

Portfolio

Conversations with the Lake
Acta Liquida

Heidi Zednik



Heidi's Conversations with the Lake began in 2005. Twenty years later, the conversation is still active. Since 2012 Heidi has artistically been documenting observations of Lake Traunsee, its' fish and changes to the local fishing industry. ACTA LIQUIDA is the largest project within the ongoing Conversations with the Lake cycle.

Heidi Zednik - The Filter Material and the History of ACTA LIQUIDA

Heidi Zednik and the Trawöger fisher family have been friends for a long time. Maggi Zednik, her mother, brought Heidi the first piece of filter material to North Carolina, USA. The piece hung in the studio for years. In 2012, Heidi moved back to Lake Traunsee, Austria, and over the course of several conversations with Monika Trawöger began to collect details about the history of the hatchery, the endangered Reinanke whitefish, climate change and human changes affecting Lake Traunsee. The first drawings of the Reinanken spawning grounds were made in 2012.

Heidi began to collect all the filter material from the hatchery. A new small work cycle was created every few years. At first, the filter material was used as a painting underground, but the theme of Reinanke and Lake Traunsee remained constant.

In 2015, the first purely abstract series was created with the filter material. In 2017, a black light installation was designed with the filter material. From 2021 on, more and more work was done with unchanged filter material.



draw paint write
 walk
 hum see
 sit-sat
 by the Lake
 listen



www.heidizednik.com

draw paint write



ACTA LIQUIDA

European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 Project

Was a transdisciplinary art project by three artists - Heidi Zednik, Elza Grimm and S. Holzbauer - that spanned the arc between Lake Traunsee, climate change, history, memory and fish culture.

Between 2022 and 2024, several concepts and smaller chapters were developed for the overall narrative. Although a lot of filter material existed, an exhibition exclusively with filters would only be a fraction of the story. During the two years, many drawings, texts, sketches and Traunsee sludge works were created. For the exhibition in the Aurachmühle, it was important to show an overall narrative.

The exhibition simultaneously took place in two locations. Heidi Zednik and Elza Grimm showed their works and installations in the Aurachmühle, Neukirchen; Siegfried Holzbauer complimented them with some of his photographs. The exhibition in Schloss Ort, Gmunden, showed Siegfried Holzbauer's installations and photographs.

Heidi Zednik abstracted the natural processes of the deepest Salzkammergut lake: filter material collected over decades from the Altmünster fish hatchery hut was installed, showing changes in the weather, sediment and pollution. They were complimented by drawings, prints and objects.



The audiovisual installation „memories of an extincting kind“ by multimedia artist **Elza Grimm** focused on the change in species and habitats in Central European freshwaters due to climatic and other man-made changes. The installation is made up of several individual hologram and sound elements. The centerpiece is the projection of an experimental short film. The beauty and grace of the Reinanke serves as inspiration for the installation in form and movement. The fish species, which is native to Lake Traunsee, forms the leitmotif of the installation and is shown in 3D animations from different perspectives at various stages of its life.



Siegfried Holzbauer's analog photos, exposed several times, and associative texts record a variety of processes and memories connected with the Traunsee and its fish. His Stanglfisch installations thematize the influence of climate change on the the fish of Lake Traunsee.



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Traunsee Fish Hatchery

Altmünster

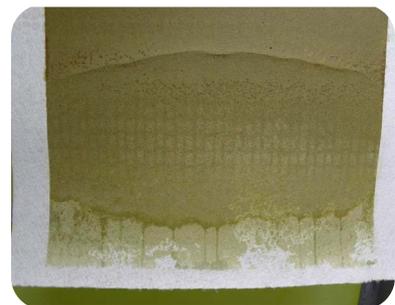
The fish hatchery hut, built by the Rettet den Traunseefisch association, went into operation in 2004. The aim is to save the native fish of Lake Traunsee, especially the Reinanke (whitefish) and the native Saibling (char).

„The origin of the Reinanke whitefish (Coregonus) lies in the Ice Age. It is assumed that they reached the Alps from the north with the meltwater streams at the end of the last ice age. However, further migration to the south was prevented by the Alps. As the ice receded, large lake basins carved out by glaciers remained. These freshwater-filled lake basins most likely formed the original habitat of the Coregonians. Fishing was already practiced by people in pile-dwelling settlements around 3000 BC. The oldest historical document that refers to fishing on Lake Attersee, where the Reinanke is still widespread today, was probably written around 894 AD by Emperor Arnulf of Carinthia (850 to 899 AD).“

<https://info.bml.gv.at/themen/lebensmittel/trad-lebensmittel/fisch/reinanke.html>

Currently the fish are threatened by several factors: Climate as well as geological changes, industrial waste, the quagga mussel, the sharp increase in private boats on the lake and, most recently, the pumped storage power plant in Ebensee on the Sonnstein. In 2021, the loss of 3 generations of fish was recorded, which also led to a 3-year cessation of fishing for the Riedling.

