

# THE BODY AS AN ARCHIVE

Friederike Ruff



“This interconnection or accommodation of all created things to each other, and each to all the others, brings it about that each simple substance has relations that express all the others, and consequently, that each simple substance is a perpetual, living mirror of the universe.”

# THE BODY AS AN ARCHIVE

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„The Body as an Archive„ is a series of 22 painted and embroidered pieces of canvas.

In the center of every image is an organ or other part of the human body surrounded by and connected with a specific pattern.

Every pattern is chosen by its meaning, corresponding to the physical and metaphorical function of each body part.

Title: It is the End from where we Start

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Skeleton

Pattern: East European Flower Pattern



Title: Hamsa

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Hand

Pattern: Inspired by Traditional Aborigine Pattern, (Australia)



Title: "Travelers, there is no Path, Paths are made by Walking" Antonio Muchado

Details: 30 x 40 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Feet

Pattern: Map

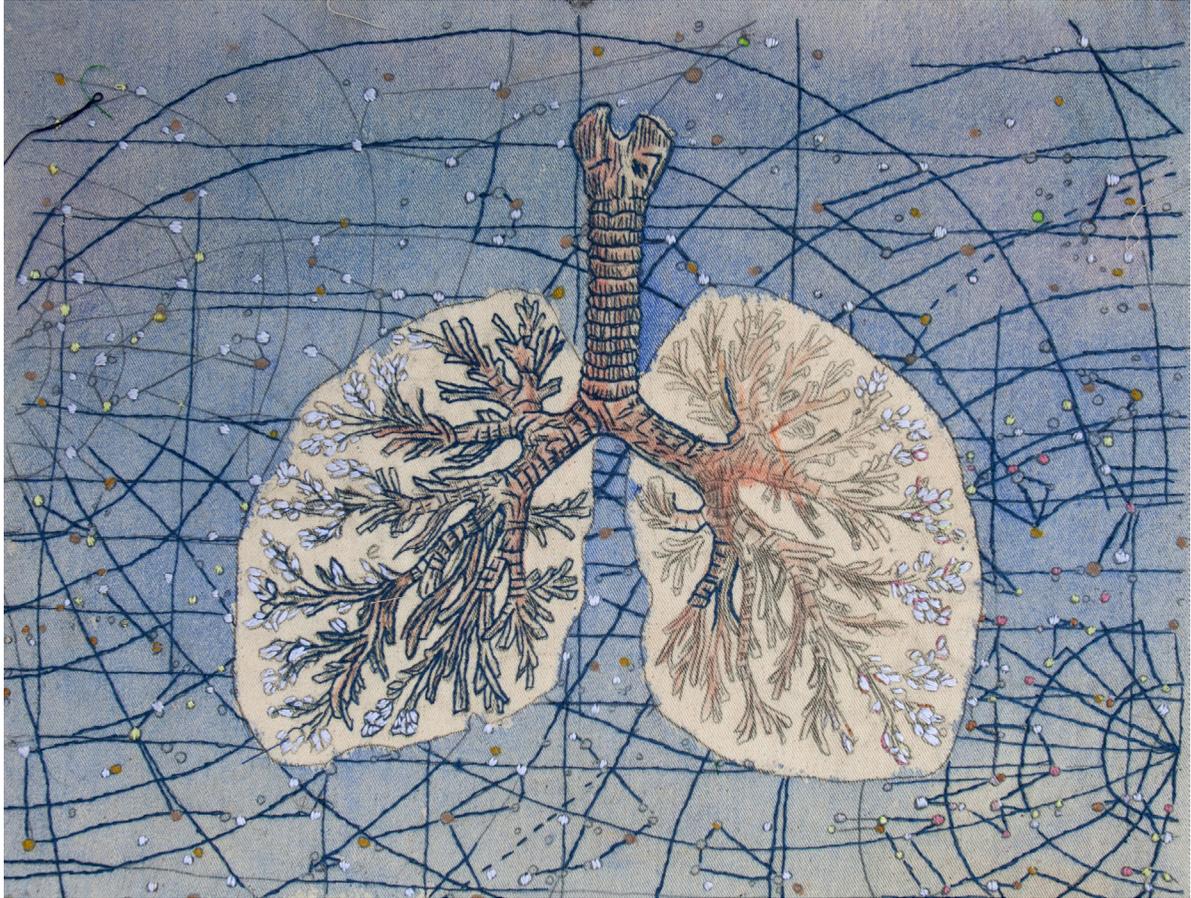


Title: Breathing in the Midnight Sky

Details: 30 x 40 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Feet

Pattern: Map of Stars

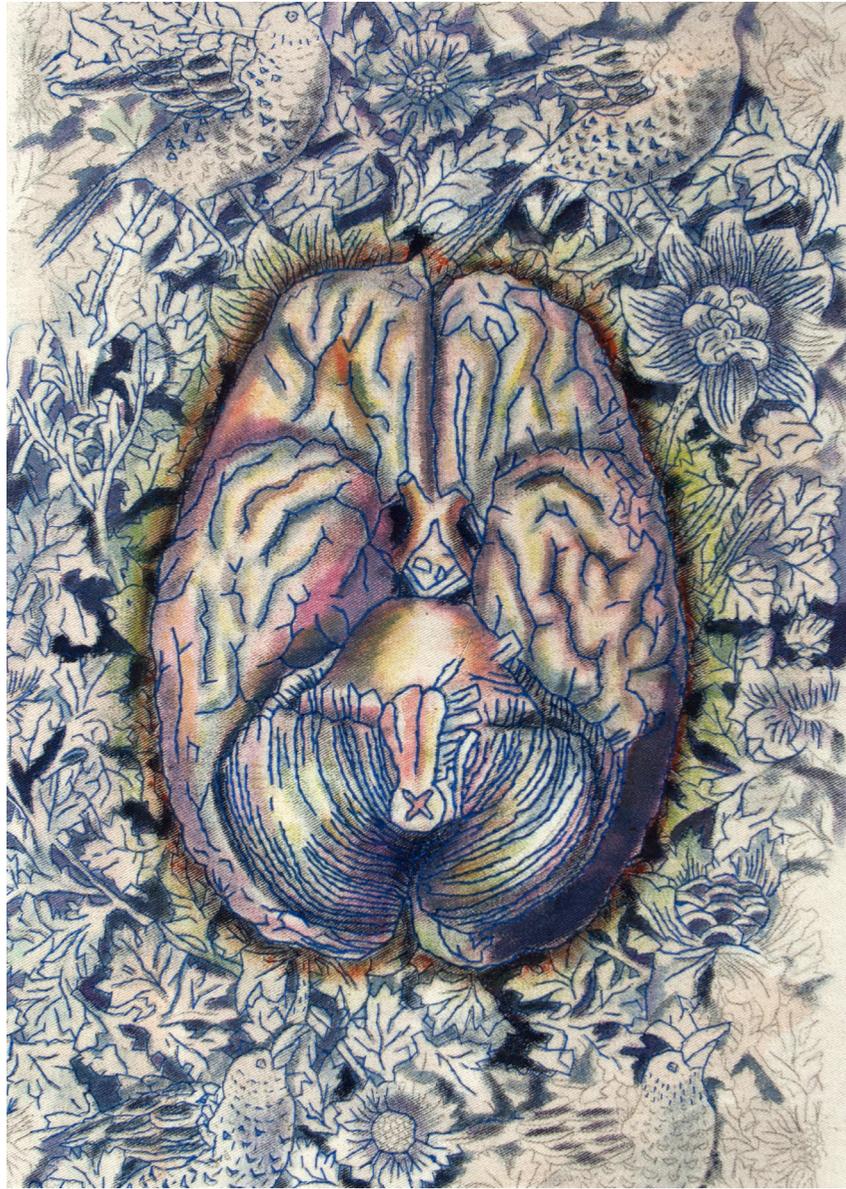


Title: Mind Map

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Brain

Pattern: Wallpaper Design by William Morris ,bird & anemone' 1881 (Great Britain)

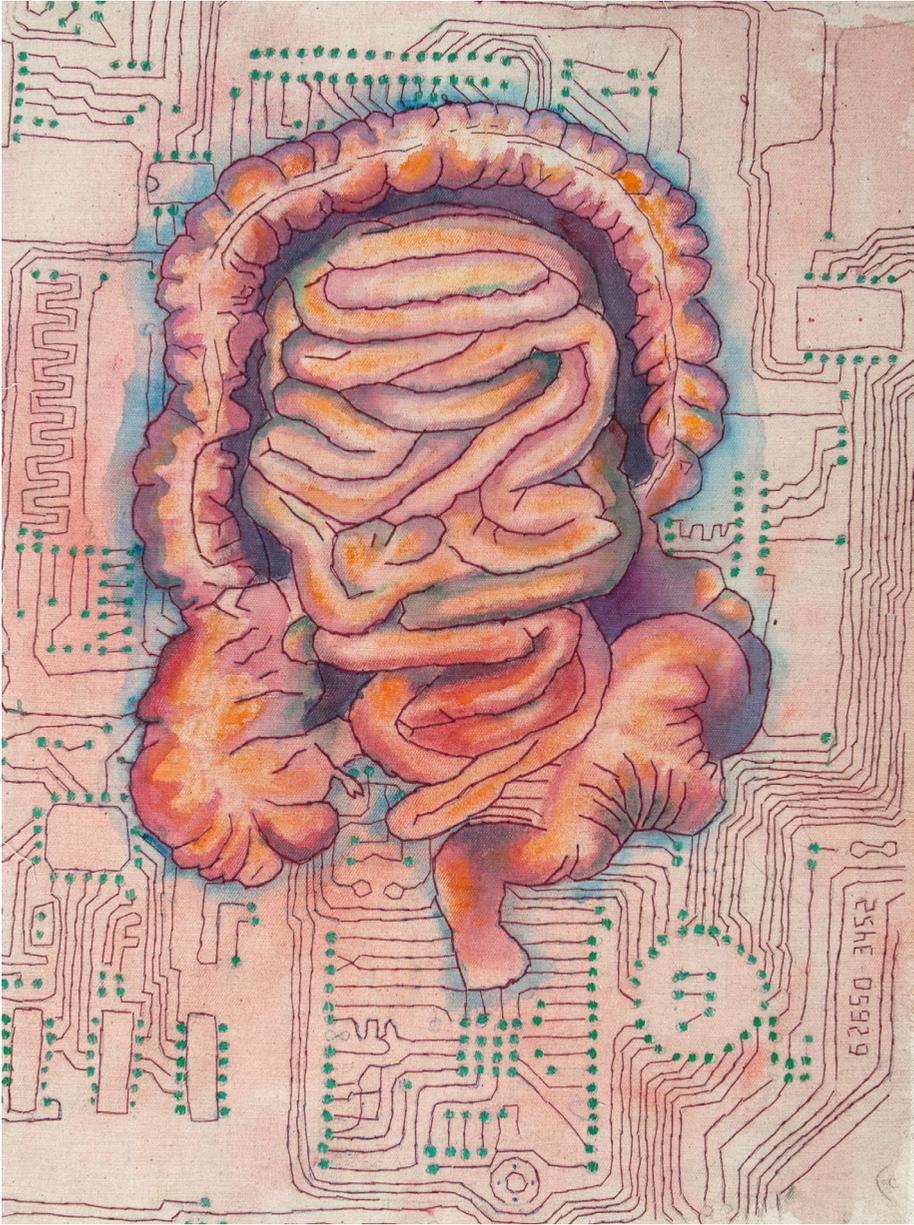


Title: Memory in Motion

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Gut

Pattern: PC Board



Title: Inside meets Outside

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Skin

Pattern: Traditional Kimono Pattern, (Japan)

