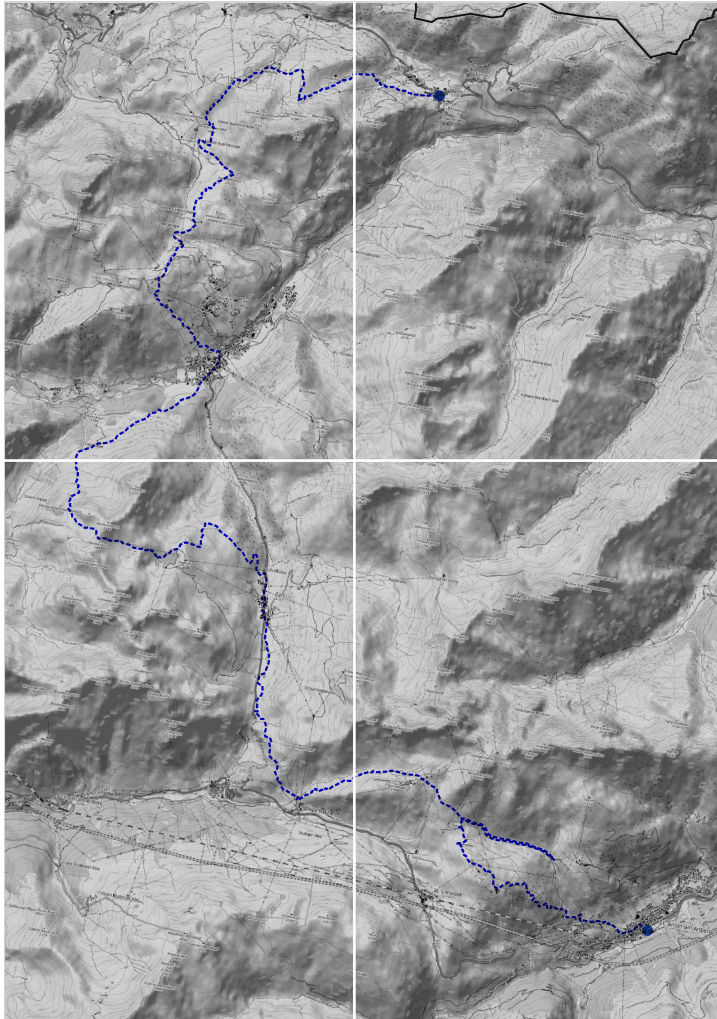


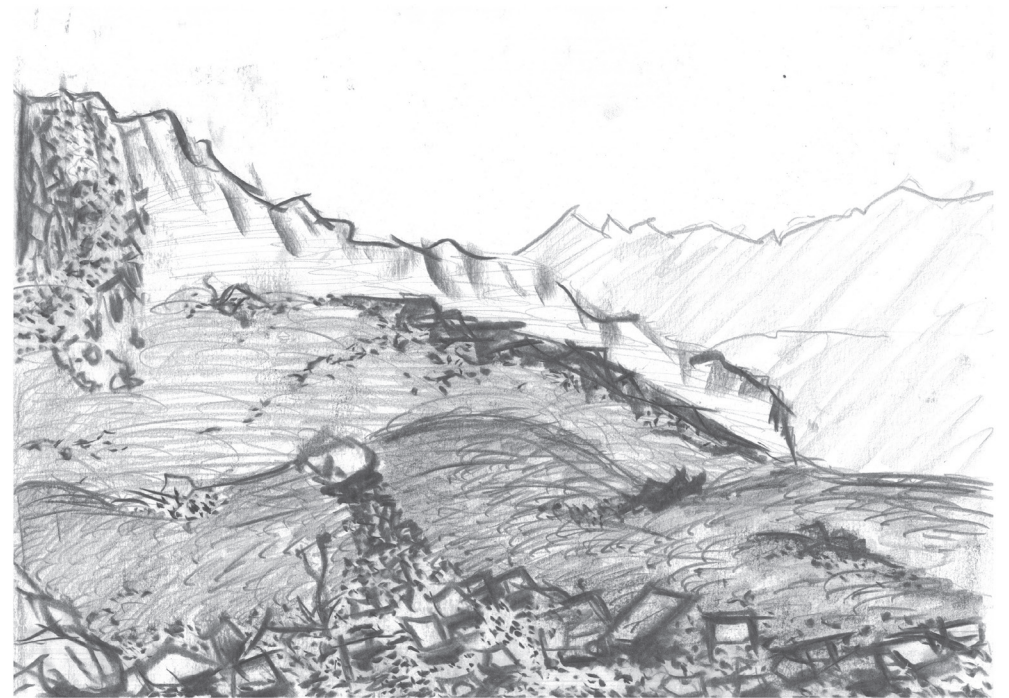


2304m

