

# 12 650 000

25 black and white photographs in four frames

12 650 000, magazine, 410 pages, edition 100 + 10 AP

12 650, book, 64 pages, edition 500, published by A Prior





# 12 650 000

**work with 26 black and white photographs in 4 frames and text**

**2 artist publications 2005- 2008**

**5th berlin biennale for contemporary art, Neue Nationalgalerie Berlin, 05.05. - 15.06.2008**

Few will be acquainted with the mammoth, inert and indestructible concrete thing (for lack of a better word) weighing 12,650,000 kilograms and located in Berlin's Tempelhof district, despite it being registered as a historical landmark since 1995. Susanne Kriemann's 12 650 000 addresses this 'Schwerbelastungskörper' (heavy-load-testing structure) built in 1941 as part of Albert Speer's plan for Berlin as 'World Capital Germania' and in order to assess the weight-bearing capacity of the city's sandy ground.

In nearly all her projects, Kriemann decodes buildings and other large structures as physical embodiments of ideology and forgotten meaning. She interrogates them with a view to their social suggestiveness in order to bring out the paradoxes they incorporate. 12 650 000 is no exception. Kriemann's installation combines vintage photographs from 1941 of the half-finished structure with a range of contemporary photographs documenting the unveiling of the freshly renovated 'concrete thing'. By juxtaposing appropriated historic image material with her own contemporary photographs, Kriemann brings into play conflicting notions of history, architecture and memory. For who could have foreseen the absurdity of the simultaneous demolition of the Palast der Republik and the renovation of the 'Schwerbelastungskörper'? By means of its seemingly abstract title 12 650 000 and accompanying photographs, Susanne Kriemann's installation interrogates the city's unconscious and the 'weight' of history in post-unification Berlin.

Christine Nippe



















# 12650000

NOVEMBER 1941

**above and left: 12 650 000**  
**Artist publication,**  
**26,7 x 26,7 cm,**  
**400 pages,**  
**black & white offset prints,**  
**edition 100 + 10 AP**

**right: 12 650 000**  
**text by Ovul Durmusoglu**  
**for the catalogue 'DATA**  
**RECOVERY',**  
**exhibition at GAMeC,**  
**Bergamo, IT,**  
**29.05. - 27.07.2008**

Susanne Kriemann's photography and text oriented work is driven by a critical curiosity about monumental structures as embodiments of ideology.

