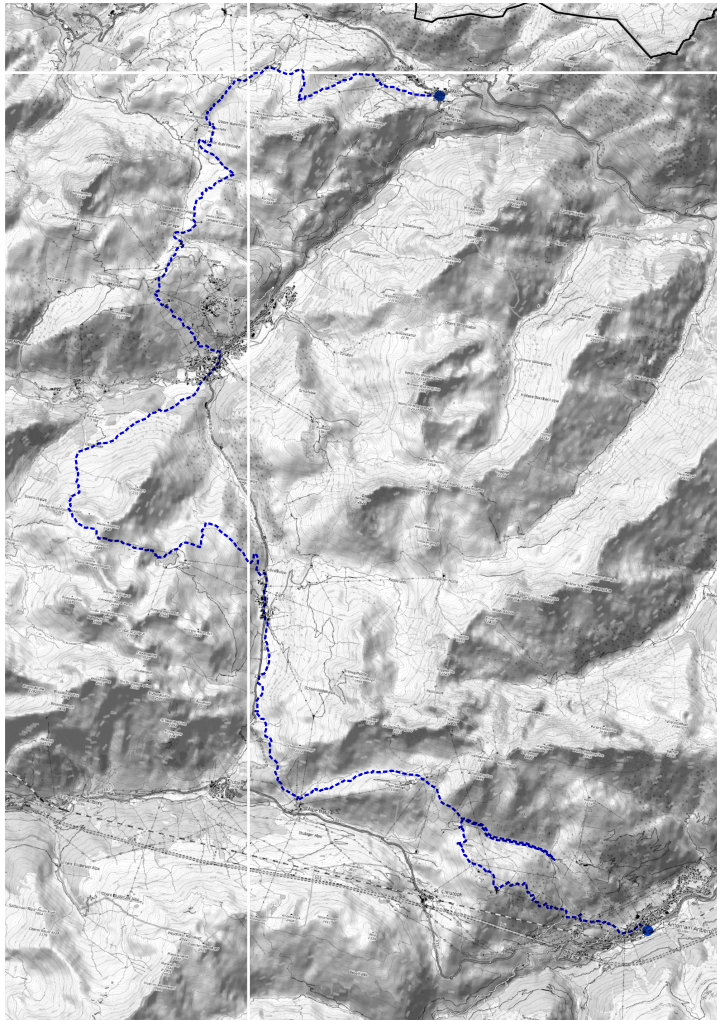


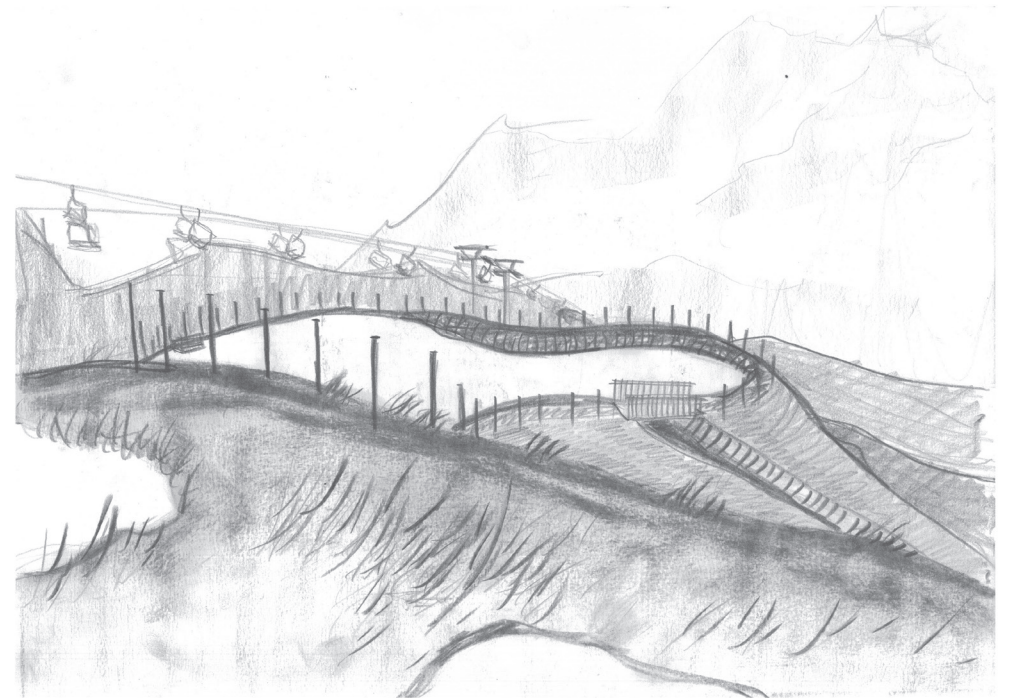
2018m

artwork | relaxed access
machinery | snow making
dialogue | snow machine

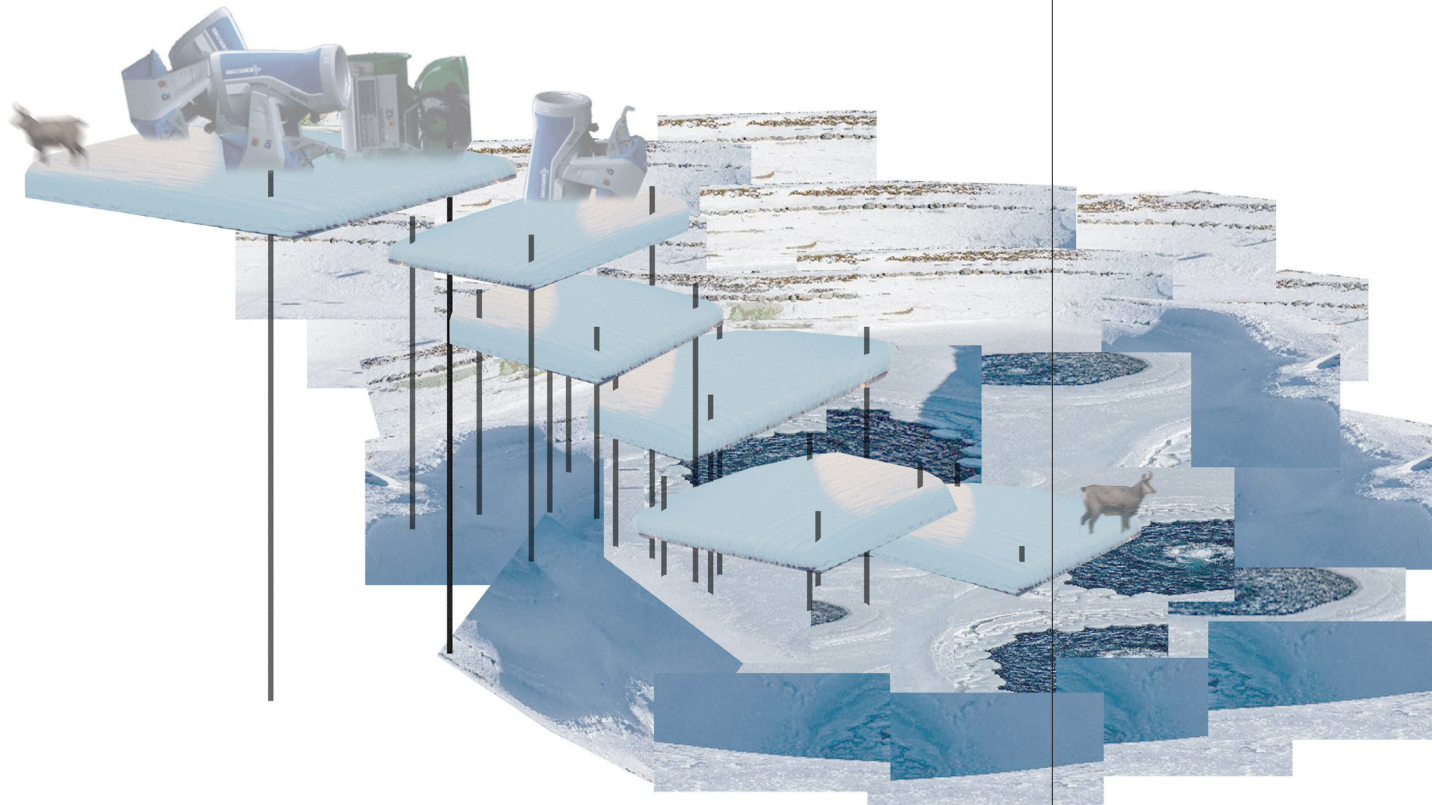




name: relaxed access | location: speicher hochalp
altitude: 2018m



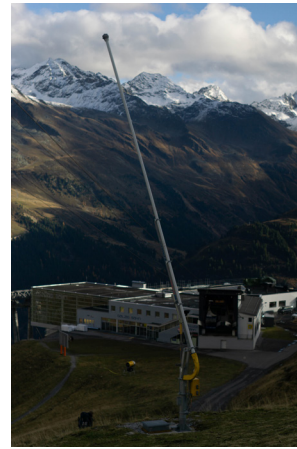
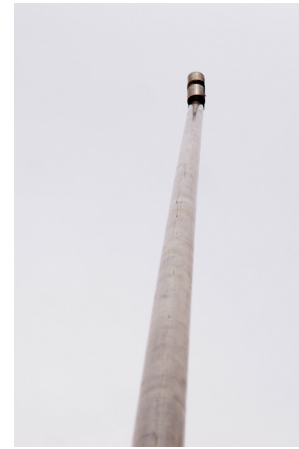
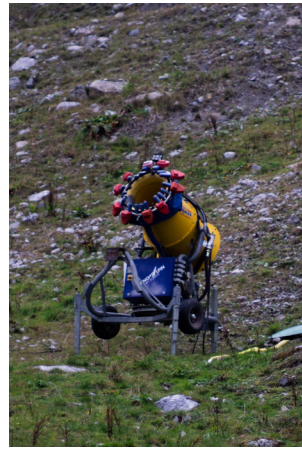
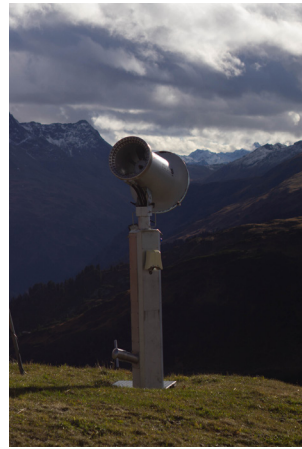
site, charcoal on paper



Relaxed Access

Relaxed access is a series of platforms that lead into the center bottom of the water reservoir. They are a terrace for exhausted snow machines to relax - visible from the lift chairs flying over the reservoir. But more importantly, they grant access to the drinking water to all kinds of animals, even when the water levels are low towards the end of the season.

The platforms themselves are made out of wood. Because of the changing water levels, these wooden elements acts as a breeding ground for life in the water: algae, water grasses, frogs.





1985m

Each snow machines has three inputs: a water pipe, electrical power, and a control cable.



1890m

Smooth pistes make snow making much more efficient, because the surface area is reduced.



2018m

This water reservoir holds 170.000m³ of water that is pumped up from the river in the valley every spring when there is excess water.¹ It was built in a designated biotope for amphibic animals.² It now hosts very little visible life.