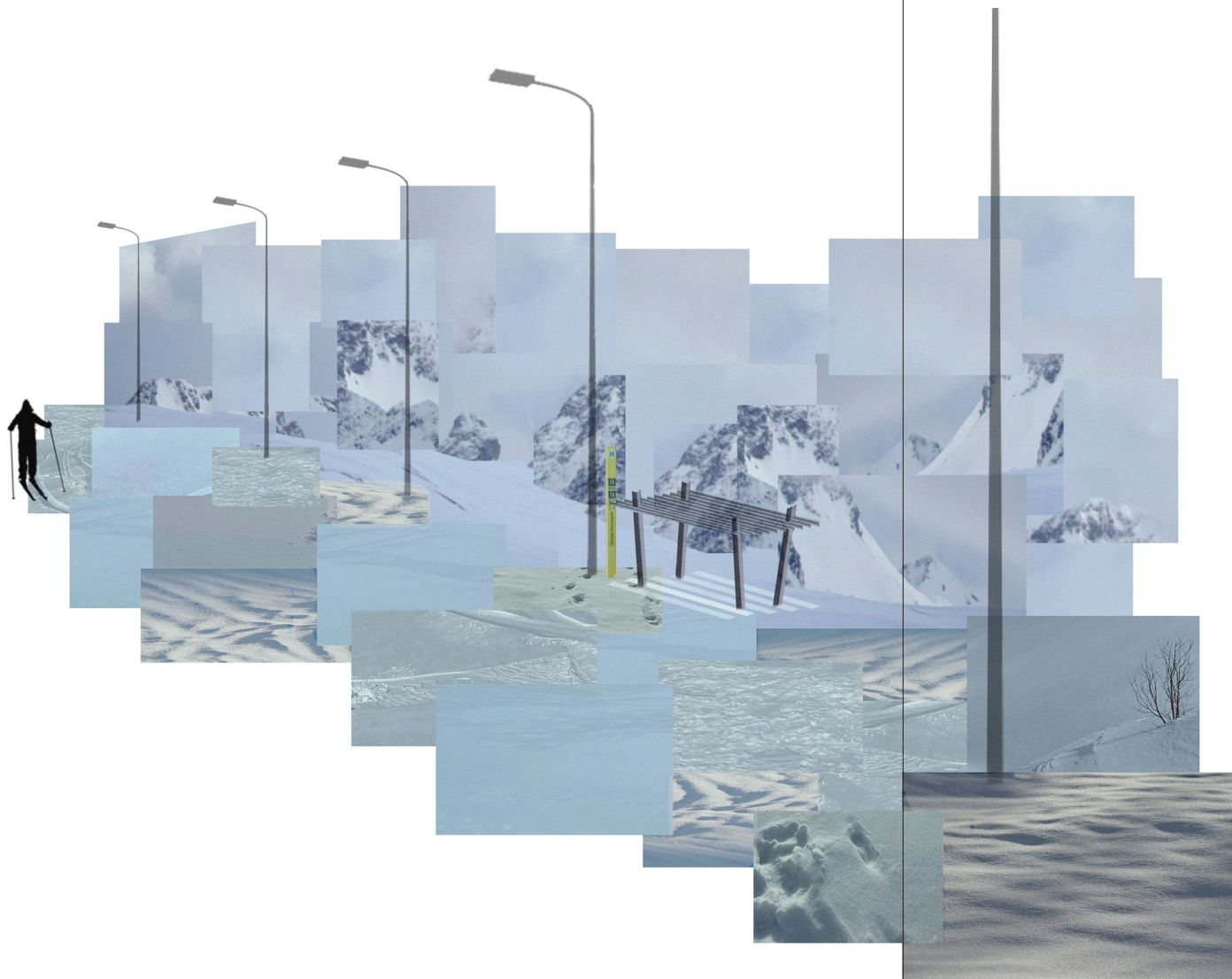
artwork | on the road
machinery | paths & roads
dialogue | hiker



