

NICOLE WENDEL

Drawing //Performance

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Reproductions: Eric Tschernow

Nicole Wendel's large-format core drawings suggest a space of undefined depth, in which an airy substance seems to proliferate. It almost seems as if the picture breathes. The analogy to breath is not accidental, because the entire graphic work of the Berlin based artist is closely related to body functions and activities, which she often shows in performance settings together with other partners.

In Wendel's drawings, we see spontaneous marks of the body resulting from performance actions (clearly recognizable, for example, are footprints). We also see carefully placed layers of lines, often parallel, either drawn precisely as if drawn by ruler or put in a gestural manner. Sometimes those lines are so thin that they remind us of engravings on an etching plate. There are also linearly delimited areas whose diffuse background stands out in brightness or texture from the surroundings, giving the impression of superimposed transparent foils. The spatiality of these techniques may evoke the spreading of sounds: the association with the sphere of music derives from specific elements of Wendel's drawing where she seems to pick up forms of notations of a graphic score.

Straight horizontal lines support the composition in an architectural manner.

Here again we can see how Nicole Wendel evokes the body as an architectural structure that she seeks to uncover with artistic means. Wendel follows motifs and intentions rooted in Susan Klein's somatic bodywork - important also for well-known choreographers as Trisha Brown and Sasha Waltz - with its concept of the body as a natural (architectural) formation, a formation that is in turn translated in sequences of movements, whose order is specific for each individual.

Thus, the reference to the performative not only consists in the body's spontaneous prints and marks, but also in the meticulously balanced, sometimes very finely drawn elements. Everything carries the mark of human gestures. Like the movements of dance, these gestures can be carried out very quickly, ejecting the physical energy impetuous, or very slowly in a meditative manner.

Nicole Wendel's work sounds out the gestural with its major role in non-figurative painting, in the thorough research that she carries out in the medium of drawing and that she combines with elements of constructive abstraction. In her smaller drawings she isolates the various elements that one finds interwoven on the large sheets into complex structures. Parallel adjacent or circling lines and strokes are next to geometric figures and wiped parts. Different directions and dynamic relationships of the elements are the artist's methods of drawing by which she captures a kinetic space.

Both in the smaller and in the large formats, the conventional contrast between surface and depth is consistently undermined. Everything takes place on the surface that is charged in a complex manner. The surface offers itself as the setting for multi-layered processes in the most literal sense, while at the same time becoming an imaginary space, a kind of resonance space that the artist explores, as well as in her own body, which she transfers onto and into the picture.



Coredrawing (4/2019), graphite on paper, 129 x 100 cm, 2019



Coredrawing (5/2019), graphite on paper, 129 x 100 cm, 2019



Coredrawing (1/2018), graphite on paper, 200 x 154 cm, 2018



Coredrawing (2/2018), graphite on paper, 200 x 154 cm, 2018



exhibitionview, *bebop*, left: *Coredrawing (3/2018)*, right: *Coredrawing (1/2018)*, front: board from the performance *RealTime*, galerie1214, Berlin 2019



