



FEATURED TEXTS OR PROJECTS

unfinished

Lukas Sander

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Abstract

unfinished is an artistic project, a site-specific video walk created for the newly built district of Manegg in Zurich, Switzerland. Co-produced with Gessnerallee Zurich, the work premiered in May and June 2024, with further presentations anticipated in 2025. The project centres on a single-shot, steadycam video that traces a continuous walking route through the evolving urban landscape. Audience members receive the video on tablets and, equipped with headphones, follow the filmed path on location, synchronised in movement, position, and perspective with the onscreen walker. The site—Manegg—is a recently developed district on the grounds of a former paper factory, now demolished and replaced by mixed-use residential and commercial buildings. Marketed as “Greencity”, this territory presents a still-emerging, ecologically branded urban environment, shaped by corporate narratives of sustainability. The film draws on in-depth research and interviews with residents and planners, offering commentary on the space's material, aesthetic, and socio-ecological textures. Through voiceover and image, it constructs a reflective and at times spectral narrative, layering memory, presence, and potential futures. By integrating archival imagery and animation, the film envisions past industrial functions alongside speculative projections of urban transformation. The soundscape heightens the immersive experience, inviting a critical reading of the processes of urban development. *unfinished* positions Zurich–Manegg as a case study of peripheral expansion in European cities, revealing how contemporary architecture often generates generic environments driven by corporate logics. The project remains open-ended, inviting new modes of seeing and inhabiting spaces in flux.

Keywords: ·Site-specific , Urban transformation, Spectral narrative , Corporate sustainability, Peripheral expansion

Biography

Lukas Sander was born and grew up in Berlin. Before and during his studies at the HfG Karlsruhe and the Zurich University of the Arts, he worked in various departments such as camera, scenography and editing for documentary film and cinema as well as assistant set designer at the Schauspiel Frankfurt and the Zurich Opera House. He was an associated artist in the Artistic Fellowship Program of the Zurich University of the Arts, for which he was mentored by Prof. Dr. Barbara Gronau. Since 2008 he has been working as a scenographer, lighting designer and video artist – first in Germany and since 2012 mainly in the independent scene in Switzerland with Timo Krstin, Philippe Heule, Teresa Vittucci, Mbene Mwambene and many others. In his own productions, he realizes site-specific projects, installations and video walks – most recently at the Bern Biennale, the Palazzo Trevisan in Venice and at the Gessnerallee Zurich. An interest in space is a driving force and recurring motif in his work. The aesthetic aim of these works is to formulate new site-specific strategies that open up a high degree of sensitivity to their surroundings, both in their creation and in the experience they create for the audience. He has held teaching positions at the ZHdK, the UdK Berlin and the HfG Karlsruhe. He works and teaches as a research assistant at the ZHdK in the Master Theater program and lives in Zurich.



videowalk with tablet and headphones drone shot of Zurich Manegg



videowalk perspective in residential area of "Greencity" | filmstill of animation with cityview and virtual forest overlay



videowalk perspective on final construction site of "Greencity"