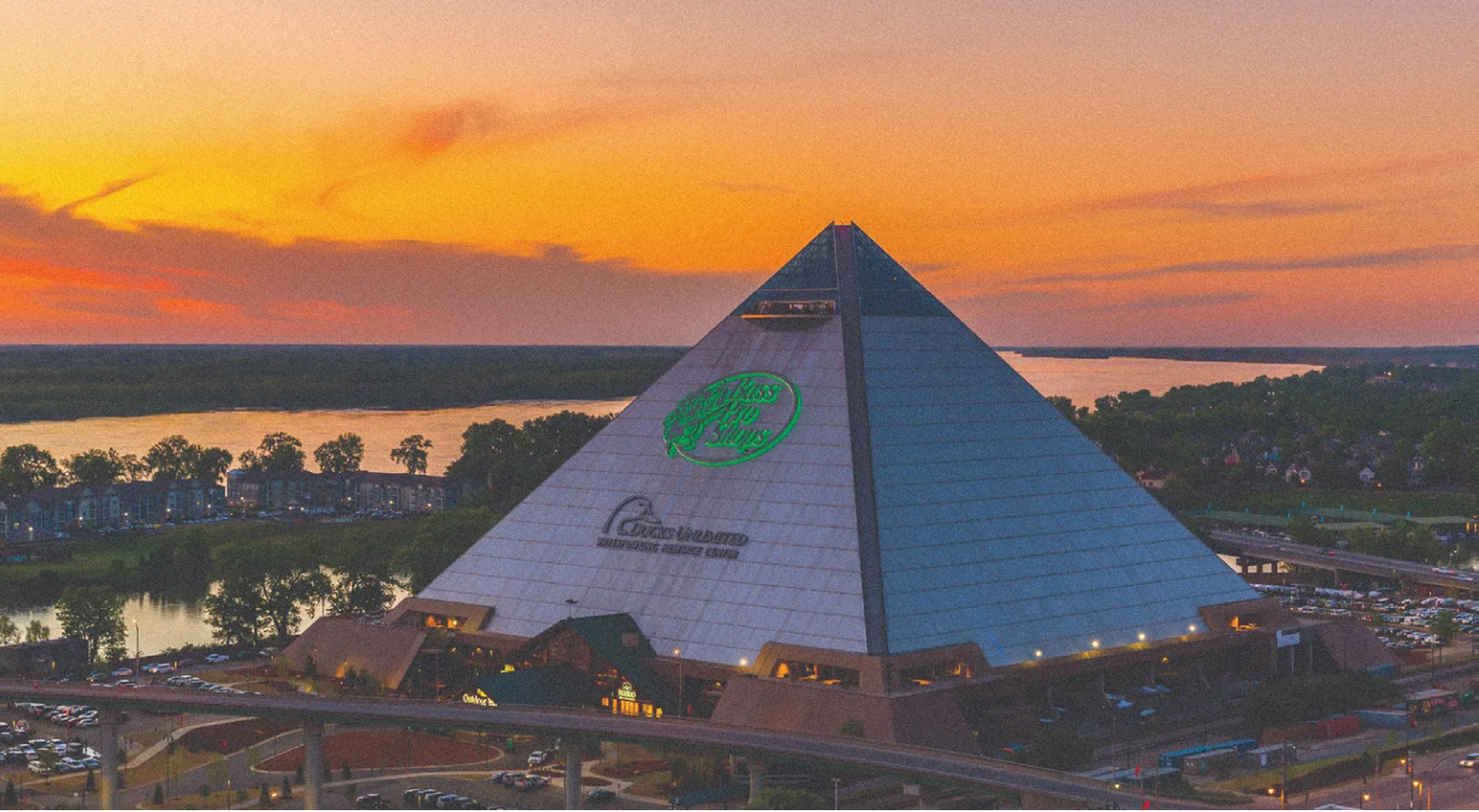


KARIN FERRARI

Lecture Performances



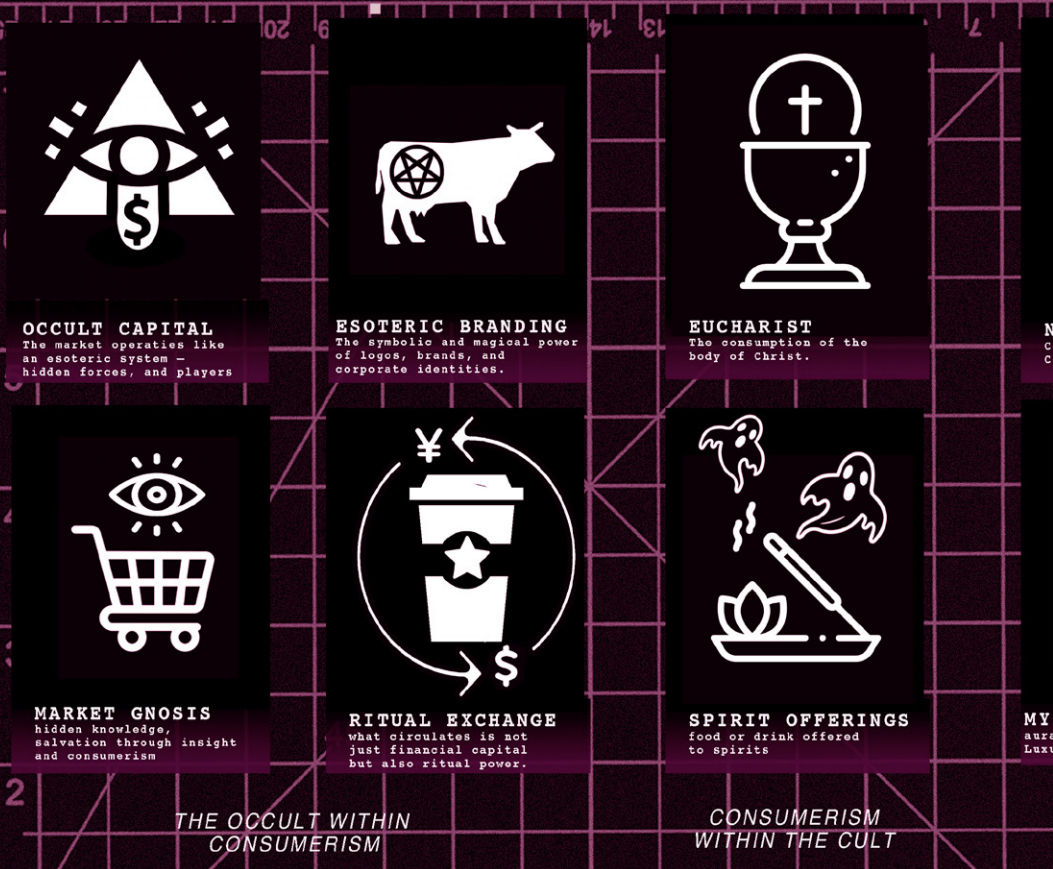
Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid Shopping Mall, Memphis, Tennessee

Goods + Gods. The Culty Side of Capitalism

Artist lecture Verdurin, London, 2025

Media artist Karin Ferrari decodes and reinterprets contemporary visual culture, revealing its mystical undercurrents. In this presentation, Ferrari explores magico-religious rites in consumer culture, offering a funhouse-mirror reflection on the symbols, rituals, and sacred spaces of consumer culture.

Pop music videos as initiation rites. Hotel temple-pool-bars in Bali. Overlooked cultic sites atop Manhattan's financial skyline. A pyramid-shaped shopping mall in Memphis, Tennessee. And ultimately, a techno-shamanistic magic flight on the escalator leads - inevitably, like the slurp at the bottom of an iced Frappuccino - to the question: Could the layout of Angkor Wat be the original blueprint for the modern mall??1!



Artist lecture Verdurin, London, 2025



Freaky Fairy Flux Foundation, Heart of Noise Festival 2023, RFDInsel, Innsbruck, 2023 Foto: Daniel Jarosch





FREAKY FAIRY FLUX FOUNDATION

Performance/concert, Karin Ferrari x Francesco Fonassi, presentation of the tapes FREAKY FAIRY FLUX FOUNDATION RFDInsel in Innsbruck at the Heart of Noise Festival 2023

Tape made in collaboration with the musician and sound artist Francesco Fonassi.

Music by Francesco Fonassi.

Spoken word, texts, font and image by Karin Ferrari

Heart of Noise Edition 11 released with Villa Recordings, Design by Another Studio, Brescia

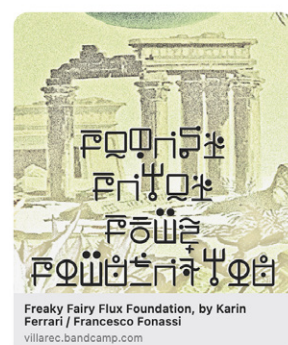
>> **FULL ALBUM** <https://villarec.bandcamp.com/album/freaky-fairy-flux-foundation>

'One of the most exquisite releases in the series so far.'

Kristoffer Cornils, Groove Magazine

The Italian musician and sound artist Francesco Fonassi complements Ferrari's spoken word performance with live voice manipulation and synchronized sound material, produced using analog Buchla and Korg synthesizers, tape loops, grooves, and effects. These magnetic landscapes dynamically replicate the live sound architectures of the artist's ceremonial trash mysticism universe, transforming the audience into a close-knit ritual community. Enveloped within a white fantasy landscape, the voice and sound clusters intertwine, serving as acoustic receptors for a culture clash that samples the evoked soundscape of neopaganism and blends it with technoid sound cultures.

— Karin Pernegger, curator and former director of Kunstraum Innsbruck





Animadidas Hanging sculpture at the shopping mall SILLPARK Innsbruck, a KOER Tirol art in public space program, 2021

Supermarket of the Dead by Peter Moosgaard during the Shamanic Mall Retreat at Sillpark Shoppingmall, Innsbruck

Shamanic Mall Retreat

01. & 02.07.2021 with Karin Ferrari, Lona Gaikis, Bernhard Garnicnig, Peter Moosgaard
part of Karin Ferrari's KOER Tirol project THE NEW HOLY

- Which spiritual cultures of consciousness arise in shopping malls?
- What insignia does a shopping mall shaman use to identify herself?
- How are artifacts of consumer society used ritually?
- What mystical longings and utopias does department store architecture express?

Shamans seek to relate to the spirit that resides in all things. What better place for this than a department store where there are so many of these things. The Shamanic Mall Retreat consists of a series of experimental, artistic and theoretical contributions and workshops in and around the shopping mall SILLPARK in Innsbruck. The artists Ferrari, Gaikis, Garnicnig and Moosgaard went with the participants to those levels and departments where psyche and public space overlap. They explore the imaginative potential of those strata of consciousness and the department store teeming with commercialized archetypes, information, images and entities. But beware: some of them are deceptive tricksters! Cultural theorist William Raymond describes advertising as a professional system of magical manipulation that functions much like the magical systems of simple societies, but bizarrely coexists with sophisticated scientific technology. Anyway, the only way to counter spells is with spells. And that's what we did to do for two days.



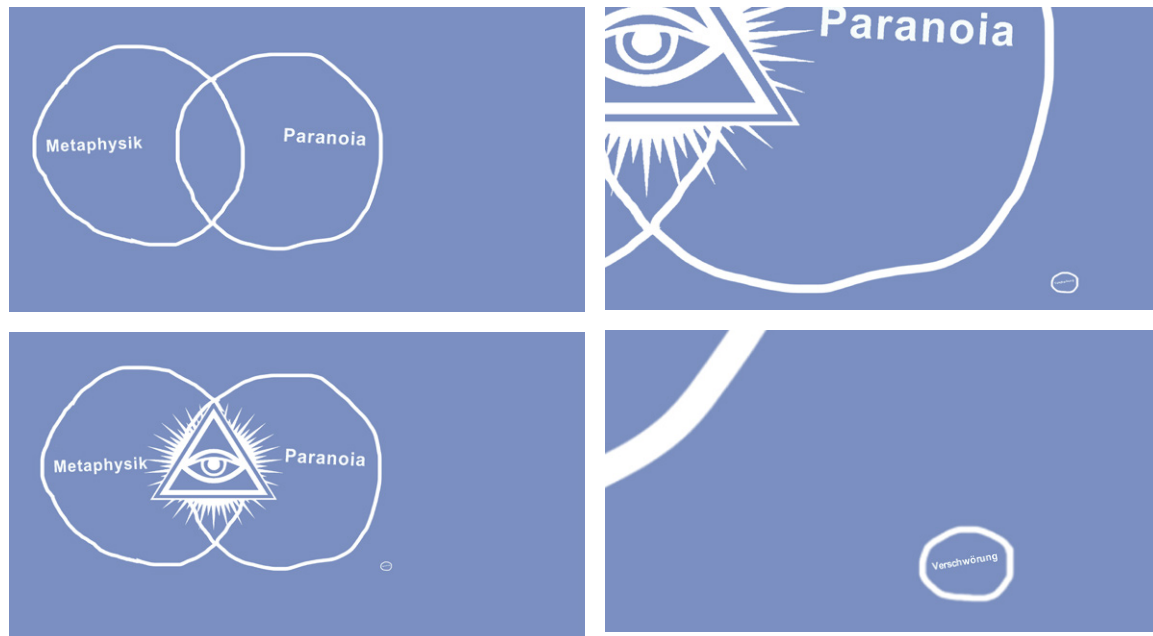
The Joy of Paranoia

Performance - Lecture

Online Symposium der KU Linz - Katholische Privat-Universität Linz, November 2020

[LINK https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2TcBrQ6X1Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2TcBrQ6X1Y)

DIES ACADEMICUS: Conspiracy Theories. Chemtrail, corona and climate change ... that can't be a coincidence! Michael Butter (Tübingen), Daniel Hornuff (Kassel), Jan Skudlarek (Berlin) and Karin Ferrari (Wien) ask about the typical patterns, appearances and aesthetic codes of conspiracy theories.



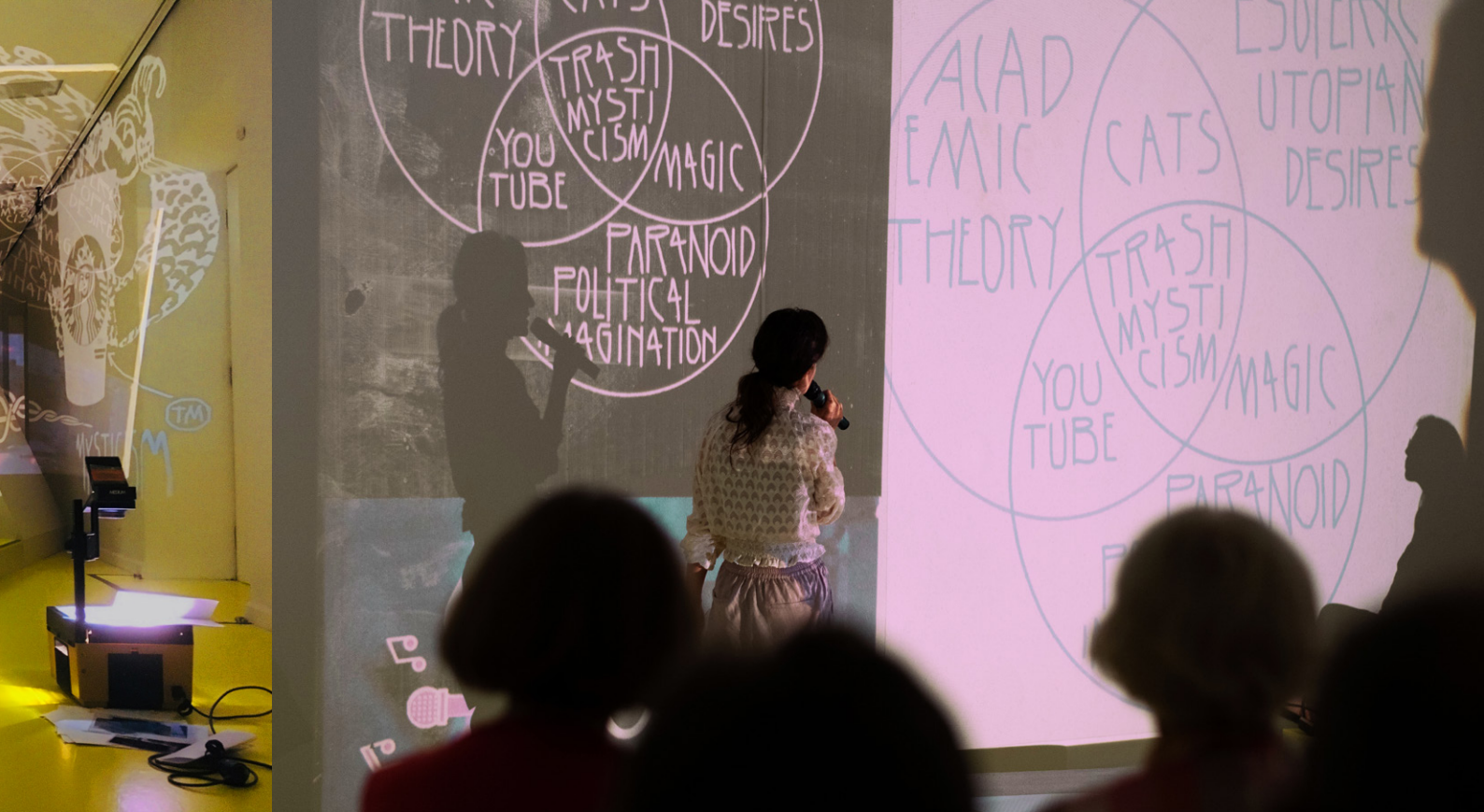


The Ultimate Guide to (Trash Mysticism)

Lecture-Performace in the exhibition 'Karin Ferrari. Trash Mysticism', Ferdinandeum, Tiroler Landesmuseum, Innsbruck 2019

Trash Mysticism is a term the artist uses to describe her field of research: a kind of DIY spirituality emerging from our screen culture. It involves speculative narratives at the intersection of academic theory, esoteric utopia, and paranoid political imagination. "The Ultimate Guide to Trash Mysticism" was a performance-lecture and expansive light projector projection on Meme Magic and Chaos Magic, New Age and Alt-Right, Alchemy and YouTube channelings. The lecture-performance took place in the installation of her solo exhibition at the Ferndandaeum.

Lecture Performance with multiple vintage Lichtprojektoren.



Lecture-Performace in the exhibition 'Karin Ferrari. Trash Mysticism', Ferdinandeum, Tiroler Landesmuseum, Innsbruck 2019



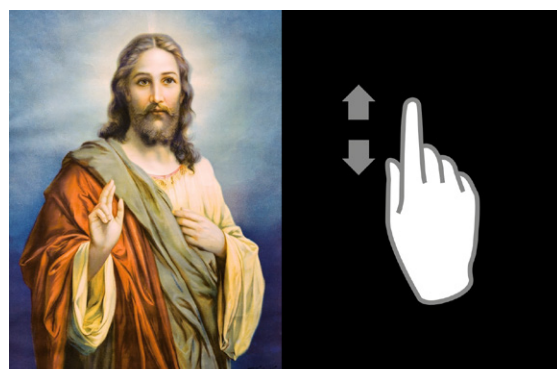
Séance with WiFi Board (Summoning Ada Lovelace)

Light box, 100 cm x 100 cm x 20, 2017 and participative performance
in the solo exhibition THE MAP IS THE TERRITORY, Galerie Jünger, 2017

The WiFi Board merges contemporary and ancient occult communication technologies. It's based on the OuiJa board, a divining tool used to talk to spirits. The OuiJa is a flat board marked with the alphabet and graphics. It uses a planchette where the participants of the séance put their fingers in order to spell out a supernaturally transmitted message from beyond. In Ferrari's work the moving fingers of the participants on the planchette refer to the scrolling gestures on mobile user interfaces and touch screens of modern communication technologies as well as the awe produced by modern techgadgets and their mystifying complexity and aura. During the séance Ada Lovelace, English mathematician and writer regarded as the first computer programmer, was summoned and asked for consultancy. (The message that came through was the well meant advice to invest into the sex robot industry.)

The image on the WiFi Board combines icons from digital culture and Eastern religious imagery such as the abstract cosmological depictions of Mandalas on Thangkas. Thangkas are religious Tibetan paintings. Literally translated the word Thang ga means door of marvelous power. In the Tibetan image tradition of the Thangka, the devotional image is considered to be a medium through which the depicted can be accessed through meditation.

