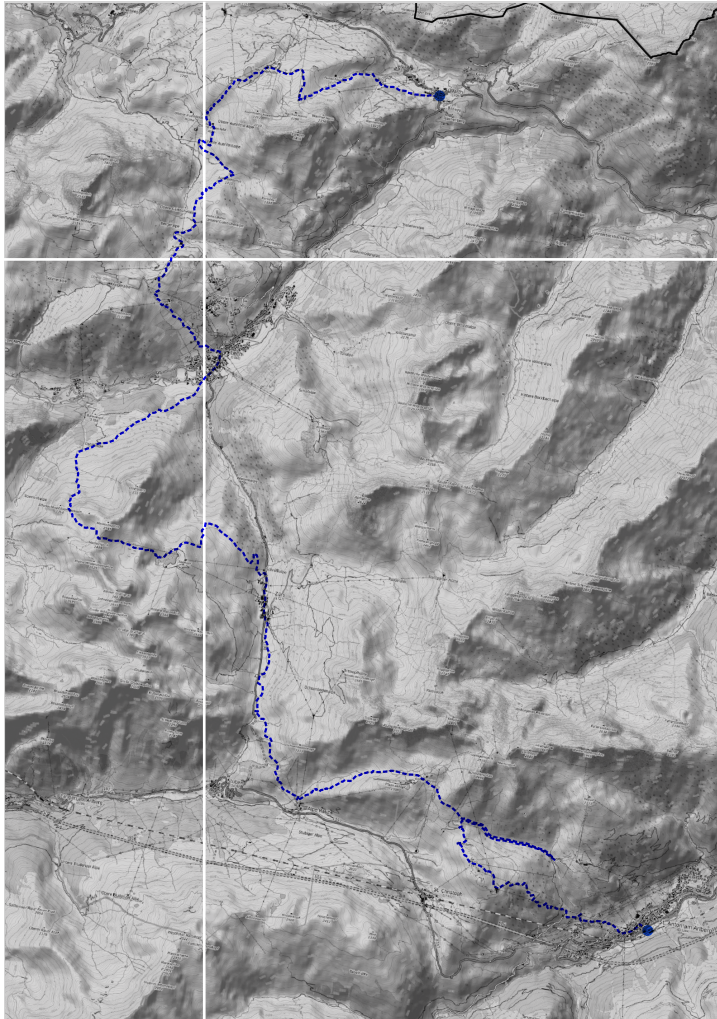


1650m

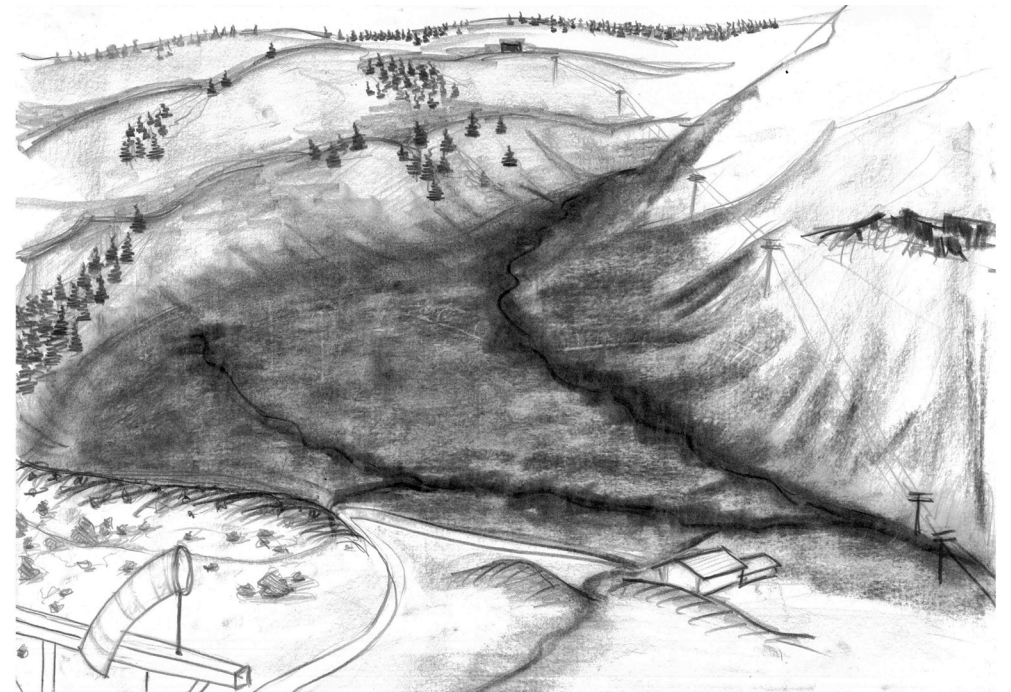
artwork | mixed forest
machinery | lifts
dialogue | wood grouse