In 2023, 128 liters of Reinanke fish eggs were harvested. In 2024 the harvested Reinanke eggs dropped to 20 liters. Commercial fishermen/-women seldom fished, the Reinanke seemed to have disappeared.



Timing in the Fish Hatchery House

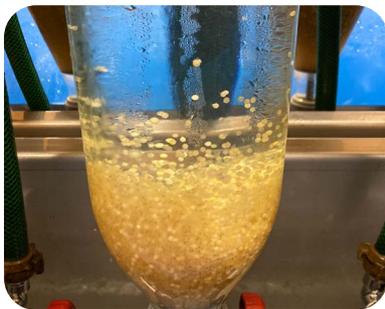
End of November February – April

Spawning fishing. Beginning of fish hatchery operation.
Hatching time. Depending on weather and plankton availability, the hatching time is delayed by additionally cooling the Traunsee water. If plankton fishing fails for 24 hours, some of the hatched fish are released into the lake as an emergency solution.

March – April

Hatched fish are released into Lake Traunsee

While the fish hatchery house is in operation, the lake water is filtered for the egg glass containers and the hatched fish tanks. This leaves a 1:1 imprint on the filter material of the changes in weather, currents, sediments and minerals.



Without native fish in the Traunsee, the life of commercial fishing dies. Historically, the right to fish was granted by the Traunkirchen monastery in the year 900. In 1448, the right to fish was recognized as a hereditary right.

The Trawöger family, who initiated the hatchery with other Traunsee fishermen/-women and also look after it, can trace their fishing rights to 1500. Three generations of the Trawöger family are currently professional fishermen/-women - Johann III, Monika, who became Traunsee's first female "master" fisherwoman in 2007, and her daughter Gerlinde, who became a master fisherwoman in 2016. Gerlinde assumed responsibility of the company in 2022.



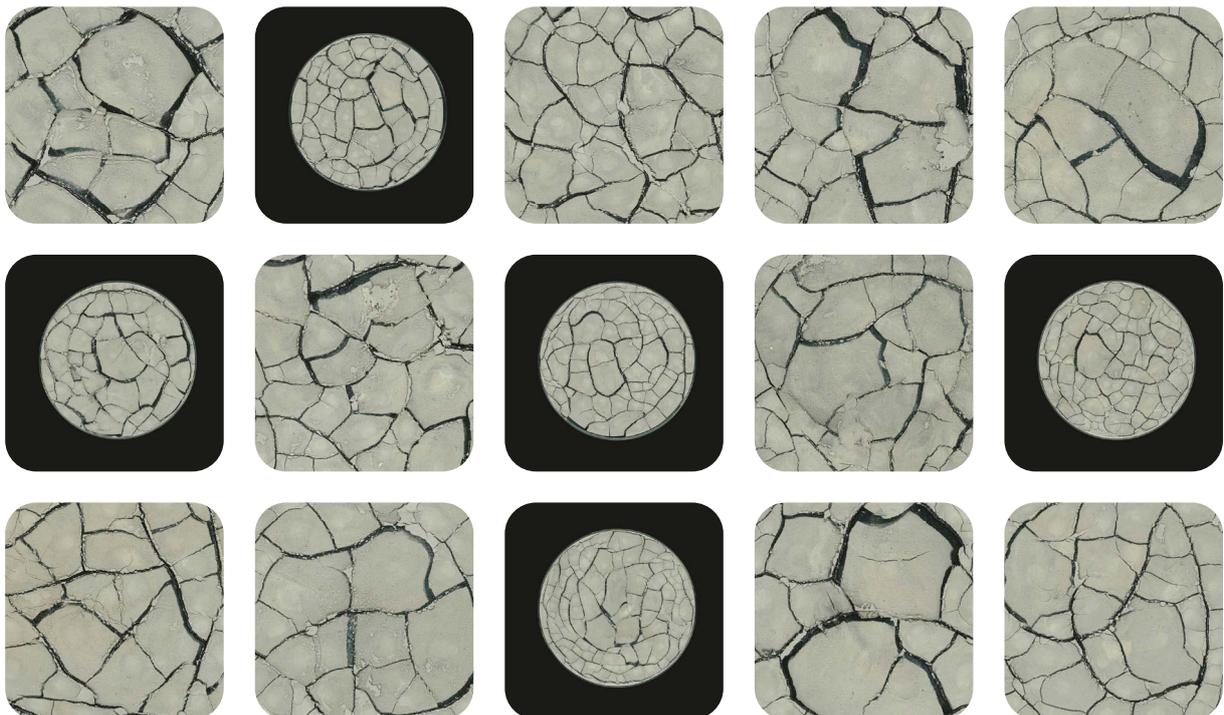
Traunsee Sludge

In 2022, a large chunk of sludge was pulled up by Monika Trawöger and Herbert Gaigg on their anchor. This alkaline sludge is the result of decades of regional industrial waste. One sample was sent to the laboratory and Heidi Zednik received the majority.

