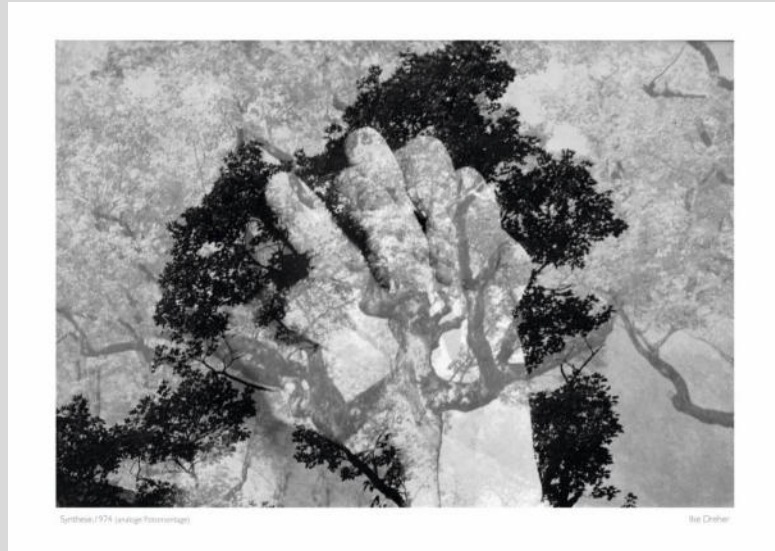




ILSE DREHER

Nature Art
Installationen
Fotografie

*„What drives me above all is the fluid—the unfixed, the flowing,
the ever-changing, the shifting.
This is why I engage with air, water, light, and earth.
I am drawn to the archaic and the anarchic, yet also to the confrontation
with a world stripped of its soul.“*



1974



2025

About me

For more than fifty years, I have been working as an independent artist in the fields of photography, media mix, design, moving image, curatorial practice, and as a game author.

Trained as a photographer, additionally at the Hamburg Rothenbaum School of Photography, I went on to study at the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Offenbach.

My work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions, including Tipping Point in Tirana/Albania, various international GNAP – Global Nomadic Art Projects (Germany, South Korea, France, Argentina), Kunsttage Dreieich, Wunsiedler Wasserspiele, Kunstverein Bad Nauheim, nAtuRkulTur Rodgau, Schwabacher Kunsttage, Kunst im Park Burg Namedy, GLS Bank, Deutsche Bundesbank, and Aubenades de la Photographie in France.

Since 2005, I have been a member of the KunstInitiativeDreieich, and since 2024 a member of the Kunstverein Eulengasse, Frankfurt am Main.

I have curated the Kunsttage Dreieich multiple times.

Awards include the 1982 Cultural Advancement Award for Graphic Design by the City of Dreieich, and in 2014, the Cultural Award of the City of Dreieich together with KunstInitiativeDreieich.

My Working Method

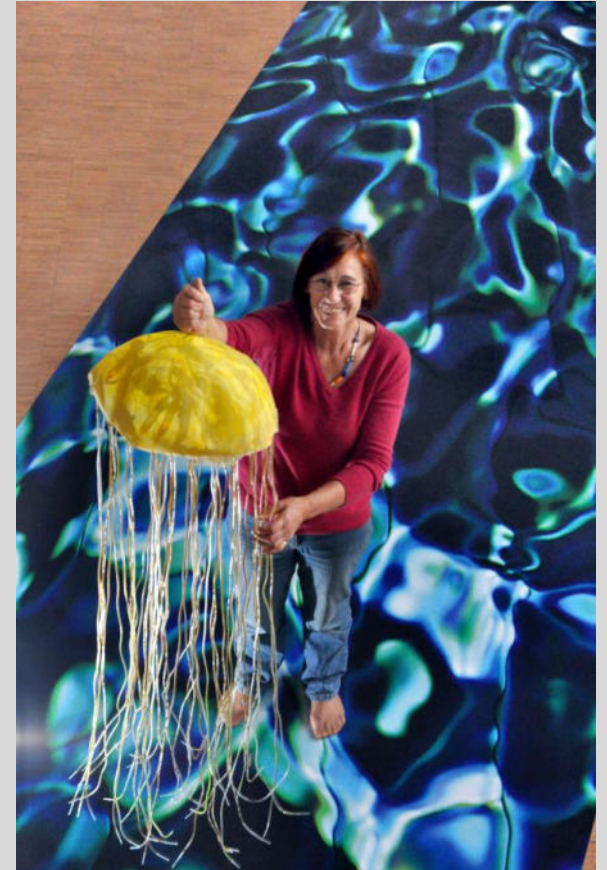
The starting point of my work was, and still is, photography.