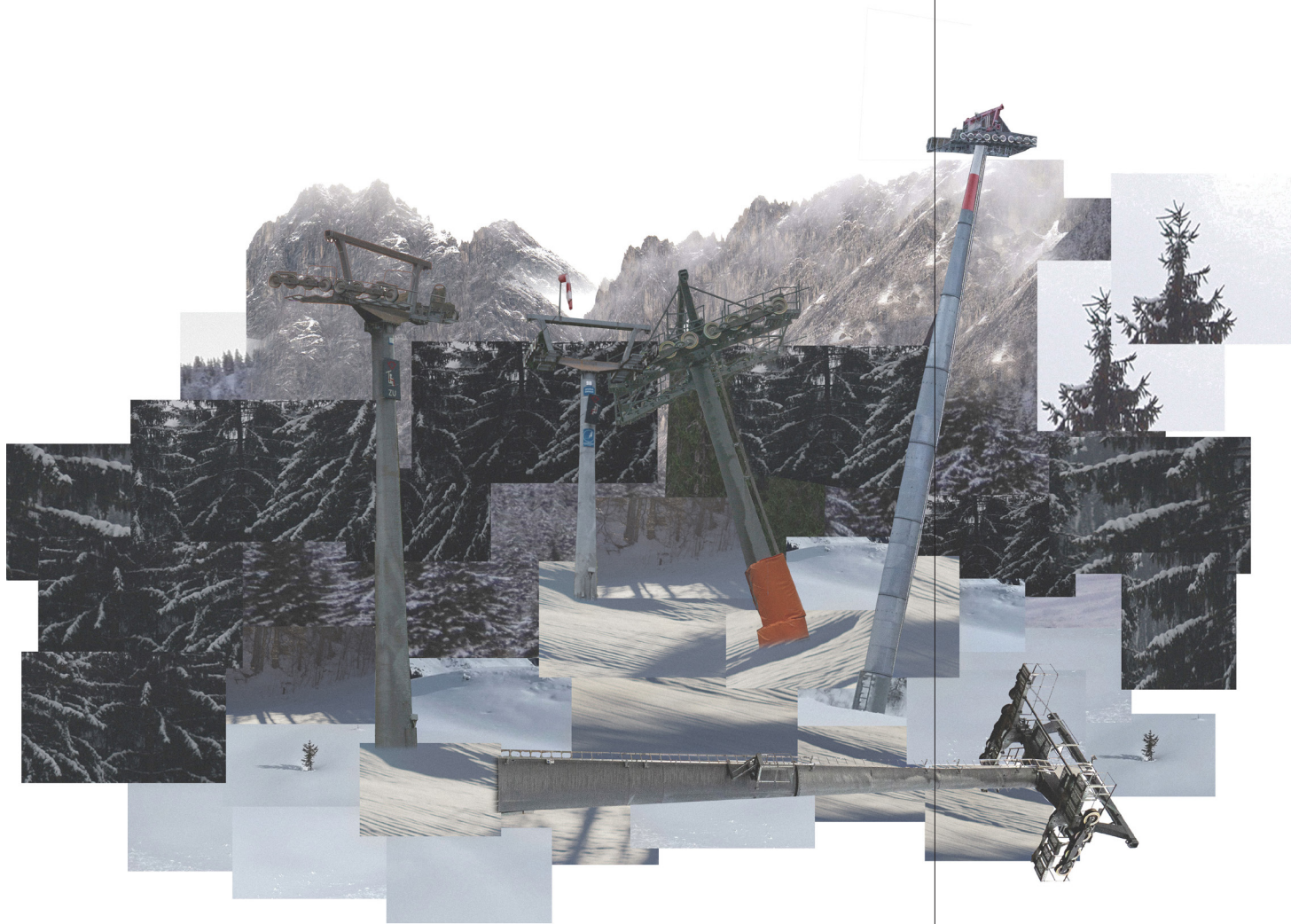
Explore Lab Graduation | Valentin Zech | 4587979
Booklet 3/8



