

**Cloudy Predictions**



### Cloudy Predictions

Cloudy Predictions is a project featuring cyanotype flags exhibited in public space depicting site-specific skies and cloud formations. Each flag is paired with a text reflecting on the climate crisis from a local and global perspective interwoven with weather implications of the cloud types.

### Library of Skies

For In Situ, we want to create a flag collection capturing skies above Europe, exhibited in public space. With the technique of cyanotype we link local nature with a site and time specific cloud formation.

### Observing the Sky: Imagination and Forecast

Cloud observation has long been essential for weather forecasting and navigation. People look at the sky, seeking answers for the present and future, to communicate with gods and entities of hope. In observing clouds, we also unleash our imagination, captivated by the ephemeral beauty of their formations.

### The Sky: A Public and Political Space

The sky is perceived as open and public, yet airspace is state property, separated by invisible borders, much like territorial waters. By collecting skies across Europe, we explore the sky as a political and abstract space, questioning how boundaries shape our natural world.

### Crafting Cloud Flags

Our cyanotype flags are made by coating textiles with light-sensitive emulsion and exposing them to sunlight. Covered areas stay white, while the rest turns blue, creating striking contrasts. Using found local natural objects to mask textiles, the materials influence the resulting cloud imagery and vice versa.

### Contextualizing Clouds

Text works accompany the flags, delving into the complex contexts of clouds and their predictions. These texts incorporate fragments about built environments, uncertainties, and natural crises, enriched by contributions from workshops and discussions with locals.

### Communicating the project

To feature the texts along with photos of flags we created postcards. Also posters, videos or zines are possible means to document and share the project's essence.

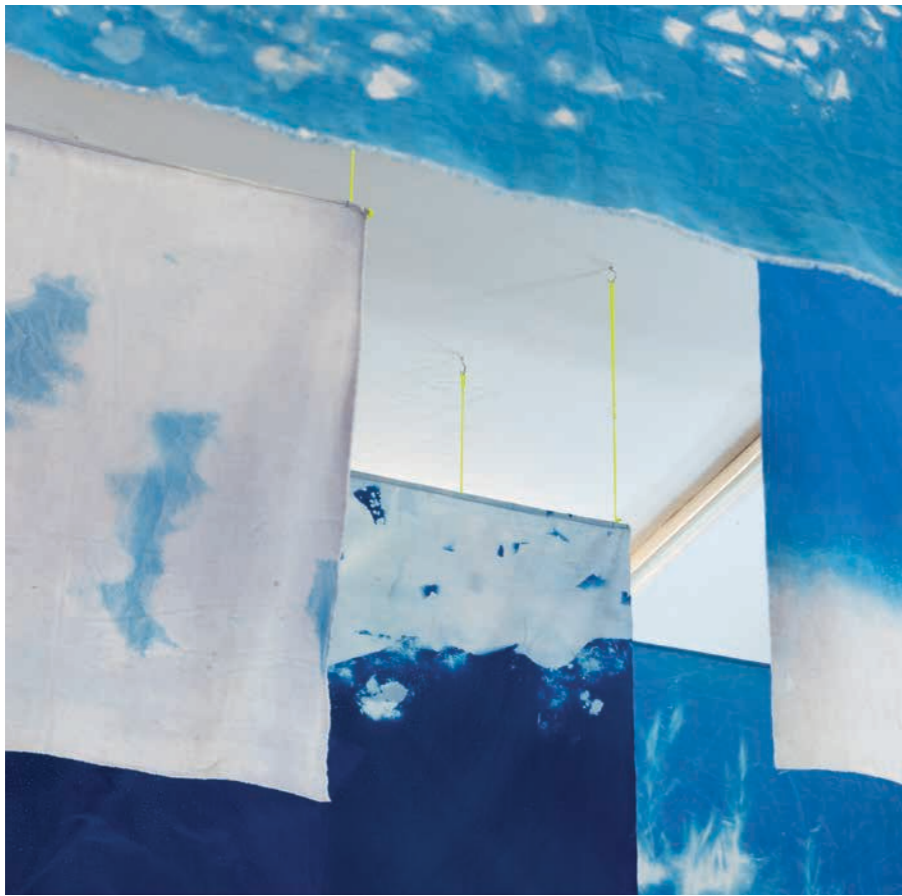
### Workshops and Local Engagement

Cyanotype workshops engage communities in creating their own sky-inspired flags, discussing local and global nature issues, and crafting collaborative texts.

