

Press Release, September 4, 2024

**Lara Almarcegui: Halted Excavation**  
**September 13 to December 14, 2024**

**GfZK Neubau**

**Curated by Franciska Zólyom with Hanar Hupka**

**Press preview: Friday, September 13, 11 am**

What traces of geological, political and social change can be found beneath the city? In 2024, the GfZK has realised a site-specific collaboration with the artist Lara Almarcegui, based in Rotterdam. Since the mid-1990s, a time of construction boom and extensive urban renewal in Europe, Almarcegui has engaged with processes of urban transformation. She is particularly interested in conditions that are not usually the focus of attention, such as wastelands.

In Leipzig, Almarcegui explored a building site. For one day, she halted construction work at the location where a new building for the Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, IfL) is currently being built. Construction work was stopped at the point when the deepest layers of the excavation had been reached. Almarcegui invited the public to join her in the excavation pit to view the uncovered material and historical layers of the city before they were concealed again. At Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz, a site of transformation, the work deals with the urban change brought about by construction. For the presentation of the project at the GfZK, Almarcegui has created a video installation.

**Dates**

**Opening: Friday, September 13, 7 pm**

**Symposium: Friday, December 13, & Saturday, December 14**

Lara Almarcegui lives and works in Rotterdam. She has completed commissions for numerous international biennials and represented Spain at the 55th Venice Biennale (2013). Recent solo exhibitions include *Stopped Quarry*, Ellen de Bruijne Projects, Amsterdam; *Basalt*, Ming Studio, Idaho (2022); *Graves*, Centre d'Art la Panera, Lerida (2021); *Lara Almarcegui. Deep Inside Out*, Graphische Sammlung ETH, Zurich; *Beton*, CAIRN, Digne; *Volcano of Agrás. Mining Rights*, Museum IVAM, Valencia (2019); *Gravel*, Ellen de Bruijne Projects, Amsterdam (2018); *Sand*, Kunstverein Springhornhof (2017); *Le gypse*, Casino Luxembourg (2016); Kunsthaus Baselland; Museum Den Haag (2015); *Mineral Rights*, Gallery Ellen de Bruijne Projects, Amsterdam (2015); *Gisement*, Gallery Mor Charpentier, Paris; *Underneath*, Gallery Parra y Romero, Madrid; Spanish Pavilion, 55th Venice Biennial; CREDAC, Ivry sur Seine; MUSAC, León (2013).

Group shows include *Learning From the Earth*, Art Safiental Biennale, Tenna; 14th Havana Biennial; Cycles, Architecture Triennale, Lisbon ( 2022); 5 Site Encounters, M+ Hongkong; Rabat Biennale ( 2019); Cuenca Biennale (2018); Lyon Biennale (2017), *Wohnungsanfrage*, HKW, Berlin ( 2015), Manifesta IX, Genk; TRACK, Gent (2012); Radical Nature, Barbican Art Centre London; Shenzhen Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture; Athens Biennale of Contemporary Art (2009), Taipei Biennial; Gwangju Biennale (2008), Sharjah Biennial (2007), 27th São Paulo Biennial (2006), Seville Biennial (2006); Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art (2004).

The project *Lara Almarcegui: Halted Excavation* is a collaboration with Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, IfL). Sponsored by the Mondriaan Fund and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Berlin, on the occasion of the Kingdom of the Netherlands' guest appearance at the Leipzig Book Fair 2024.

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