"Both cyberspace and magical space are purely manifest in the imagination. Both spaces are entirely constructed by your thoughts and beliefs. Korzybski says that the map is not the territory. Well, in magic, the map is the territory. And the same thing is true in cyberspace. There's nothing in that space you didn't bring in." Mark Pesce



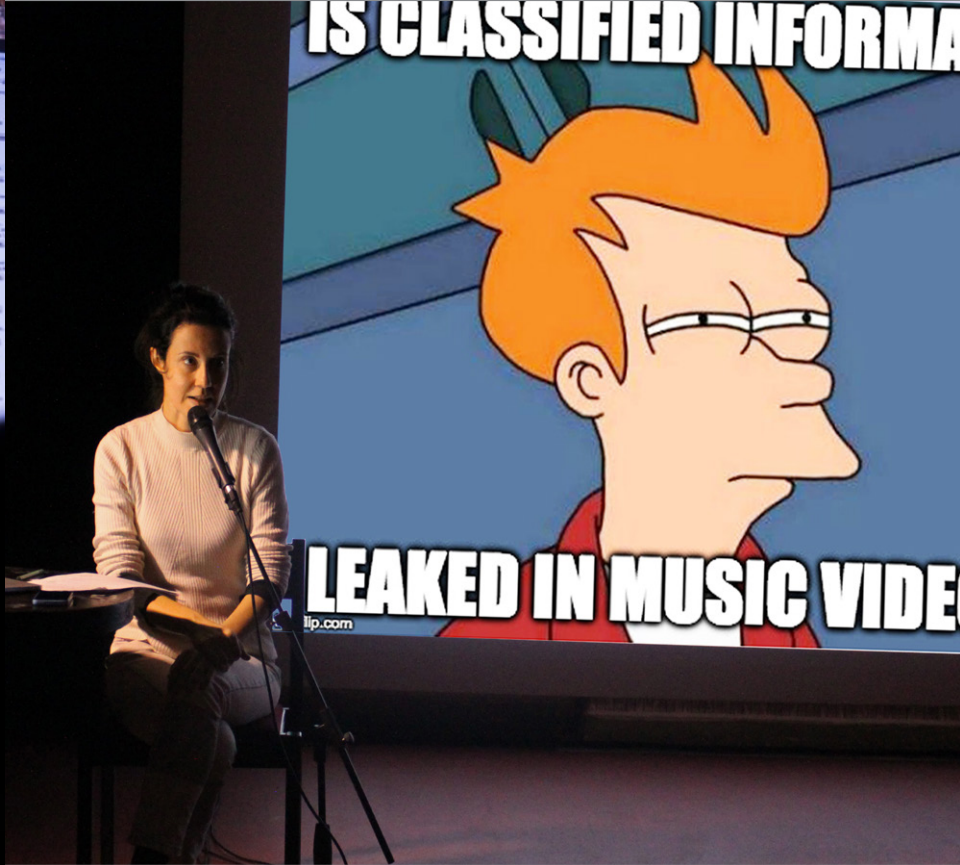


Occult Machines

subnetTALK 2019 zum Thema „Maschinenkult“, Center for Human Computer Interaction der Universität Salzburg

LINK <https://youtu.be/iGp7q5cVwFk?si=L0R4qHKwDHBaUFyX>

The new iPhone... It's not what you think it is... Karin Ferrari looked deep into the secret symbolism of the advertising campaign for the iPhone Xs. Her new short mystery documentary shows: It's alive. And it is not entirely of terrestrial origin. These startling revelations are just the beginning of the strangest details to emerge from Ferrari's alternative reading of iconic images and the curious insights they offer into our collective technological imagination – that the award winning artist, Karin Ferrari, shares for the first time at subnetTALK.



Lecture/Performance, Predictive Programming - Is Media Leaking the Future? Trafo Galeria Budapest, 2017. Photo: Csányi Krisztina



Perpetuating The Myth of Universal Success

Installation, Screening, Tiroler Volkskunstmuseum, Innsbruck, 2015

Subliminal Mess

Logo Wall, Red Carpet, Participatory Performance, Tyrolean Folk Art Museum, Innsbruck, 2015

The Tyrolean Folk Art Museum commissioned Karin Ferrari to contribute to the exhibition Signs and Symbols. She created a site-specific installation featuring a 50-meter-long red carpet and a logo wall in the museum's entrance hall. The logo wall simulated a publicity campaign promoting the artist and the museum's sponsors. The red carpet gave the illusion of leading directly through a glass wall into the cloister. Ferrari's film *DECODING Katy Perry's Dark Horse (THE WHOLE TRUTH)* was screened on the red carpet in the cloister. A red carpet and the social function of celebrities are central themes in Ferrari's decoding of Katy Perry's music video.

During the opening, the artist performed a participatory piece by taking photos of the visitors in front of the logo wall.



KARIN FERRARI

Selected Works

Karin Ferrari is an artist of the trash stratum and its sacred and subliminal iconography. Working with a wide variety of materials, including digital media, assemblage, and traditional analog craft, the artist has created a body of vexing, funny, and disturbing work that at once actively probes and passively submits itself to contemporary esoteric currents: occult symbolism, technopop paranoia, gnostic conspiratoriality. Not long ago, these currents were pretty marginal concerns, but they have exploded in power and visibility over the last decade, intoxicating our politics, our dreams, and our doomscrolling. And they clearly intoxicated Ferrari as well, who reveled in what she calls *trash mysticism* like few contemporary artists.

— ERIK DAVIS
(High Weirdness, TechGnosis)
San Francisco March 2023

FULL TEXT HERE <http://karinferrari.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/erikdavis.pdf>



Installation view in the exhibition **Karin Ferrari. Trash Mysticism**, Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, 2019



Video installation **DECODING The iPhone Xs. A Techno-Magical Portal**, in the exhibition **Karin Ferrari: Trash Mysticism**, Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum Innsbruck, 2019.

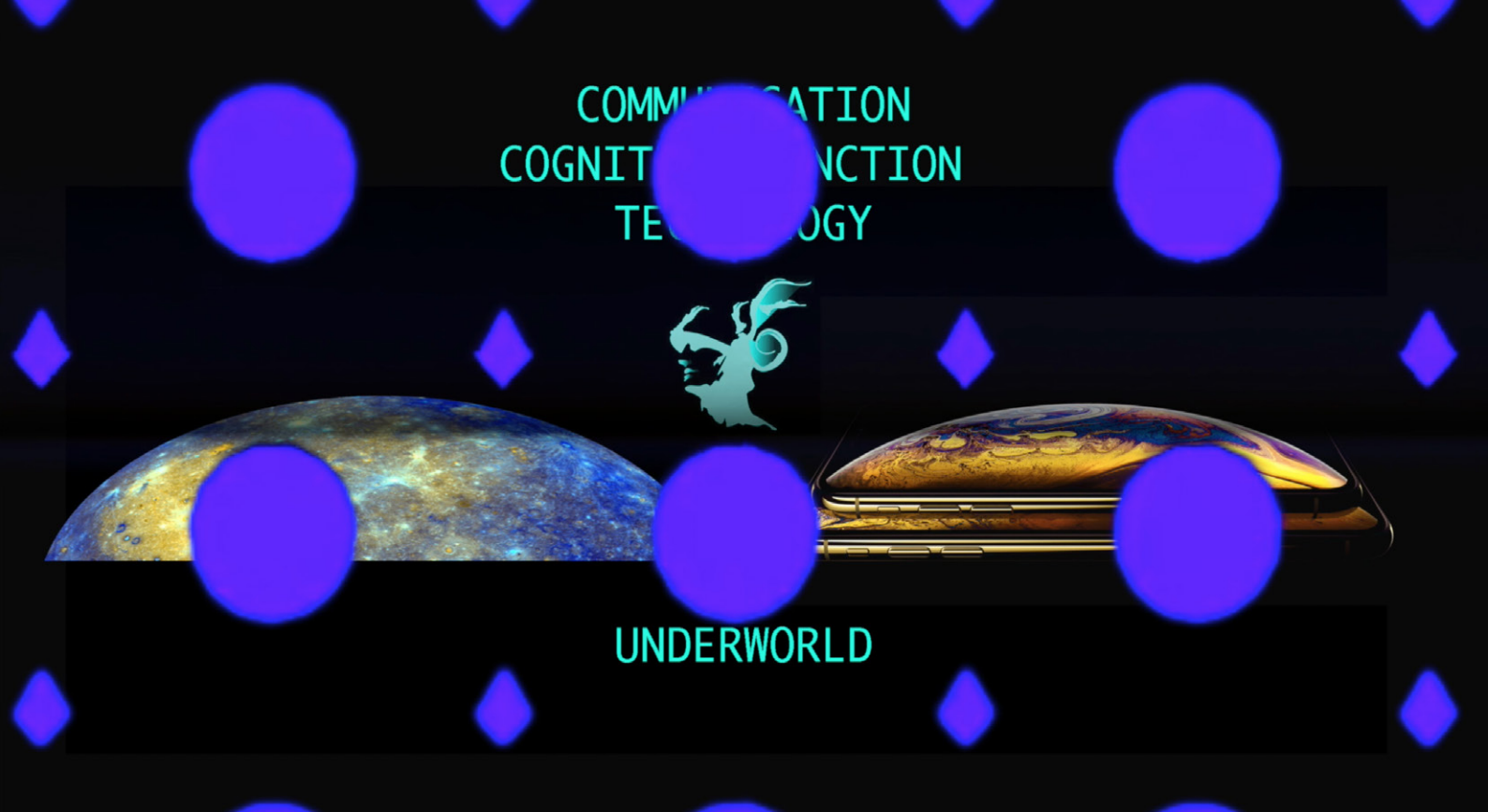
A Techno-Magical Portal

Video installation for the video *DECODING The iPhone Xs. A Techno-Magical Portal* in the exhibition *Karin Ferrari. Trash Mysticism* at the Ferdinandeum Innsbruck, with Raiffeisen Landesbank as cooperation partner, as part of the main prize of the RLB Art Award 2019.

The video installation in the show *Karin Ferrari. Trash Mysticism* is inspired by the artist's research trips to Southeast Asia. During these trips, Karin Ferrari noticed the use of sacred elements in leisure architecture and hotel facilities, which she identified as *trash mysticism*. The installation architecture is based on a *Candi Bentar*, a split gate - an architecture commonly found in the temples of Java and Bali - that signifies the transition from the mundane to the sacred space. The gate serves as an entrance to Ferrari's video installation, where her film *DECODING The iPhone Xs. A Techno-Magical Portal* is shown on a sculpture of an oversized iPhone. The video is a reassembled version of the iPhone Xs advertising clip, which was released during the artist's BMKÖS residency in Yogyakarta in 2018. The video takes the cosmobiological imagery featured in the original advertisement for the iPhone Xs quite literal, interpreting it to suggest that the device actually is a conduit to otherworldly dimensions.



Video still *DECODING The iPhone Xs. A Techno-Magical Portal*, 2019



Video still *DECODING The iPhone Xs. A Techno-Magical Portal*, 2019

DECODING The iPhone Xs. A Techno-Magical Portal

Experimental mystery docu-fiction, collage film, English, 13 min, 2019

LINK <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzUZy3lrcc>

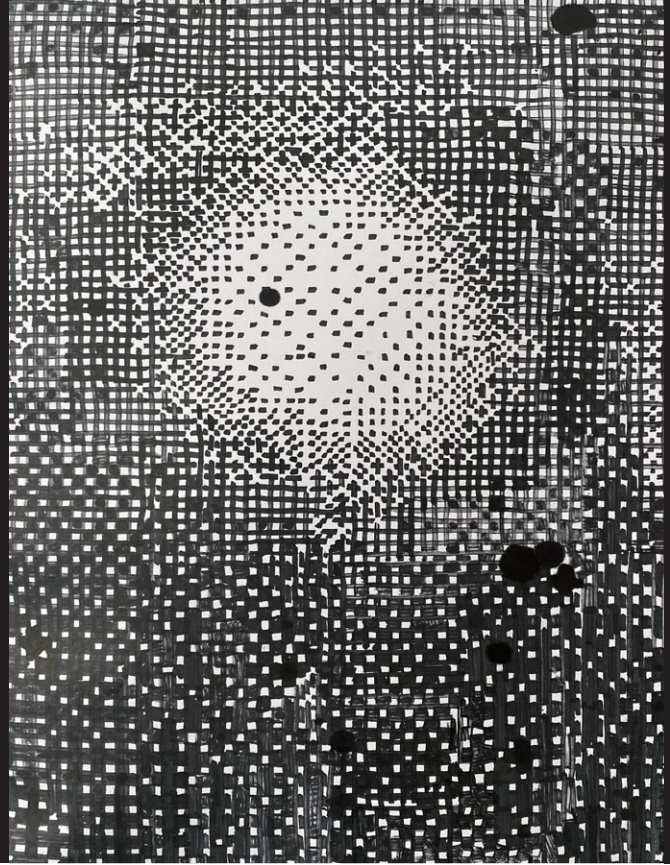
'The iPhone Xs as more than simply a modern mobile phone; as a code that Karin Ferrari sets out to interpret. In a superb re-assemblage of the ad made by Apple, the film develops an impressive density of semiotic linkages while, at the same time, repeatedly succumbing to the paranoid sign mania.

In a reassembled version of the advertising clip produced by Apple – the material is paused, slowed down, repeated, and overlaid with graphics and text – the film develops an impressive density of semiotic linkages while, at the same time, repeatedly succumbing to the paranoid sign mania of conspiracy theorists. The critical attitude towards consumer culture is paired with an equally powerful delirious euphoria for the aesthetics and potentials of contemporary pop culture. Whether a portal to God or an instrument of the devil – one thing is certain: Never before has the world spirit assumed such a perfected form.'

— Diagonale catalogue, ab/mk

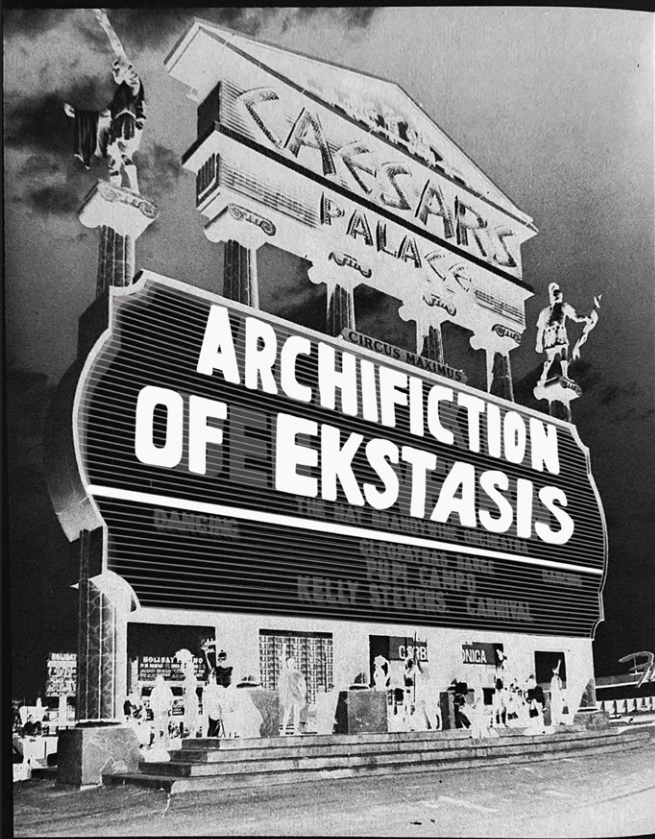
'The new iPhone... It's not what you think it is. Karin Ferrari looked into the secret symbolism of the advertising campaign of the iPhone Xs. Her new short mystery documentary shows: It's alive. And it is not entirely of terrestrial origin. These startling revelations are just the beginning of the strangest details to emerge from Ferrari's alternative reading of iconic images and the curious insights they offer into our collective technological imagination.'

— Gnostix TV



Dream Spells / Outr Flux, ink, pastel and pencil on paper, 30 x 42 cm, 2025, Courtesy of CCA Andratx

Megamyth, ink, pastel and pencil on paper, 30 x 42 cm, 2025, Courtesy of CCA Andratx



ARCHIFICTION OF EKSTASIS (Learning From Las Vegas) Print on Metall, framed, 60 x 80 cm, 2020, 1/6, 2/6, 3/6 Various Collections

Hyatt Regency Yogyakarta 21 x 30 cm Print on Metall, 3 + 2, 2018, 1/3 Collection CCA Andratx

ROSANNA DEMATTÈ

Archi_Fictions of Ecstasy

Karin Ferrari analyzes images and architectural structures as products of pop and everyday culture to investigate contemporary phenomena. She explores the impact and use of signs and symbols in pop-cultural contexts, aiming to understand how the dissemination and migration of visual content function. A close connection between mysticism, technology, and pop culture was identified as early as 1999 by the American theorist Erik Davis, who coined the term techno mysticism. Inspired by Davis's reflections, Ferrari's concept of Trash Mysticism represents a pop-cultural version of occultism and spirituality emerging from contemporary technologized culture. Ferrari has examined this intersection in several video works, where she intertwines facts with fiction and speculation with scientific theories. Behind a detached, pseudo-scientific stance, she highlights a fascinating density of semiotic connections in imagery drawn from advertisements and music videos. Through this approach, Ferrari critiques contemporary media phenomena, such as fantastical conspiracy narratives rooted in a fascination with hidden signs and mysterious connections.

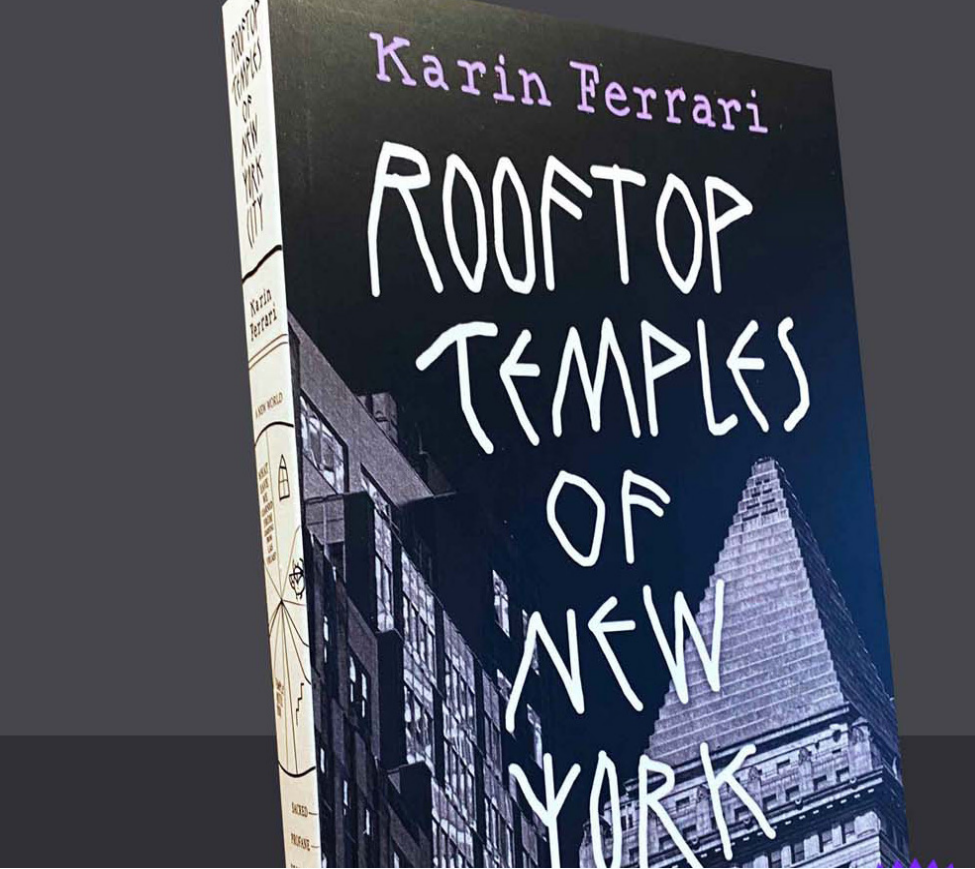
The interplay between the search for spiritual occult dimensions and a new technological collective memory becomes apparent in other works that address this cultural-critical field of inquiry. Since 2018, Ferrari has been working on the artistic research project Archi-Fictions of Ecstasy. During her research in multiple countries, she identified sacred architectural references in commercial buildings, recognizing this as a global phenomenon. During a six-month research stay in the United States, she discovered these pseudo-sacred forms almost everywhere—in casinos, banks, hotels, shopping centers, and other establishments. Her publication *Rooftop Temples of New York City* emerged from a research residency in New York during the lockdown in the spring of 2020. In the nearly deserted Manhattan, Ferrari experienced the full effect of these structures for the first time. Infrastructure-related additions such as elevator shafts and water tanks, or multi-story penthouse units, appeared as cultic sites. The symbolic resonance of traditional sacred architectural elements extends into contemporary urban spaces, creating new realms of imagination.