### Public Exhibition

Flags are displayed in public spaces, fostering dialogue between art, location and audience. Some flags may remain as lasting symbols, while postcards/posters extend the project's reach.

Our project invites people to view the sky as a space for imagination, reflection and connection—a bridge between the abstract and tangible, the personal and political. Our traveling collection grows place by place, blending local skies with text collages from scientific and community sources.



**Cloudy Predictions (from Thursday to Wednesday)**

2024

cyanotype on fabric / postcards

measures about: 79cm x 110cm / A6

exhibition: Wild Spots, <rotor>, Graz (AUT) / at <rotor> and in public space

For the exhibition *wild spots* we created the second series of Cloudy Predictions over seven days May 2024. From Thursday to Wednesday in the Volksgarten in Graz. Seven cloud formations from the sky above Graz were reproduced on a piece of fabric using parts of plants from the Volksgarten and captured in the form of cyanotypes.

The backs of the postcards contain texts that associatively link the complex contexts in which clouds form and what their manifestations may predict with reflections on the climate change, capitalism and ephemeral poetics of clouds from various sources.


documentation of the exhibition at < rotor >, Photos: Thomas Raggam, Christina Helena Romirer



**Donnerstag**  
Stratuswolken bilden oft eine durchgängige graue Wolkenschicht und kündigen in der Regel schlechtes Wetter an. Die Wolken hängen tief und ausgedehnt am Himmel. Sie enthalten viel Wasser, spenden Schatten und kühlen so das Klima.

That's not a maybe, that's a given.  
The experts were clear on why the world is failing to tackle the climate crisis.  
I could not feel greater despair.  
A lack of political will was cited by almost three-quarters of the respondents, while 60% also blamed vested corporate interests, such as the fossil fuel industry.  
Walk down the trail, then veer off into the forest, leaving no tracks.  
World's top climate scientists expect global heating to blast past 1.5C target. The Guardian, 8.5.24  
"I want people to wake up": Nemonte Nenquimo on growing up in the rainforest and her fight to save it, The Guardian, 29.5.24


**Cloudy Predictions / von Donnerstag bis Mittwoch**  
von Lena Gáljens und Christina Helena Romirer  
Installationen im Volksgarten und Postkartenserie im Rahmen der Ausstellung  
*Wilde Winkel. Sich einwählen in der städtischen Welt*  
< rotor > Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst, Graz 2024



**Dienstag**  
Stratocumulus, sogenannte Haufenschichtwolken, sind vielleicht die unbeliebteste aller Wolkenarten, da sie den Himmel lückenfrei, mit grauen Unterseiten und als tiefhängende Schicht bedecken, jedoch haben sie einen kühlenden Effekt auf die Erdoberfläche, bedecken 20% der Tiefsee und es geht kein oder nur leichter Regen von ihnen nieder.

Soziale Prozesse lassen sich ja äußerst schlecht prognostizieren. Vielleicht liegt unsere größte Hoffnung im Nichtwissen und der damit verbundenen Möglichkeit der Überraschung. Aber das ist natürlich eine Form des magischen Denkens, auf der man keine Politik aufbauen kann.  
Eine Art Schattenkontingente aus Gegenwart, die nicht sind, Vergangenheiten, die niemals waren, Zukünften, die niemals sein werden.  
Unser Verhältnis zur Umwelt ist eine noch nicht fertig geklärte diplomatische Gemeinschaft.  
Wir müssen uns auf eine 2,5 oder sogar drei Grad wärmere Erde einstellen, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10.3.24  
Das Amerika der Seele, Karl Ove Knausgård, 2016  
Der Mensch im Tier – ein Perspektivwechsel, Df Kultur, 4.6.2020


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**Montag**  
Altostratus ist eine mittelhohe, graue, bedeckte Wolkenschicht, sie entsteht in der Regel, wenn eine große Region mit wärmerer Luft gegen eine Region mit kälterer Luft stößt. Altostratus bringt kaum mehr als einen anhaltenden Nieselregen. Sobald die Schicht dick genug ist, um größere Niederschläge zu produzieren, hat sie sich meist zur Nimbostratus-Wolke entwickelt.