The Traunsee sludge unexpectedly became a second main focus of Acta Liquida.

Part of the sludge was used in the petri dish series: After the large-format drawing of a petri dish, a collaboration with bysahlia began. „let the dark rest“ is part of this collaboration.

Another part became the „chronology“ series: „chronology“ is the artistic transfer of data from the 2022 and 2023 Reinanken egg collections of commercial fishermen/-women. This data comes from the containers in which the fish eggs initially spend their time in the hatchery.



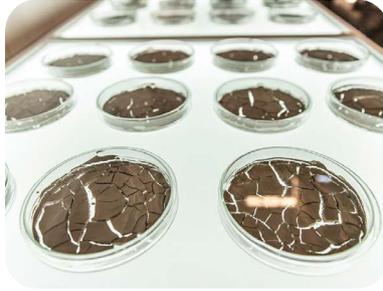
Exhibition Aurachmühle
ACTA LIQUIDA
Heidi Zednik & Elza Grimm

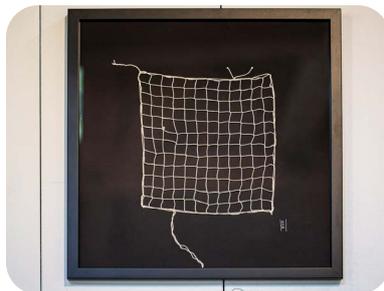
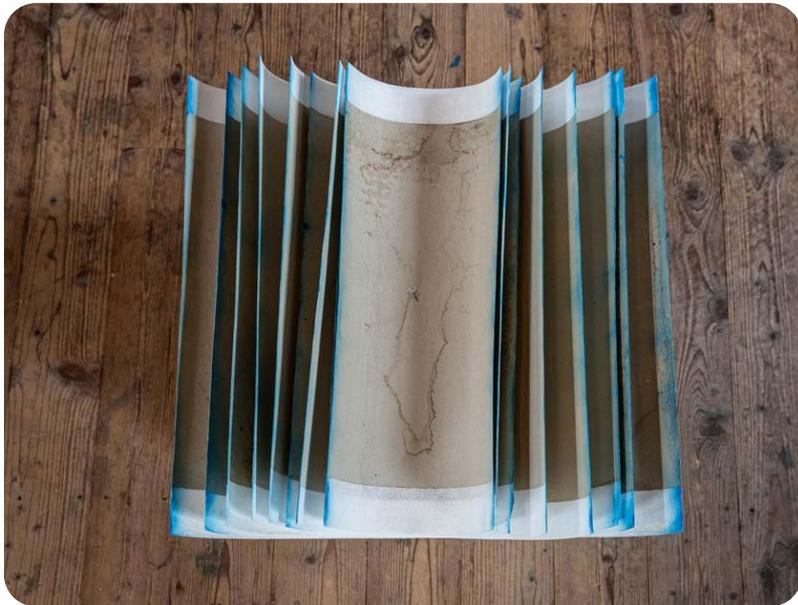
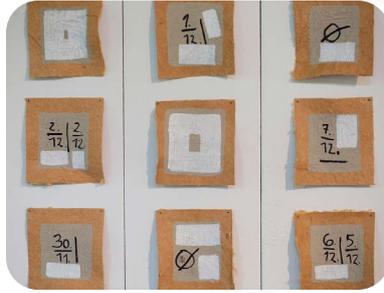
Neukirchen, Austria
May 4th - June 16th, 2024

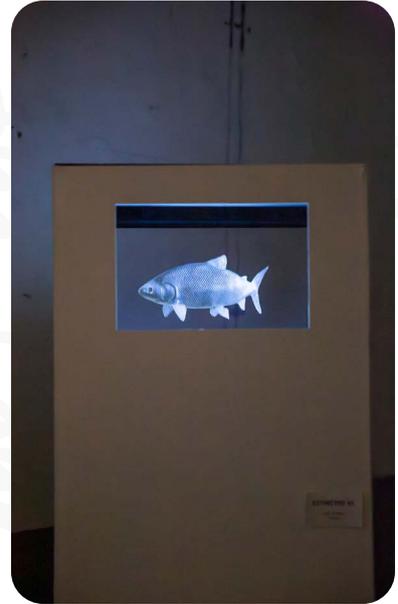
draw paint twice
walk
from see
sit-sat
by the Lake
first