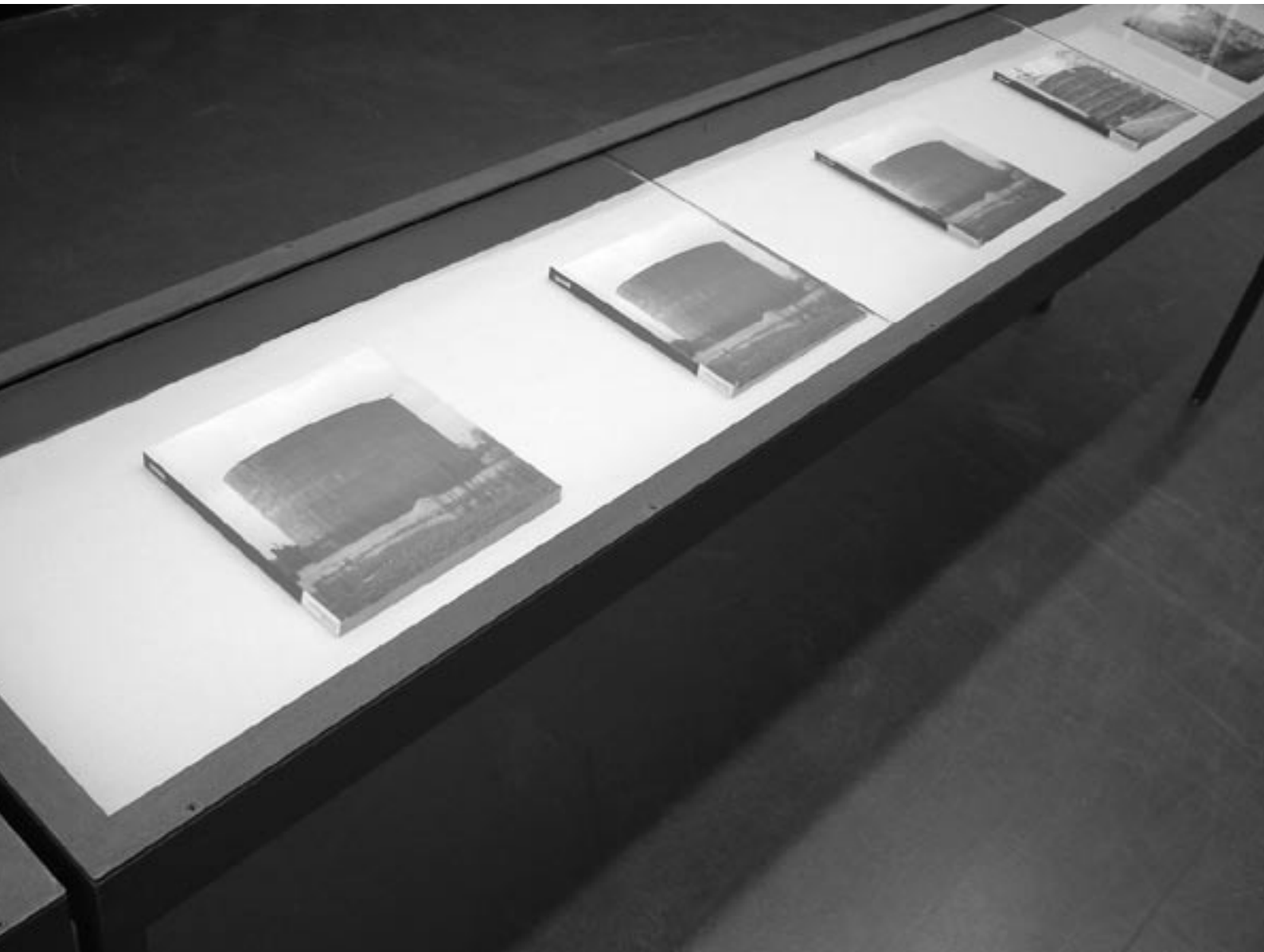
An intensive and intuitive research process lies behind each piece; she collects all the existing information about the objects of her curiosity before determining the format of the artistic outcome. The power of Kriemann's work comes from this process and reaches its crescendo in the extraordinary transformation of that collected information.

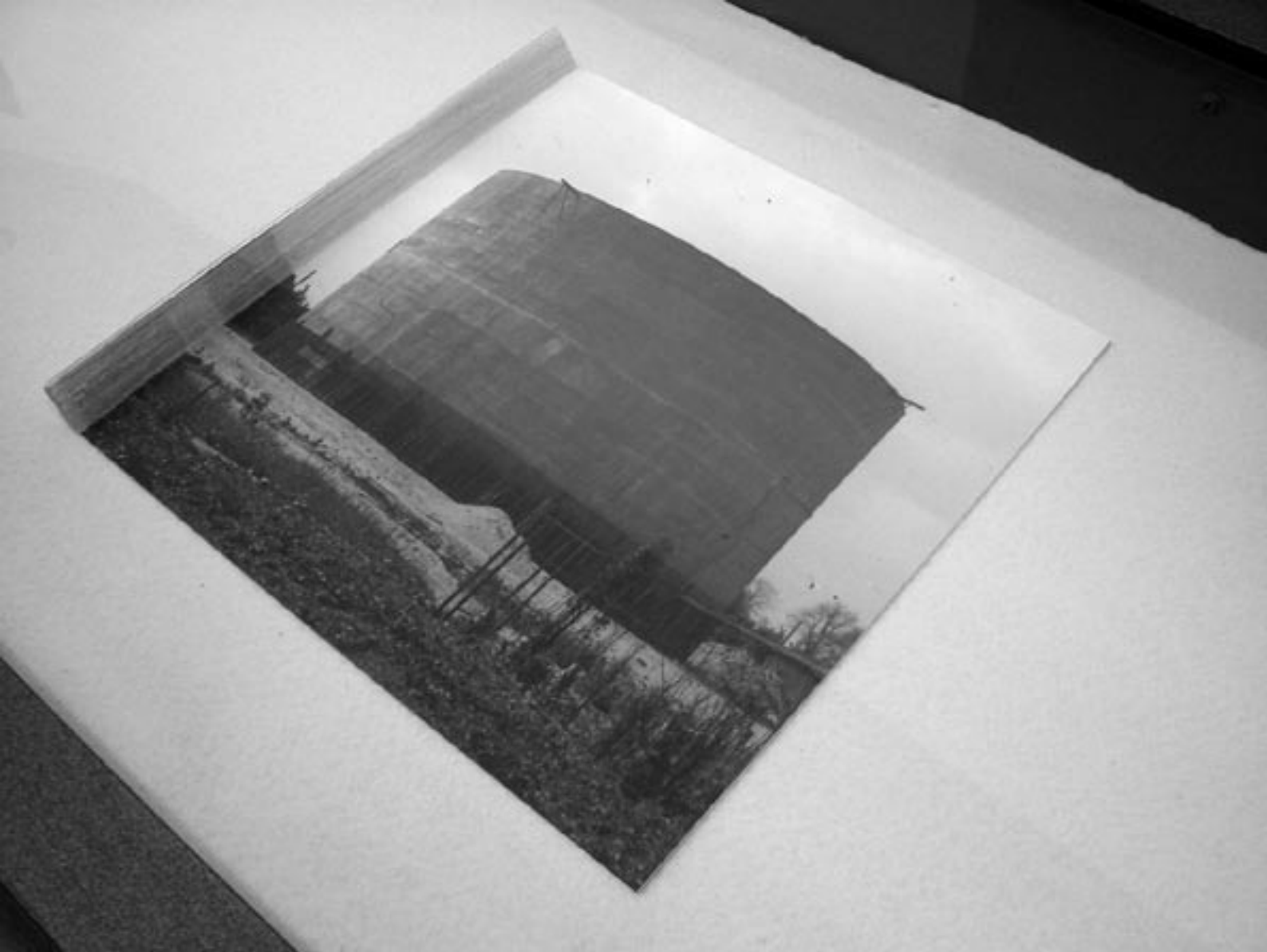
This time, the centre of her attraction is Berlin's 12.650.000 kilograms load test body "Großbelastungskörper", which was erected in the Tempelhof district of Berlin as a commission by Albert Speer in 1941 and registered as a historical landmark since 1995.