2018m

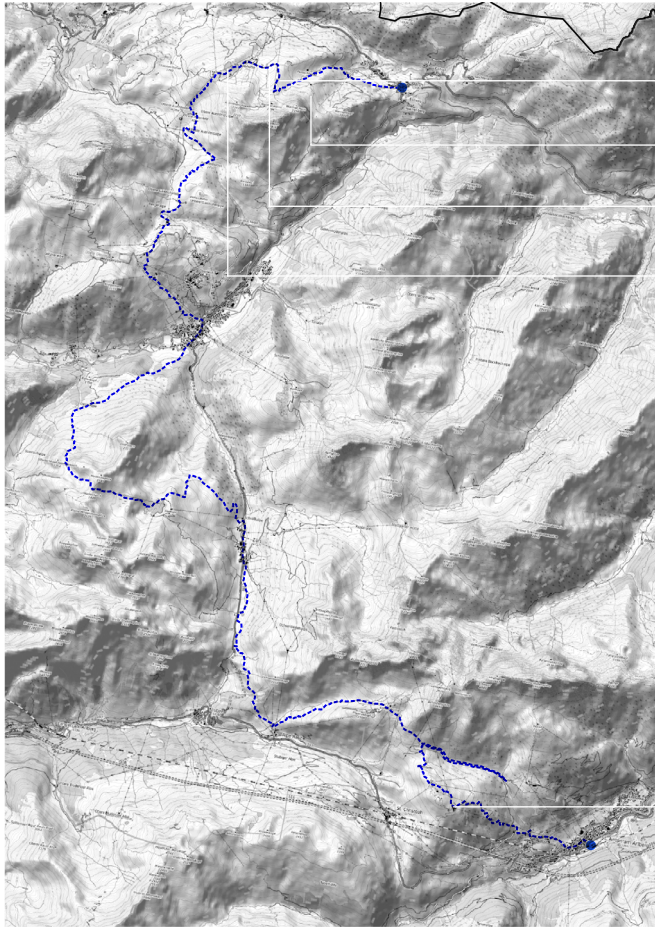


2048m



2086m

The cables in the ground are convenient if you need to charge your camera batteries: below 2000m, there is a power plug available about every 50-100m.



¹ below jaegeralpexpress, 1985m

⁵ wartherhorn express berg, 2048m

² walserstutz approach, 1890m

^{3,4} hochalp speicher, 2018m

⁶ galzig berg, 2086m

Dialogue: Sonnie & Esther, Snow Machines



(Instructions to recognize a someone)¹

Step 1: Choose a someone
(a human, a thing, a river, a tree, a non-human animal)

Step 2: Recognize that someone has a value.

Step 3: Try to imagine that someone has a *within*.

Step 4: Recognize that someone has a voice even if that voice is not always audible or comprehensible in our language.

Step 5: Assume that several voices and interests can come together in a search for conflicts and compromises (e.g. in the form of a human translator or guardian).

Sonnie:

Hey Esther! Can I ask you something?

Esther:

What? I can't hear you! I am making snow on full blast here – can you speak up?

Sonnie:

I SAID: CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

Esther:

Yeah, Sonnie, of course. Just give me a sec!

(Esther slowly quiets down)

You know I am always here for you. What's up?

Sonnie:

Have you ever felt like you aren't appreciated even though you work as hard as you can?

Esther:

What makes you ask me that? Did you have a bad day?

Sonnie:

Well so you know that it's my first season up here on the mountain, right? After having been assembled, I had been waiting and dreaming about coming here – the older snowmachines who came in for servicing told us youngsters all about it: the views, the air, the kids playing in our freshly made snow! I thought I'd come here and do my job better than anyone else, so they'd place me in the most beautiful spot – maybe on the lake or up at the restaurant where I could watch people. But I feel everyone's annoyed at me. When they ski through my mist, just before it turns to snow, they make ugly faces or turn away or cover their face with their hands. Even though I am giving it everything and blowing out as much spray as I possibly can.. I am worried I'll never be put to a nice spot like this.

Esther:

Ah Sonnie, listen. You've arrived in a tough year! We have all been working nights and days to make the slopes skiable. Usually, we only get turned on when it's dark. It's colder then, so we don't have to spray so high and there are no people in the way! Then you have the whole day to just enjoy watching everyone having the best time in your snow, it's lovely – really! And believe me, the people might be turning away from your efforts, but they love you: especially in a year like this, they know they couldn't even be here without your hard work. So keep your barrel up, it'll become easier as you go!

Sonnie:

But how was it for you when you first started your career? Did you also need some time to find your place?

Esther:

Well you know, I am already pretty old – I think for the same amount of work, I make only a fraction of the snow you are making – but that was normal then. We were some of the first snow cannons to ever spray this mountain! People looked at us as if we were UFOs, they had never seen anything like us before. They came to touch and look at us, they wanted to know how we could just turn water into snow. I mean, if you think about it, it's pretty impressive. You could say we're alchemists – we take mundane things like water and electricity and create the white gold that makes everyone here full of adrenaline and bliss. And our owners were proud! We were a real luxury for the mountain.

Now it's a bit different: there's a real army of us and people know that we are the only reason they can glide down the slope day after day – from November through April. They've made us more efficient, they put some of us on little cranes to reach further, some of my relatives are so refined and valuable that they get a winter coat put on them when they're not in use! Can you believe it!

Sonnie:

Things must have felt very different then. Now we are all hyper-connected: through water pipes to the big water reservoir lakes, through electrical power lines and control cables to one another and the central

computer system. I know where all my acquaintances from the factory are at all times and how much snow they are making. I guess that's pretty nice! And hopefully I'll get put into a better spot next year!

Esther:

I hope it too for you! Although I'll miss you around here..

