



Gerhard Lang

# THE HERRISCHRIED SERIES

An Excerpt

GALERIE ALBRECHT BERLIN



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An Excerpt

With sections of the essay *In the darkroom of seeing clouds* by Ursula Panhans-Bühler

Translated by Matthew Partridge

GALERIE ALBRECHT BERLIN

Gerhard Lang exhibited and performed at the 1995 Venice Biennial and in 2017 at the documenta 14 in Kassel. Other venues include Düsseldorf Kunsthalle; PS1, New York; Hayward Gallery, London; German Museum, Munich; Science Museum, London; Canadian Center for Architecture, Montreal; Architecture Biennial, São Paulo; Triennial, Milan; National Museum of Science and Technology, Kaohsiung; Graham Foundation, Chicago

The work would not have been possible without the advice and generous support of Margrith and August Künzel. The drawing works were created in the fields outside the village of Herrischried in the Black Forest in Germany in summer 2019.

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Photos: Front cover and drawing works: Kaspar Hiltbrand, pages 1 and 2 and back cover: Margrith Künzel

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Ursula Panhans-Bühler  
*In the darkroom of seeing clouds*\*

Modern image technology from photography to electronic rendering withdraws the hand from the process of picture recording. Yet in his *Zeichnen des Sehens der Wolke* (Drawing the process of seeing a cloud) Gerhard Lang relies on the hand as the motive agent of his imaging. This offers a protocol of the process of seeing the cloud, but without this being *controlled* by the eye during transcription. The eye does not intervene: culturally biased interference, as happens when switching focus between the motif and the drawing, is precluded.\*\* [...]

What is the hand, this experienced puppet of the eye, doing when it is drawing the act of seeing the cloud? It does not *reproduce* the motif instantaneously as does each *camera obscura*, even that of the eye, but it *processes* it. As it draws the picture its time is elapsing, as too is the cloud's. This gives rise to a twice-processed image: through the movement of the hand and that of the cloud. Even in superlative weather, three hours for clouds is no trifle. [...]

Gerhard Lang's drawing of the process of seeing the cloud is regulated by eye and hand as "nervous encompassing organs" (Aby Warburg). Even by keeping the gaze riveted to the cloud formation the outcome is a psychic-electric rendering of the process of seeing into an image that is blindly executed by the hand as a kind of organic Geiger counter.

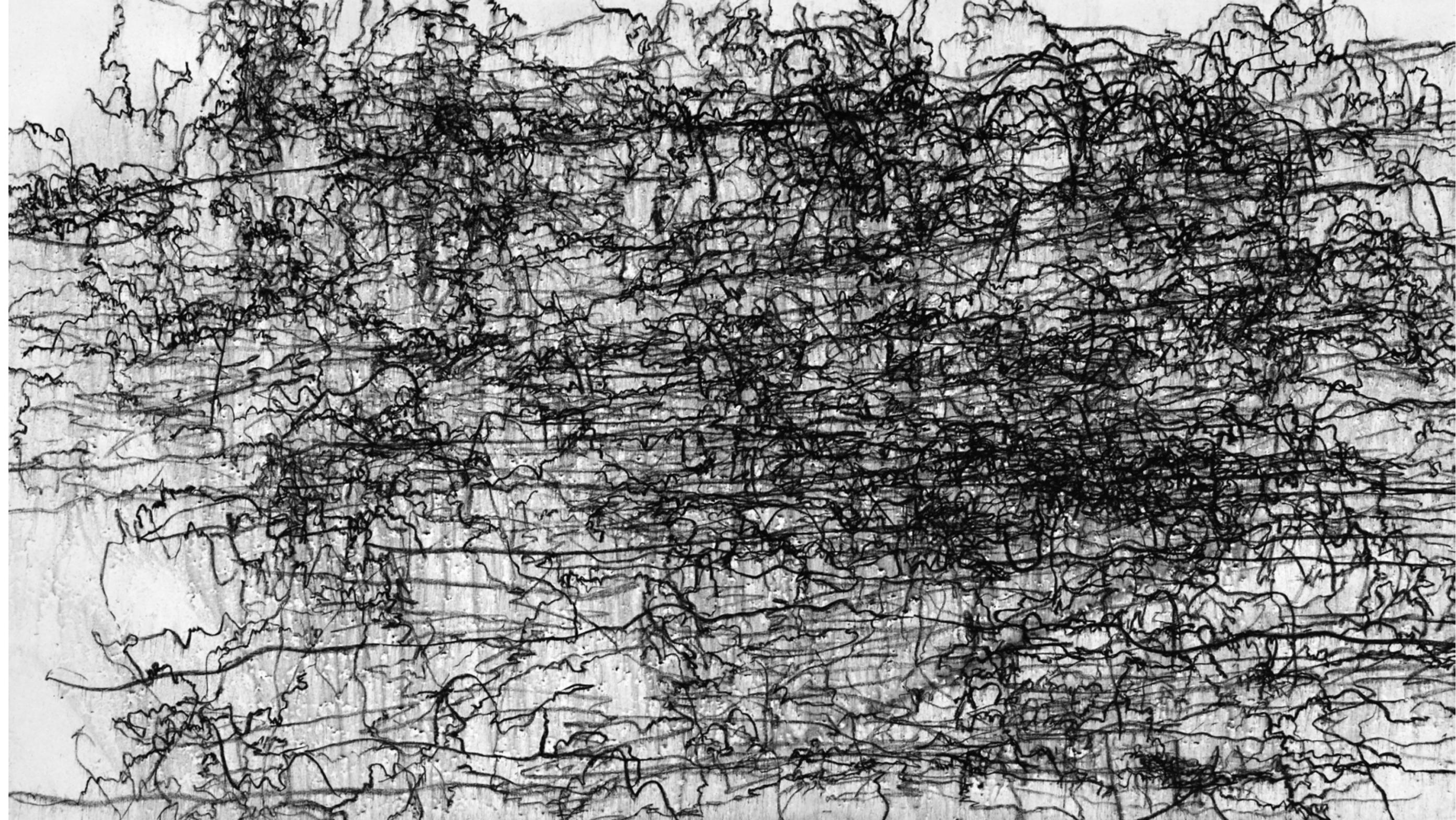
Ursula Panhans Bühler is emerita professor of the history of modern art at the School of Arts and Design at the University of Kassel in Germany. She was one of the founding members of the *Society of the Shadow Accelerators*.