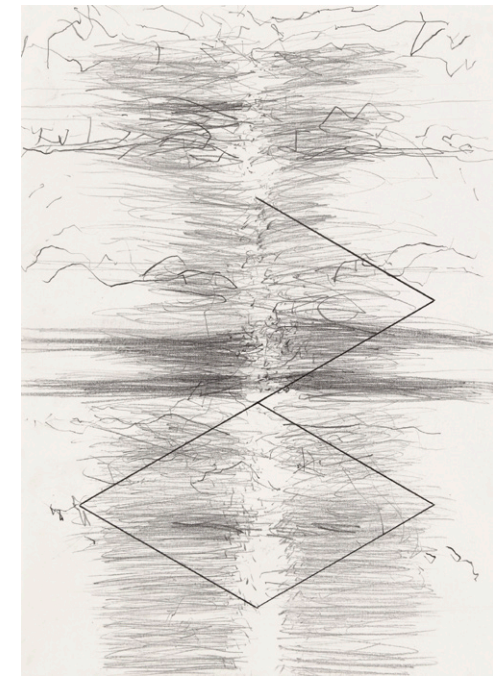
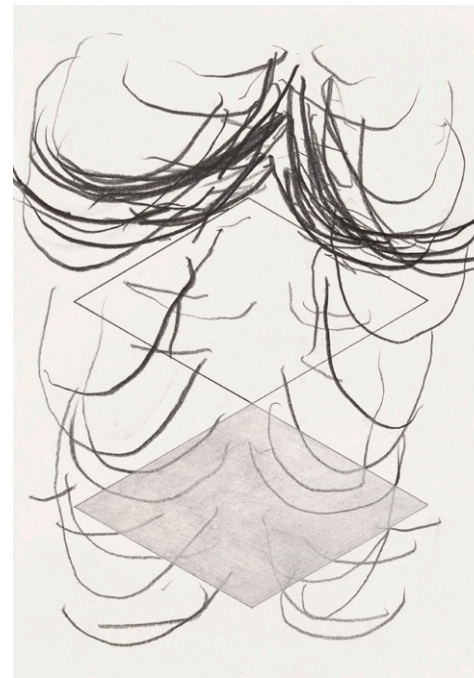
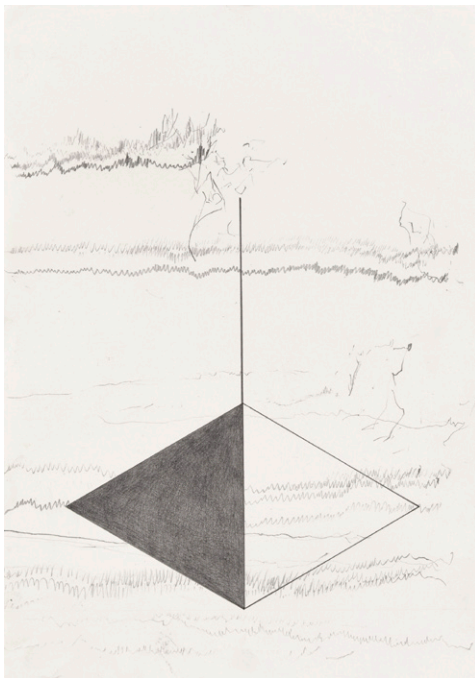
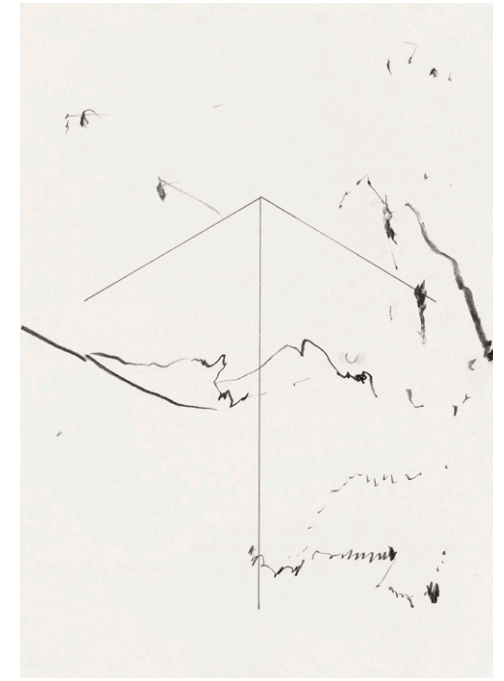
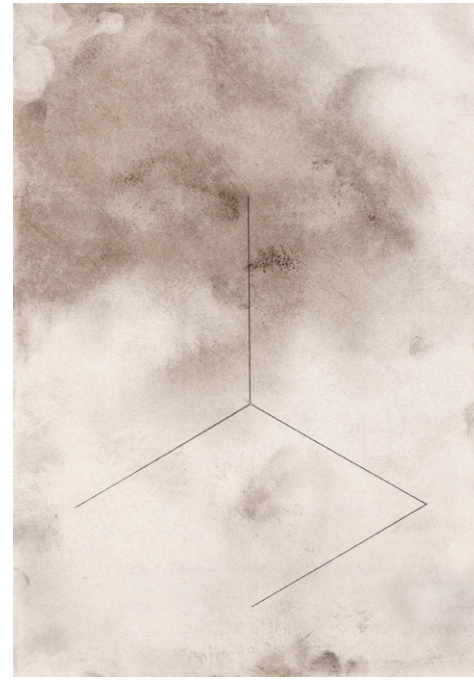
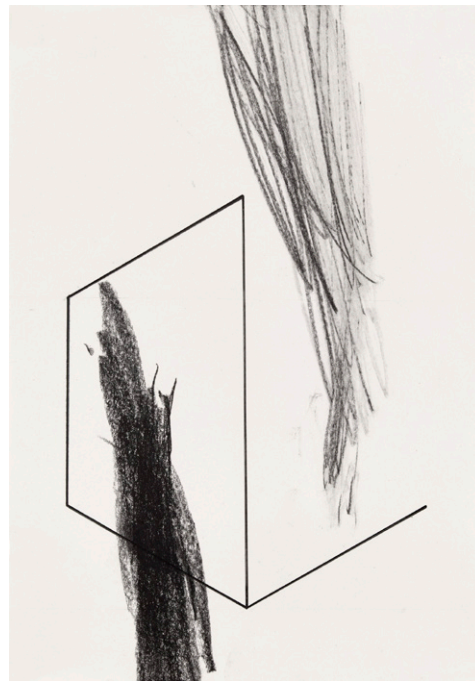
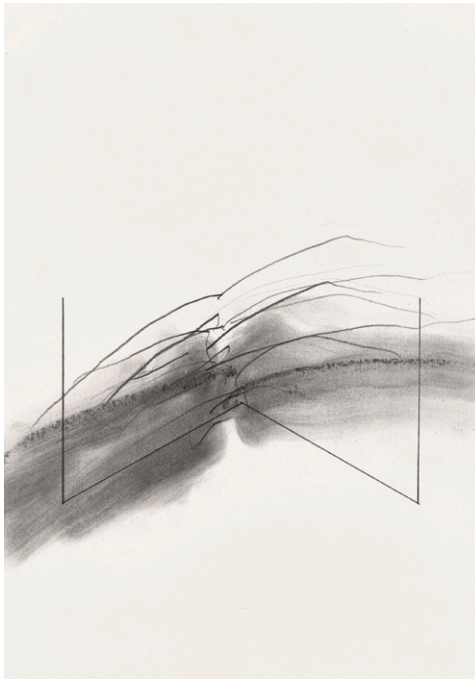
REAL TIME, performance, 45Min., setting: white chalk on black board, 210 x 160cm, concept and idea: Nicole Wendel, inspired by the bodywork of Britta Pudelko, performer: Johanna Ackva, Johanna Faber, Evan Foster, Michael Tsoulukidse, camera: Anton Dorokh, 2019