name: mixed forest | location: auenfeldtal
altitude: 1650m



site, charcoal on paper



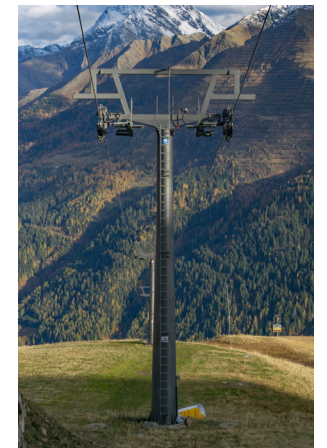
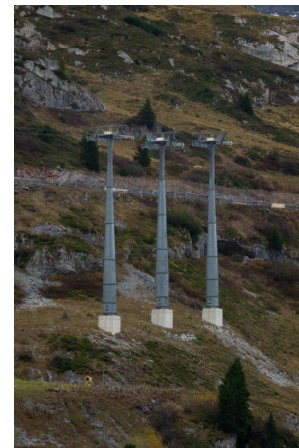
Mixed Forest

Is it a tree? Or a pole? Depends on who you ask.

Lift poles are commonly perceived as disturbing and ugly by hikers during the summer - their size and recognizable shape makes them very visible, even from far away. In the winter, there is little to no talk about the ugliness of the poles; when they are in use, they appear less out-of-place.

An animal, a bird for example, probably doesn't care for neither the ugliness nor the beauty of a pole. Maybe for them it's just another kind of tree that might be the perfect place for their next nest.

Mixed Forest brings the abandoned feeling that poles create during snowless conditions to the snowy ski area by placing them in a small clearing among trees. Simultaneously, the clearing is an important habitat for the black grouse and the poles protect it from skiers wagging through.





1495m

The town of Warth has gone through significant changes. Since the local priest's first tries on skis in 1894 it has turned into a popular winter tourism destination.¹ The transformation from farming to ski tourism is still visible in the buildings today.



2288m

Roads lead even to the highest lift stations - both for construction and maintenance of the lifts. This often requires planarizing and blasting off terrain.



1810m

Many non-humans don't know about the dichotomy between the "anthropocenic" and "natural" world.



2200m

The top and bottom stations of lifts are connected via cables in the ground for communication and energy supply. These cables often run along the poles.