The acquisition for the Tyrol regional collection includes the research and visual material for this artistic project, which Ferrari developed and assembled in the tradition of Aby Warburg's *Mnemosyne Atlas*.

— Rosanna Demattè, curator Tiroler Landesmuseum
about the acquisition of *ArchiFictions of Ecstasy* into the collection of Land Tirol



Installation view, **Rooftop Temples of New York City**, wallpapered mural, Abbazia di Novacella, Bressanone, 2026



Installation **Rooftop Temples of New York City (Wallstreet)** wallpapered mural at *Looking Elsewhere Being There*, Cermodern Arts Center in Ankara, Turkey, 2024

Rooftop Temples of New York City

Artist book, monochrome photo essay, 300 pages, Verlag für moderne Kunst, 2020

Pseudo-sacral commercial architecture is a global phenomenon that is strongly present in the United States. Being in New York City in March 2020 to research architecture was an exceptionally unique experience. As the metropolis emptied during the initial Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown, I had the opportunity to truly perceive the city's architecture. In Manhattan, a distinct architectural phenomenon caught my attention: Functional additions for infrastructure such as elevator shafts and water tanks, or multi-story penthouse units that indeed resemble cultic sites, protrude from numerous New York skyscrapers. I documented these structures, giving rise to the book "Rooftop Temples of New York City" (edited by Karin Ferrari), published in 2020 with Verlag für moderne Kunst.



To Other Heaven Acrylics on Canvas, 90 x 120 cm, 2023; Photo 2024 Tamara Rametsteiner for Galerie Krinzinger



THOMAS TRUMMER

Mysterious New York

The skyscrapers of New York squeeze upwards. It is not uncommon for pyramids to close off the uniformly designed storeys. Banks and insurance companies, even the Wall Street building, are adorned with a pyramidal spire. What does that mean? Why only these triangular peaks? Photographs in a new book show these examples in black and white and in loose sequence. Many of these are reproduced in negative. As a result, they glow like X-rays or surreal solarizations. The Art Deco architecture conveys an air of uneasiness and gothic.

At first glance, the book looks like a flip-book tour of New York's high-rise buildings. Nevertheless, it is not a culinary souvenir or a harmless gift. Karin Ferrari publishes her collection of the "Rooftop Temples of New York City" as a lesson in uncertainty, as evidence of a self-nurturing suspicion. It is not the »Delirious New York« that architect Rem Koolhaas admired, but a »Mysterious New York« that makes people shudder and fear. To do this, Ferrari plays with the suspicions that are circulating in the Internet subculture, imitating the conspiracies that are spreading in social media channels.

In terms of design, Ferrari builds on simple effects of photographic alienation in order to advance the intrigues of the rumours. The negative becomes the pattern for decoding. Bright facades appear mystically darkened, daylight suddenly blackened in reversal. The tips of shadowy Manhattan canyons sparkle like torches. Normal chemical processes mutate into will-o'-the-wisps as in alchemy. Manhattan turns pale as magnesium. Then, for the first time, the images reveal what they ward off: disbelief, fear, the magical and evil.

Where do the speaking architectural forms come from? – is it just trivial visual additions or thoughtless appropriations of style? – is it post-modern gimmicks avant la lettre that cannot stand the uniformity of the facades and therefore have to adorn themselves with narrative architecture, sometimes putting on Gothic tips, sometimes Masonic-Egyptian crowns? Or is it actually a sign of a hidden message or even a symbol of extraterrestrial intervention that only dons the robe of reliability in order to play an abysmal game? Any suspicion is a toxic injection.



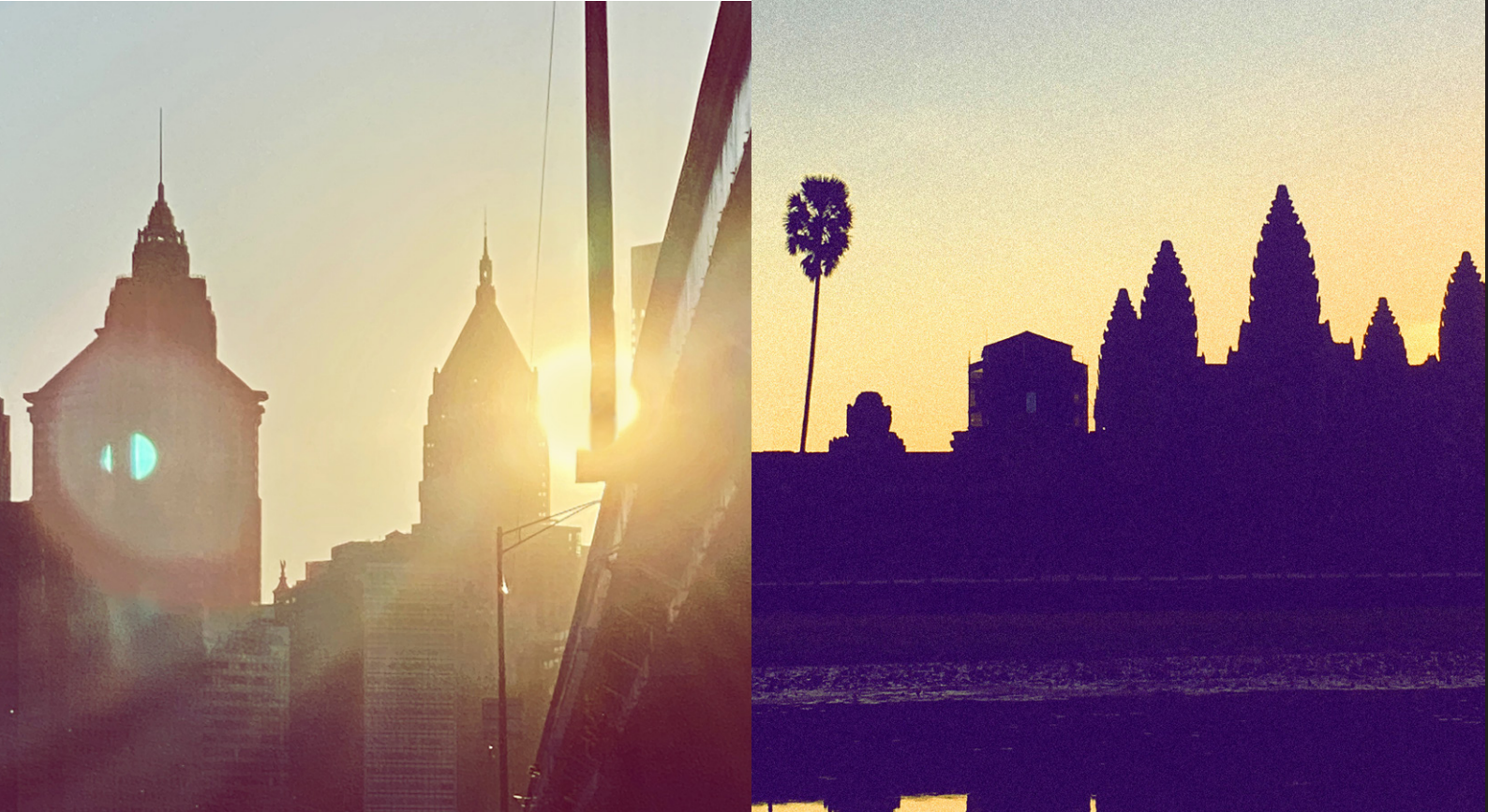
Double page from the artist book **Hyperstitious Houses** (ed. Karin Ferrari), with independent publisher, 2027.
 Images: **The Gym**, Mustika Resort & Spa, Yogyakarta 2018; **To Cosmology**, Alcohol-based marker on Paper, 50 x 65 cm, 2020

Ferrari finds clues in hotel complexes in Bali. Clues are the ingredients of all conspiratorial hunches. Residential buildings and temples, Mentos Mints and incense sticks, water slides and Neptune quotes, Coke cans and shrines are found in the same ambience: the differences between commerce and cult are leveled. What does the pseudo-sacral have to say? Is a mysterious power in the game?

Ferrari's work could not be more timely. During the first two weeks after the onset of the Corona crisis, the project of enlightenment experienced its historical climax. The goal of enlightenment, the objectification of arguments and the rationality of judgment seems to have been fully realized. Experts take the floor, facts and premises from medicine and mathematics provide the guidelines for behavior. Politicians act according to the guidelines of science, the churches refrain from worship services. But the triumph of reason is short-lived. As the crisis continues, the antitheses are nourished. Resistant views begin to ferment, fueled by suspicion and the lust for slander. In some political camps, the conspiracies are even gaining the upper hand. Unconfirmed reports have long been circulating not only in the Darknet channels. That the Enlightenment dialectic is undermining their project was an insight of Horkheimer/Adorno during the middle of the last century. Nonetheless, the thesis of reason unleashing resistance to itself hardly seems more substantiated than in the last few months since the beginning of the crisis.

Karin Ferrari imitates the principles that conspiracy theories use: the general suspicion that feeds on small details in order to undermine trust in one's own powers of judgment. What makes their projects so valuable: This happens in artistic processing and after patient research. Ferrari calls her art a "crazy iconology". The world of malignant thoughts returns in it, but not as a continuation of the conspiracy, but in a reverse thrust, as mimicry and clever art.

— Thomas Trummer, Director Kunsthau Bregenz
 Bregenz December 16, 2020
 On the occasion of the presentation of the Art Prize of the City of Innsbruck 2020 to Karin Ferrari



Double page from the artist book **Hyperstitious Houses** (ed. Karin Ferrari), with independent publisher, 2027.
Images: Manhattan Bridge, 2020, Temple City Angkor Wat, 2018

KARIN FERRARI

Hyperstitious Houses

Mystical motifs sneak into our everyday lives. The boundaries between sacred and profane space are highly porous, something that struck me during research trips in South East Asia. Like many other Western tourists, I found it challenging at times to distinguish between sacred and secular spaces within traditional Balinese residential compounds. Temples doubled as living rooms, furnished with TVs and sofas. In shopping centers, Coca-Cola cans and Mentos mints were arranged as offerings alongside incense sticks and votive figurines. In a street nook tangled with electrical cables, a roadside shrine.

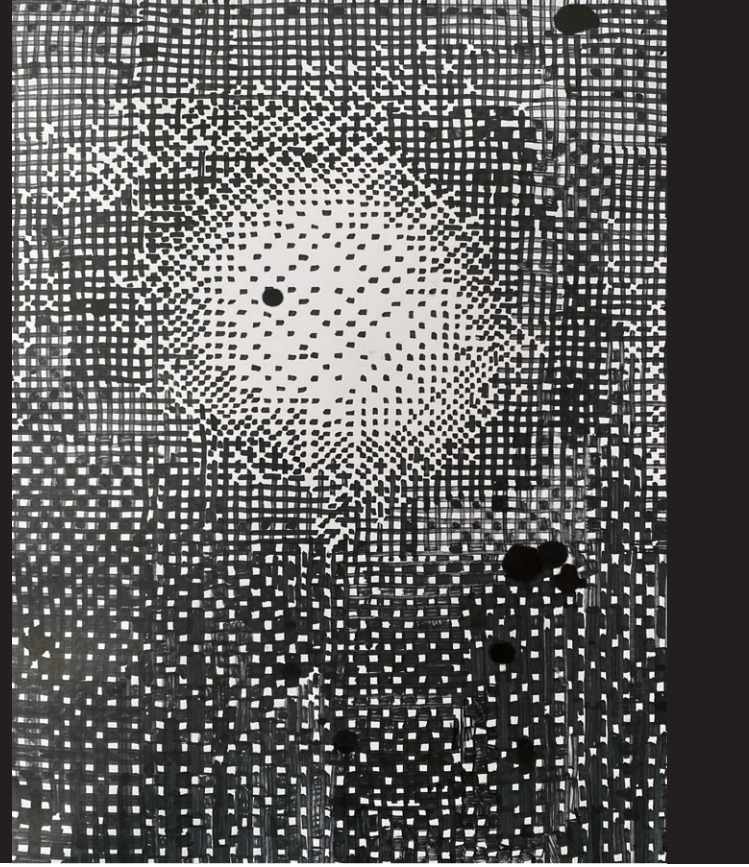
Back at the hotel, it dawned on me how deeply ingrained the division between the sacred and the profane is in the Western worldview and how artificial it is. Floating in the hotel pool, I became preoccupied with imagining what it might feel like to exist in a world where spirit and matter aren't perceived as two irreconcilable realms. I tried to perceive my surroundings—the pool bar, the columns on the hotel façade, the temple-like structure that served as a façade concealing the technical infrastructure of the pool's waterslide, the glittery garden statue of the elephant god, and the distant street noise—without judgment. Without immediately dismissing it as some meaningless kitch. I can't claim this exercise brought me to the non-dual shores of enlightenment. Still, it did cast the many sacred references in hotel architecture in a new and intriguing light.

Following this experience in Bali, I extended my travels across Southeast Asia and the United States, documenting pseudo-sacred architecture wherever I found it. The research and my experiences developed into a series of texts and short stories that were produced as the spoken word album *Freaky Fairy Flux Foundation* with the musician Francesco Fonassi and released as Heart of Noise Edition 11.

— Karin Ferrari. Excerpt from Interview with Wowart Magazine, London, 2024



Dream Spells / Outr Flux, ink, pastel and pencil on paper, 30 x 42 cm, 2025, Courtesy of CCA Andratx



Megamyth, ink, pastel and pencil on paper, 30 x 42 cm, 2025, Courtesy of CCA Andratx

These works on paper evolve from my video practice, where I traced hand-drawn animation, diagrams, and text directly on the trackpad—a literal digitalism, linking the finger (digitus) to digital. I explore the coexistence of machine aesthetics, digital artifacts, and traces of the hand within the same flat space. Works like *Dream Spells / Outr Flux* and *Megamyth* translate glitch and digital aesthetics into hand-drawn gestures, exploring the interplay of human imagination and machine logic. My interest in negative space, coloring the void rather than the form, originates from woodcut practice during a 2019 Amsterdam residency. This inversion amplifies the tension between presence and absence, digital and hand, structure and chaos, creating a space where time, memory, technology, and myth collide.



Disanimated Integration Ceremony Acryl on Canvas, 80 x 100 cm, 2024



Double page from the artist book **Hyperstitious Houses** (ed. Karin Ferrari), with independent publisher, 2027.
Images: *Fairy Garden Parabol Parabola*, Burgenland, Austria, 2025; *Ta Prohm Pringels Shrine*, Angkor Wat, Cambodia, 2018.



Double page from the artist book **Hyperstitious Houses** (ed. Karin Ferrari), with independent publisher, 2027.
 Images: *Bali Street Nook*, 2018; *Agip Shrine*, Ai generated Image, 2025

ERIK DAVIS

Trash Mystic

In his 1981 novel *Valis*, Philip K. Dick wrote that “the symbols of the divine initially show up at the trash stratum.” This is no throw-away line. For Dick, this quip conceals an ontology, a hope, and a cultural practice. But to see these dimensions you first you need to unpack – or rather, uncompact – the meaning of the “trash stratum.” Here Dick was inspired, at least in part, by the logic of inversion that drives so much Christian myth: the last is made first, the rejected stone becomes the cornerstone, and God dies a lowly criminal’s death. (...) The trash stratum also refers to cultural hierarchies. In the early 1980s, when Dick was writing, trash referred to a rejected zone of cultural production – punk rock 45s, monster movies, comic books, and, well, pulp science-fiction novels like the ones Dick cranked out to survive. In the early 1980s, when an increasingly conservative mainstream culture recaptured and reterritorialized the more utopian energies released by the counterculture, sacred and otherwise, this marginalia crackled with resistance because it was too weird to assimilate. As such, the trash stratum also embedded a praxis. Inspired by the spiritual guerillas of gnostic myth, redeeming the sparks of the true God from the demiurge’s prison planet, or by the underground Christians persecuted in pagan Rome, Dick believed that cultural struggle could still be waged from the (cultural and ontological) margins. Dick’s God was a camouflage God: faced with the demonic simulacrum of the Spectacle, which Dick called the Black Iron Prison, “the true God” must mimic “sticks and trees and beer cans in gutters.” By presuming to be “trash discarded, debris no longer needed,” God can hide in a foxhole of the discarded, so that he “literally ambushes reality and us as well.”

Karin Ferrari is an artist of the trash stratum and its sacred and subliminal iconography. Working with a wide variety of materials, including digital media, assemblage, and traditional analog craft, the artist has created a body of vexing, funny, and disturbing work that at once actively probes and passively submits itself to contemporary esoteric currents: occult symbolism, technopop paranoia, gnostic conspiratoriality. Not long ago, these currents were pretty marginal concerns, but they have exploded in power and visibility over the last decade, intoxicating our politics, our dreams, and our doomscrolling. And they clearly intoxicated Ferrari as well, who reveled in what she calls “trash mysticism” like few contemporary artists.

Far from a distanced conceptual intervention, Ferrari’s work itself results from obsession, fascination, and the sort of “interpretive drift” that the anthropologist Tanya Luhrmann identified as the mechanism through which once outlandish ideas come to seem plausible. While studying in a traditional fine arts program, and working as a curatorial assistant, Ferrari fell to binge-watching alien conspiracy videos on YouTube. The power of this material derives from a Dickeyan dialectic between weird possibilities, often with sacred or cosmic implications, and the trashy styles and feverish vibes that characterized so many DIY video back in the late 2000s. Ferrari came to understand that YouTube’s trash mysticism did not just draw its iterated stories out of the grab-bag of conspiracy lore

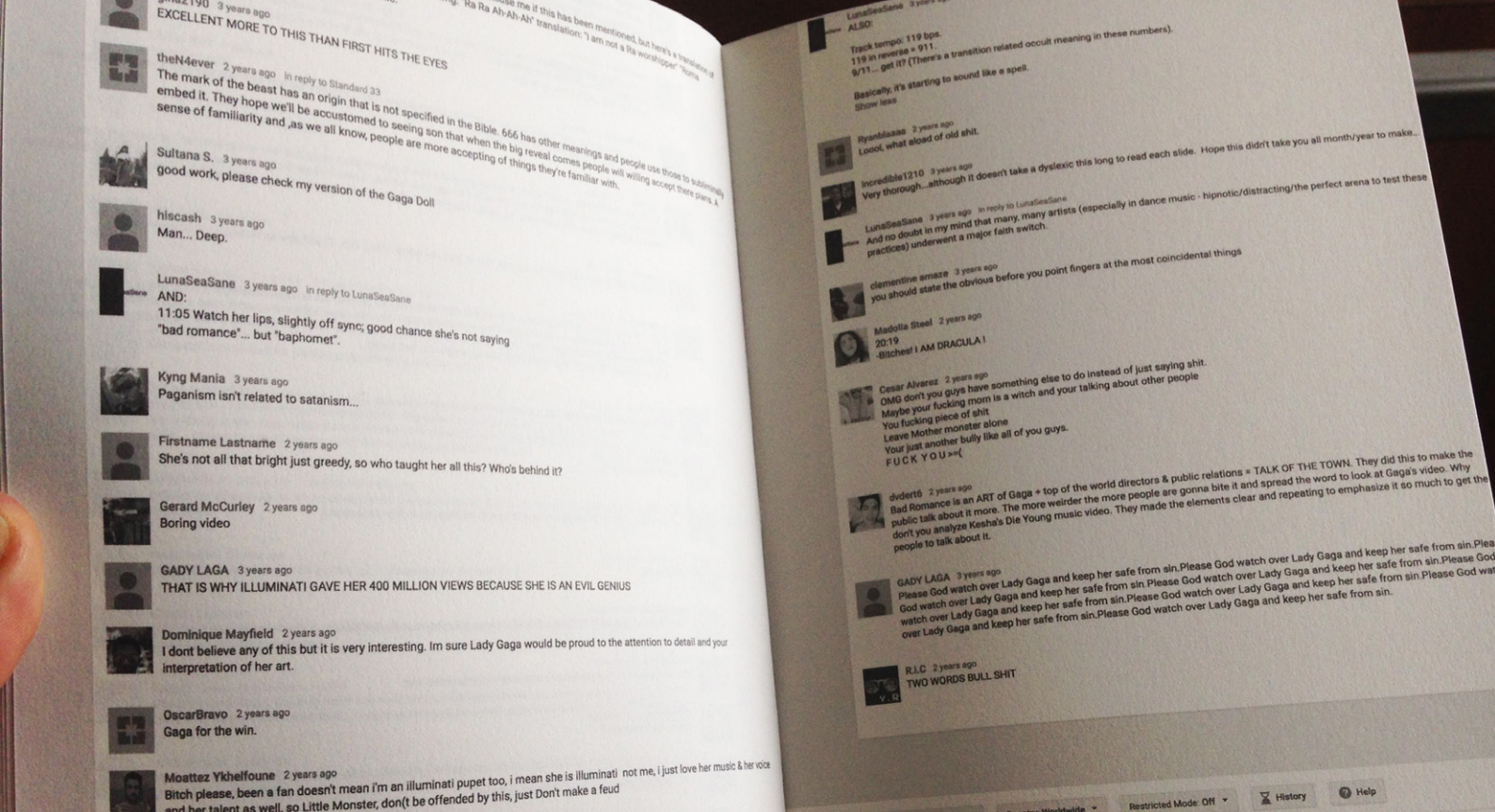


Video still, **DECODING** Katy Perry's *Dark Horse* (**THE WHOLE TRUTH**), 2016

and the paranormal, but unfolded those tales through the critical work of interpreting signs. In other words, these esoteric detectives largely based their narratives on a delirious and sometimes paranoid exegesis of symbols, words, rituals, and visual puns dredged out of the cultural mediascape — a mediascape that had been reframed by this very process into a vast and essentially menacing subliminal text.