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Draw paint write

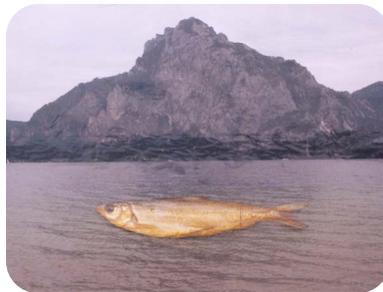


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Exhibition Schloß Orth ACTA LIQUIDA S. Holzbauer

Gmunden, Austria
May 4th - June 16th, 2024

[Katalog-Dokumentation](#)



Artists

Heidi Zednik

www.heidizednik.com

Elza Grimm

www.elzagrimm.com

S. Holzbauer

www.advancedpoetx.eu

Contributing Artists

Natalia Weiss

March 2023, Natalia came to Bad Goisern as one of SCALA's first A.I.R. book / print / paper artists. Through many conversations a friendship and a long-term artistic exchange developed. Heidi's desire to bring a different line language to the Acta Liquida project eventually brought Natalia and her small press back to the Salzkammergut. October 2023 she held an etching intensive with Heidi at Ateliers Alte Weberei; unprinted plates were later printed by Natalia in her studio. The artistic exchange continues.

www.natalia-weiss.at

Irmgard Hofer-Wolf

Irmgard came to Bad Goisern as a SCALA textile / leather A.I.R. artist in April 2023. In the course of several studio visits Heidi understood that Irmgard repeatedly uses netting in her work. August 2023 Heidi spent a week with Irmgard in Rum to learn the basic principle of netting. She has created a square. She is still trying to understand the rectangle. The artistic exchange with Irmgard continues.

<https://co.op-stoff.com/irmgard-hofer-wolf/>

Donna E. Price

The artist Donna E. Price was ACTA LIQUIDA's project assistant from the beginning. She knows Heidi's artistic language inside-out and has followed her long-term work with the filter materials. She was also part of the week-long installation process, contributing technically and artistically to key design decisions.

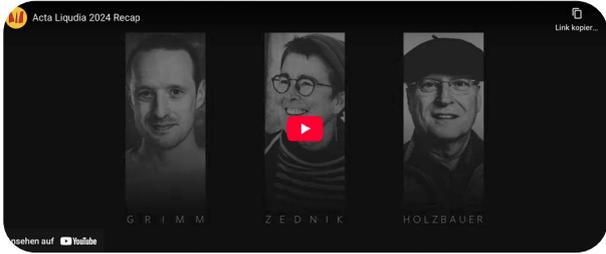
www.donnaeprice.com

Christine Kienesberger / by sahlia

Christine Kienesberger is a graphic designer with a passion for flower photography, which she publishes as bysahlia. She was instrumental in providing a macro perspective of the sediment on the filter materials. This series was not finalized for the exhibition but will continue in the coming years. bysahlia was also Heidi's collaborative partner in the chronology series.

www.bysahlia.com

Press



[Acta Liquida 2024 Recap](#)



culture project of **salzammer gut 2024** European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl

**HEIDI ZEDNIK
ELZA GRIMM
S. HOLZBAUER**

ACTA LIQUIDA

04 | 05 | 16 | 06 2024

Aurachmühle - Neukirchen/A.
Heidi Zednik - Elza Grimm
S. Holzbauer
Eröffnung: So, 04. 05. 2024, 17 Uhr
Fr - Sa 14 - 17 Uhr
Sonn- und Feiertage 10 - 13 Uhr
sowie nach Vereinbarung

Schloß Ort - Gmunden
S. Holzbauer
Freitag: So, 16. 06. 2024, 11 Uhr
Performance am Theat. Paul Joerg
Täglich 10 - 16 Uhr

2 | Magazin

Der Sündenbock
narrates
Queegemädel

**Schlammberg,
Hargtschung,
Pumppecker**

**Die Akte
Reinanke**

**Heimspiel: Conchita Wurk
begeisterte Gmunden**

oöNachrichten

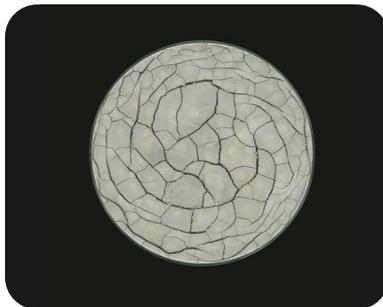
**Das Schicksal der
Reinanken im
Salzkammergut**

**Reise
Wochenende**

Wochenende

**Die Akte Reinanke:
ein Fisch im Netz zu
vieler Interessen**

Die Kinder nehmen sich einer bedrohten Fischart an. Zum Kulturspektakel wird die Reise ins Salzkammergut ein Bewusstseinslaber spielen



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Heidi had originally intended to conclude the cycle of the fish hatchery, Lake Traunsee and the Reinanke with this project. But the opposite happened – many new themes and possibilities for collaborations have opened up.

The project continues.



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