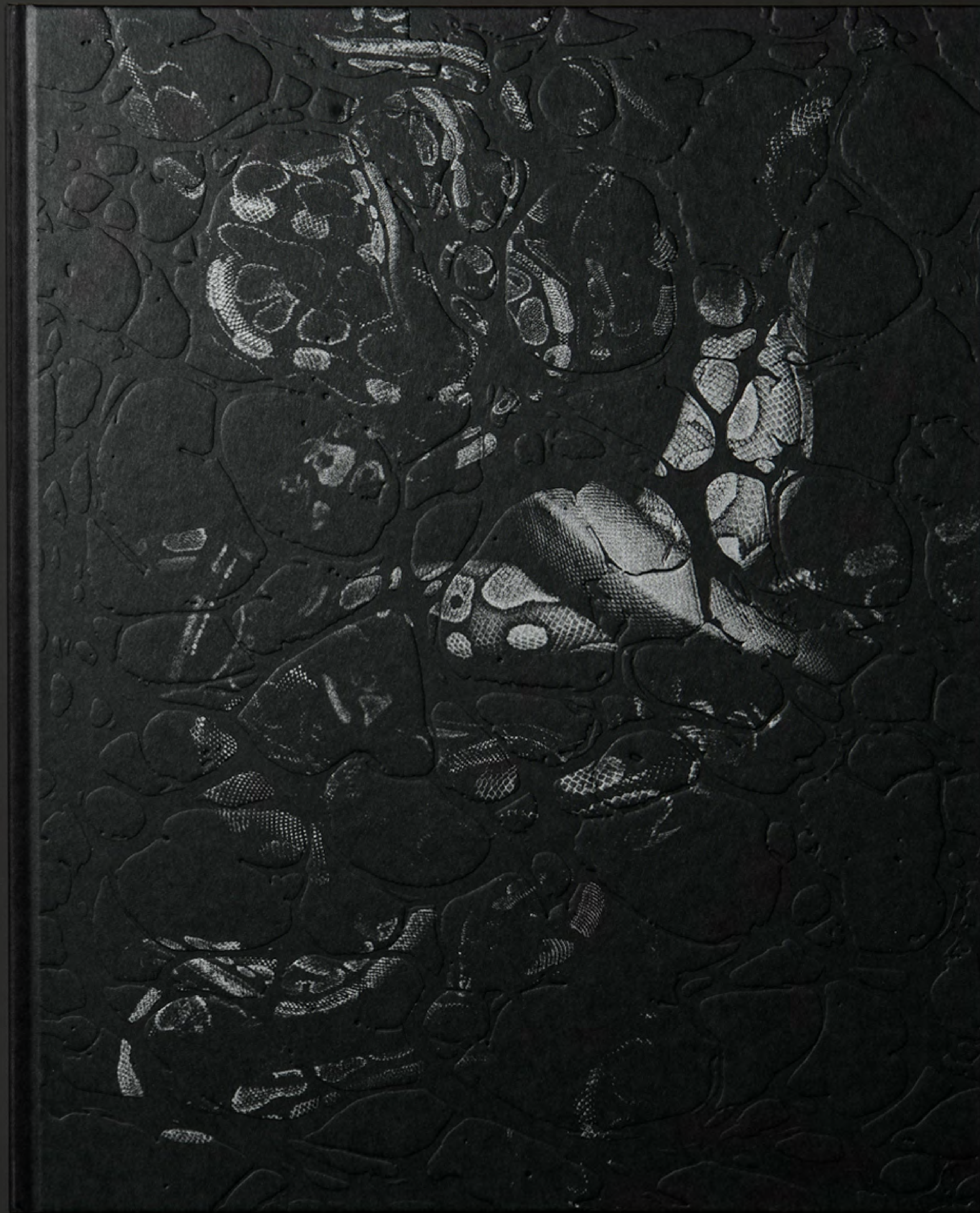


XX PUBLISHED BY VMD XX PUBLISHED BY VMD XX PUBLISHED BY VMD XX PUBLISHED BY VMD XX

PLEXUS

XX PUBLISHED BY VMD XX PUBLISHED BY VMD XX PUBLISHED BY VMD XX PUBLISHED BY VMD XX

by Elena Helfrecht



104 **Pages**
68 **Duotone photographs**
8 **Hidden images**

Plexus

ELENA HELFRECHT

ISBN 978-618-5479-28-2

PAGES **104** COPIES **1000** SIZE (CM) **24 x 30** Elena Helfrecht©Void©

Published by Void

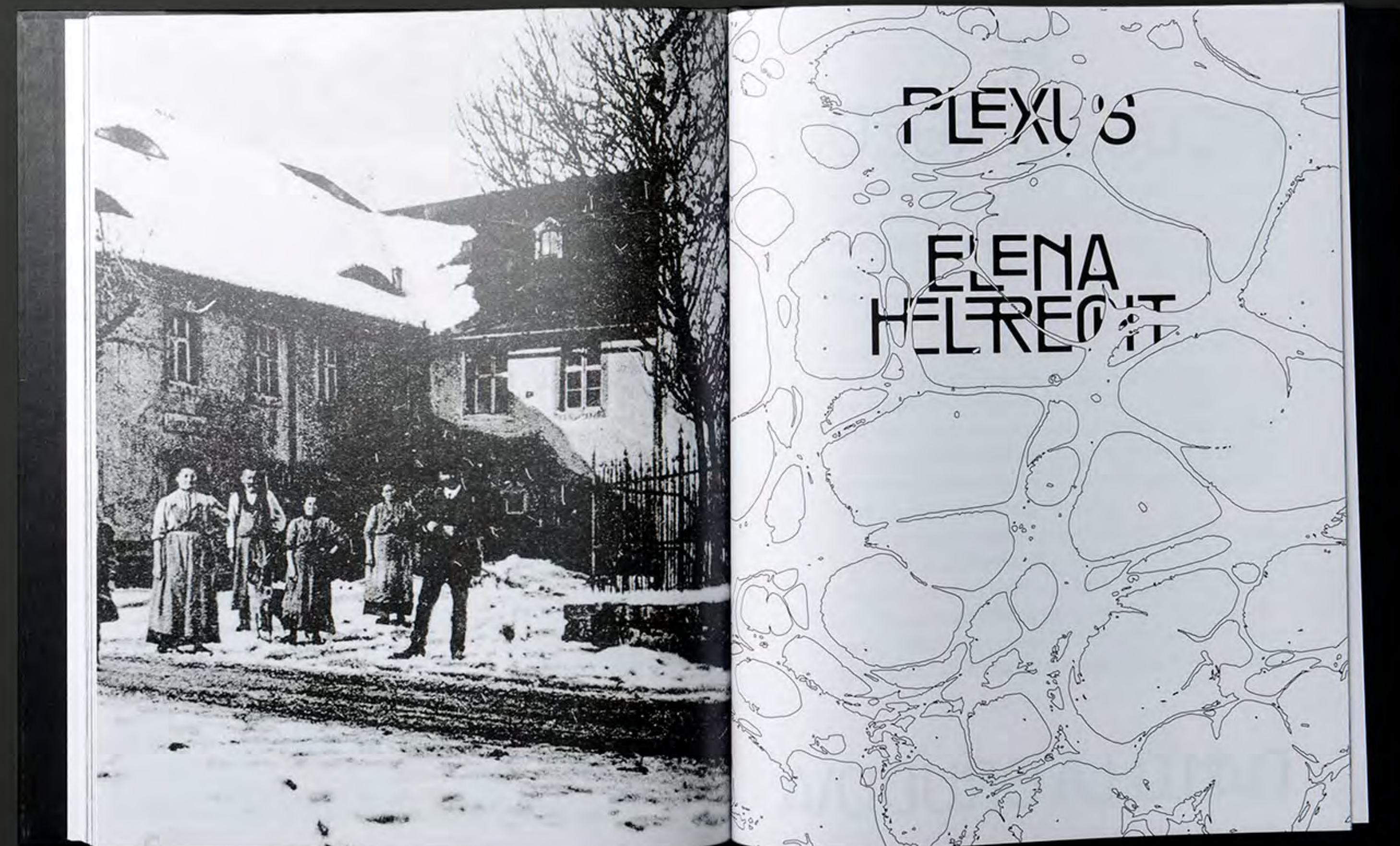
NOV 2023

Hardcover with French folds

Photographs
by Elena Helfrecht

Text
by Camilla Grudova





Plexus

Elena Helfrecht

Following the death of her grandmother, artist Elena Helfrecht embarked on a photographic journey through her family's estate in Bavaria. Employing the interiors, objects and archives, she began to explore the ideas of inherited trauma and postmemory—the relationship following generations have to the traumas of those who came before.

