

12650

This artist's book by Susanne Kriemann is a part of '12650000', her contribution to the 5th Berlin Biennale and consists of a profound analysis of the imprint the *Schwerbelastungskörper* has left on/in Berlin over the last 65 years or so. It has been published as part of 'On Paper' a special collaborative project between A Prior Magazine and 5th Berlin Biennale.

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 grounds for Adolf Hitler's highly ambitious, and only fractionally realised, plans to turn Berlin into the so-called *Welthauptstadt* (World Capital) *Germania*. The construction still sits in the *Schöneberg* 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

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