\* The essay was first published in *Nubi Tempora. Cloud Landscapes*, issued by the Deutsche Wetterdienst (German Meteorological Service), Offenbach am Main, 2017, 5–8.

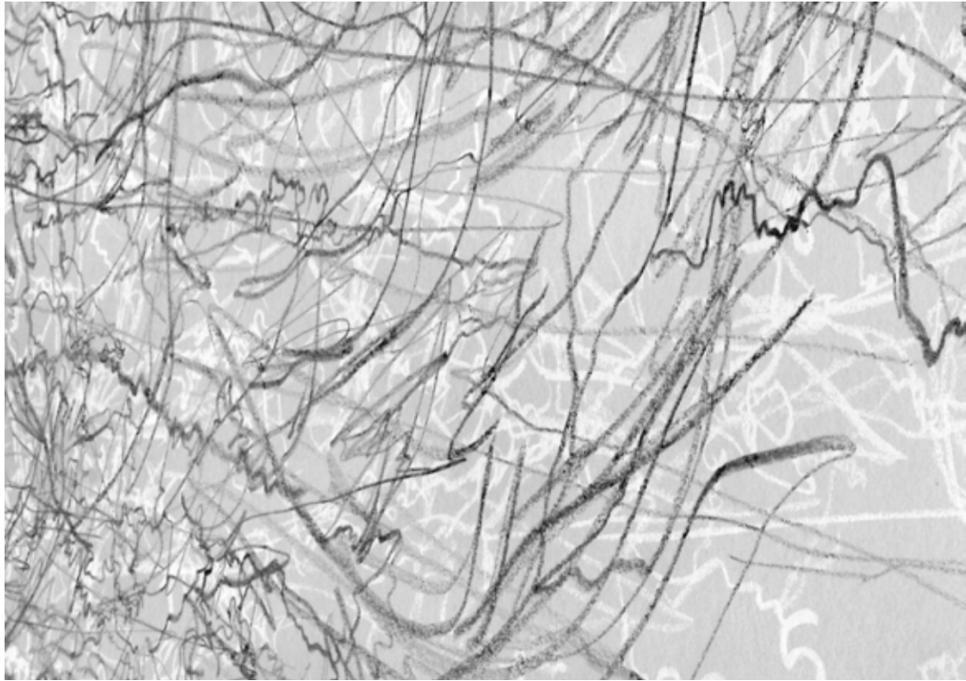
\*\* This drawing method is generally called Blind Drawing. In the work of Gerhard Lang this drawing method is referred to as VISUS SIGNATUS (the drawn process of seeing).

The process of seeing the clouds,  
Visus Signatus drawing, oil pastel,  
30 May 2019, 162 x 230 cm





The process of seeing the clouds,  
Visus Signatus drawing, pastel and  
rain shower with hail and thunder,  
20 July 2019, 130 x 230 cm



Left: The process of seeing the clouds, Visus Signatus drawing, white oil pastel and graphite, 21/22 July 2019, 163 x 230 cm (detail, photographed from an angle)

Right: The process of seeing the clouds, Visus Signatus drawing, white oil pastel and graphite, 21/22 July 2019, 163 x 230 cm





The process of seeing the clouds,  
Visus Signatus drawing, white oil  
pastel and graphite on grey primed  
paper, 30/31 July 2019, 135 x 232 cm

On 25 July 2019 there was not a single cloud above Herrischried. On this day Gerhard Lang's eyes were always looking at the immobile parts of the landscape while he was drawing with oil pastel, 162 x 235 cm



The process of seeing the clouds,  
Visus Signatus drawing, pastel and  
strong rain shower with thunder,  
26 July 2019, 135 x 232cm

Courtesy: Private collection in  
Switzerland