Ferrari's response to all this was **DECODING THE TRUTH**, a video series that included a number of largely didactic films devoted to cracking the dark "twilight language" embedded by elites into pop culture, which in Ferrari's work principally focused on revealing the Illuminati symbolism hidden in TV news graphics and high production music videos from pop stars like Katy Perry and Lady Gaga. At once critical deconstructions and parasitic hallucinations, Ferrari's videos were formally indistinguishable from countless other YouTube revelations devoted to unpacking these demonic suggestions. But while it is easy to mock hysterical visions of Hollywood bestiality cults or transhuman techno-Satanists, Ferrari does not mock. Instead, she follows the bread crumbs down the slippery slope. What we discover is not not that there are no conspiracies — its that there are too many! Spend some time with Ferrari's films, and it becomes impossible to believe that some of the symbolism she unpacks was not slipped in for its esoteric implications. Even if the artists and producers are just goofing around, or planting evil Easter eggs to mess with the paranoids, the end result is the same: a pop landscape stained with an apocalyptic occultism whose infectious tropes that have now invaded our own eyes, making it hard as hell to tell the difference between critique and hallucination, programming and parody, eye candy and ritual.

For Dick, at least on his better days, there was still a distinction between God and the trash, a boundary between the holy sparks and the dark materials that camouflaged them. But Ferrari's work suggests that this distinction itself has broken down, another victim of high-bandwidth entropy. What Dick saw as a sacred invasion has become a more daemonic contamination. The sacred is garbage, and the symbols of the divine have become symbols of the malign. The trash stratum is now everywhere and nowhere, as genres that once scraped the bottom of the cultural hierarchy get recirculated through the same audience algorithms as everything else. Fetish porn, superheroes, witchcraft, UFOs, numerology, conspiracy — all this weird stuff now has its fat slice of the attention economy. The hyperactive cannibalism of meme culture now assures that shitposting and Godposting overlap one another, gestures in an extinction prayer at once hermetic and banal.

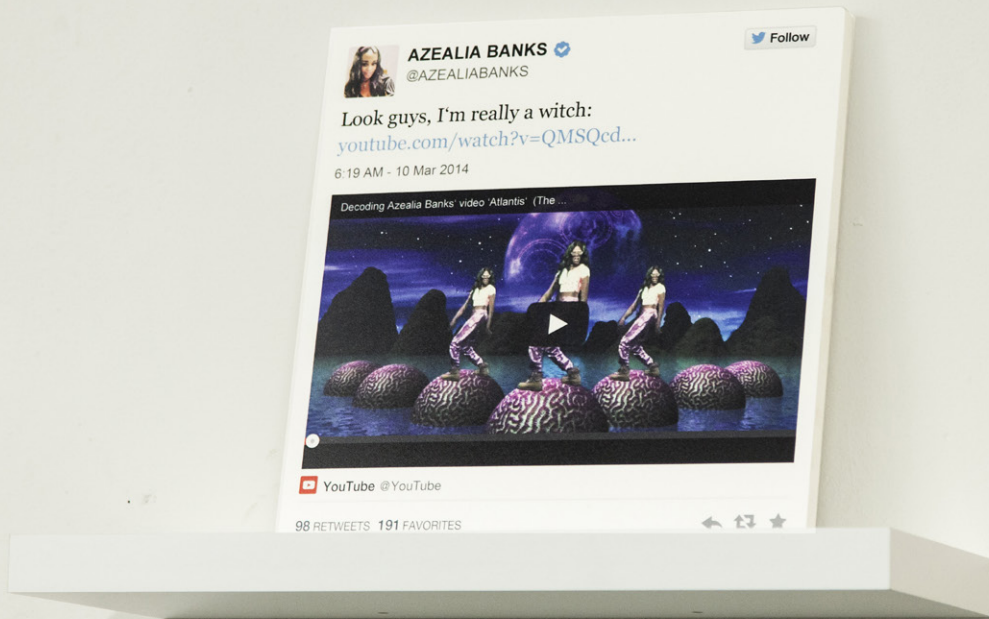


Publication of YouTube comments on Ferrari video DECODING Lady Gaga's Born This Way THE WHOKE TRUTH in **Epidemic Subjects** (Ed. Elisabeth von Samsonow), The University of Chicago Press, Diaphanes, 2017.

The spirit of contamination is reflected in the problem of Ferrari's positionality, perhaps the most provocative and disturbing feature of her work. Is she a believer or a prankster, a doyen or collector, an ethnographer or revelator? Her ambiguous and ambivalent stance breaks one of the unspoken rules for gallery artists who traffic with "problematic" cultural forms: the agreement that at some point or another the artist will give us — viewers, critics, buyers — an indication that they haven't entirely lost their "critical distance" or their outsider commitment to interrogation and transcoding. By largely refusing to give us this knowing wink, Ferrari stokes our anxiety about where she is actually coming from. This is the secret she carries, and it lends the work itself the glow of contamination, a fear of ideological impurity that has only grown more intense as conspiratorality has grown more aggressive and disruptive over the years. By not playing it straight, Ferrari allows her work to become a pure symptom, not only of the dark occulture she analyzes, but of its infectious potential as well. We too feel the rabbit hole opening up beneath our feet. But this unsettling warp also forces us to take Ferrari's material more seriously, not only as a potentially threatening social contagion but as a "real picture" of contemporary forms and forces otherwise too weird and nebulous to limn. After all, even the most far-out conspiracy narratives sometimes function as allegories of hyper-objects too elusive to peg with more conventional discursive or analytic tools. So we can laugh at the surface claims that Ferrari makes, like the argument she makes in a 2019 video-essay that an Apple promotional event for the iPhone XS was actually a "megaritual summoning of the A.I. Overlord." But it is harder to chuckle at the implied depths of this creepy argument, for those insidious depths, where ads and algorithms drive posthuman mutation into overdrive, are now our own, every time we tap that succulent screen.

(...)

Excerpt from ERIK DAVIS Trash Mystic
Full Text here <http://karinferrari.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/erikdavis.pdf>



AZEALIA'S TWEET, Bar du Bois, 2014. Photo von Phillip Gerlach



Video installation **The Lost Goddess. DECODING Born This Way by Lady Gaga** ECK Museum of Art, Brunico, 2024

DECODING THE WHOLE TRUTH

For many years, Ferrari's primary artistic medium was video. Her experimental docu-fiction series **DECODING THE WHOLE TRUTH** claims to reveal hidden messages embedded in global media culture. The series (mis)interprets symbolism in music videos, advertisements, and television news openings. Inspired by the 'weird part of YouTube' of the early 2010s, Ferrari developed her own theory fictions after spending one night binge-watching videos about reptilian shape-shifting news reporters.

In her video series **DECODING THE WHOLE TRUTH**, Karin Ferrari approaches the ubiquitous changes in the handling and perception of information or disinformation on the internet. Conspiracy theories, fake news, modern myths, so-called 'urban legends', pseudoscientific theories and esoteric utopias are experiencing a boom thanks to the internet and are setting the scene for current debates. Witty and ironically, the artist picks up these contents. As a digital flaneur, she wanders through social media, YouTube and relevant blogs or databases, constructing 'mystery-docus' video works on various topics, skillfully interweaving facts with falsehoods, speculation, and rumors into a compelling artistic Zeitgeist analysis.'

— Jury statement, RLB Art Award 2018

DECODING Filmography

The Lost Goddess. **DECODING Born This Way by Lady Gaga**, 24 min, 2022
DECODING Taylor Swift's **LWYMMMD**, 25 min, 2019
DECODING The iPhone Xs: A Techno-Magical Portal, 13 min, 2018
DECODING US TV News Intros – Pt. 1., 8 min, 2018
DECODING The FIFA World Cup Logo, 11 min, 2018
DECODING The Mysteries of Antarctica (**THE WHOLE TRUTH**), 11 min, 2017
HYPERCONNECTED THE WHOLE PICTURE, 4 min, 2017
DECODER La Terre, 2 min, 2017
DECODING Die Intros der ZiB (**THE WHOLE TRUTH**), 20 min, 2016
DECODING Katy Perry's **Dark Horse** (**THE WHOLE TRUTH**), 20 min, 2016
DECODING Reuter's Business As Usual For Siemens in Russia, 10 min, 2014
DECODING Azealia Bank's **Atlantis** (**THE WHOLE TRUTH**), 27, 2013
DECODING Lady Gaga's **Bad Romance** (**THE WHOLE TRUTH**), 19 min, 2011



The Lost Goddess. DECODING Born This Way

Experimental docu-fiction, 22:22 min, 2022

[LINK https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQUfocSeGBc&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQUfocSeGBc&t=2s)

IVANA MARJANOVIC

Performative Theory

Karin Ferrari's video installation *The Lost Goddess. DECODING Born This Way* by Lady Gaga (2020-2023) belongs to the series *DECODING (The Whole Truth)* that analyses music video clips and other pop cultural images revealing their supposedly hidden messages. These videos are part of Ferrari's "trash mysticism" concept and they operate autonomously as youtube videos and as artworks exhibited in art spaces.

Using complexly constructed performative theory, based on the analysis of the occult meanings in Lady Gaga's video clip, the work builds a counter argument that Lady Gaga's music video *Born This Way* does not represent a "satanic" discourse (or rather a naïve superficial notion of what would be "satanic"). On contrary, it is a medium in which the oppressed primordial Earth and fertility Goddess (the fallen or lost Goddess), her cult, female power and sovereignty manifest. We hear three persons (including the artist herself) who perform an analytical speculation overlaying the video, looking at different aspects of Lady Gaga's means of expression, from costumes to choreography and text. They interpret this material using different contemporary and historical analogies, images, and symbols. Imitating the logic of conspiracy theories and paranoid narratives that circulate online (secret meanings, alien theories etc.), Karin Ferrari performs an ironic and humorous deconstruction of misogynist, patriarchal, homophobic concepts, contrasting them with what she calls "esoteric utopian desires." Bringing up alternative representations, such as the Lost Goddess, that was imagined beyond binary gender principles as a hermaphrodite, she contributes to non-essentialist feminist representations. Further, in this analysis, the topics of life and creation are also inseparable from darkness and death.

Great part of the analysis is focused on the corrective interpretation where the figure of devil is understood as a demonized version of the archetypes of the Mother and the Earth goddess, recalling the female practices and forms of power, knowledge about the physical world, medicine, body and birth, proposing an alternative version of creation myths of life and the universe that contest the Christian narrative (pointing to multiple knowledge and spiritual traditions). The way Lady Gaga presents herself in the music video (inventing the figure of Mother Monster) recalls ancient religious concepts of universal goddesses that used to embody seemingly contradicting aspects, namely fertility and annihilation. This reading recalls and affirms a cyclical understanding of life and death. Death symbolism represents the Lost Goddess's power over both life and death recalling the ancient interpretation of death as a creative force which is essential for the preservation of life.

— Ivana Marjanovic, Director Kunstraum Innsbruck
Catalogue Text for 'When We Move It's A Movement', Kunstraum Innsbruck 2024



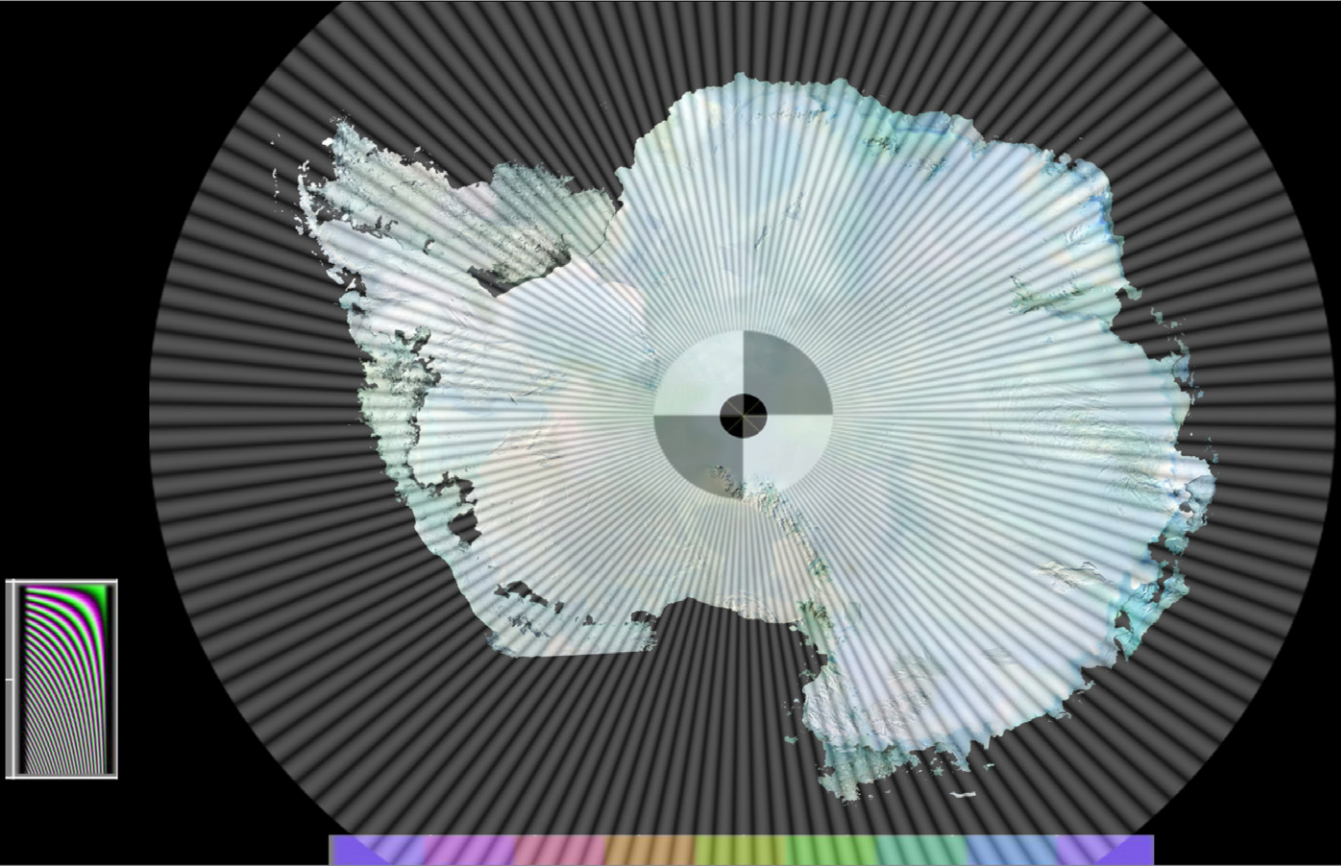
Video installation **The Lost Goddess. DECODING Born This Way by Lady Gaga**, 2022 in the exhibition *When We Move it's A Movement*, Kunstraum Innsbruck, 2023

NINA TABASSOMI

DECODING THE WHOLE TRUTH

Karin Ferrari scours internet video platforms for esoteric and conspiratorial explanations from various subcultures. She weaves these findings, drawing on academic research and her own imagination, into highly ambivalent audiovisual decoding narratives. In *DECODING The Mysteries of Antarctica (THE WHOLE TRUTH)*, she interprets historical and contemporary representations and symbols as evidence of extraterrestrial populations and other obscure secrets of Antarctica. Ferrari's videos create suggestive causal chains from collaged found footage and custom animations. While they amplify the allure of each link in the argument, they also make us hesitant to fully believe, as the thread of pearls seems on the verge of breaking. On one hand, the meticulously detailed decoding scenarios create a seductive pull; on the other, they reveal the underlying delusional hubris in their seamless yet absurd transitions. The voice-over, which connects the images, simultaneously unravels them. We hear Ferrari's own voice, attempting ironically and in vain to mimic a computer-generated tone. Ferrari's voice oscillates between the poles of "the whole truth" and a medium for whispered ghost voices, reacting with bemused wonder to its own proclamations. Rather than decoding the subjects indicated in the title, Ferrari's work absurdly spells out the stylesheet of truth production and plausibility strategies on the internet, questioning what debates about our world prosumers on digital platforms are actually engaging in when they exchange seemingly occult and extraterrestrial messages.

— Nina Tabassomi, director Taxispalais - Kunsthalle Tirol



DECODING The Mysteries of Antarctica

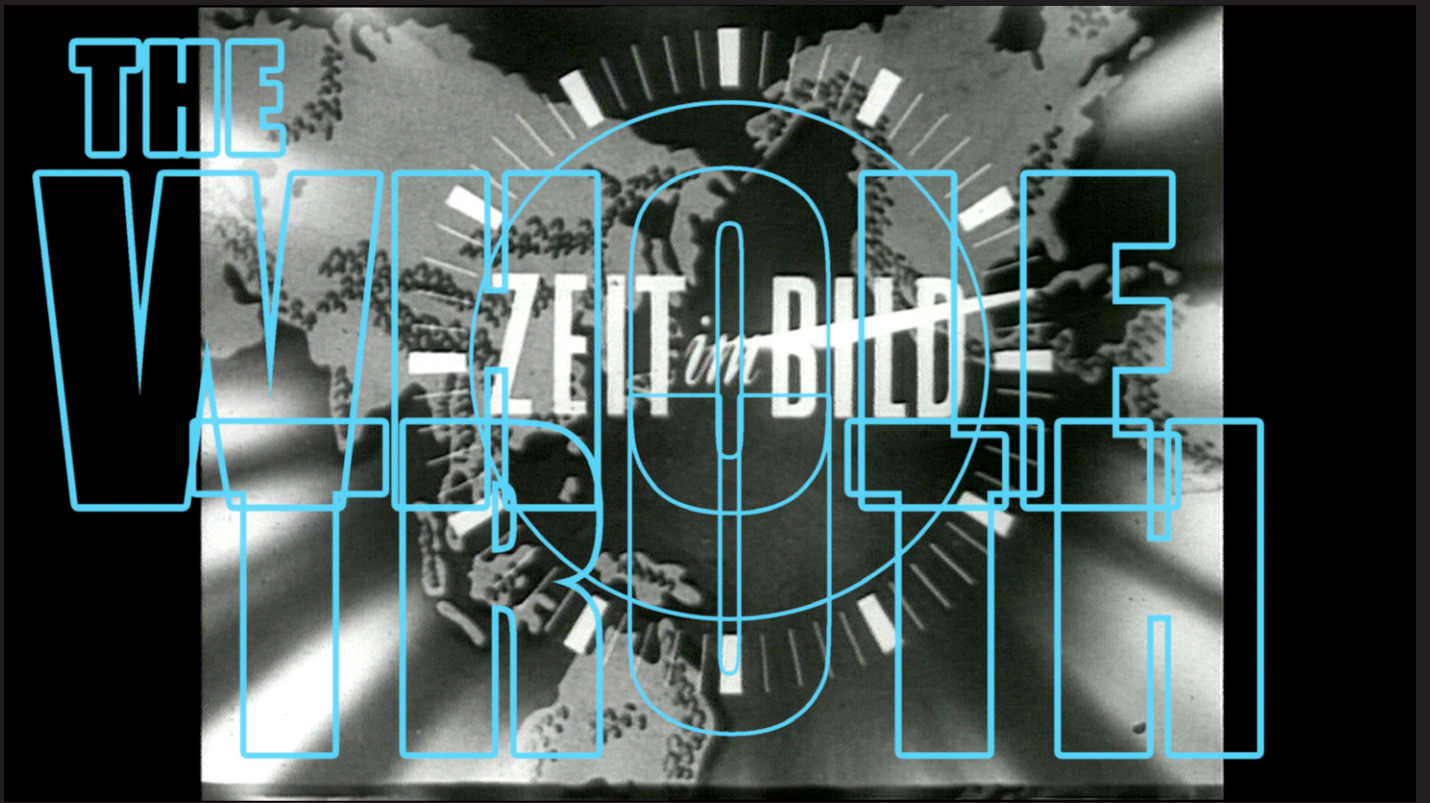
Experimental docu-fiction, Englisch HD 16.9, 11 min, 2017

LINK https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGUfUQa_FIMv

The short film *DECODING The Mysteries of Antarctica (THE WHOLE TRUTH)* claims to uncover the secrets of Antarctica through the maps, symbols, and iconographies representing the continent. The film was created for the 1st Antarctic Biennale in 2017.