How do we respond to communicative impulses of our counterpart? When do we agree? When not? What options do we select? How do we generate relationship, trust, distance, proximity and connection?

In the performance REAL TIME four dancers* meet on a black board (160 x 210cm). They embark on a sculpturally performative search for coherent positions to each other and thus allow the intensity of decisions to become visible in a physical dialogue. Through macro and micro movements, an attempt is made to create a lively relationship to one another. What remains is an abstract after-image of the forms of encounter as a white chalkdrawing; a reference to the spatial kinetics of bodies in dialogue.



REAL TIME, white chalk on black board, 210 x 160cm, performance with Johanna Ackva, Johanna Faber, Evan Foster, Michael Tsoulukidse, 2019



OpenCube, #12, #6 each: graphite on paper,
29,7 x 21cm, 2018/19

OpenCube #108, 2018
OpenCube #52, 2018

OpenCube #129, 2018
OpenCube #2, 2018

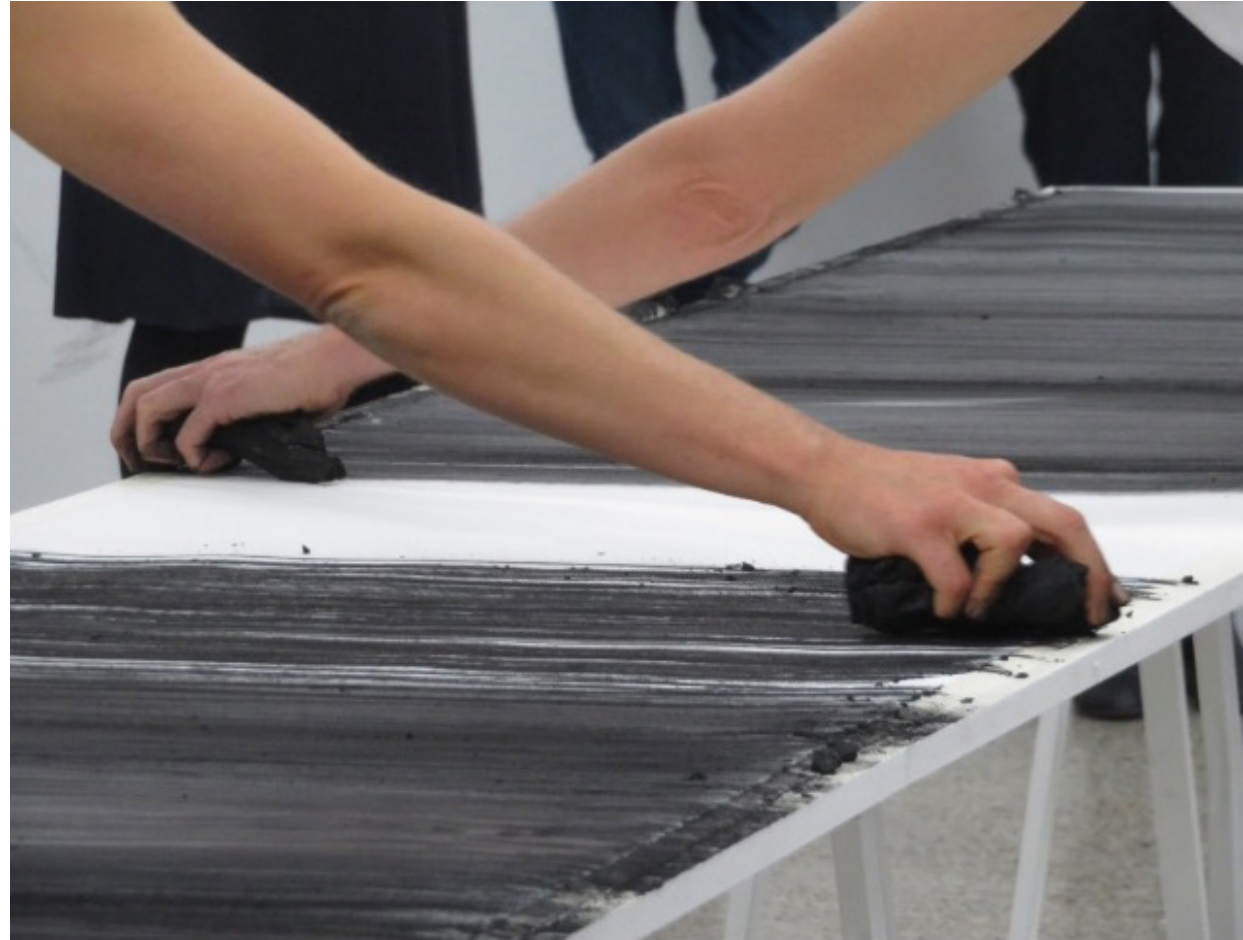
OpenCube #25, 2018
OpenCube #97, 2018



Exhibitionview *embodied lines*, series *Open Cube*, Drawing Centre Diepenheim, 2019/2020



Exhibitionview *embodied lines*, left: series of 72 drawings *Open Cube*, right: *Coredrawing* (2/2018), front: table from the performance *CORHYTHM*, Drawing Centre Diepenheim, 2019/2020



CORHYTHM, 2019, performance setting: table 60 x 400 cm, chalkpieces, paper, concept: Nicole Wendel
performance: Johanna Ackva and Nicole Wendel, 24min, camera: Clara Wendel, Drawing Centre Diepenheim

The line is the operating instruction for the performance *CORHYTHM*. Charcoal pieces are moved back and forth on white paper, creating a sequence of movements that is caused by repetition. Out of the moment, following the line, a common navigation emerges, which creates a visual and acoustic rhythm. These qualities are reminiscent of archaic everyday actions and ritualized processes.