At the same time, I began very early to experiment with wax, sand, cotton, foil, and many other materials. This interest in diverse substances continues to shape my practice today.

For me, the photographic process does not end with the moment the shutter is released: the image is further developed through both photographic techniques and traditional methods.

I create, alter, and collage images, often adding a counterpoint—whether within the image itself, in a spatial installation, or in an object. These images are then recombined with various materials through different stages of work.

What is essential is that the original image always remains present in the new one — preserved, negated, and transformed (in the sense of *aufgehoben*).



Wax and Other Materials



1982



1989



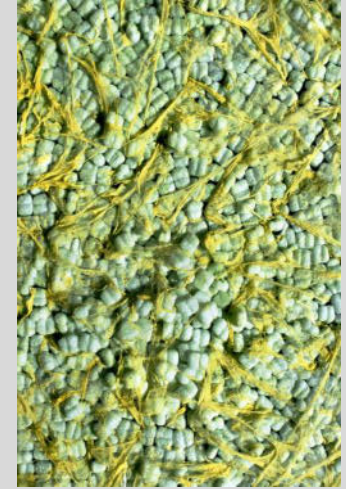
2000



2005



2005



2005

After visiting a Jasper Johns exhibition, I became inspired to work with wax.

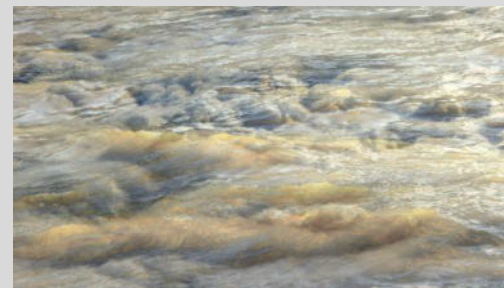
Later, latex and silicone rubber entered my practice as materials.

What fascinates me is their tactile and supple quality—their softness and immediacy to the senses.

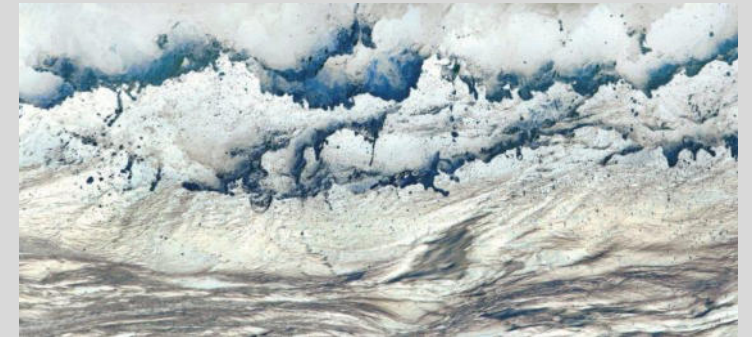
Photography

Until 2004, I worked with analogue cameras in my own darkroom. After that, I switched to digital photography, exploring its wide-ranging possibilities of image editing - painting by photographic means.

Here, for example, I use altered perspectives and overlays to disrupt habitual ways of seeing.