The publication 12 650 000 mimics the format of Artforum exactly and is accompanied by the artist's photographic installation of the same name.

Printed in 100 + 10 AP copies, the book 12 650 000 opens with construction pictures of the object, repeats the same quoted image of the "Großbelastungskörper" for 390 pages and ends with the artist's own photograph of the object in scaffolding again during official state renovation executed in 2007 and 2008. This complex and 1,6kg "artist edition" not only questions the value of the monument as an artistic object but also highlights Artforum as a market value determination tool displaying hundreds of pages of art commercials.

Ovul Durmusoglu,





**installation view for exhibition 'DATA RECOVERY',  
GAMeC, Bergamo, 28.05.  
- 27.07.2008**

**10 books in showcases:  
front cover, page 2, page  
3, page 4, page 6, page 9,  
page 200, page 398, page  
399, back cover;**

**above: 12 650 000  
(page 398)**

**left and below:  
books in showcase**





# 12650

## artist publication

This artist's book by Susanne Kriemann is a part of '12650 000', her contribution to the 5th Berlin biennial for contemporary art and consists of a profound analysis of the imprint the *Schwerbelastungskörper* has left in Berlin over the last 65 years or so. It is published as part of 'On Paper' a special collaborative project between *A Prior Magazine* and 5th Berlin biennial.

12650 ton is the official weight of the *Schwerbelastungskörper* (heavy load bearing body), a concrete cylindrical construction in the city of Berlin. It was constructed in 1941 by Third Reich architect Albert Speer to test the grounds for Adolf Hitler's highly ambitious, and only fractionally realised, plans to turn Berlin into the so-called *Welthauptstadt Germania*. The construction still sits in the Tempelhof district of contemporary Berlin - and seems to have become an ineluctable and permanent structure due to its vastness and weight, sunk a little too deeply into Berlin's soil. Kriemann looks at the mythologising and sometimes retro-materialist documents that have since recorded its existence. What we see in this publication is a superimposition of interpretations - of its weight, its dimensions and (symbolic) properties (including sometimes factually mistaken detail) both visually and textually in the German press from 1950 to the present, giving this single and rather neutral stone a weighty ideological load...

The serial recordings of this merely functionalist structure collected in '12650' reflect the similar-yet-tellingly-different approaches of journalists and photographers, to the point where the original is completely outweighed by concurrent interpretations.

Andrea Wiarda



Susanne Kriemann: 12' 650 000, 2008, 26 svart-vita fotografier, olika storlekar, inramade.  
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