

die Kristallader

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Kunst am Bau, Naturmuseum St Gallen

1.

An expanded sculpture; a city-sized drawing; an ideal walk between the Naturmuseum and the Stadtpark, to be followed with no need for a map or signs; a fictive crystallized mineral vein and a true route. An irregular line demonstrating exploration and motion, illustrating the shifting earth, and giving a non-didactic sense of both the physical and temporal depths of geology.

The work is a thin (approximately 1 cm) shiny metal vein running through the asphalt sidewalk on a carefully determined route. The length of the route is 3.1 km, a pleasant walk of half an hour or so. Models are typically made at a smaller scale than the original, even when they are meant to be walked through (such as a Planetenweg). This is at a 1:1 or larger scale than the un-specified original, and in any case it is fantastic, even science fiction; whether the reference is a vein of a metal-mineral underground, or a rock sample under a microscope, here it is available underfoot. This perhaps gives a sense of being smaller, and though not of a glacial pace, of moving more slowly, and noticing more along the way.

Followed along its entirety, it is a splendid walk, easy enough to be welcoming but also long enough to stretch out into a substantial experience, between the center and the edge of the town/countryside, with myriad views and vistas. It passes by various interesting buildings and sights including schools and playgrounds, St Fiden Schössli, and the Kantonsbibliothek Vadiana. Whether followed along its entirety or experienced in part, the vein gives a relational sense between the surface and the underground, the past and present and future.

It is designed to be walked in either direction. Starting points are the new site of the Naturmuseum next to the Botanischer Garten and the corner between the Tonhalle and Stadtpark, and will be marked with a simple bronze plate reading simply 'die Kristallader, 3100 m.' In terms of practical concerns, the work is embedded in the sidewalk and is weather-resistant, does not invite vandalism, is without the possibility of causing injury, and in need of no more maintenance than a normal sidewalk.

2. Plans

- a. map with route
- b. photographs along route with drawing of Kristallader











Beispiel Kalklinien am Sântis



Beispiel für "Mineralienadern" in Steinen, Kalklinien





Lindenstraße