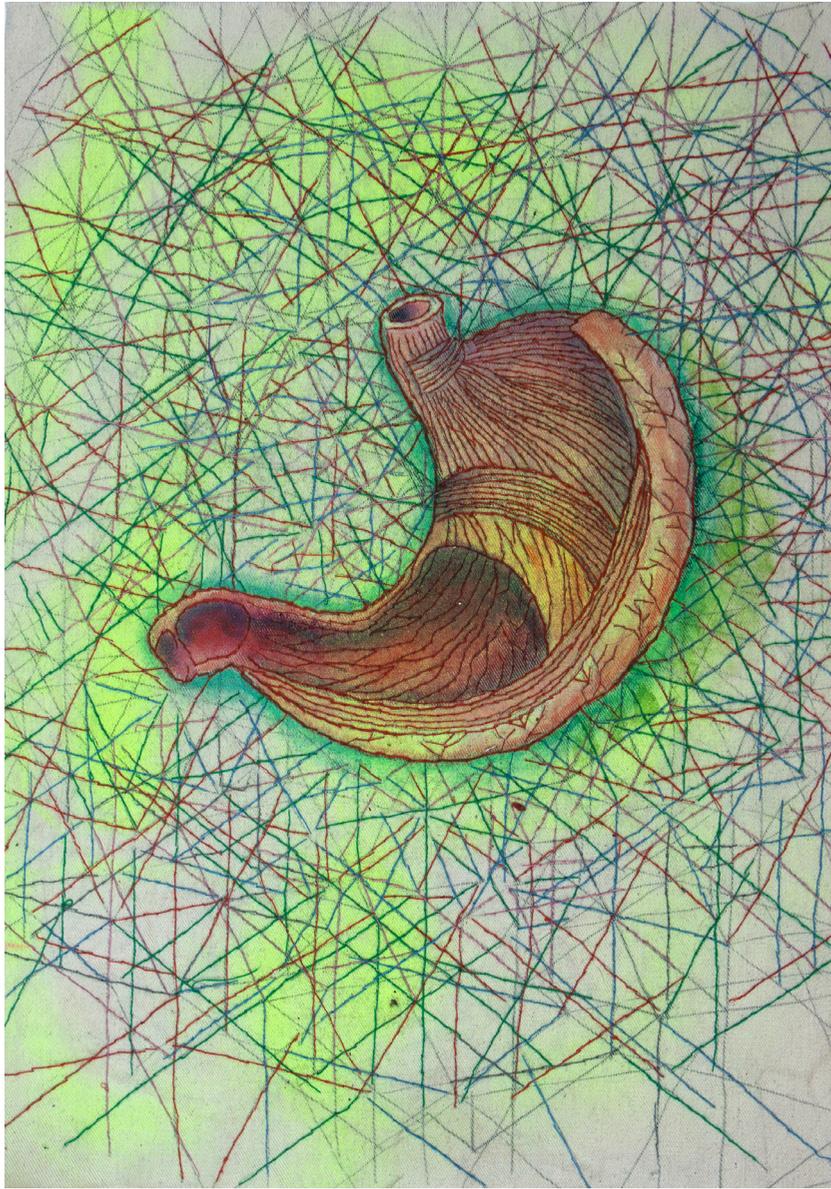


Title: Process in Progress

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Stomach

Pattern: Abstract, Coded Pattern by Joseph Trotto

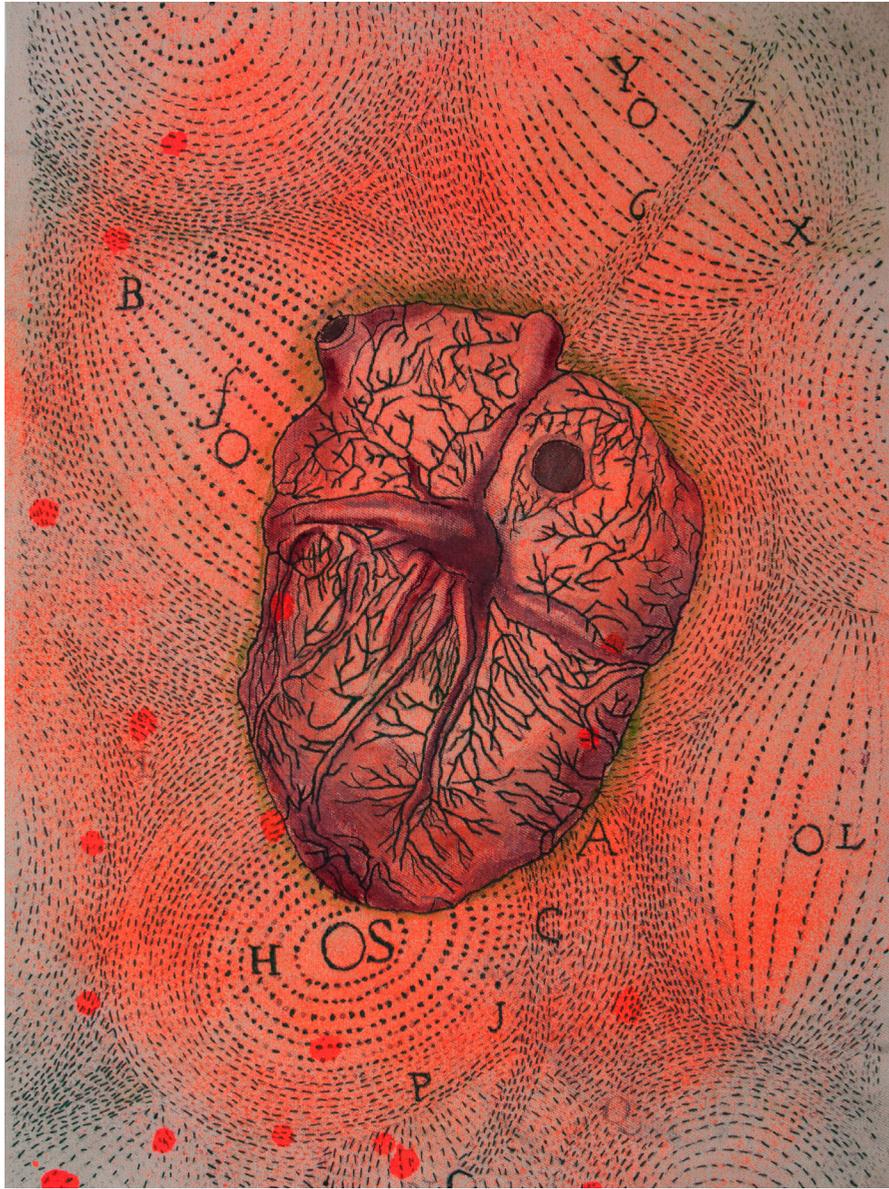


Title: Return to Sender

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Heart

Pattern: Principia Philosophiae, 1644. Rene Descartes' system of vortices, or whirlpools, which he believed, carried the heavenly bodies through space.



Title: Listen to the Silent Voice