Karin Ferrari's dangerous expedition through the murky terrain of Antarctic 'alternative facts' has resulted in a suitably distorted documentary. The revelation of the Secrets of Antarctica (THE WHOLE TRUTH) premiered aboard the research vessel Akademik Sergei Vavilov after it had crossed the Antarctic Circle.

— Nadim Samman, Curator of Antarctic Biennale 2017



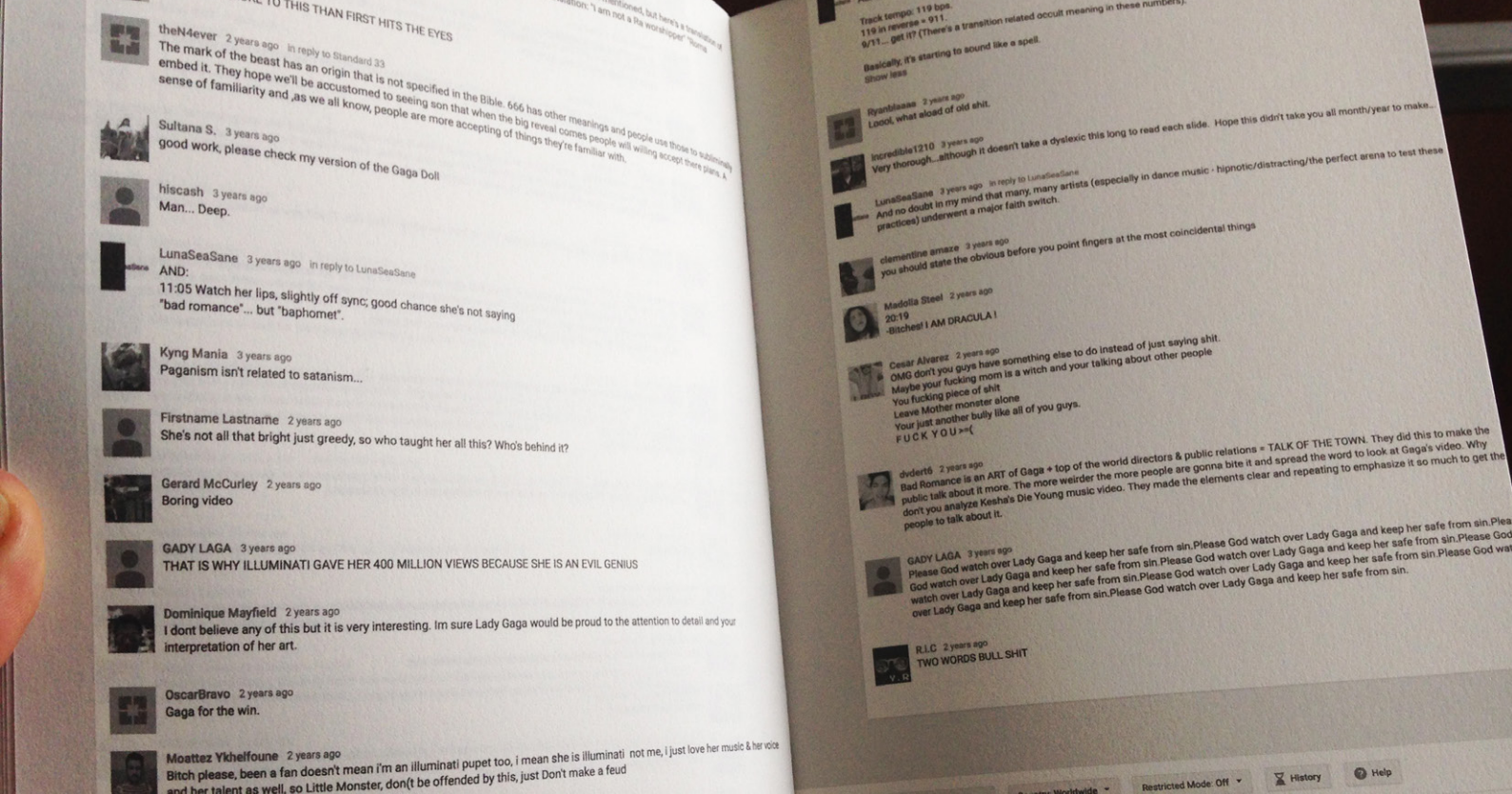
DECODING Die Intros der ZiB (THE WHOLE TRUTH)

Experimental docu-fiction, German, English subtitles, 25 min, 2016

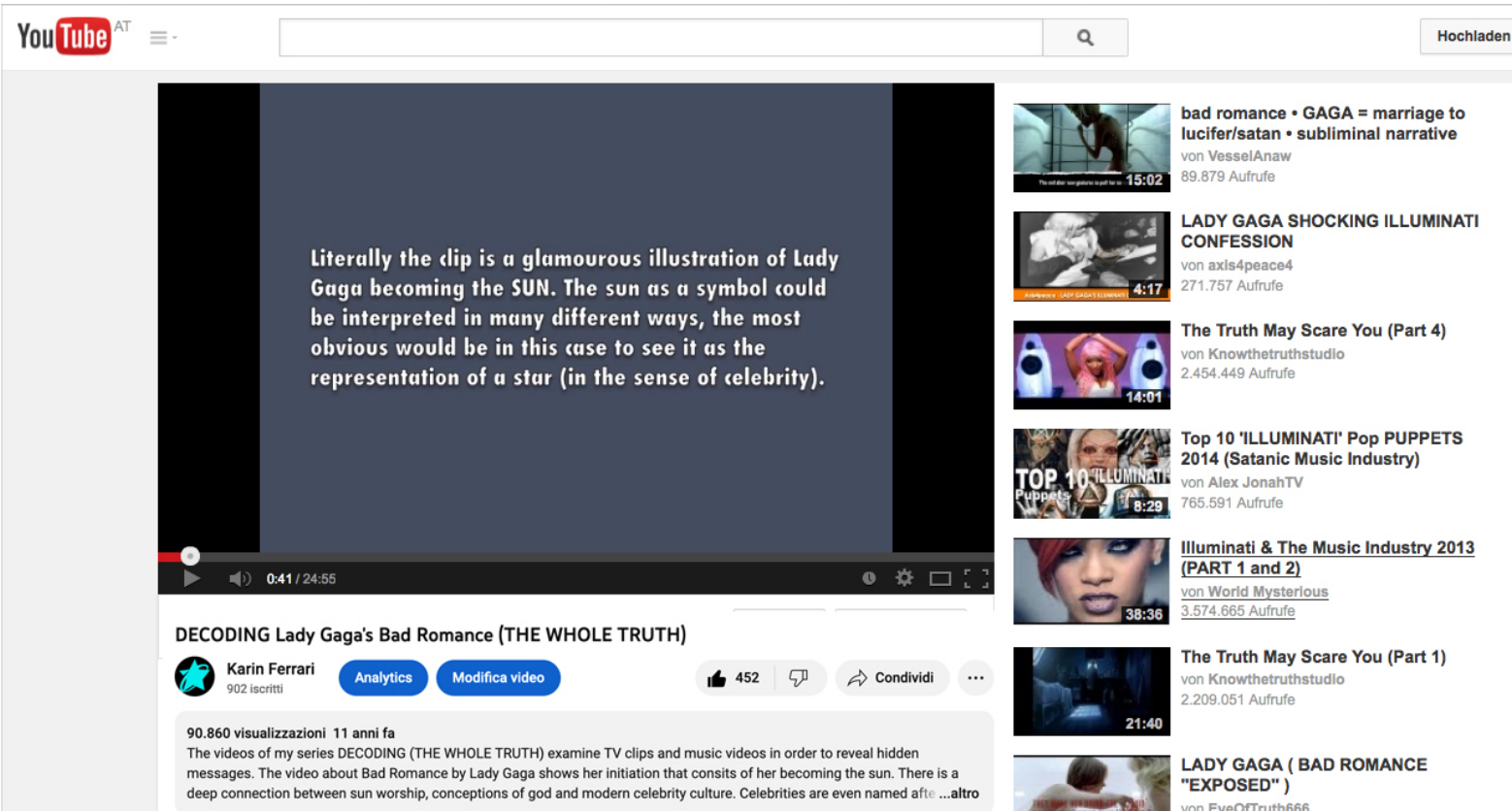
LINK https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_w_pB-4odE

News reports are required to be neutral, but the opening graphics of the news are anything but neutral. The opening graphics stage the news. They are intended to convey the impression of being up-to-date, objectivity and competence, they suggests authority and want to arouse interest.

The short film DECODING Austria's News (THE WHOLE TRUTH) (original title: DECODING Die Intros der ZiB (THE WHOLE TRUTH)) claims to reveal a surplus of meaning hidden within the the opening credits of Austria's main national television news magazine Zeit im Bild. The video is inspired by counter-cultural YouTube videos on the threshold of academic theory, political paranoia and speculative fiction. The narration focuses on the symbolic abstractions of the world globe and of time in the news' opening graphics, because these images are representative of the respective dominant world view and Zeitgeist. DECODING Austria's News (THE WHOLE TRUTH) was created with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Arts and Culture for Pixel, Bytes & Film an experimental TV art program of the Austrian national TV channel ORFIII and broadcast on the Austrian national TV channel ORFIII.



Publication of the screenshots of comments on my YouTube videos in *Epidemic Subjects* (Ed. Elisabeth von Samsonow), The University of Chicago Press, Diaphanes, 2017.



Screenshot of YouTube's recommendation feature from 2014 when the algorithm pushed polarizing content. Video still from Karin Ferrari *DECODING Lady Gaga's Bad Romance (THE WHOLE TRUTH)*, 2011

DECODING Lady Gaga's Bad Romance (THE WHOLE TRUTH)

Experimental docu-fiction, 19:00 min, 2011

[LINK https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20x93d0Ghdg&t=1077s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20x93d0Ghdg&t=1077s)

DECODING Lady Gaga's Bad Romance (THE WHOLE TRUTH) was Ferrari's first *DECODING* video. The video claims that Lady Gaga's music video *Bad Romance* tells the story of her occult initiation by means of ancient Egyptian sun symbolism — a motif present in many pop music videos.

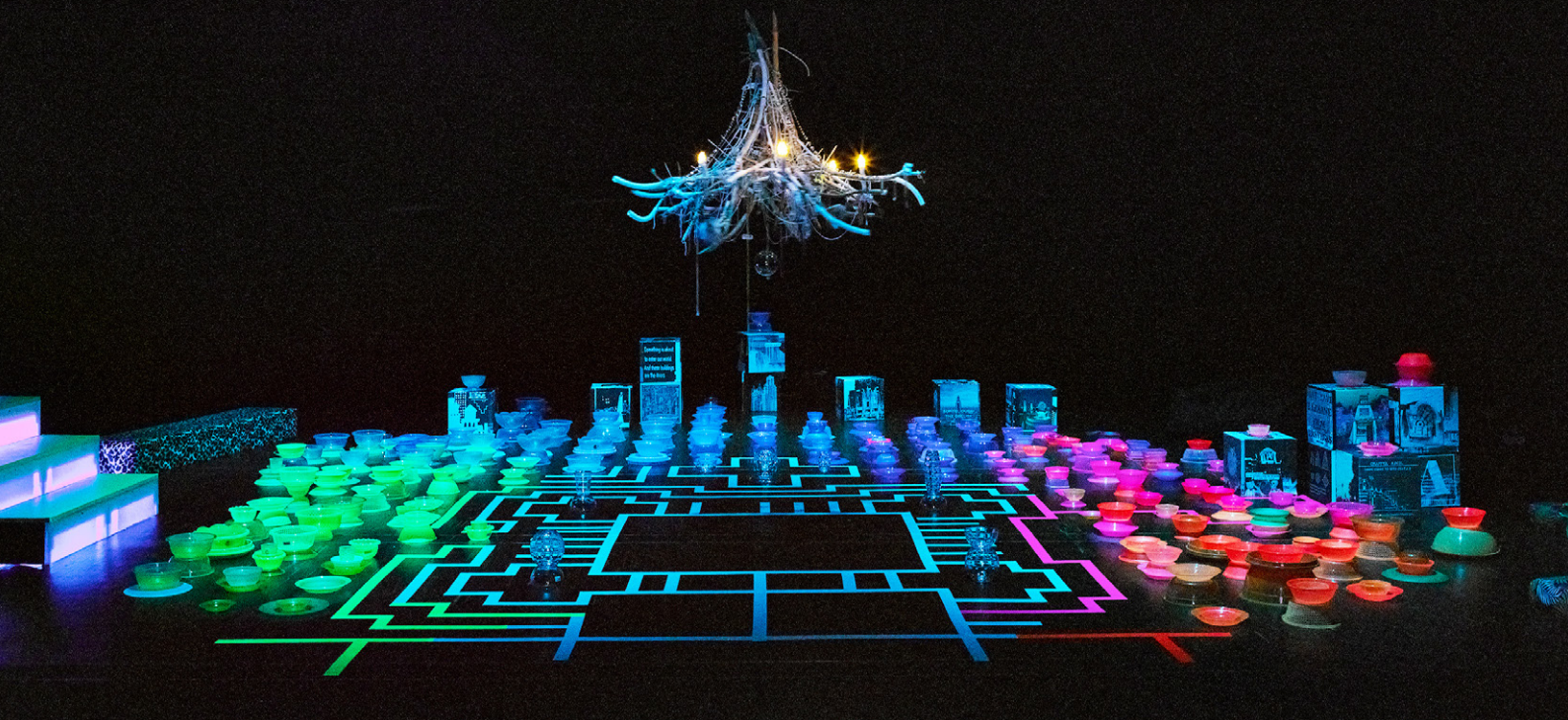
Karin Ferrari's *DECODING THE WHOLE TRUTH* video series was inspired by a particular genre of YouTube videos that gained prominence in the early 2010s. These were largely self-made, experimental, low-budget, trashy documentaries existing in a strange intersection of pop culture, paranoia, and esoteric fascination. These videos were characterized by their trashy aesthetics, unconventional editing, and an intense focus on uncovering hidden truths or secret knowledge, blending spirituality, conspiracy theories, and fringe science.

Examples of such videos include:

- **Beyonce 7/11 Music Video Illuminati Symbols Exposed**
- **Reptilian Shapeshifter Caught on Camera During Live News Broadcast**
- **Alien Races & Galactic Federations: The Pleiadians, Greys, and Reptilians**
- **Channeling the Ashtar Command: Messages from the Galactic Federation of Light**
- **Jay-Z: Illuminati Puppet Exposed – Hidden Occult Symbols in 'On to the Next One'**
- **Reptilian Aliens Control the British Royal Family**
- **The Moon is a Hologram: Proof of the Lunar Matrix and Alien Bases**
- **CERN and the Opening of Portals to Other Dimensions: The Hidden Agenda**



Temple of Ga Ga, Vorbrenner Projekt im BRUX - Freies Theater Innsbruck, 2022 Foto: WEST



Temple of Ga Ga

Sound installation, 27 min, 9m x 9m. (Adaptable) Plastic bowls imported from Indonesia, masking tape, downwood, e-waste, wallpapered cubes. Sound by Karin Ferrari (spoken word) and Francesco Fonassi (music). A Vorbrenner project at the BRUX - experimental TheaterInnsbruck, October 2022. Stadtmuseum Bruneck, March 2023. RfdInsel and Heart of Noise Festival, Innsbruck 2023, Galerie am Stadtplatz, Wörgl November 2023. Made with support of the city of Innsbruck, Land Tirol and Autonome Provinz Bozen-Südtirol. Fridericianum Dokfest Kassel 2024 with support by Bundesministeriums für Kunst, Kultur, öffentlichen Dienst und Sport, Sektion IV – Kunst und Kultur

Tape made in collaboration with the musician and sound artist Francesco Fonassi.

Music by Francesco Fonassi.

Spoken word, texts, font and image by Karin Ferrari

Heart of Noise Edition 11 released with Villa Recordings, Design by Another Studio, Brescia, 2023

>> **FULL ALBUM** <https://villarec.bandcamp.com/album/freaky-fairy-flux-foundation>

During my research trips across Southeast Asia as part of the BMKÖS Artist Residency in Yogyakarta in 2018, I documented hotels, banks, and other commercial structures that imitate the forms and atmospheres of sacred architecture. Alongside this photographic research, I wrote a series of feverish short stories exploring spaces where commerce, ritual, and belief collapse into one another. This research became the foundation for the sound installation TEMPLE OF GA GA.

The installation combines material objects, storytelling, sound, and sensory perception into a psychedelic environment. Its central elements are plastic bowls collected in Indonesia and transported to Europe for a fortune. First exhibited in 2019 at the Diözesanmuseum Brixen alongside a medieval communion chalice (the original Temple to Go) the objects create a dialogue between contemporary forms of belief, everyday materials, and historical religious artifacts.

The sound component of TEMPLE OF GA GA was created in collaboration with sound artist Francesco Fonassi. The spoken texts, written and performed by me, continue the narrative approach of my video series DECODING THE WHOLE TRUTH (2011–2022), in which my voice often appears as an off-screen narrator. The spoken-word compositions later developed into the album FREAKY FAIRY FLUX FOUNDATION. Original music and soundscapes were produced using analog synthesizers such as the Buchla 200 and Korg MS-10, while the voice was processed through tape machines and vintage tape echoes.

The texts are semi-fictional adventures and mystery stories inspired by my research journeys through Southeast Asia. Set within ordinary environments, a shopping mall, a hotel, a temple ruin complex, or even imagined layers of cosmic waste, they explore magical realist scenarios in which the boundaries between the sacred and the profane, the spiritual and the commercial, become unstable. Each location transforms into a metaphorical landscape beyond its physical reality, revealing hidden mythologies embedded within contemporary culture.



Freaky Fairy Flux Foundation, Heart of Noise, RfdInsel, Innsbruck, 2023

Star Wiring Mall

Spoken Word Track, Heart of Noise Edition 11 released with Villa Recordings, 2022. 04:55 min

Text and Voice by Karin Ferrari.

Music by Francesco Fonassi

>> [LINK TO TRACK https://villarec.bandcamp.com/track/star-wiring-mall](https://villarec.bandcamp.com/track/star-wiring-mall)

>> [FULL ALBUM https://villarec.bandcamp.com/album/freaky-fairy-flux-foundation](https://villarec.bandcamp.com/album/freaky-fairy-flux-foundation)

Three times I dreamt of standing, on the roof of an empty shopping mall, at night, all by myself. In front of me the never ending sound of waves crashing against the shore. And around me the infinite black space of a starless night and the warm sweet smell of Frangipani trees.



