

gas

performance

24 January 2004 — Bernerstrasse housing development, Zurich, CH — project fuge — curated by Christine Fueter — Duration: 40 min.

Background — The housing development built in 1959 on Bernerstrasse in Zurich Altstetten is slated to be torn down. The residents are relocated. In part to prevent squatters from occupying the building, the city of Zurich offers apartments to project fuge as they become empty. With the requirement that they will present a piece that engages with the situation on Bernerstrasse, artists are given the abandoned apartments for use as cheap studios.

Setting — The interior courtyard of the housing development on Bernerstrasse. Large area of lawn. Trees. Bushes. A playground and a kindergarten. It's already dark. It's snowing. The weak light of the street-lamps is the only illumination for the scene.

Materials and Preparation — A rope, 100 m long, stretched 20 cm above the ground. Eighty pieces of wire, spaced along the rope at regular intervals, stuck into the ground. Eleven Bunsen burners.

Procedure — X and Y bring the Bunsen burners in paper bags. They position the eleven lit burners in two or three groups at irregular intervals along the first third of the rope, so as to align them with some of the wires. The wires begin to glow. In precisely defined moves derived from the game of checkers, X and Y move the Bunsen burners along the line: the one behind jumps over the one in front of it, etc. Some of the Bunsen burners stay back, while two pairs are moved steadily forward to the end of the rope. For a time, the wires continue to glow.