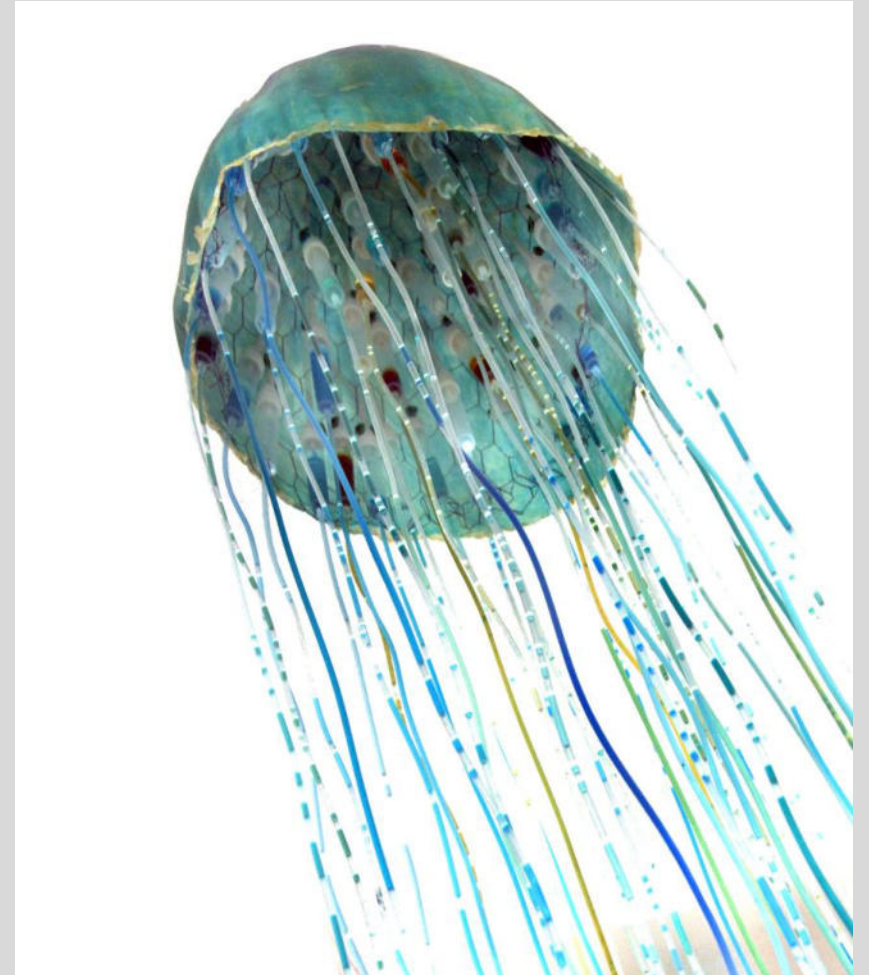
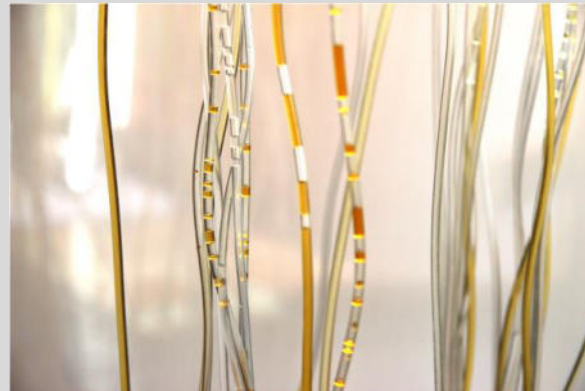


In other works, the process evolves step by step into the realm of drawing.



Silicone Works and Objects

I often use medical products such as silicone infusion tubes, protective gloves, or test tubes in many of my objects. In doing so, I preserve or extend my images, allowing them to unfold in new forms.