Kuta, epicentre of Bali tourist hell. I rented a cheap room, close to the Bali Beachwalk Mall, an open air mall, right at the beach.

Everything around the mall was trashed, and kind of nasty. There were street cooking and street dogs, and too much, of everything. Tourists, scooters, dust. Then out of nowhere raises this immaculate white, spherical UFO of a shopping mall, right at the oceanfront.

Between the palms, burger king colonnades and koi fish ponds my Starbucks.

And that's where this weird encounter happened.

As I'm waiting for my coffee in the shades of the arcade my gaze wanders across the hall, to this offering on the floor, next to the door of a hairstylist.

You know, in Bali I've seen holy shrines, things and offerings everywhere, in the most unexpected places. Even at the mall.

So there's this pretty sacrificial offering on the floor. In a little basket braided from banana leaves, there are flowers, a statue, incense sticks. But also stuff like Mentos Mints and a Ritz cracker.

I'm fascinated how this small object in front of me smashes the order of things. Fusing worlds and actions I thought belong to separate realms, that rarely touch, the sacred and the profane.

The waiter shouts my Starbucks name and rips me out of my thoughts.

We exchange some words and I say something like... Oh that's cool to make an offering for the gods at the mall.

The guy looks straight at me and says. No gods. Sari on floor, for demon.

I stare at him in disbelief. He smiles and goes on, making coffee in his mall, where humans and demons peacefully coexist, soothed by kind offerings.





Temple of Ga Ga, Vorbrenner Projekt im BRUX - Freies Theater Innsbruck, 2022. Foto: West

Bakong Temple

Spoken Word Track, Heart of Noise Edition 11 released with Villa Recordings, 7:47 min 2022.

Text and Voice by Karin Ferrari.

Music by Francesco Fonassi

LINK TO TRACK <https://villarec.bandcamp.com/track/travel-myth-bakong-2>

>> FULL ALBUM <https://villarec.bandcamp.com/album/freaky-fairy-flux-foundation>

The static noise of an empty VHS tape was filling the room when I opened my eyes. I must have fallen asleep while listening to the Plejadian message. YouTube Autoplay feature had picked up some vapor wave.

My head felt clear for the first time in forever, like my body had released the tension and background noise it carries around as the dancing pixels on the glitching screen.

And then it just hit me. There was no escape from the labyrinth of mind chatter and simulations. Except by an entirely new road.



So I traveled to South East Asia to find my self and feel the energy and sprit of 5 Star Spas and Luxury.

After getting used to the permanent life treating situations of earthquakes, airplane crashes, tsunami, traffic and non vegan food I got my own motorbike and drove all the way from Indonesia to Angkor Watt, Cambodia.

There is this one main road leading to Siem Reap and the lost city of Angkor. Its eight lanes wide and has the most insane traffic imaginable. Since thousands of years this road is traveled. It was part of the silk road, an ancient network that connected East and West. You can feel the pull inscribed in this route like the flow of a river.

The last kilometers leading into the the city center were flanked by hundreds of flags with the same advertisement. Some telecommunication service provider was selling something for 6,66 Dollars per month.

So in the corner of my eye this weird number pops up in a constant rhythm, and so did the hotels. Huge buildings that appear as these gigantic, monumental temple fakes, sad, superficial, sacred, architectural fictions, with massive gates, and oversized statues and pillars for Chinese tourist groups that arrive in busses over the weekend.

Siem Reap. What a strange name for a city. When you have it spelled out before you it looks so contradictory, sublime and nasty. Like an alien angelic feline that fell into a cesspit.

And among all the strange things I saw and the curious people I was going to meet there was this particular series of events that still reverberates like a strange dream.

I was driving to BAKong temple. It's the most ancient of all the tower temples, a hidden treasure, far away from the tourist paths, in a remote rural area.





Temple of Ga Ga, Vorbrenner Projekt im BRUX - Freies Theater Innsbruck, 2022. Foto: West

Tricks of the Light

Text for Spoken Word Track by Karin Ferrari, 2022

Sound by Francesco Fonassi

02:15 min

>> [LINK TO TRACK](#)

<https://villarec.bandcamp.com/track/tricks-of-the-light>

Once I was walking through the medieval part of Paris. A blood moon looming over head.

When I saw a pair of cats trotting along an adjacent roof ridge, maybe a hundred yards away. This could have been a trick of the light, confusing perspective, or me being tired, but I swear one of those guys suddenly stood up on his hind legs, looked around, and sauntered down the opposite side of the ridge and out of sight like a guy going for an evening walk.

I just stood there for a few minutes thinking. "That was the weirdest fucking thing I've ever seen."



There's a fucking McDonalds now in one of the old Templar buildings in Jerusalem.

A mendicant, a beggar monk, stood there, in his orange robe and looked straight at me. "Oh stranger, you came back."

A ray of sun hit a cocktail crystal glass and the reflection hit my eye. I had the strange feeling of having seen and experienced this before, many times, and the street in front of me stretched out over this timeline or another.



FREAKY FAIRY FLUX FOUNDATION in der Ausstellung *Monitoring* im KV, Fridericianum beim Dokfest Kassel, 2024. Foto von Nikolas Wefers

Karin Ferrari's work *Freaky Fairy Flux Foundation* is a subversive meditation on the sacred in the age of capitalism. At the heart of the sound installation is the tension between cultural and architectural symbols: mythologically charged spaces, sacred temple structures, malls, spas, and banks—places where people seek fulfillment, whether spiritual or material. In the form of a hyperreal travelogue, the spoken sound compositions, created in collaboration with musician Francesco Fonassi, trace the tourist imperatives of experiencing sacred sites. Plastic bowls, collected from Indonesia's epicenter of global plastic production, transform in their accumulation of superficial objects into a metaphysical space for pause and ritual experience. Everyday objects undergo an aesthetic transformation, trash and esoterica are treated as valuable visual and narrative resources.

With subtle irony, Ferrari illustrates the cultural dilemma surrounding the loss of authentic spiritual experiences. Once serving transcendence, the stages of her journey are now centers of materialism. Ghosts and goods coexist with little disruption, yet even the "interdimensional entities" now struggle for airtime in the attention economy of visitors. It's not always clear whether gods are being summoned or demons exorcised. The deconstruction of religious language in the text reveals the unrestrained appropriation of sacred imagery. Some encounters seem like hallucinations or virtual experiences, repeatedly highlighting the instability of meaning itself.

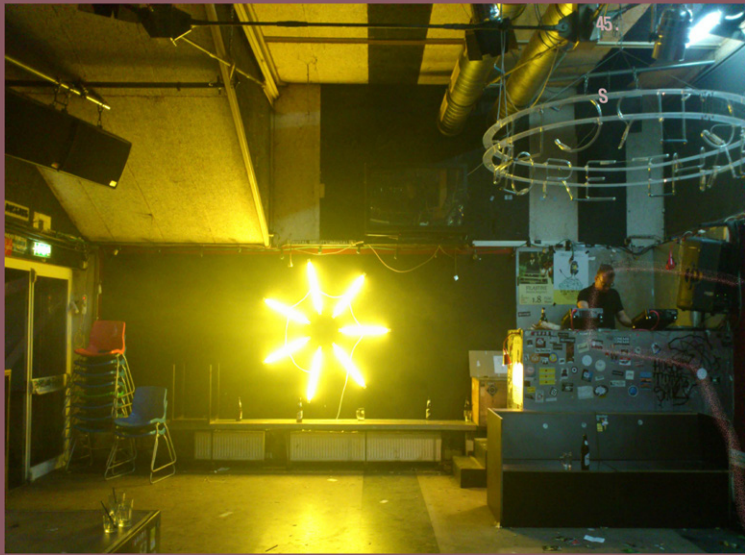
Freaky Fairy Flux Foundation also addresses the destruction of specifically feminine traditions and mysticism. The worship of goddesses was pushed out of religious tradition in the first centuries of Christianity. Numerous symbols of the female body and reproduction as sources of magic and power were removed from the canon in favor of patriarchal interpretations. In her artistic treatment, Karin Ferrari follows the theories of philosopher Silvia Federici, who argues that control over women and their supposedly occult practices was necessary to establish the capitalist order. The processes poetically highlighted in Ferrari's work mirror Federici's argument that female bodies and their productive abilities were deliberately suppressed and disciplined to enable the transition to capitalism.

— MIRIAM SCHMIDTKE

Catalogue text for the exhibition *Monitoring* in the Kasseler Kunstverein, Fridericianum
Dokfest Kassel - the 41. Kasseler Dokumentarfilm- und Videofestes 2024



Wall installation in the exhibition 'Karin Ferrari. Paranjolly Symphony. How the Towers Learned To Dance', Rigo Galeria / Museo Lapidarium, Novigrad, Croatia, 2025.



/ 2026

Karin Ferrari & Juniper Foam

A THOUSAND SUNS

Album cover **A Thousand Suns** Spoken Word Track, Care Of s 45, 19 min, 2026Sketch Soundinstallation **A Thousand Suns** with neon light tubes

A Thousand Suns

Spoken Word Track, released with Care Of Editions, 19 min, 2026

Text and Voice by Karin Ferrari.

Music by Juniper Foam

Mastering: Felipe Vareschi

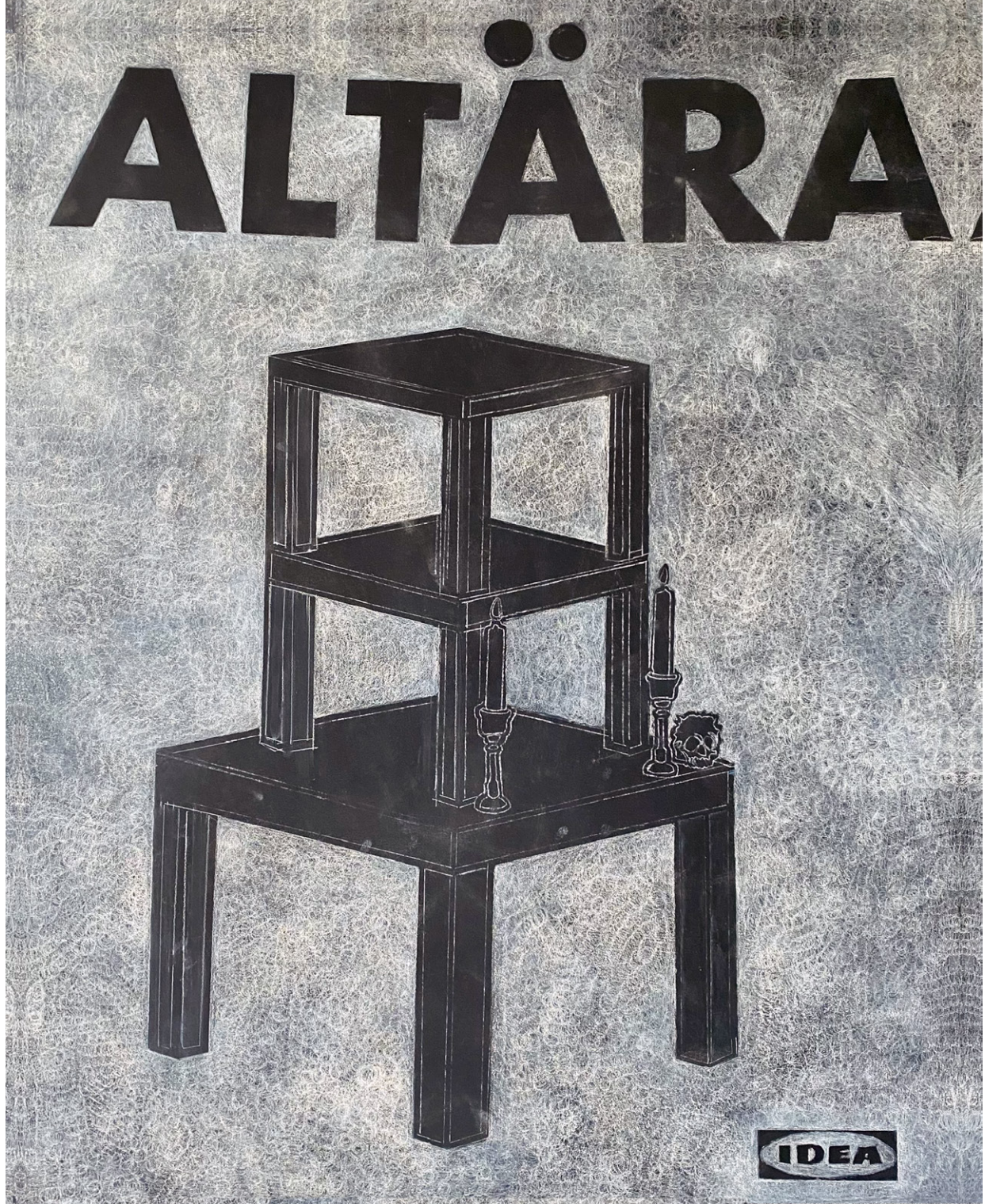
Cover photo: Karin Ferrari, featuring "A Sun Is A Very Close Star" by Karin Ferrari (2014) and "a circle more than" by Kamen Stoyanov (2014), curated by Ursula Maria Probst at Fluc, Vienna.

>> **FULL ALBUM** <https://careof.bandcamp.com/track/a-thousand-suns>

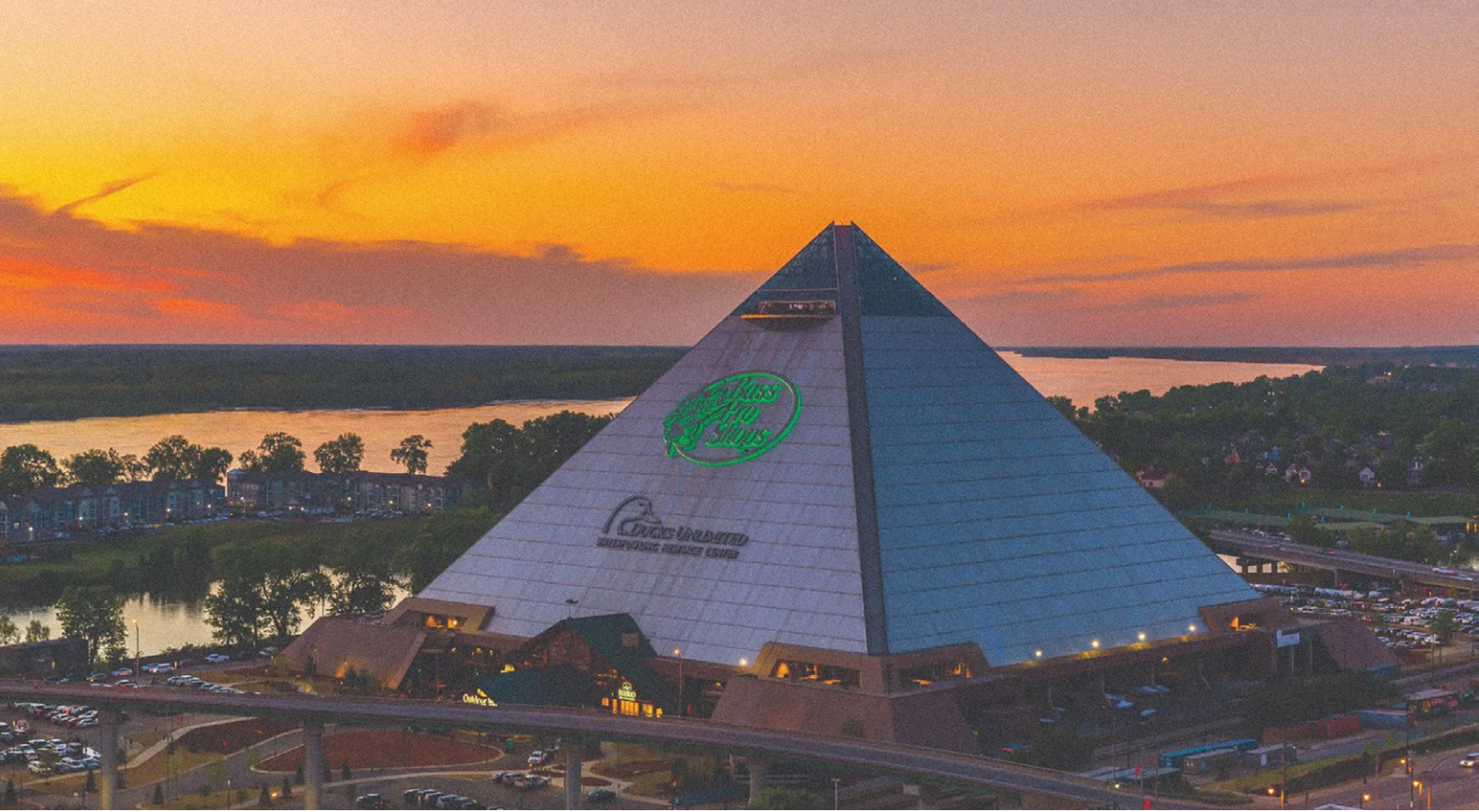
Originally created for the exhibition "Karin Ferrari: Paranjolly Symphony" (Rigo Gallery / Museo Lapidarium, Novigrad, Croatia, 2025).

Ancient suns, all-seeing eyes, sacred towers. The same symbols keep surfacing as surveillance networks, atomic insignia, UFO sightings, algorithmic feeds. A THOUSAND SUNS traces these recurrences through personal memory, myth, and the endless scroll. Fragments of social media cut in and redirect: seductive, overwhelming, sometimes funny. A heatwave summer, strange lights hanging still above a NATO airbase. Declassified CIA documents about astral travel resurfacing as 60-second reels. Spoken word unfolding over a slow-burning, atmospheric soundscape.

The track emerged from my artistic research into the entanglement of religion and the military. Fun, right? I know... It began as a somewhat obsessive inquiry during the Krinzinger Artist Residency in Kuberton, Croatia in 2023, and has turned out to be more in tune with our times than I would have liked it to be. Starting point was a particular architectural phenomenon in Istria. The beautiful hills of Istria are marked by towers. Church towers I thought, but it turned out many of them were originally medieval defensive structures that were only later repurposed as church bell towers. I was fascinated by how verticality, as a symbol, as a function, and as an architectural form, oscillates between the military and the spiritual.



Altära, Pigment and acryl on canvas, 2025



Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid Shopping Mall, Memphis, Tennessee

Goods + Gods. The Culty Side of Capitalism

Artist lecture Verdurin, London, 2025

Media artist Karin Ferrari decodes and reinterprets contemporary visual culture, revealing its mystical undercurrents. In this presentation, Ferrari explores magico-religious rites in consumer culture, offering a funhouse-mirror reflection on the symbols, rituals, and sacred spaces of consumer culture.

Pop music videos as initiation rites. Hotel temple-pool-bars in Bali. Overlooked cultic sites atop Manhattan's financial skyline. A pyramid-shaped shopping mall in Memphis, Tennessee. And ultimately, a techno-shamanistic magic flight on the escalator leads - inevitably, like the slurp at the bottom of an iced Frappuccino - to the question: Could the layout of Angkor Wat be the original blueprint for the modern mall??1!



Exhibition view **Temple To Go**, Beauty Case Diözesanmuseum Hofburg Brixen
Photos: Jürgen Eheim, im Auftrag des Südtiroler Künstlerbundes



Temple To Go

Sculptures and installation made with plastic bowls collected in Indonesia during the BMKOES artist residency in Yogyakarta and shipped for a fortune to Europe, in the exhibition: **Beauty Case. Preserving the beauty of creation.** Hofburg Brixen, 2019.

I remember driving down the dusty roads, flanked on both sides by towering stacks of colorful plastic bowls. These vibrant piles reminded me of the fractal ornaments decorating the pillars and temples of the local Hindu shrines. By recontextualizing these everyday plastic objects they question the boundaries between sacred and disposable, beauty and excess. What once lined the roadsides of Yogyakarta as humble market goods becomes an intricate monuments to consumption and devotion, a paradoxical preservation of the fleeting beauty found in the most ordinary materials.

