

gefährrt

performance in public space

4 July 1998 — in the riverbed of the Sihl, Zurich, CH — Northwest of Eden, performance festival — curated by Eve Bhend, Gabi Glinz, Salome Scheebeli and Ursi Wirth — Duration: 20 min.

Background — The Eden Garage, an independent, artist-run exhibition space founded in the ,90s.

Setting — The engineered riverbed of the Sihl, which originates in Schwyz canton, runs right past the Eden Garage. In Zurich-Brunau the Sihl flows under a city highway. There, the river is very low, but during floods it surges abruptly. A small bank of gravel in the river serves as the workplace.

Materials and Preparation — A star-shaped construction made from about 20 square beams, 300 cm across, held together with brown packing tape.

Procedure — The audience stands on the bridge under which the wood construction is being stored. X and Y climb into the construction and set it in motion on the shallow Sihl. X shifts his body weight. Y propels the vehicle with a long pole. They roll downstream. After about 120 m the performance ends when the construction runs aground.

Preliminary Results — X and Y bring the material necessary for building the construction onto the gravel bank. They begin the preparations. They go away for a brief time. During this time, the Sihl surges and some of the material is washed away. The tools are covered with a layer of muck.