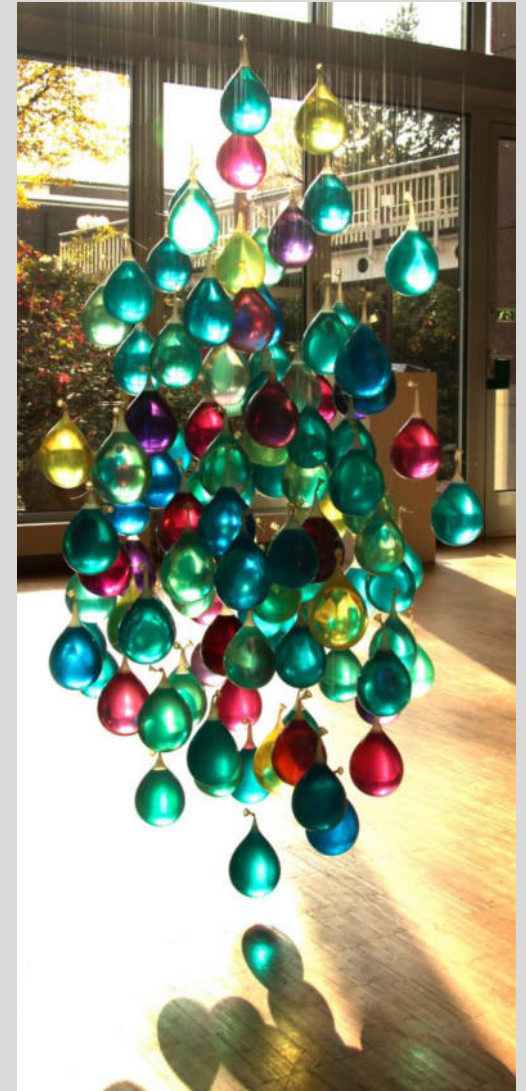


Silicone Works and Objects



Light and Kinetic Objects

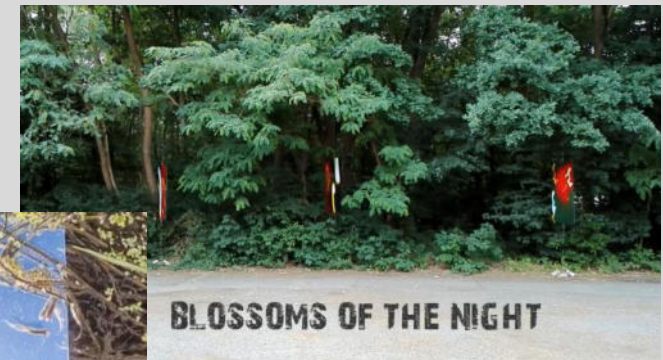
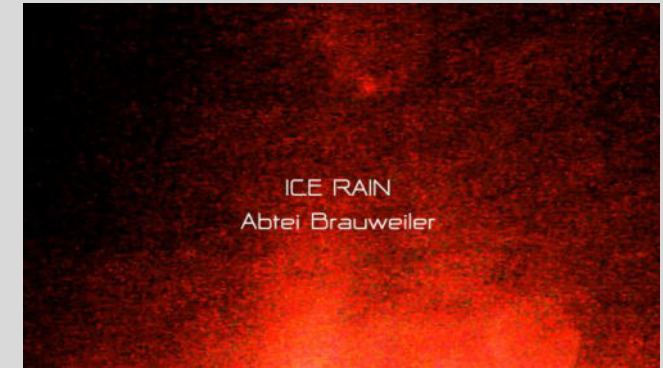
From 2014 onwards, I became increasingly interested in working with space. This led to large-scale photographs, moving images, objects, and spatial installations – both indoors and outdoors.



Light and Kinetic Objects



Videos



Videos

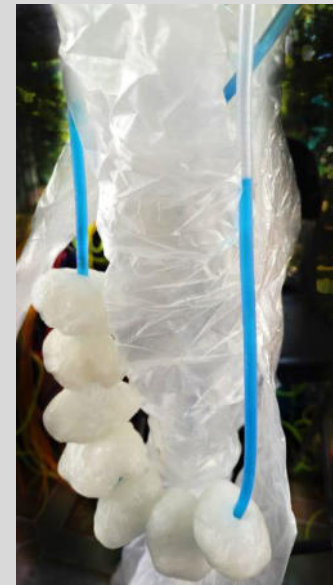


Installations

Permanent or temporary installations: Turmburg in Dreieichenhain, which will celebrate its 950th anniversary next year, in forests, in parks, in vacant shops or in galleries.



Installations



Installations



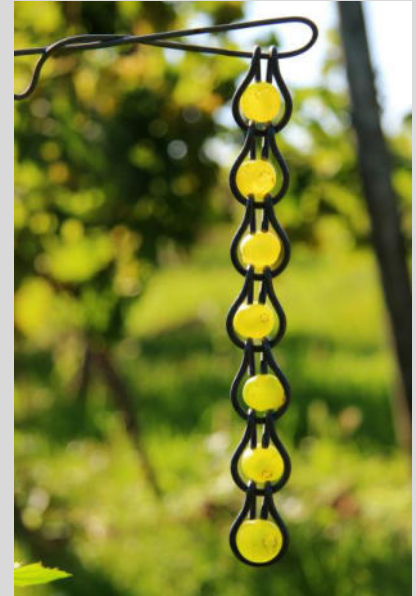
Global Nomadic Art Projects

The charm of GNAP lies in engaging with nature in a mostly very short predetermined time and creating an installation or an object with very few tools and the materials at hand. The fleeting, quick process has its own unique appeal. All works are documented photographically or on film.



Germany and France

Global Nomadic Art Projects



Next exhibitions with my participation:

GNAP Germany 2025 – Democratic Forest at IWZ, Darmstadt
September 27th - October 17th, 2025

33rd Art Days Dreieich at the Municipal Gallery Dreieich
October 23rd to November 9th, 2025

Kipping Point at the A.P.T. Gallery in London
June 18th - 28th, 2026

Ilse Dreher
www.ilsedreher.de

