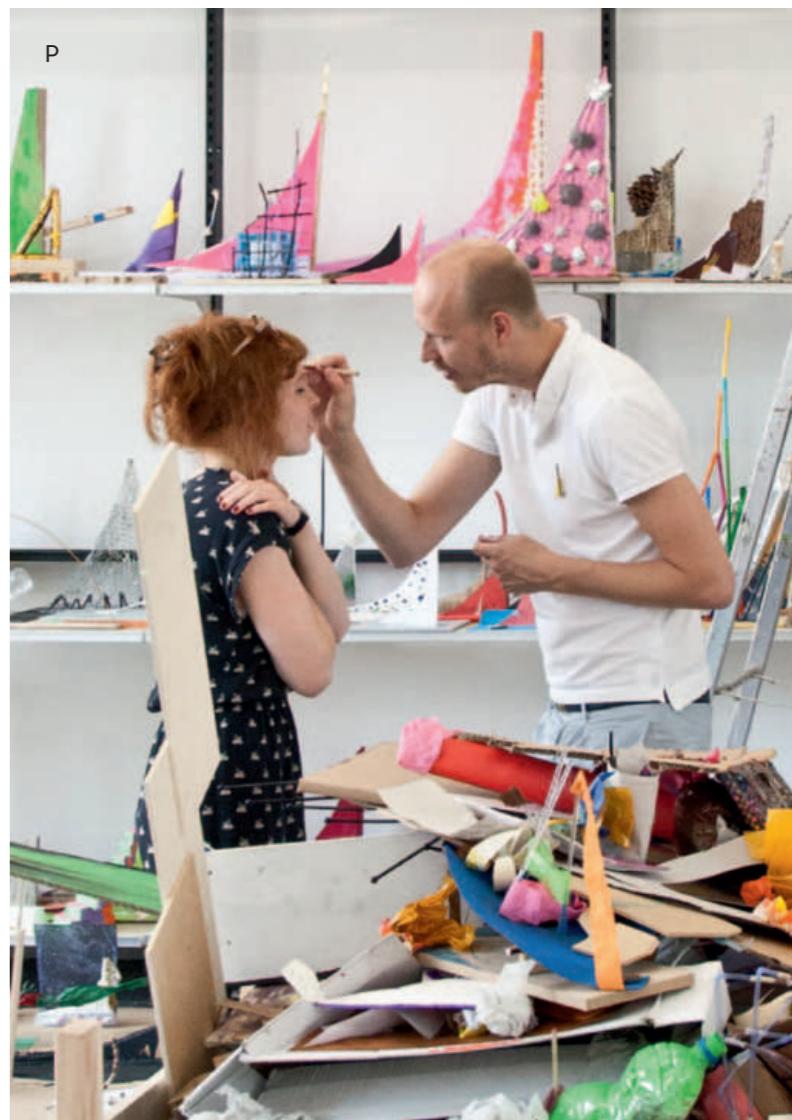
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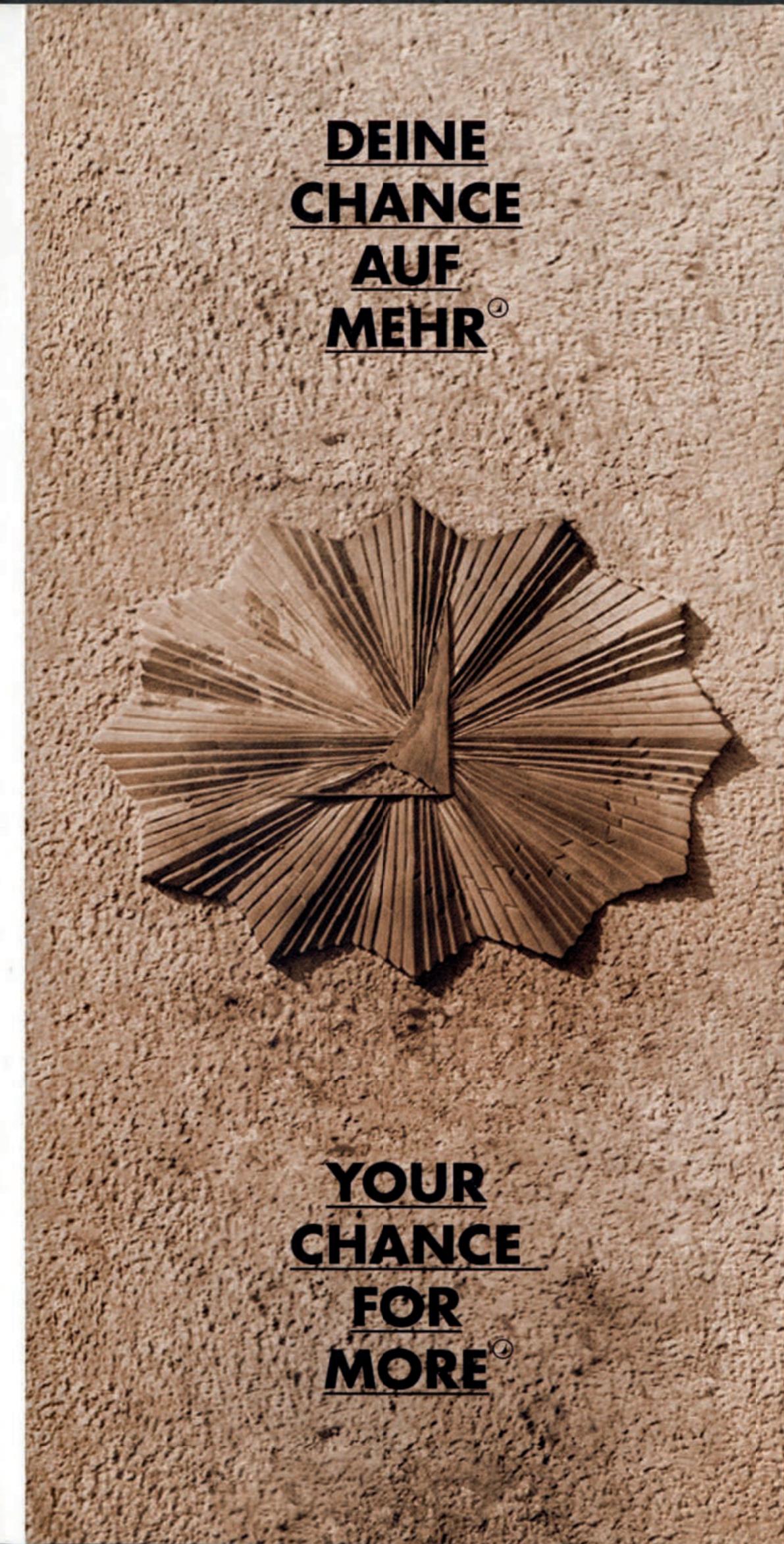