Details: 30 x 40 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Ear

Pattern: Seamless wave pattern



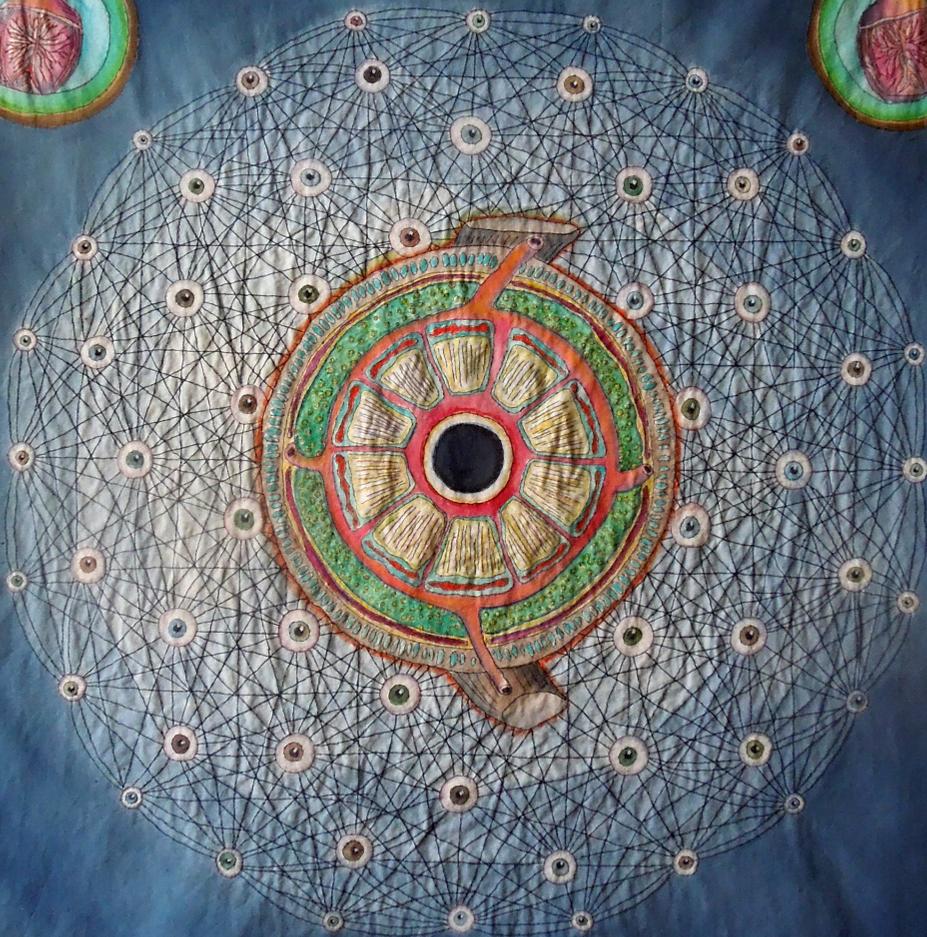
Title: Is All that we See or Seem but a Dream within a Dream

Details: 110 x 90 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Eyes, Retina

Design: Inspired by the Hindu Net of Indra and a historic Tibetan Meditation Mandala,  
Quote by Edgar Allan Poe

IS ALL THAT WE SEE OR SEEM  
BUT A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM





Dissolve in the Being  
who is Everything.