Indeed it is in the very nature of lines that they always seem to wiggle free of any classification one might seek to impose on them, trailing loose ends in every direction. (...) Where would we place the vapour trail left by a flying aircraft, or by a sub-atomic particle in an experimental cloud-chamber? Or forked lightning? Or a trail of scent? These are surely traces of a kind, yet since they are not inscribed on solid surfaces they have the appearances of threads.  
Lines, A brief history, Tim Ingold, 2016

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Cloudy Predictions (from Thursday to Wednesday)

2024

cyanotype on fabric / postcards

measures about: 79cm x 110cm / A6

Volksgarten, Graz (AUT)

Photos: Christina Helena Romirer

Link to texts in english:

<https://www.lenagaetjens.com/cloudy-predictions/>

Cloudy Predictions (from Thursday to Wednesday) cyanotype flag production with natural materials





**Cloudy Predictions (types of clouds)**

2022

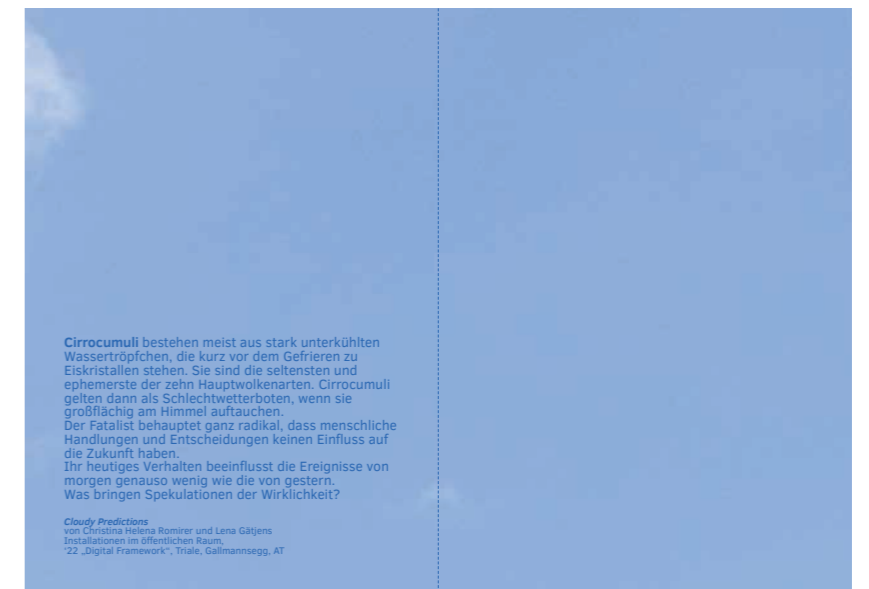
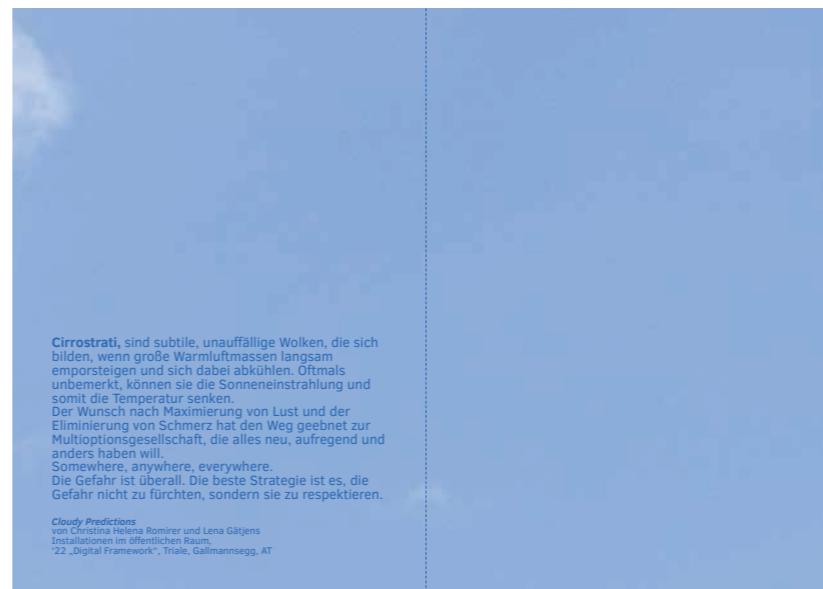
cyanotype on fabric / postcards