In her black and white photographs, Helfrecht uses the house and its contents to stage an allegorical play. The interiors and still lifes, which at first glance appear to show mundane objects and scenes, become increasingly unsettling: stalactite-like deposits drip sideways from walls, dark chasms open up beneath the floor boards, a snake coils around a dolls' house and chairs hang from the beams. As the narrative progresses, motifs of eggs, birds and fleshy growths (a nod to the title, 'Plexus'—a network of nerves or vessels) are interwoven with archival family photographs, hinting at links and connections between inscrutable symbols, people and places.

Helfrecht's images symbolically allude to the unreal and imaginary creeping into recollections of personal and cultural histories. Confronting a past spanning four generations, 'Plexus' represents through photographs the intersecting and reverberating echoes of mental health, war and history.

The book features a short story by Camilla Grudova, who was named on the Granta Best of Young British Novelists list 2023. Grudova's piece 'The House Surgeon' revolves around a disturbing growth that silently develops under the floorboards of a family home, drawing further upon the themes of inherited trauma presented through Helfrecht's photographs.

In the process of reconnecting the fragmentary history of my female lineage, the term 're-mem-bering' becomes literal. Immersing myself into this story, I fill the gaps with dreams, associations and imagined scenes to create a narrative transgressing personal and national boundaries. The objects and architecture of the house become parabolic proxies and open a gate between the past and the present.

Elena Helfrecht



Elena Helfrecht

Elena Helfrecht, born in Bavaria in 1992, is a German visual artist known for her dreamlike and surreal photographic works. Her practice mainly revolves around phenomena of consciousness, combining individual experiences with collective history. Her work has been exhibited at South London Gallery (UK), Galleria Civica Cavour (IT), The Benaki Museum (GR), Palácio das Artes (BR), Peckham 24 (UK), Photo Vogue Festival (IT), and Encontros da Imagem (PT). She is a recipient of the British Journal of Photography International Photo Award, a Sony World Photo Award, the Camera Work Award and the AOP Student Award. She was selected as one of the Bloomberg New Contemporaries and nominated for the FOAM Paul Huf Award. Recently, VOID selected her as one of the Futures Photography Talents. Her work has been published in The New Yorker, ZEIT Magazin, Financial Times Weekend, The British Journal of Photography, Granta, Der Greif, and Source Magazine.