MICHAEL RAINER

CREATING MY OWN HALLUCINATION

Driftwood of the Anthropocene. Washed up on the shores of the present. A substance that already bears art in its name. The leading material of our global civilization. Its production, trade, and use know no bounds. In intellectual discourse, plastic is condemned with contempt, yet it has also nestled into the last corner of our lives. You're my plastic-fantastic lover. The stuff dreams are made of in the 20th century is plastic. Jefferson Airplane recognized this as early as 1967, when the plasticized revolution was still in its infancy.

In the last 25 years, we have wrapped the world in plastic and preserved it for eternity. Its beauty shines under the clear plastic wrap of supermarkets and is brought to life by advanced, organic display technologies. Leatherette, artificial flowers, artificial stone, synthetic resin. No natural material, no handcrafted surface is safe from the stupendous quality of imitation by plastics. We all have a claim to light, shine, color, and pay homage daily to the "ape" among materials, whose universal power of imitation Gottfried Semper already predicted a bright future for in the middle of the 19th century.

Karin Ferrari has had a whole container full of plastic bowls, plates, and cups from Indonesia shipped to Central Europe. The result is plastic objects, assembled from the semi-transparent wonder material of industrial mass production. Screamingly colorful and almost indestructible, they attract the public's attention in their museum showcases. Placed between two golden goblets from the late Middle Ages, the plastic objects find themselves here. They bear witness to humanity's alliance with the plastics industry. Karin Ferrari's plastic objects stand for the apotheosis of a material whose egalitarian power is one of the great, unwritten cultural achievements of humanity. (...)



The Joy of Paranoia

Performance - Lecture

Online Symposium der KU Linz - Katholische Privat-Universität Linz, November 2020

LINK <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2TcBrQ6X1Y>

DIES ACADEMICUS: Conspiracy Theories. Chemtrail, corona and climate change ... that can't be a coincidence! Michael Butter (Tübingen), Daniel Hornuff (Kassel), Jan Skudlarek (Berlin) and Karin Ferrari (Wien) ask about the typical patterns, appearances and aesthetic codes of conspiracy theories.



The Ultimate Guide to TM (Trash Mysticism)

Lecture-Performance in the exhibition 'Karin Ferrari. Trash Mysticism', Ferdinandeum, Tiroler Landesmuseum, Innsbruck 2019

Trash Mysticism is a term the artist uses to describe her field of research: a kind of DIY spirituality emerging from our screen culture. It involves speculative narratives at the intersection of academic theory, esoteric utopia, and paranoid political imagination. "The Ultimate Guide to Trash Mysticism" was a performance-lecture and expansive light projector projection on Meme Magic and Chaos Magic, New Age and Alt-Right, Alchemy and YouTube channelings. The lecture-performance took place in the installation of her solo exhibition at the Ferdinandeum.



Animadidas hanging sculpture at the shopping mall SILLPARK Innsbruck, a KOER Tirol art in public space program, 2021. Foto: WEST

Ferrari's large dreamcatchers are aggressively non-traditional. The first one was called Fake Dreams Catcher, and while the "fake" in the title refers to the cheesy fantasies the thing promises to capture, the word also reminds us of the object's status as an inauthentic and appropriated Native design. Ferrari named another dreamcatcher TechnoAnimae, which was similarly crafted from e-waste, polished branches, rare earth metals, springs and cables, VHS tape, faux fur, a feather ordered on Amazon, and bilious fragments of Nike Sport mesh tank tops. As if to underscore this thing's contaminated character, Ferrari hung it in the atrium of the Sillpark shopping mall in Innsbruck before bringing it to the art museum."

— Erik Davis (TechGnosis, High Weirdness)

Excerpt from ERIC DAVIS Trash Mystic

Full Text here <http://karinferrari.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/erikdavis.pdf>

Branches, cable ties, and Nike jerseys: Karin Ferrari describes her artistic practice as "Trash Mysticism," working with a wide range of materials. Her work explores personal understandings of spirituality and superstition. The installation TechnoAnimadidas examines the entanglement of nature and technology. In the sculpture, our present reality—shaped by technology and consumer culture—merges with fantasies and desires that exist beyond the visible world and its rules. The result is a visual hybrid of ancestor worship, materialism, and technology. Over the past years, the artist has exhibited TechnoAnimadidas in a shopping mall, a museum, and a gym.

— Petra Poelzl, Curator, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin.



TechnoAnimae hanging sculpture, in the exhibition Techno, Museion for Modern and Contemporary Art, Bolzano, 2022. Foto: Luca Guadagnini

TechnoAnimae

Painted and polished branches from the forest, Nike Sport mesh tank tops, e-waste, rare earth metals, springs and cables, cable ties, VHS tapes with recordings from MTV, 1998, a feather from Amazon, a hand painted psychedelic logo pattern, faux fur.

Part of the sculpture serie 'Fake Dreams Catcher'. Other versions of the sculpture have been shown in the exhibition TECHNO, Museion for Modern and Contemporary Art - Bozen/Bolzano, 2022, Hau Berlin 2023, the shopping center Sillpark in Innsbruck as part of the art in public space program KOER Tirol 2021, in Vorarlberg Museum 2020, Künstlerhaus Bregenz 2019

One day, during my research travels through Southeast Asia, I found myself on a black market, surrounded by all sorts of goods that transcended the realms of superstition, religion, consumer capitalism, and technology. Nikes, dream catcher multipacks, radios, I-Ching disco ball keychains, calculators, feather diadems, small Buddha statues, plastic bags full of flowers, and the smell of grilled meat, dust, and exhaust in the sun. It was there that the idea emerged to create a hybrid object, a hyperobject, that surpasses all possible cultural categories and practices. TechnoAnimae is a totem for a new world, where the conceptual, artificial separation that modernity has drawn between nature and culture is obsolete, and we realize that we were never truly separate.



Site specific sculpture in the forest of Innsbruck, a KOER Tirol art in public space program, 2021. Foto: WEST

The New Holy F*ck

Branches from the forest, VHS magnetic tapes with video recordings from the music channel MTV from the 1990s, feathers from Amazon, plastic bowls from Indonesia, electronic waste, fur faux, cables and cable ties, ropes, Marterle with Animadidas logo; a white plastic garden chair that quotes an organic art nouveau ornament. KOER Tirol, art in public space, with Tiroler Künstler*Innenschaft

The installation in the forest is part of Karin Ferrari's "The New Holy" project. The artist deals in her practise with pop culture, folk and other DIY forms of spirituality and superstition. Ferrari's installation sees itself as part of the all-encompassing intertwining of nature, technoculture and mythology. A visual mash-up in which set pieces from animism, consumer materialism and technology come together. The technoid and consumer-oriented present enters into a liaison with phantasms and metaphysical longings that move apart from the prevailing worldview.





Site specific sculpture in the forest of Innsbruck, a KOER Tirol art in public space program, 2021. Foto: WEST

Animadidas Marterle

Marterle with woodblock for woodcut printing, 40 cm x 40 cm x 16 cm, 2021
 part of the public space installation THE NEW HOLYF*CK Innsbruck 2021
 KOER Tirol, art in public space, in collaboration with the Tiroler Künstler*Innenschaft

Realized as an Art in Public Space installation in the forest with KOER Tirol in 2021, Karin Ferrari's work explores the entanglement of nature, technoculture, consumer materialism, and mythology. It is inspired by religious wayside crosses (German: *Marterlen*) attached to trees, which often carry a distinct animistic quality. One of the earliest deities is associated with the tree, predating solar symbolism. These sites are frequently accompanied by votive offerings, flowers, or food for birds and squirrels.

KARIN FERRARI

True Stories From the Woods

Two weeks I spent in the forest building an installation next to a place called Seven Paths. Seven Paths sounds like something out of a fairy tale, but it's real. It's a large crossing in the middle of the forest close to Innsbruck, and there's a wayside cross mounted on a tree. These types of crosses are called Marterle, and you'll find quite a few of them along the hiking trails in Tyrol.

Anyway. A couple of years ago, I was walking unusually early through the woods. Morning fog was still hanging in the trees. I reached Seven Paths just at the moment when a nun, dressed in full black garments, bowed to the wayside cross. It was beautiful. And a bit spooky. From where I stood, it looked as though she was bowing to the tree. It reminded me of religious practices I've seen in Southeast Asia, where small altars and offerings are scattered all over the place, not just at formal religious sites, and everything carries a distinct animistic feeling.

A few strange, weird and even magical encounters happened at my installation in the woods. Almost no hostile ones. Some minor vandalism. Hikers stomping by with nordic walking sticks ranting about what a plastic chair is doing in the woods, dressed from head to toe in high tech plastic sportswear. And during the opening hundreds of fireflies joined. So there was something magical about it after all.



A film that stood out for its visual inventiveness, punk spirit and ambition. Its satirical narrative encompasses Silicon Valley tech start-up culture, 60s' New Communalist roots, references to the early internet days as well as contemporary online culture, all the while crossing genres lines. We admired this film for its confidence, fun aesthetic, and absurdist critique of digital consumerism. The Special Mention goes to *m h y t n i x* by Karin Ferrari in collaboration with Bernhard Garnicnig and Peter Moosgaard.

Special Mention, Vienna Shorts



m h y t n i x

Experimental live action / animated mystery comedy short film. German, English, 22 min, 2020

LINK <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3M9q4fvQMo>

Live action / animated mystery comedy short film.

Story, Animation, Director: Karin Ferrari

Cast Peter Moosgaard, Karin Ferrari, Bernhard Garnicnig

Cinematography Caro Bobek, Bernhard Garnicnig

Editing Karin Ferrari, Peter Moosgaard, Bernhard Garnicnig

Music Bernhard Garnicnig

Screenplay Karin Ferrari

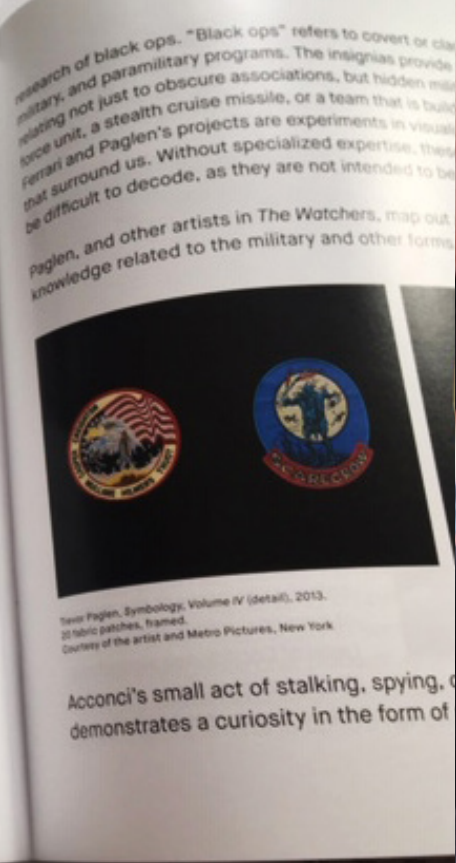
Sound Simone Borghi, Gerhard Daurer

Made with support by BMKÖS – Pixel Bytes & Film, ORF III Artist in Residence, Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien, WTO – Wissenstransferzentrum Ost

After DECODING over a dozen videos Karin Ferrari began in 2018 to work on a real-life inspired short story that explores the unconscious of the internet. m h y t n i x is an animated live-action mystery short film, made in collaboration with Bernhard Garnicnig and Peter Moosgaard.

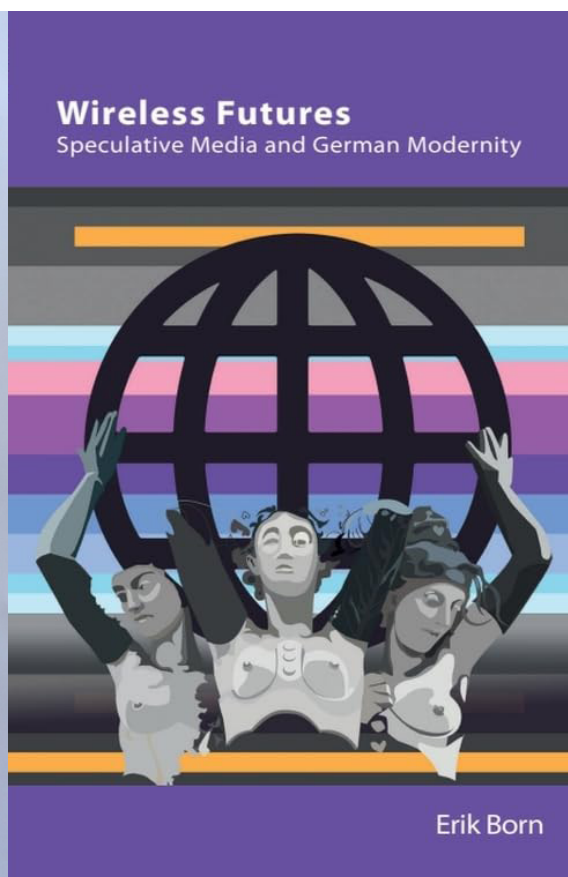
The element lithium plays a key role in the manufacture of smartphone batteries and also antidepressants. Coincidence or System? m h y t n i x embarks on a psychedelic road trip into a bizarre world of exploding Teslas, smartphone occultism and trash mysticism. Three friends embark on a roadtrip to find out where milk and lithium actually come from. Suddenly Peter disappears. His last sign of life a cryptic message: m h y t n i x.

m h y t n i x ist ein psychedelisches Roadmovie in dem sich drei Millenials aufmachen, um nach dem Ursprung des modernen Allheilmittels Lithium zu suchen. Besonderes Augenmerk verdient die Ästhetik des Experimentalfilms. In aufwendiger Handarbeit hat Karin Ferrari (Drehbuch, Animation, Schnitt) eine eigene Bildsprache entwickelt. Der Film ist eine Kollaboration von Karin Ferrari, Bernhard Garnicnig und Peter Moosgaard. Mit einem originalen Soundtrack zur Gänze am Handy komponiert von The New Whole™.



Drawing based on the rooftop sculpture of the Palais des Beaux Arts, Wien, 50 x 65 cm, 2017

Postcard (2016) featured on the cover of Erik Born's book *Wireless Futures* (2025). Born contributed a commissioned text for the Palais des Beaux Arts, Vienna in 2015.





HYPERCONNECTED (THE WHOLE PICTURE)

Scalable vector map / mobile app, Palais des Beaux Arts, Vienna, 2016

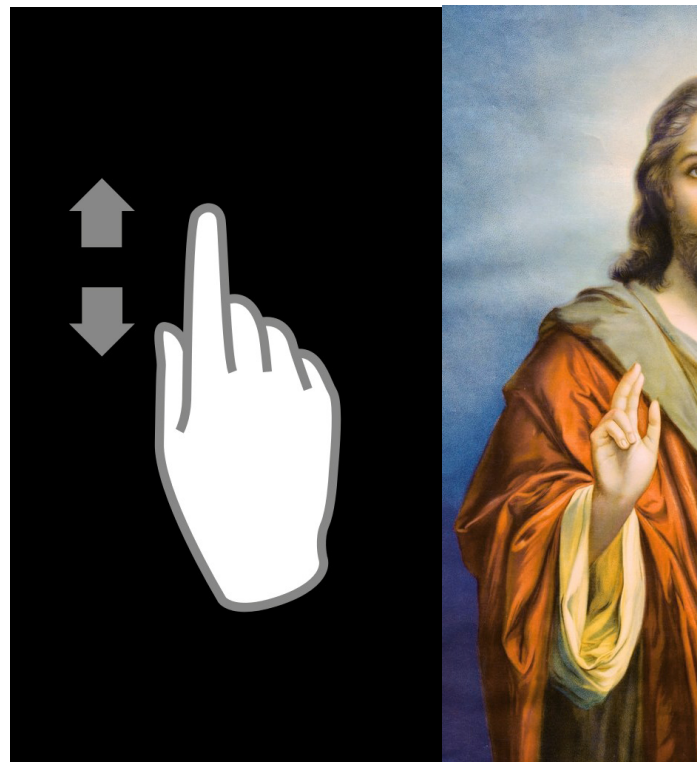
Very Artistic Director, Co-Production: Bernhard Garnicnig, in cooperation with Coded Cultures

Exhibited at the show *The Watchers*, 8th Floor / The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, New York, 2019

HYPERCONNECTED (THE WHOLE PICTURE) is a scalable vector map that charts the semantic interrelationships between web-related icons. The project was sparked by the rooftop sculpture of three women holding a globe atop the Palais des Beaux Arts in Vienna, whose visual language unexpectedly echoed the iconography of browsers, networks, and digital interfaces. This collision between architectural symbolism and contemporary screen culture became the starting point for a speculative diagram tracing hidden affinities between symbols embedded in the visual language of the web.

By appropriating and reconfiguring familiar signs—such as the WiFi symbol, the eye, and other interface elements—Ferrari maps the shifting relations between technological communication, symbolic surplus, and older structures of power. The work asks whether digital icons function merely as neutral tools of orientation, or whether they carry latent symbolic and transformative potential.

The work entered into dialogue with Erik Born's research for the Palais des Beaux Arts, which placed utopian visions of wireless communication from around 1900 in relation to emerging scholarship on the cultural and political implications of wireless technologies since the early 2000s. A decade later, Born expanded this research into his publication *Wireless Futures* at Cornell University, selecting Ferrari's image from the HYPERCONNECTED (THE WHOLE PICTURE) project, created ten years earlier, as the cover image.





WiFi Board (Summoning Ada Lovelace)

Light box, 100 cm x 100 cm x 20 , 2017 and participative performance
in the solo exhibition THE MAP IS THE TERRITORY, Galerie Jünger, 2017

The WiFi Board merges contemporary and ancient occult communication technologies. It's based on the OuiJa board, a divining tool used to talk to spirits. The OuiJa is a flat board marked with the alphabet and graphics. It uses a planchette where the participants of the séance put their fingers in order to spell out a supernaturally transmitted message from beyond. In Ferrari's work the moving fingers of the participants on the planchette refer to the scrolling gestures on mobile user interfaces and touch screens of modern communication technologies as well as the awe produced by modern techgadgets and their mystifying complexity and aura.

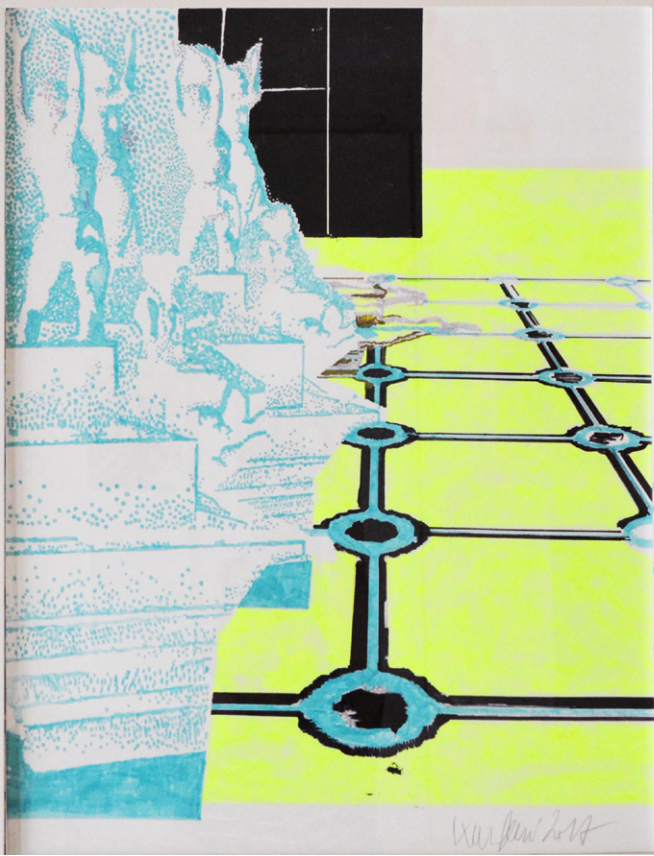
During the séance Ada Lovelace, English mathematician and writer regarded as the first computer programmer, was summoned and asked for consultance. (The message that came through was the well meant advice to invest into the sex robot industry.)

The image on the WiFi Board combines icons from digital culture and Eastern religious imagery such as the abstract cosmological depictions of Mandalas on Thangkas. Thangkas are religious Tibetan paintings. Literally translated the word Thang ga means door of marvelous power. In the Tibetan image tradition of the Thangka, the devotional image is considered to be a medium through which the depicted can be accessed through meditation.