V

Well, okay: All we want is to grow with you. Grow out of the troubles and lows of the here and now. Grow into the happier times to come, in which humanity will have learned that self restriction and humility cannot be the best way to deal with the challenges of a world becoming more and more complex. We sense the premonition of a new enlightenment, and believe that it can only have a chance if, all around the world, we successfully commit our blinkers to the flames, and succeed in pressing forward with the implementation of neuroelectronic crystal balls. We hate our bodies in their current form. We hate them because it is solely their fault that a part of us has always been inseparably glued to the present, preventing us from being absolutely pure creatures of the future: While our sad mortal flesh is helplessly caught up in today's squalor, our souls have long since reached tomorrow and amuse themselves there by mischievously beckoning over to our inferior halves. This state of affairs can no longer be tolerated. We have to move on. We can no longer afford to simply waste our magnificent potential in this way. Upgrading is the natural thing to do. Instead of coming to a halt at any given point, we would, if necessary, rather rise up out of a sea of ashes, and soar into a more brilliant existence. Our favourite era begins tomorrow, and we are not willing to let anyone detain us from witnessing and experiencing it live.

Mehrung



Since 2011 | series of performances with installation elements | MEHRUNG 1: 350 × 800 × 700 cm | 5 performers | 3 h | 13.4.2011 Our Ambition is to Continue, Kunstverein Paderborn | MEHRUNG 2: 500 × 1800 × 900 cm | 12 performers | 3 h | 31.1.2012 Exhibition for the Bavarian State Scholarship Prize for Visual Arts, Galerie der Künstler, Munich | MEHRUNG 3: 330 × 1030 × 730 cm | 1 performer | 5 h | 13.4.2013 Birner Kunststofftechnik | Amberg | MEHRUNG 4: 650 × 1000 × 1000 cm | 12 performers | 3 h | 6.6.2013 Kunstverein Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft Nürnberg | MEHRUNG 5: 300 × 2000 × 1400 cm | 2 performers | 8 h | 5 weeks | 6.7. – 4.8.2013 The Bet, Kunst-Werke Berlin | MEHRUNG 6: 2014 | 370 × 370 × 500 cm | 3 performers | 5 days | 2.12. – 7.12.2014 Curated Space / Galerie Anita Beckers, Art Miami, Miami, Florida | MEHRUNG 7: 280 × 400 × 800 cm | 1 performer | 3 h | 29.11.2016 Museum of Human Achievement, Austin, Texas | MEHRUNG 8: 650 × 1000 × 1000 cm | 10 performers | 3 h | 22.2.2018 Epimetheus' Sample Kit, Kunsthalle Schweinfurt | private collection

MEHRUNG (Multiplying) is an ongoing series which is based on the fiction of a secret society whose members have completely devoted themselves to the idea of exponential growth.

This background narrative manifests itself in a number of different ways in the various parts of the series:

In MEHRUNG 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8, the performers assume the roles of members of this secret society, who are made anonymous by sack-like masks, and silently pay homage to their belief in growth in a ritualised procedure: They use brightly coloured handicraft materials to produce a continually growing amount of objects, which more or less take the form of the exponential function, and which are collected in shelves.