name: on the road | location: below ruefikopf
altitude: 2300m



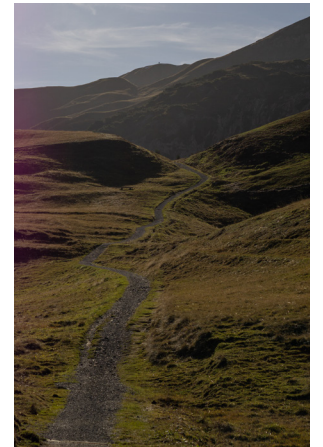
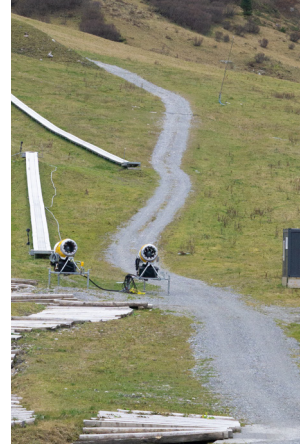
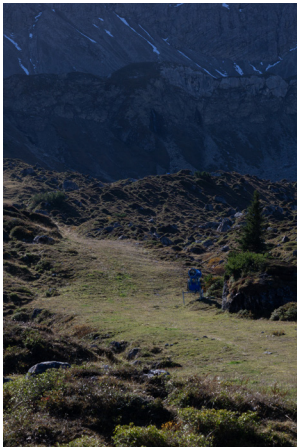
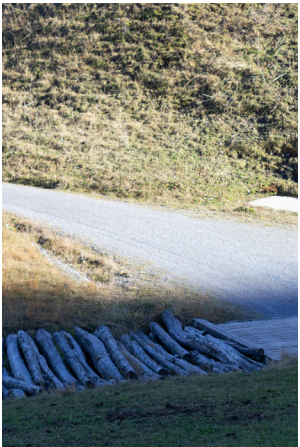
site, charcoal on paper



Bus Stop

This bus stop is located on a very windy edge. At first glance, it looks like the perfect spot for a little rest. After just a little while, however, it gets very cold and uncomfortable to sit there. The only way to feel good now is to warm up in heated restaurant in the ski area.

This experience should show how reliant we are on the machinery to keep us comfortable and safe in the mountains. With the ready-made slopes and warm restaurants it's easy to forget how fast a human would feel strong discomfort in the snowy landscape. The form of a bus stop with street lamps should accentuate one essential part of this machinery: the roads leading to all stations and throughout the area. A second notion is the amount of CO₂ we emit by driving to the ski area with personal cars or even flying while there are usually good bus connections all the way "into" the areas.





1720m

There is a lot of (financial) pressure to have enough snow by the start of the season. This is the piste for a worldcup race two weeks before it is meant to take place.



2231m

Each travel speed has its own type of path: walking, mountainbiking, skiing, driving, going by lift. Some of the paths are made by non-humans, too (next pages).



2008m

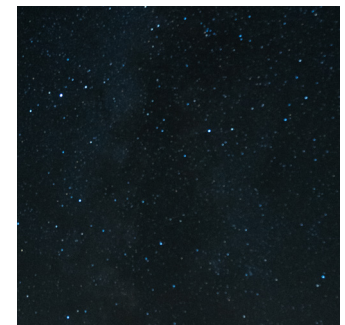
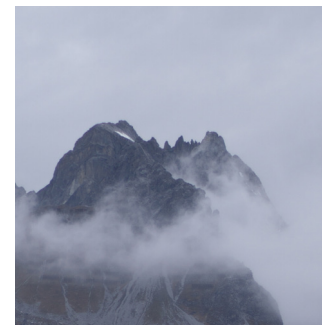
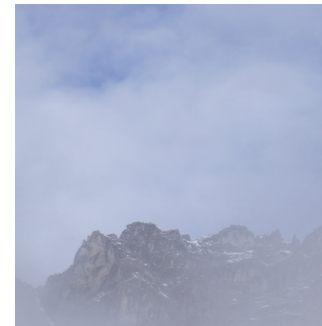