"Both cyberspace and magical space are purely manifest in the imagination. Both spaces are entirely constructed by your thoughts and beliefs. Korzybski says that the map is not the territory. Well, in magic, the map is the territory. And the same thing is true in cyberspace. There's nothing in that space you didn't bring in." Mark Pesce



Exhibition view, Parallel Vienna mit medien.kunst.tirol, 2018



Mimetic Desire ink on paper, 50 x 65 cm, 2017



Stellar Trash Strata Acrylic and colored pencil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm, 2023



Holy Freaks woodcut on handmade paper 30 x 20 cm, 5 + 2 AP, 2019



Orbis Terrae woodcut on handmade paper 30 x 20 cm, 5 + 2 AP, 2019



Exhibition view of the 37. Austrian Graphic Award for Karin Ferrari's woodcut print **CHIRO DIGITALIS** with the Prize of Niederösterreich. Collection Land Tirol, RLB Tirol, Frans Masereel Center, Allard Pierson Museum, private Collection

Chiro Digitalis

Woodcut, 80 x 110 cm

Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck

Prize of Lower Austria at the Austiran Graphics Award 2021

Chiro Digitalis explores the mystical dimension of technological imagination. The woodcut was created in collaboration with the archaeological museum Allard Pierson Amsterdam, AGALAB – Center for Printing Technology Amsterdam, and the Frans Masereel Center Kasterlee, Belgium, with support from the Mondriaan Fund. The Allard Pierson Museum manages the cultural collections of the University of Amsterdam and holds a significant archive of printed works related to protoscience, occultism, and alchemy. During the 17th century, Amsterdam became a refuge for scholars and religiously persecuted thinkers who came to publish texts that were prohibited elsewhere, enabled by the Netherlands' relative religious tolerance and freedom of the press.

While researching the museum's collection, I encountered the woodcut of a hand in *Rosetum exercitiorum* (1494) by Christian mystic Jan Mombaer. The image depicts the Chiro Psalterium, a late medieval meditation and memory technique that uses the hand as a mnemonic device. Similar to the rosary, it transforms the body into a tool for contemplation and knowledge, while also evoking connections to yogic mudras and other consciousness practices. The image further contains a musical philosophy in which the movement of the hand, not only the sound produced, is understood as a force shaping the musician's consciousness.

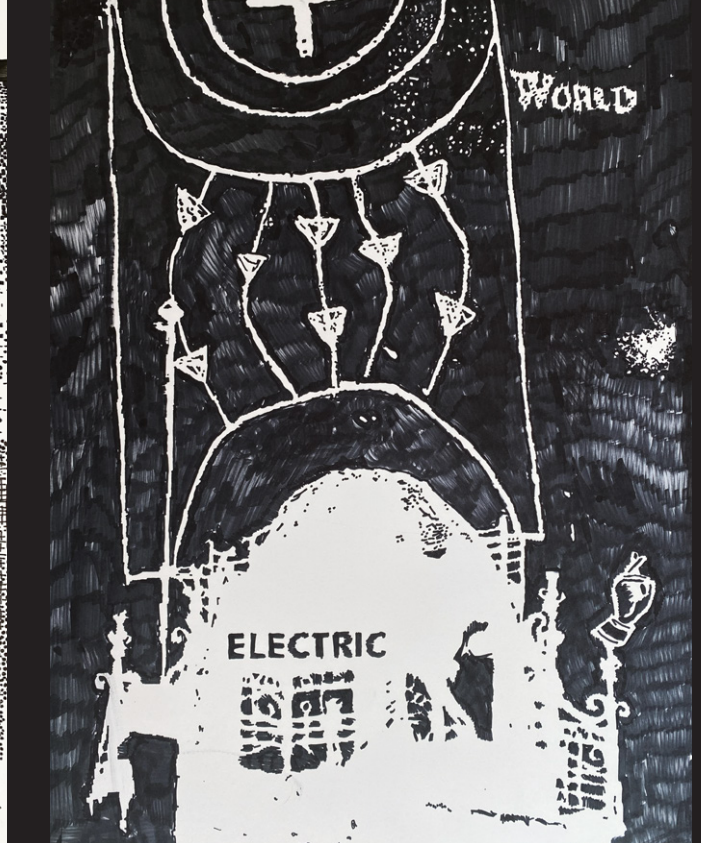
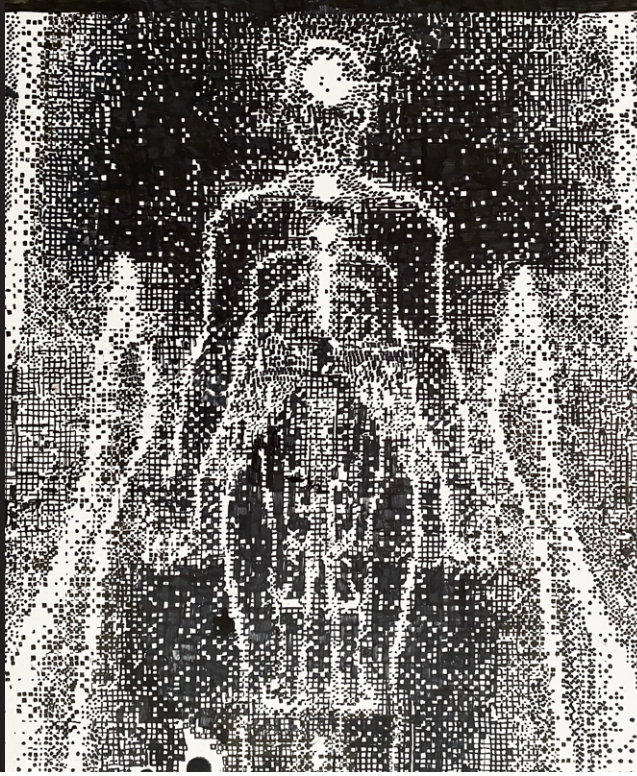
Surrounded by historical books, ancient Egyptian artefacts, and the canals of Amsterdam, I began to question how the relationship between hand and consciousness has changed in the digital age, when our fingers are increasingly used to swipe across polished touchscreens rather than to create physical gestures and objects.

In Chiro Digitalis, I combine the medieval hand psalter with contemporary digital iconography, drawing the symbols directly with my finger (digitus) on a touchscreen. The composition references the alchemical emblem of the Hand of Mysteries, a symbol of transformation and the search for hidden knowledge. The work reflects on digital hyperconnectivity and its impact on perception, embodiment, and consciousness. It explores the evolving relationship between humans and machines, technology and creativity, and questions the artificial divisions between nature and culture, technology and mythology.

The 37. Austrian Graphic Award awarded Ferrari's woodcut print CHIRO DIGITALIS with the Prize of Niederösterreich.



Exhibition view, **Fingerspitzengefühl**, Karin Ferrari + Lee Nevo at Galerie Gefängnis Le Carceri, Kaltern, 2024



World Electric 42 x 60 cm drawing on paper, 2024
Body Electric 42 x 60 cm drawing on paper, 2024



Exhibition view, Karin Ferrari. **Un.Holy Haus**, Galerie am Stadtplatz Wörgl, 2023. Foto: David Schreyer
Door of Marvellous Power, site-specific wallpaper installations, 300 cm x 280 cm, 2023



(left) Ferrari's studio in Jakarta, 2018. (right) The artist in her Berlin office at Catalyst, 2026

Artist Biography

Karin Ferrari is a media artist based in Vienna. Her work explores hidden spiritual desires within consumer technology and the built environment, reinterpreting and recontextualizing the images and symbols that surround us. Working across installation, painting, spoken word, and video, Ferrari creates immersive experiences that trace the entanglement of the mystical and the technological in contemporary life.

Her work has been exhibited internationally at venues including the 8th Floor / The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation (New York), Belvedere 21 (Vienna), HAU Berlin, Museion Bolzano, Art Omi (Ghent / New York), Pori Art Museum (Finland), Allard Pierson Museum (Amsterdam), WRO Media Art Biennale (Poland), Antarctic Biennale (2017), The Wrong Digital Art Biennale (2017), and the 5th Moscow Biennale for Young Art. She has held solo exhibitions at Galerie Jünger (Vienna) and participated in group exhibitions at Galerie Burster (Berlin) and Krinzinger Schottenfeld (Vienna). Her works have been broadcast on ARTE and ORF III. They are also distributed via 6x6 Project (New York / Berlin) and her YouTube channel.

Ferrari has received numerous awards, including the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES) Research Grant for Artistic Work with AI (2024), the Austrian State Scholarship for Media Art (2020), the Lower Austrian Graphic Arts Prize (2021), the Innsbruck Art Prize (2020), the Benno Barth Prize (2019), and the Grand Prize of the RLB Art Award (2018).

Karin Ferrari has been invited to give artist talks, lectures, workshops, and lecture performances at international institutions including Catalyst Berlin, University of Applied Arts Vienna, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, University of Innsbruck, Art University Münster, Kunsthalle Wien, Ferdinandeum Innsbruck, KU Linz, Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen, and Coded Cultures Festival Vienna. She has developed participatory formats and workshops addressing hyperstition, coded cultures, occult technologies, and experimental forms of knowledge production.

She has participated in artist residencies across the United States, Europe, and Southeast Asia, including Art Omi, New York (2019), BMKOES-funded residencies in Paris (2017) and Yogyakarta (2018), AIR Krinzinger, Croatia (2023), and CCA Andratx, Mallorca (2025), Air 351 Lissabon (2026). Her work is held in public and private collections in Europe and the United States.

CONTACT

Karin Ferrari

+436508404042

mail@karinferrari.com

www.karinferrari.com

INSTA @trashmysticism

Education

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Painting and Cultural Studies (2002-2008)

Teaching

Guest Lectures at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Catalyst Berlin, and University of Innsbruck

Languages

German, Italian, English, French, basic Korean

Additional training

Improv Comedy and Sketch Writing, at the PIT and UCB New York (2019–2021)

Training in systemic constellation methods (family systems and organizational settings) (2008-2016)

Art History University of Vienna, (2001-2004)

Additional Professional Experience

Project manager for artists (2011-2015)

Curatorial Assistant for Design, MAK – Museum of Applied Arts (Vienna) (2009-2011)

Tour guide for group cycling tours (Puglia), Italy, 2007

Student Assistant at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Department of Art Anthropology (2006-2007)

SOLO SHOWS

2026 *Techno Utopia*, Galerie Moto, Hall in Tirol

2025 *Paranjolly Symphony. How The Towers Learned to Dance*, Rigo Gallery, Museo Lapidarium, Novigrad, Croatia

2023 *Freaky Fairy Flux Foundation*, RfdInsel, Heart of Noise Festival, Innsbruck,

Un.Holy Haus, Galerie am Stadtplatz, Wörgl

2022 *Haunted Landscapes of Desire*, E/// Eschenbachpalais mit Galerie Jünger, Vienna

2022 *Temple of Ga Ga*, BRUX, Innsbruck

2021 *The New Holy*, KOER Tirol, Art in Public Space, Innsbruck

2020 *Rooftop Temples of New York City*, Galerie Jünger, Vienna

2019 *Trash Mysticism*, Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck

2019 *Aliens, Sex and Paranoia*, Künstlerhaus Bregenz

2017 *DECODING (THE WHOLE TRUTH)* Cité des Arts, Paris

2017 *The Map Is The Territory*, Galerie Jünger, Vienna

AWARDS

2025 BMKOES Research Grant for Artistic Work with AI

2021 Award of the State of Lower Austria at the Austrian Graphics Competition

2021 Special Mention at the Vienna Short Film Festival for the short film *m h y t n i x*

2020 Award for Artistic Achievement from the City of Innsbruck

2020 National Media Art Scholarship, BKA - Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service, and Sport

2019 Benno Barth Award, Brixen, Italy

2018 Main prize of the RLB Art Award RLB Kunstbrücke, Innsbruck

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selection)

2026

Zeichen am Werk, Galerie Jünger, Wien
TecTales, discotec, Wien
Nature | Feeling | Form, Kunstraum am Schauplatz, Wien
Screening DECODING THE WHOLE TRUTH praesenz, Köln
Relationes, Abazia di Novacella, Bressanone

2025

Freedom Games, EXPO-Lódź, Poland
Weltgeschehen, Teletext, ORF, ARD
Stealth, Verdurin, London
City Trip 2, Cultural centre De Steiger, Menen, Belgium
Screening Reflections: iPhone Fever Dreams 16+, Go Short Film Festiva, Nijmegen, NL
Nature | Feeling | Form, Castel Belasi Museum, Trentino
Screening DECODING The iPhone Xs, Sirup, Linz
Open Studio AiR Burgenland im Kulturzentrum Eisenstadt
JANUS Teil 1 Galerie Jünger, Wien

2024

Freaky Fairy Flux Foundation beim Dokfest Kassel, 41. Kasseler Dokumentar- und Videofest, Kassel
AIR 2023 Vienna / Hungary / Croatia / Sri Lanka, Krinzinger Schottenfeld, Vienna
Fingerspitzengefühl Karin Ferrari + Lee Nevo, Galeria Carceri, Kaltern, Italy
When We Move It's A Movement, Kunstraum Innsbruck
We Could Be Witches, Fish Factory Penry, UK
Summoning the Ghostly, Endotic Reserach (TIER), Berlin
MUTA, Pori Art Museum, Finland
Looking elsewhere being there, CerModern Arts Center, Ankara
Land(wirt)schaft oder It goes not on a cow-hide, Maurachhof, Kitzbühel

2023

Trienala Ladina 2023, San Martino in Badia, Italy
Geister, Dschinns und Avatare, (kuratiert von Petra Poelzl), HAU Berlin
Break The Charm, Galerie Burster, Berlin
Kortfilmfestivalen, (kuratiert von Neil Young) Norwegian Short Film Festival, Grimstad
The Gym, Kampnagel, Hamburg
I've seen the future baby, it's sexy, Kulturni centar Kula, Belgrad

2022

The Gym, Soho Studios Ottakring, Vienna
I've seen the future baby, it's sexy, Skuc, Ljubljana
MUTA, The Museum of Teletext art, Helsinki
Planten un Blumen, Stand Galerie Jünger, Art Vienna, Orangerie Schönbrunn

2021

Techno, Museion für Moderne und Zeitgenössische Kunst, Bozen, IT
Screening m h y t n i x, REVERSO, 19th Media Art Biennale, WRO Art Center, Wrocław, PL
Screening m h y t n i x, Diagonale - Festival des österreichischen Films Graz
Screening m h y t n i x, Vienna Shorts Film Festival

2019

THE WATCHERS 8th Floor / The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, New York
Cmd P for (reality) 2079 Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam
LINZ FMR Biennale for Media art, Linz, A
26th European Film Festival Palić, Serbia
Screening DECODING The iPhone Xs, Diagonale - Festival des österreichischen Films Graz

2018

The Value of Freedom (curated by Severin Dünser), 21er Haus - Museum for Contemporary Art, Vienna, AT
Magic Circle (curated by Katharina Brandl and Daniela Brugger), Kunst Raum Niederösterreich, Vienna, AT
Souvenir (curated by Fabio Santacroce / 63rd - 77th STEPS e Giusy Ottonelli) Spazio Murat, Bari

2017

Antarctic Biennale (curated by Nadim Samman), Antarctica Biennale Ship, Antarctica
Postinternet.Art, The Wrong Biennale, Digital Art Biennale
Chance Meeting, SCCA - Center for Contemporary Arts, Ljubljana
Revealing Reflected Refractions, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, New York City

2016

Deep Inside V Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, Moscow
Coup De Ville, Triennale Sint Niklaas, Belgium
Back To The Future Papay Gyro Nights, Videotage, Hong Kong
Frame Out Festival Museumsquartier Wien
THE WHOLE TRUTH DISKO at the War Party, Royal Military Museum, Brussels, Belgium
DECODING (THE WHOLE TRUTH) Blickle Kino, 21er Haus - Museum Contemporary Art, Vienna

LECTURE-PERFORMANCES, WORKSHOPS AND TEACHING

2026

Artist Talk and Workshop, Catalyst Berlin
Artist Talk, Universität für Angewandte Kunst

2025

Artist Lecture, The Culty Side of Consumer Culture, Verdurin London
Karin Ferrari & der Trash Mysticism, Podcast ÄNDERN leben mit Paul Campbell

2023

Concert/Performance Karin Ferrari + Francesco Fonassi, Freaky Fairy Flux Foundation, Heart of Noise, Innsbruck AT
Concert/Performance Karin Ferrari + Francesco Fonassi, Freaky Fairy Flux Foundation, Spettro, Brescia, IT
Freaky Fairy Flux, Workshop at Summer School Kunstraum Innsbruck, AT

2022

Inventing The Rooftop Temple: Unlearning Architecture. Karin Ferrari in conversation with Marlene Wagner, KdW, Linz
Lecturer for artistic design, University Innsbruck, Faculty of Architecture

2021

The Power of Images, Key Note at Filmfestival Cologne, DE
Artist Talk, Art University Münster, DE

2020

The Joy of Paranoia, at the online Symposium "Conspiracy Theories." KU Linz - Katholische Privat-Universität Linz

2019

Talk: Friedrich von Borries, Karin Ferrari, Martha Kirszenbaum, Lisl Ponger with Angela Stief, Vienna Art Week
Lecture Performance The Ultimate Guide to TM (Trash Mysticism), Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck
Artist Talk, Kunsthalle Wien
Machine Cult / Occult Machines, subnetTALK, Salzburg

2018

Artist Talk (invited by Fabio Santacroce / 63rd - 77th STEPS e Giusy Ottonelli) Spazio Murat, Bari, IT

2017

Lecture Performance, Predictive Programming (curated by Bori Szalai, lecture-performances by Serafin Alvarez, Karin Ferrari and György Szimán in the context of the series Thought Sculptures) Trafo Galeria Budapest
Artist Talk and Screening Academy Fine Arts Vienna

2016

Workshop, Applied Demonology Coded Cultures Festival, University of Applied Arts Vienna
Workshop Hyperstition with Mark Fisher, Armen Avanesian, Karin Ferrari, Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen, Innsbruck

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES

Salto Artstore, Verborgene Sehnsüchte entschlüsseln, Salto Magazine, 2025

Eva Gratl, Mit größter Sensibilität und Genauigkeit, Dolomiten, August 2024

Claudia Aigner, Die Penthäuser der Götter, Wiener Zeitung, 17. Dezember 2020

Eva Rottensteiner, Beyond the Profane, franzmagazine, 12. Februar 2021

Rooftop Temples of New York (Hg. Karin Ferrari), Verlag für moderne Kunst.

New Decameron, (Hg. Macushla Robinson) Yonkers International Press New York

Pop Leaks, Maximilian Lehner, Kunst und Kirche, 01/2021

The Watchers, Ausstellungskatalog, 8th floor, Rubin Foundation, New York

Der Wert der Freiheit, Belvedere 21, Verlag für Moderne Kunst Wien

Karin Ferrari Trash Mysticism, Mit Vorworten von Wolfgang Meighörner und Johannes Ortner und Beiträgen von Rosanna Dematté und Gary Lachman Hg: PD Dr. Wolfgang Meighörner, Tiroler Landesmuseen-Betriebsgesellschaft, 2019

Christian Petersen: Karin Ferrari: Portrait of the Artist as a YouTube Conspiracy Theorist, Artslant Magazine, 2018

Karin Ferrari: weird wired viral, in 'Epidemic Subjects – Radical Ontology', Elisabeth von Samsonow (ed.), The University Chicago Press for Diaphanes, 2017

Nadim Samman: Karin Ferrari, in: 5th Moscow Biennale for Young Art, Katalog, 2016

Sarah den Hond: Karin Ferrari, in: Coup de Ville 2016, Borgerhoff & Lambergits, 2016

Karin Ferrari. Occult Coloring Book. Eigenpublikation, 2015 - 2019

Claudia Slanar: Karin Ferrari – Flavor Flower in: 'Mehr als Worte. Zeichen. Symbole. Sinnbilder. Katalog Tiroler Volkskunstmuseum', Hg. Wolfgang Meighörner, Athesia Tappeiner Verlag, Bozen, 2015

Karin Ferrari: Intelligent Timelines, in: 'World Best New Art', Georg Leutner (Hg.), Verlag für moderne Kunst, Nürnberg, 2006