MEHRUNG 3, 5 and 7 take on the character of open "creative workshops", in which visitors can participate. In this case, the performers act as "missionaries" who try to encourage potential new members to take part in the workshops, and communicate the aims and the doctrines of the secret society to them.

A) Concept sketch for | Konzeptskizze für MEHRUNG | digital collage | Digitale Collage | dimensions variable | Maße variabel (→ SALBUNG, pp. 147 – 153)

B) Complete view | Gesamtansicht MEHRUNG 4: twelve performers in business attire, aprons and cloth bag-masks, shelves, tabletop, trestles, chairs, wood, cardboard, hot glue, DIY-handicraft materials | Zwölf Performer in Businesskleidung, Bastelschürzen und Stofftaschen-Masken, Regale, Tischplatten, Arbeitsböcke, Stühle, Holz, Molton, Karton, Acrylfarbe, Heißkleber, DIY-Bastelmaterialien | 500 × 1800 × 900 cm | 3 h

F) Detail MEHRUNG 2

G) Detail MEHRUNG 2: A model is added to the collection. | Ein Abbild wird in die Sammlung aufgenommen.

H) Detail MEHRUNG 2: society members during a gathering | Bundesschwester und -brüder während einer Versammlung

I) Detail MEHRUNG 4: A model is added to the collection. | Ein Abbild wird in die Sammlung aufgenommen.

J) Room view | Raumsicht MEHRUNG 3: a performer in business attire, workshop participants, shelves, tables, chairs, wood, cardboard, hot glue, acrylic paint, DIY-handicraft materials | Ein Performer in Businesskleidung, Workshopteilnehmer, Regale, Tische, Stühle, Holz, Karton, Molton, Heißkleber, Acrylfarbe, DIY-Bastelmaterialien | 350 × 800 × 700 cm | 3 h

E) Room view | Raumsicht MEHRUNG 5: two performers in white polo-shirts, black trousers and sport shoes, workshop participants, shelves, tabletop, trestles, chairs, wood, molton, cardboard, acrylic paint, hot glue, DIY-handicraft

materials | Zwölf Performer in Businesskleidung, Bastelschürzen und Stofftaschen-Masken, Regale, Tischplatten, Arbeitsböcke, Stühle, Holz, Molton, Karton, Acrylfarbe, Heißkleber, DIY-Bastelmaterialien | Potentielle Neumitglieder werden zur Workshop-Teilnahme animiert. | 300 × 2000 × 1400 cm | 4 w

J) Detail MEHRUNG 5: society member with a flyer | Bundesschwester mit Faltblatt (→ R)

M) Detail MEHRUNG 5: Models which do not conform with the society's ideas are disposed of. | Nicht regelkonforme Abbilder werden entsorgt.

N) Detail MEHRUNG 5: Potential new members get to know the aims and principles of the secret society. | Potentielle Neumitglieder lernen die Ziele und Grundsätze der Geheimgesellschaft kennen.

O) Detail MEHRUNG 5: A member of the society tries to persuade a visitor to join his society. | Ein Mitglied der Gesellschaft versucht, einen Besucher für seine Gemeinschaft zu gewinnen.

P) Detail MEHRUNG 5: A workshop-participant agrees to wear the society's symbol on her forehead. | Eine Workshopteilnehmerin willigt ein, das Symbol der Gemeinschaft auf der Stirn zu tragen.

Q) Room view | Raumsicht MEHRUNG 5

R) Object: digital print on paper | flyer informing about the secret society | Objekt: Digitaldruck auf Papier | Faltblatt der Geheimgesellschaft | 21 × 30 cm (→ V, SALBUNG, B, p. 148)

S) Detail MEHRUNG 7: a performer in business attire, workshop participants, shelves, tabletop, trestles, chairs, wood, molton, cardboard, hot glue, acrylic paint, DIY-handicraft materials | Ein Performer in Businesskleidung, Workshopteilnehmer, Regale, Tischplatten, Arbeitsböcke, Stühle, Holz, Molton, Karton, Heißkleber, Acrylfarbe, DIY-Bastelmaterialien | 280 × 400 × 800 cm | 3 h

T) Detail MEHRUNG 6

U) Complete view | Gesamtansicht MEHRUNG 6: three performers in business attire, aprons and cloth bag-masks, shelves, tables, chairs, wood, cardboard, paper, hot glue, DIY-handicraft materials | Drei Performer in Businesskleidung, Bastelschürzen und Stofftaschen-Masken, Regale, Tische, Stühle, Holz, Karton, Papier, Heißkleber, Acrylfarbe, DIY-Bastelmaterialien | 370 × 370 × 500 cm | 5 h

V) Laser print on paper | handout with the secret society's manifesto | Laserdruck auf Papier | Handzettel mit Manifest der Geheimgesellschaft | 30 × 21 cm (→ V, SALBUNG, B, p. 148)

W) Detail MEHRUNG 6