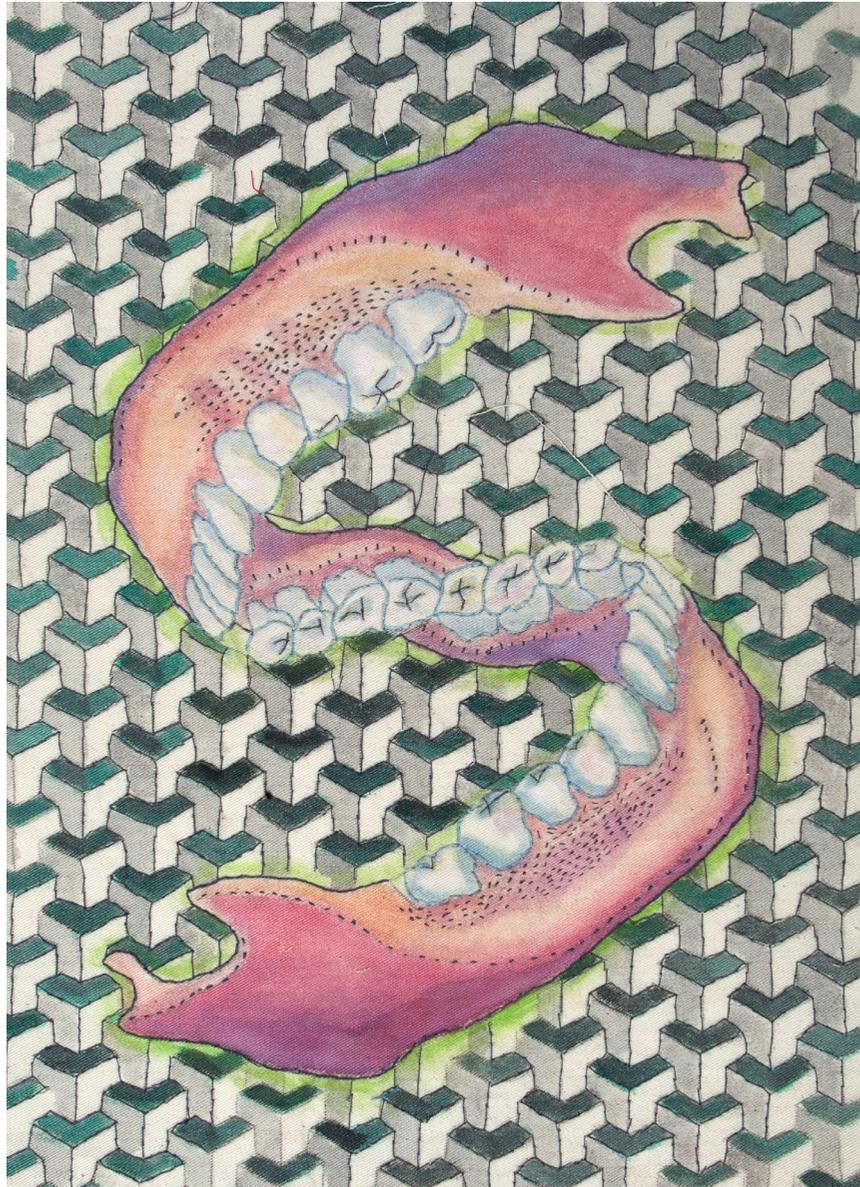
Dschalāl ad-Dīn ar-Rūmī

Title: Schi Ho - Clarity Crackdown

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Dentation

Pattern: Goyard Design for trunk and leather goods, (France)



Title: The Secret Garden

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Vulva

Pattern: Contemporary Flower Design, 'Large Orchids' from the 'Orchid' collection by Chong-A Hwang for Timeless Treasures.

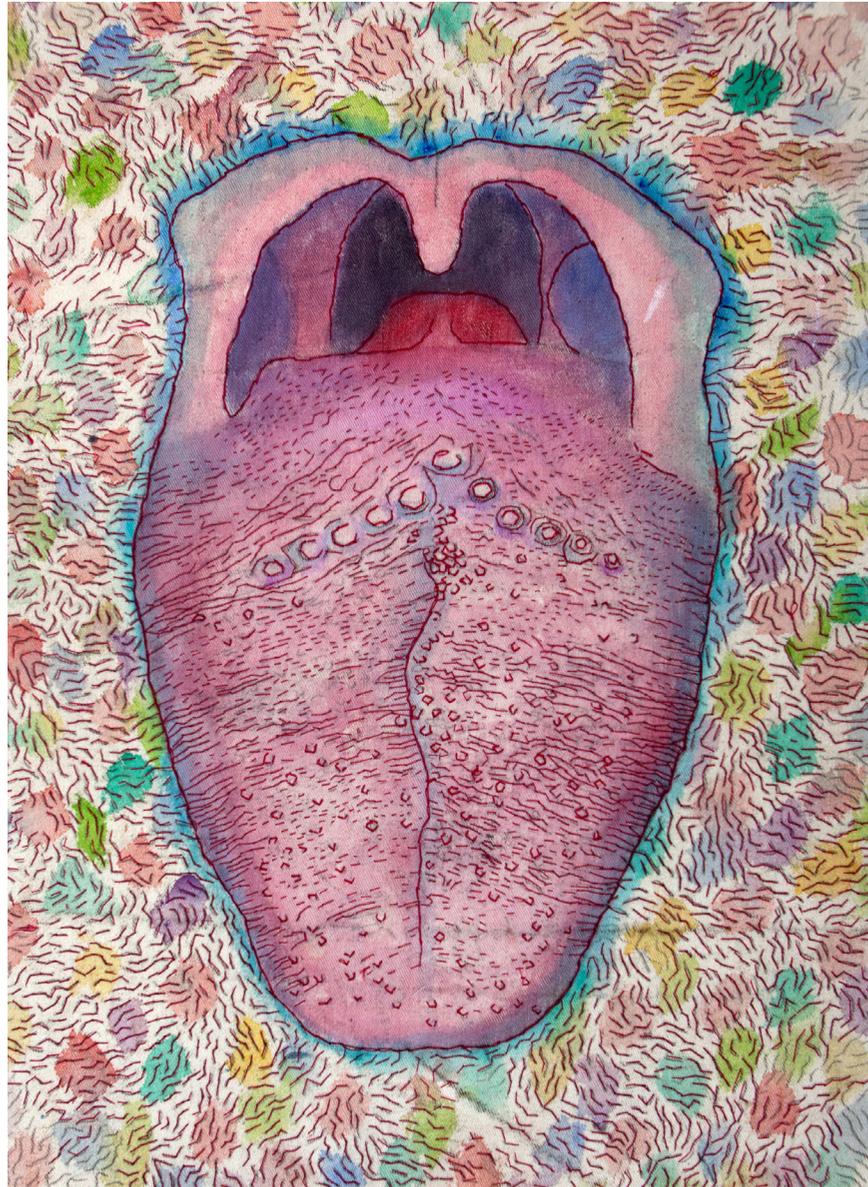


Title: Variety is the very Spice of Life

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Tongue

Pattern: Contemporary Abstract Design



Title: Pocket Rocket

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Penis

Pattern: Traditional Amish Star Pattern (USA)