1939m

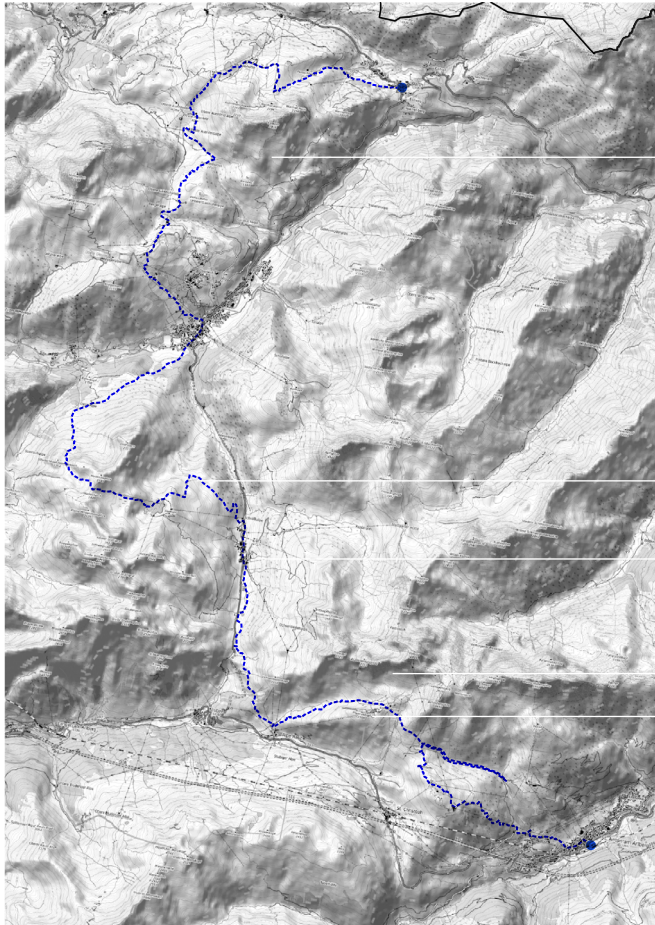


1762m

Many objects are built to function well when there is snow and the ground level is elevated as a consequence. Additionally, the level of detail is often lower than in a city, for example - noticable at slow travel speeds like walking, invisible when skiing.



In the mountains, the weather can change quickly. It changes the feeling of safety and overall experience dramatically.



⁵wartherhorn express tal, 1762m

⁴alpe madloch, 1939m

¹worldcup piste zuers, 1720m

²below flexenbahn, 2231m

³speichersee st. anton, 2008m

Dialogue: Valentin, Hiker



(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).

(15:35)

After a two-hour long journey by train and bus we finally arrive in Warth. The bus was full when we entered; but along the journey we witnessed it emptying and we are the only ones by the time we get out. It all seems oddly familiar, but different. The hills with the lifts and the proportions are smaller than I am used to. Maybe it's the lack of snow that connects the landscapes to one another in width and depth when it's winter. Or maybe it's the travel speed: walking vs. skiing and riding the lifts. Compared to arriving here in February, it is very quiet. The shop is closed, the hotels and restaurants are being renovated. A few late hikers wait for the bus, daytrips. Motorcycles take over the streets. [...]

(22:45)

That's exactly what I have been looking forward to: cuddling up in my sleeping bag. It's pretty cold – probably not far from zero degrees. Outside the tent it's cold if you are not moving, even with all our clothes on. [...]

(Two days later, 15:35)

I've missed this, I realize. The views, the landscape, the exhaustion when you arrive after a long day with a heavy bag. The simple meals you cook on the small gas cooker. The figuring out the best possible sleeping place, sheltered from wind and weather. When you close your eyes, you re-live some of the impressions of the day: the steep part when sweat was running down your cheeks, the extraordinary photo you took of a group of mountain goats. The meditative flow of putting one foot before the other, time and time again. The quietness in between the sounds of your footsteps. A combination of scenery, exhaustion, and the slow travel speed connects you to yourself and the world around you.[...]

We finally take off our bags after a crazy long day of walking and cook some coffee. With the cup in our hands Jonas says: "I've had worse coffee in fancier places". Me too.

(22:45)

Just five minutes after my last entry I pulled out my phone and walked to a place where I had good service to check the weather. The forecast has changed quite dramatically since I checked for the last time this morning: thunderstorms and, at our altitude, 16cm of snow during the course of the night!

While I am not so worried about the thunderstorm considering our ideal sleeping place, the snow could be very dangerous. Wet hillsides in this very steep area bear avalanche danger and walking down the steep slopes without snow hiking equipment would be more than sketchy. When we realize this, we have about 1 hour left until it gets dark. We have to make a quick decision: do we risk it and stay here, or do we play it safe and descent, knowing that we'll have to be lucky to find another sleeping spot before it gets dark. We find a potential sleeping place on the map, about 500m lower than we currently are, and decide to go for it. We pack up as fast as we can, turn on our headlamps. As we see the sky darkening, we take off and almost run down the mountain to make it before sunset. The thought crosses my mind that this distance would take me about 2 minutes if I had snow and a snowboard.

The hard work pays off. It rains the whole night; above us it's snowing. We end up finding an unlocked storage hut, used for piste signs and other stuff – but now it is almost completely empty. A perfect place to stay for a rainy night. [...]