NICOLE WENDEL

(* 1975 in Karlsruhe)

1997–2004 Fine Arts Study at the Berlin University of the Arts (MFA)
2004 Master's student with Professor Leiko Ikemura, Berlin
2007 1st Staatsexamen of Fine Arts at the Berlin University of the Arts

Grants and awards

2019 Research Fellowship, Berlin Senate, DE
2008 1st Graphic Art Award, Alice Salomon Berlin, DE
2000 Erasmus scholarship at the École des Beaux Arts, Paris, FR

Works in public collections

Collection of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate, DE
Collection of the Berlinische Galerie, DE
Collection of the Forum GEHAG, DE
Hegenbarth Sammlung, Berlin, DE

Solo Exhibitions, Performances (selection)

2019 *bebop*, galerie1214, Berlin (T)
2017 *Présence*, Espace d'Art Contemporain Andr. Malraux, Colmar, FR (c)
2016 *schwarze Füße*, e.artis contemporary, Chemnitz, DE (c)
2015 *Des images en mouvement*, Goethe-Institut, Paris, FR
on and on and on, Galerie Graphem, Paris, FR (c)
Drawing Now 2015, Galerie Graphem, Paris, FR
2014 *s/w*, Scotty Enterprises, Berlin, DE
2013 *Panorama*, Galerie weisser elefant, Berlin, DE (c)
2010 *Staubfinger*, Galerie weisser elefant/first floor, Berlin, DE
Fünf, Installation-Dance-Project, in collaboration with Johanna Devi, Munich, DE
2009 *Say a body. Where none.*, Walden Kunstausstellung, Berlin, DE
Fünf, Installation-Dance-Project, in collaboration with Johanna Devi, Berlin, DE
2008 *Zwischenräume/paradoxe Berührungen*, Objektperformance, Ausland, Berlin, DE
2007 *Berührung*, object performance, Ausland, Berlin, DE

Group Exhibitions, Projects, Performances (selection)

2019 *embodied lines*, Drawing Center Diepenheim, Diepenheim, NL
*Drawing Now*_curated exhibition: Drawing Performance, Galerie 1214, Paris, FR
Spacescapes, Platforme, Paris, FR
Put on paper, Errant Sound, Berlin, DE
Canto Ostinato, Global Water Dance, Berlin
Unselect, Ausstellungsfestival der Kleinen Humboldt Galerie, Berlin
RealitätsCheck, Kunstraum Potsdam
2018 *10times6*, 10 pieces each 6 minutes, YES_YES, Nicole Wendel in collaboration with Audrey Rose Burdon, ADA Studio, Berlin, DE
L'Art pour l'Art, Prolog (journal for text and drawing), Berlin, DE (c)
on painting #2, Galerie Bridget Stern, Hamburg, DE
Anonymous Drawings, Galerie im Kärnerpark, Berlin, DE
Corhythm, Nicole Wendel in collaboration with Audrey Rose Burden, Sammlung Hegenbarth, Berlin, DE
2017 *TRAJECTORIES #01*, Stella Geppert, Nikolaus Gansterer, Nicole Wendel, Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin, DE
TRAJECTORIES #02, Stella Geppert, Nikolaus Gansterer, Ulrike Mohr, Nicole Wendel, Drawing Hub, Berlin, DE
2016 Harald Gnade, Lothar Seruset and Nicole Wendel, GEHAG Forum, Berlin, DE
2015 *U-Topien*, Prolog (journal for text and drawing), Berlin, DE (c)
2014 *Lieber Künstler, zeichne mir! Part 2*, Galerie Semjon Contemporary, Berlin, DE (c)
Anonymous Drawings, Based in Berlin, Pavillion am Milchhof, Berlin, DE
2012 *Lucide*, Kunstraum t27, Berlin, DE
2010 *Grundton*, with Daniel Kupferberg, K-Salon, Berlin, DE
2009 *Anonymous Drawings #10*, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, DE
nichts ausser zeichnungen VOL. III, Rondeel Art Space, Maastricht, NL
2008 *clips*, Goethe-Institut, Toulouse, FR
Positions of contemporary drawings # 2, Delikatessenhaus, Leipzig, DE
2007 *Zeichnung*, Jikisiten Gallery, Nagoya, JP
clips, Kunstverein Tiergarten / Galerie Nord, Berlin, DE
2005 *performance collaboration*, k77, Berlin, DE
2004 *Kontraste*, Kunstverein Zehnhaus, Jockgrim, DE
Fensterwald (with U. Siebert, R. Raue), Galerie Fine Arts con.tra., Berlin, DE
Zimmer mit Ausblick (with C. Klatt, U. Siebert), Galerie weisser elefant, Berlin, DE
2001 *Figurationen*, Kunsthaus Tacheles, Berlin, DE
Zwischen Tür und Engel, Zionskirche, Berlin, DE
2000 *Boutique des Nues*, Galerie Saint-Eustache, Paris, FR