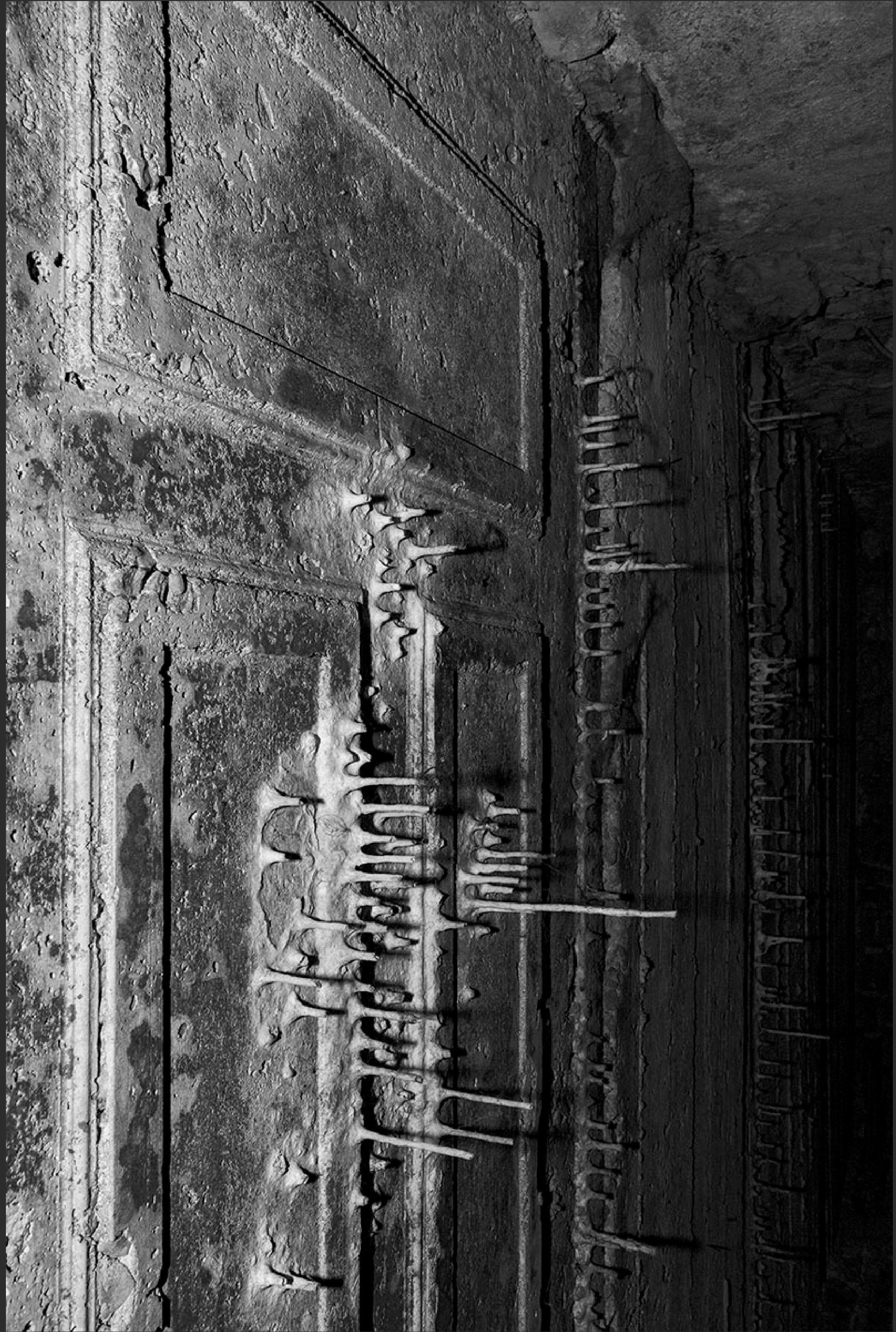


PLEXUS
PLEXUS
PLEXUS
PLEXUS

ELENA HEIRECHT
ELENA HEIRECHT
ELENA HEIRECHT
ELENA HEIRECHT

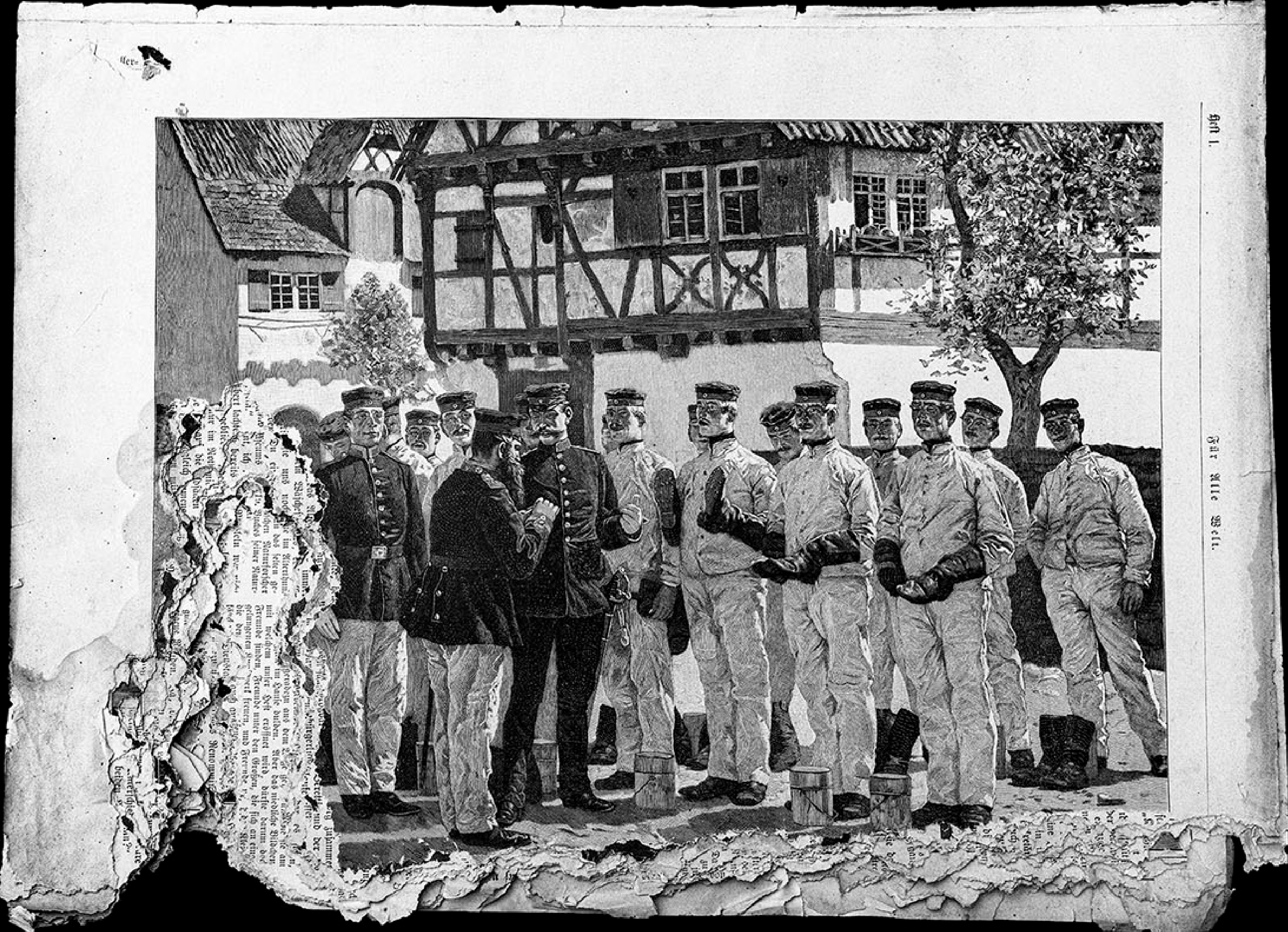