measures about: 79cm x 110cm /A6

Installation in the nature

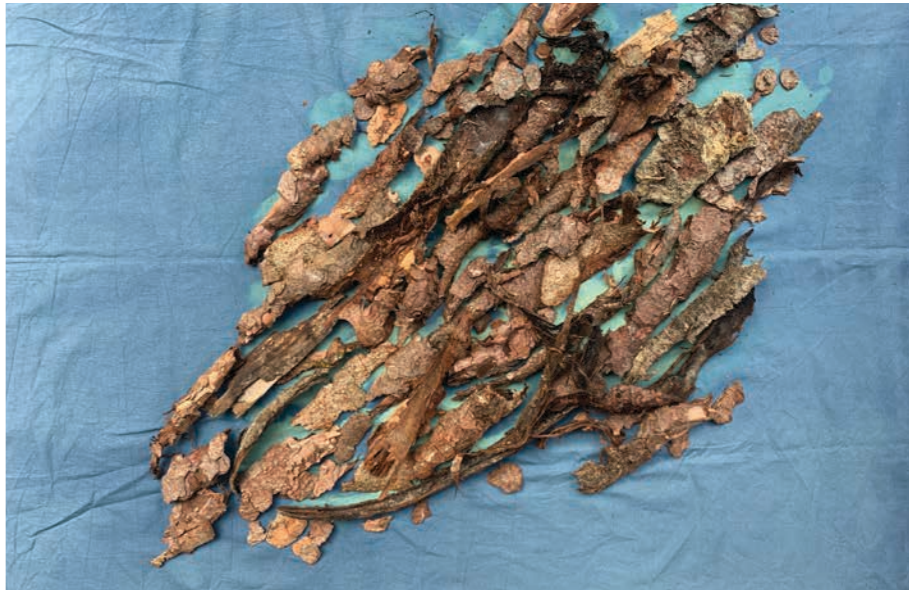
Six exemplary types of cloud shapes were recreated as cyanotypes with found objects from nature in Gallmannsegg and positioned as flags in the wind.

In the texts on the postcards, we combine the complex contexts in which clouds form and what they can predict with text fragments and quotations that we have associatively torn out of books and newspapers in connection with our built environment and the crises taking place in it.



**Cloudy Predictions (types of clouds)**  
2022  
cyanotype on fabric / postcards  
measures about: 79cm x 110cm / A6  
nature around Triale residency  
Photos: Christina Helena Romirer

Cloudy Predictions (types of clouds) cyanotype flag production with natural materials







**Workshop**

Accompanying program of the exhibition *wild spots*  
2024

As a accompanying program of the exhibition *wild spots* we held a cyanotype workshop introducing our technique of reproducing clouds. Beforehand, we prepared the pieces of fabric with the cyanotype mixture and let them dry.

We used materials from the Volksgarten for the masking on the cyanotype.

In preparation, we asked the participants to bring photos of skies to use as templates. In the end, the participants mostly let their imagination run free and played with the compositions and materials. This resulted in four to five pictures per person in one afternoon.



## LOUDY PREDICTIONS

a project by

**possibly maybe**

Lena Gätjens and Christina Helena Romirer

links:

video: <https://vimeo.com/1049247326>

texts GER / ENG Cloudy Predictions (from Thursday to Wednesday):

<https://www.lenagaetjens.com/cloudy-predictions/>