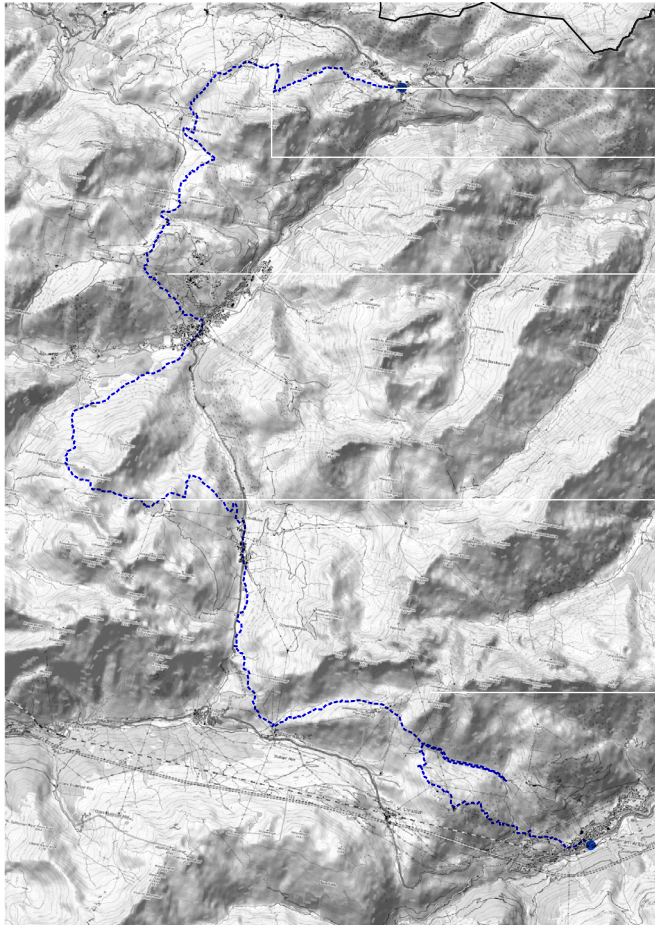
2050m

Sometimes, the contrast between machinery and mountains enhances the beauty of the being a part of nature.



2200m

A pole entails more than just a pole.



¹ warth, 1495m

⁵ karhornbahn, 2050m

³ petersbodenbahn, 1810m

^{4,6} madlochbahn, 2200m

² ulmer hütte, 2288m

Dialogue:

Barbara, Black Grouse



photo creative common by Llywelyn2000

(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).

Barbara:

Well, finally I meet one of those long sticky animals with the sharp edges on the bottom eye-to-eye. Usually, you just blast past me and near kill me with the knives you are cutting through the snow with. Why do you do that?

Human:

Well, it's called skiing. We do it because.. hm.. it is fun!

Barbara:

Fun? What is so fun about it? Couldn't you fly instead? I mean I know it's hard with the trees and cables of the lifts and all, but that must be more fun!

Human:

We can't do that unfortunately. We don't have wings and we're super heavy, so we've come up with skis to slide down the mountain as fast as we can.

Barbara:

I see you fly sometimes!

Human:

Well some of the daring folks jump with their skis, but that's only a very short flight. A bit like when you first learn flying as a young bird – only that we can never go beyond that skill level of flying.

Barbara:

Hm, yeah I wasn't so good at it then. So maybe flying is not such a great option. But maybe you could just watch out a bit when you go past my home. I live in the snow.

Human:

In like an iglu?

Barbara:

Yes, kind of. We build them between open meadows and patches of forest. There in the shrubs, there are lots of small invertebrates that my chicks eat..

I feel that it's especially bad with you after new snowfall – then you seem to enjoy hunting for us even more!

Human:

Yes, that's true! Powder! It's what we search for all the time when we are skiing. You first learn it on the slopes – I'm sure you've seen them, the patches of compressed snow where you don't leave behind any footprints when walking across it – but as you get better at it you start going off the slopes and into the fresh powder around the edges of the ski area. Forests are among the most fun to ski through!

Barbara:

Well it's not fun for us at all. I think it would be better if you just stopped doing that altogether. And also, I think it's nice that you have those silver trees that you plant in the landscape, some friends of mine love building their nests in them, but why do you need to connect them with these long lines of rope? I've lost many relatives that died because they didn't see them on time during a flight.

But you know what, I need to go now. I have chicks to take care of! See you! Or actually, hopefully not! Good day!