VOID
VOID
VOID
VOID











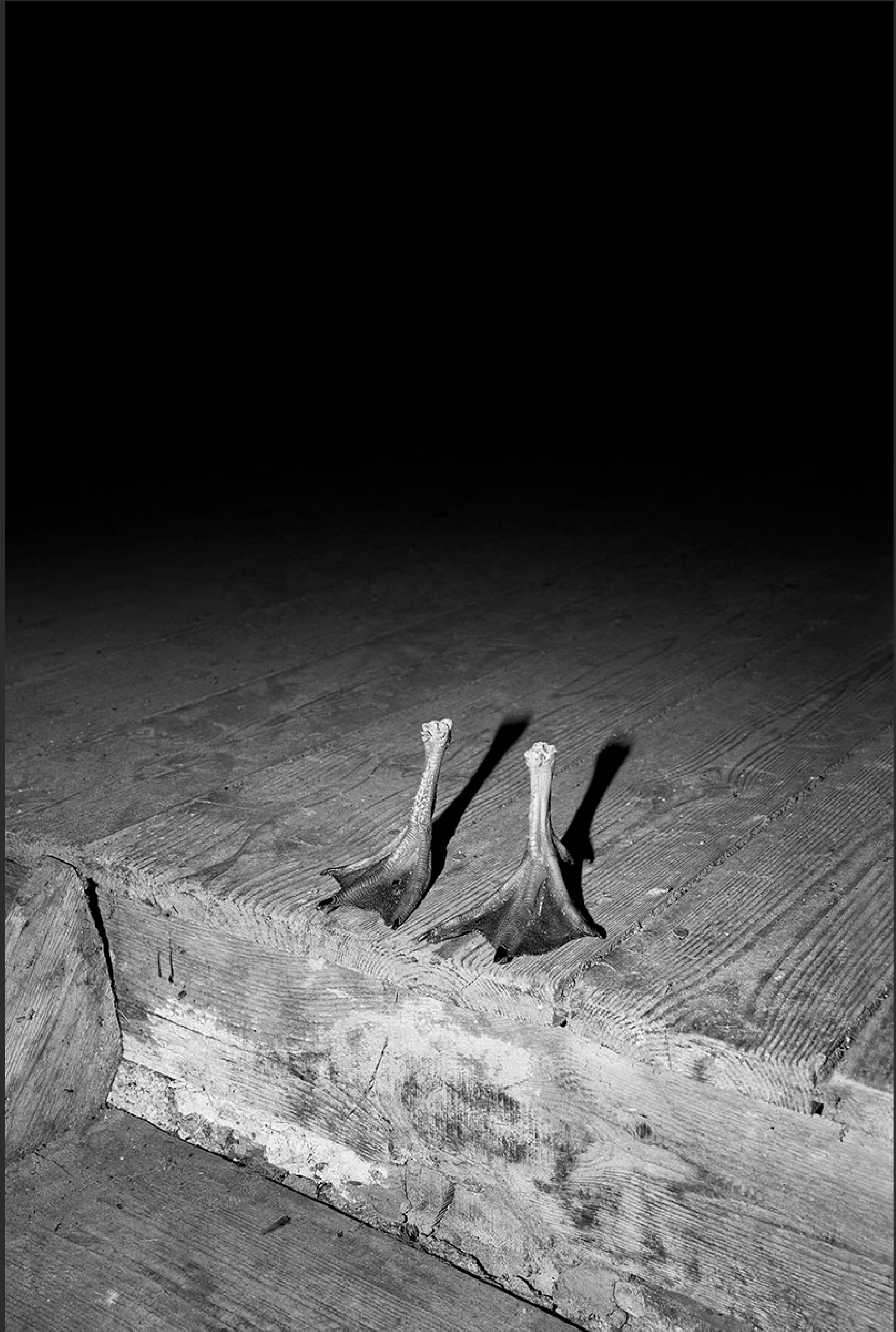
1891

Gar alle 28.11.



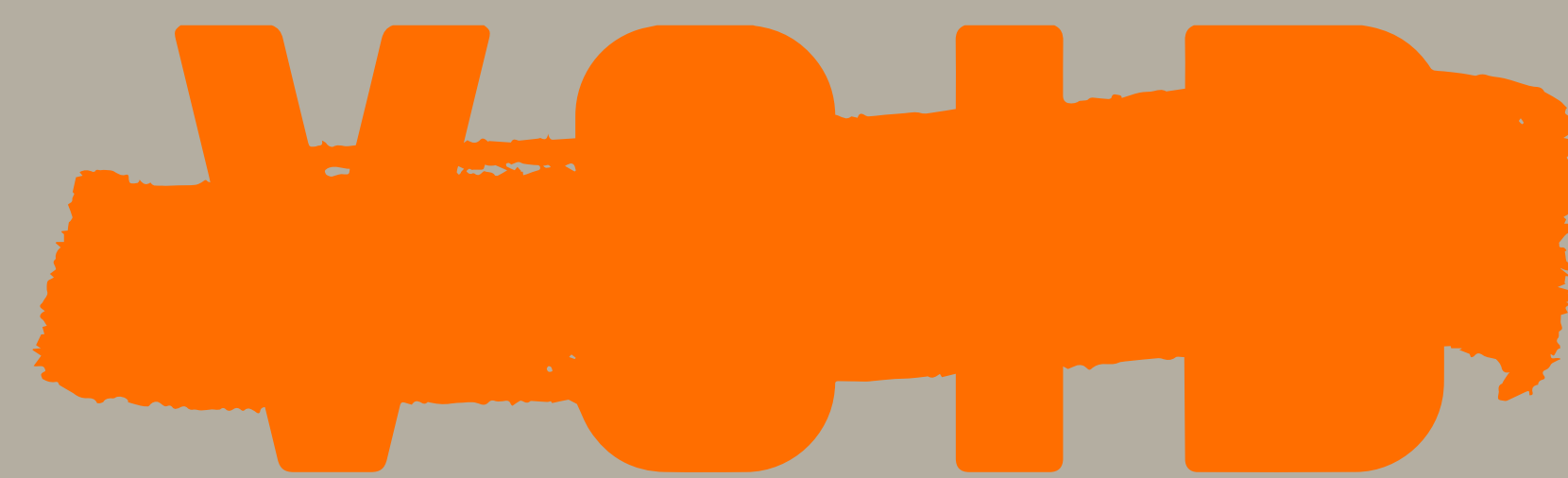








XX PUBLISHED BY VOID XX PUBLISHED BY VOID XX PUBLISHED BY VOID XX PUBLISHED BY VOID XX



XX PUBLISHED BY VOID XX PUBLISHED BY VOID XX PUBLISHED BY VOID XX PUBLISHED BY VOID XX