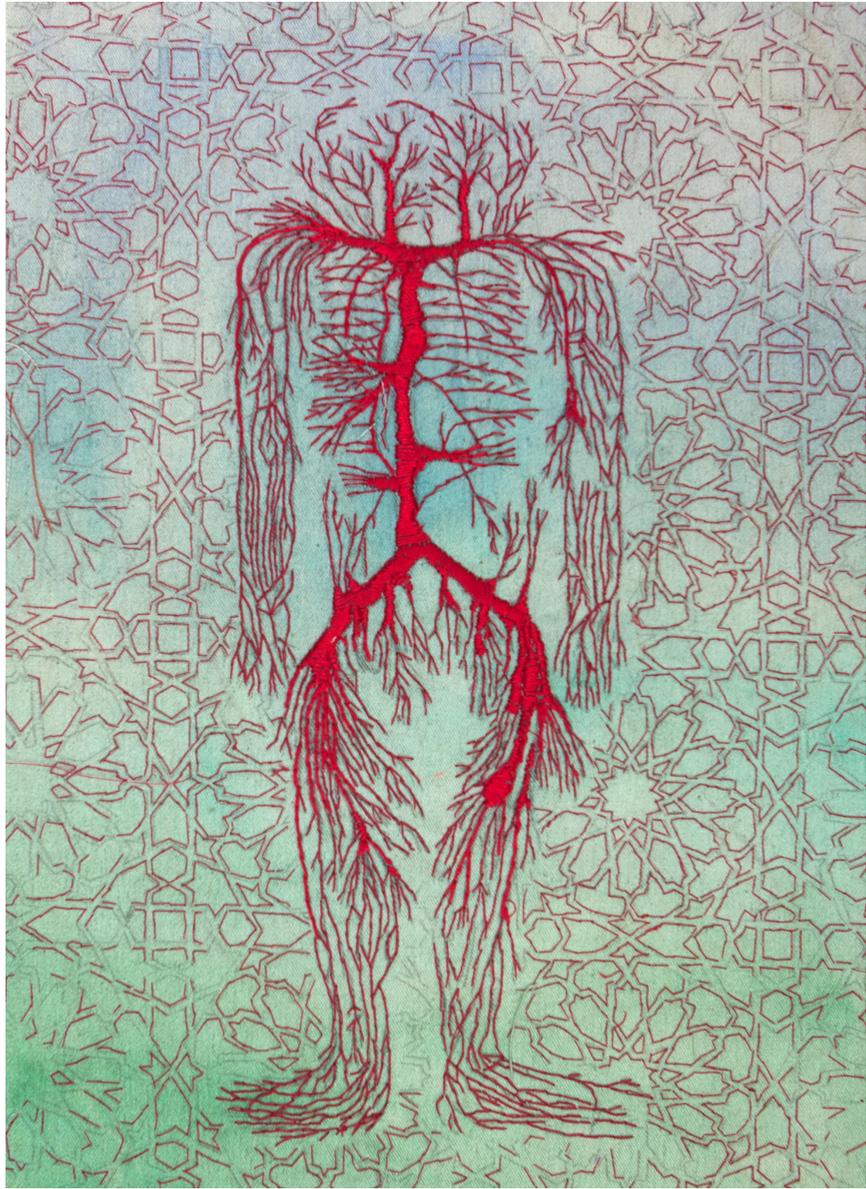


Title: The Stream of Life keeps Flowing

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Blood circulation

Pattern: Islamic Pattern, (Spain)



Title: Nourish and Flourish

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Breast

Pattern: African Fabric Super Wax Print, (Kenia)

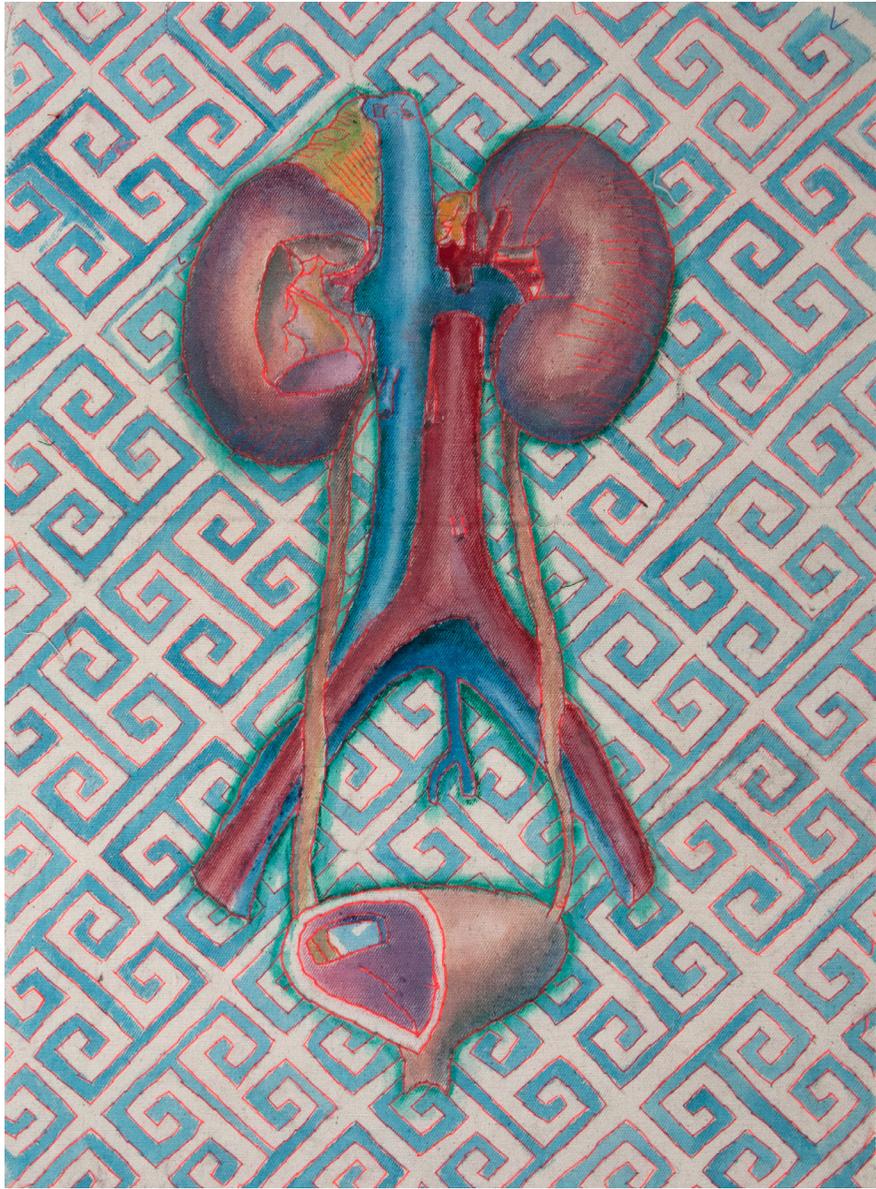


Title: Panta Rhei, Everything Flows

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Kidneys and Bladder

Pattern: Traditional Wave Pattern, (Greece)

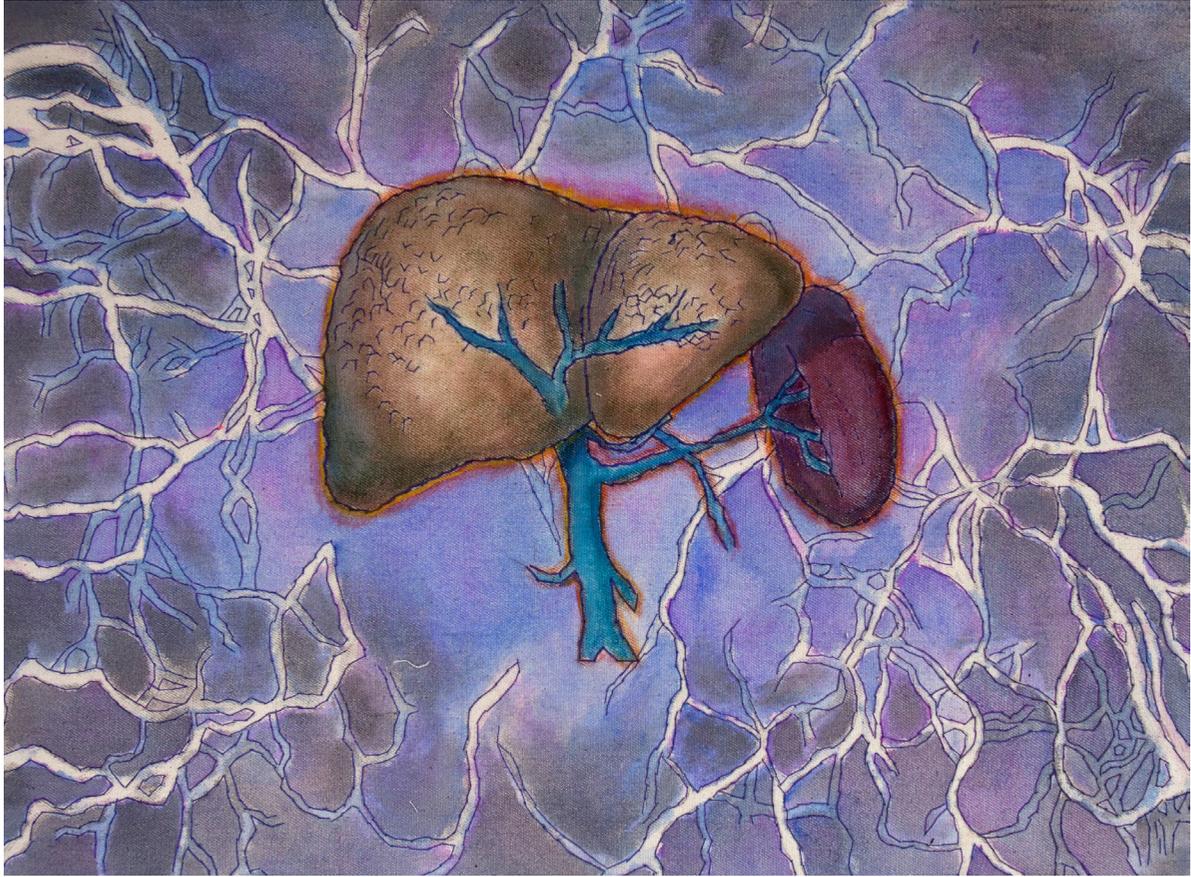


Title: Rest in Constant Change

Details: 30 x 40 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Liver and Spleen

Pattern: Thunderbolt



Title: The Scent of Circumstances

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Nose and (Paranasal) Sinus

Pattern: Ripple Grid, Abstract Vector Illustration

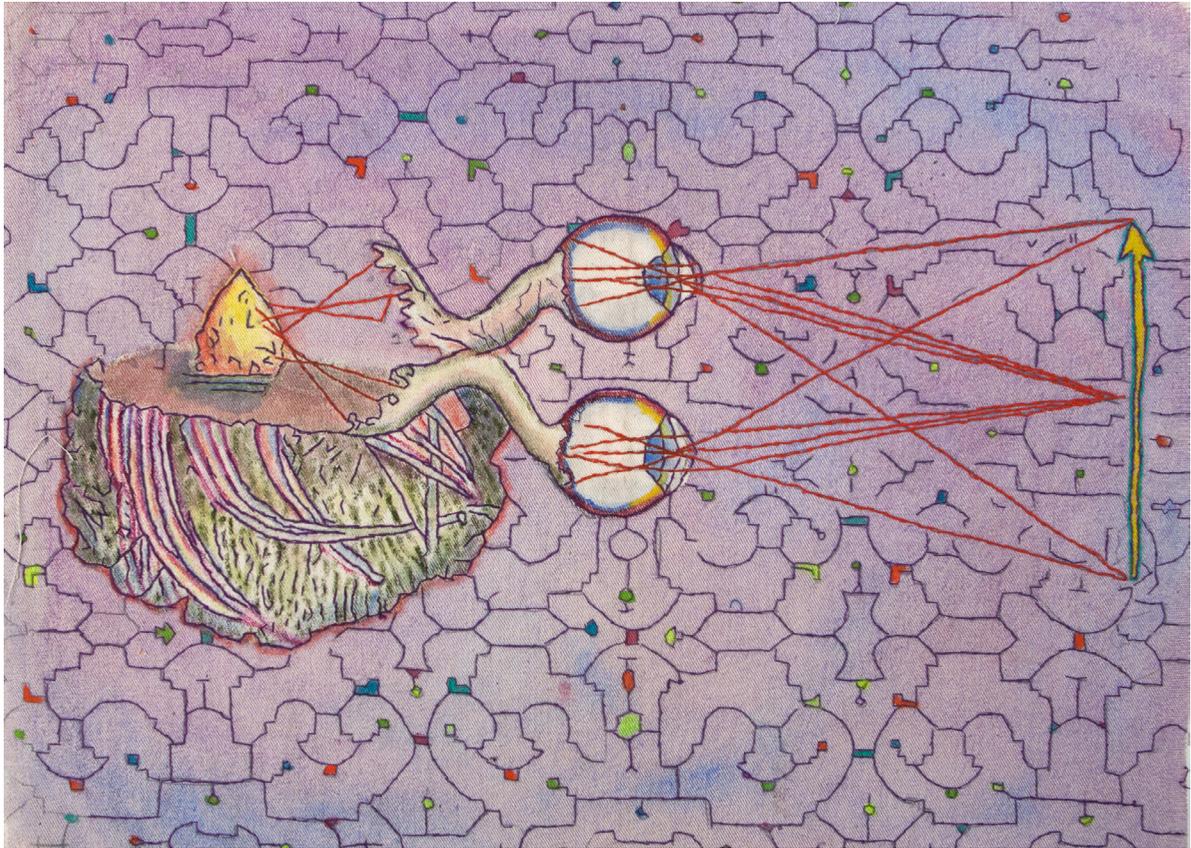


Title: Glimpse both Worlds at Once

Details: 30 x 40 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Eyes, Pineal Gland

Pattern: Traditional Ayahuasca Shipibo Pattern (Peru)



Title: Future Begins riht Now

Details: 40 x 30 cm, embroidery and painting on canvas, 2016-2017

Organ: Womb and Baby

Pattern: Fower of Life, appears in historical artefacts from the 8th century BC onwards.

They are found on a Cypro-Archaic cup of the 8th-7th century BC in Cyprus; at the Temple of Osiris at Abydos in Ancient Egypt; and on Roman mosaics, for example at Herod's palace in the 1st century BC.



The same stream of life that runs through my veins night and day runs through the world and dances in rhythmic measures. It is the same life that shoots in joy through the dust of the earth in numberless blades of grass and breaks into tumultuous waves of leaves and flowers. It is the same life that is rocked in the ocean-cradle of birth and of death, in ebb and in flow.

I feel my limbs are made glorious by the touch of this world of life.

And my pride is from the life-throb of ages dancing in my blood this moment.

## Impressum

Artwork, Design, Photos:  
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# Friederike Ruff

Born 1980 in Weingarten  
Lives and works in Berlin since 2007

## Education:

2000 Fachhochschule für Design, Münster  
2004 Universidad de Complutense, Madrid  
2001 - 2006 Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart

## Exhibitions (selection):

2018 Gates of Eden, Terzo Mondo, performance/ installation, Berlin  
2017 Lady Dada Kalam, ha`atelier/Kunsthau Kule, group exhibition, Berlin  
2015 Now and Nothing, Grölle Pass Project, solo exhibition, Wuppertal  
2015 Mental War-Bomb Gallery, Art Radioniza Lazareti, contemporary art festival, Dubrovnik, Croatia  
2015 Unterwegs, Werksstatthaus Stuttgart, solo exhibition, Stuttgart  
2015 House of Taswir-Auction, Galerie Ochs, Berlin  
2014 Bomb Gallery, contemporary art festival, Mostar, Bosnien-Herzegovina  
2014 Backboard, Grölle Pass Projects, Wuppertal  
2014 The Selfie Show, Museum of new art, Detroit, USA  
2104 Bomb Gallery Auction with Christie's, Wiensowski & Habord, Berlin  
2013 One, Ssiiee Project Space, Berlin  
2013 Rot, Grölle Pass Projects, Wuppertal  
2013 Ruhestörung, Kunstmuseum Ahlen, Ahlen  
2012 Schwaben in Berlin, ARD Hauptstadtstudio, Berlin  
2012 Charisma Camping, Grölle Pass Projects, solo exhibition, Wuppertal  
2012 Bomb Gallery Preview, Galerie Axel Obiger, Berlin  
2012 Und 7, Kulturzentrum „Alter Schlachthof“, Karlsruhe  
2011 Loveland, Grölle Pass Projects, Wuppertal  
2011 Phantome, Uferhallen, Berlin  
2010 Wildwechsel, Grölle Pass Projects, Wuppertal  
2009 No spirit without flesh, solo exhibition, Acud Galerie, Berlin  
2009 Der Affomat, Kunstverein Hechingen, solo exhibition, Hechingen

## Grants:

2008 - 2011 studio grant, Staatlichen Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart  
2014 Crossculture ifa ( Institute for Cultural Foreign Relations) internship at Ashkal Alwan, Beirut, Libanon

## Collaboration:

since 2011 Cofunding, organisation, curation of Bomb Gallery  
since 2013 organisation of Taswir/ha`atelier  
since 2016 youth trainer at Social Visions

## Workshops:

2017 "Im Augenblick-Participatory photography", Social Visions, Neuruppin  
2017 "So Fern, So Nah" Participatory photography, Social Visions, Potsdam  
2017 "Frame my world- Participatory photography in rural communities", Social Visions / Erasmus+, Tatev, Armenia