

Studio Anne Holtrop

ETH Zürich

MATERIAL GESTURE:

CHANGE

seminar week

HS21

Towards Hydroscopic Design



Photo: Kevin Kok

Valais

October 25–29

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Valais: Following the water trail from the Jungfrauoch glacier saddle down to the Rhone River.

25–29 October, 2021

During Seminar Week, the Design Studio and Master Thesis will research the unique Material Gestures dictated by water, an agent continuously changing our environment. We will study traces of water made via collision and collection, its reaction with materials in different states to form matter, and its acoustic qualities related to space and surrounding elements.

Our relationship with water is complex and contradictory. Water is vital to all forms of life and to the genesis of matter, organic and inorganic. And yet it remains relatively invisible, and as a design agent, underestimated.

The water trail we will study and travel to during Seminar Week is situated in Valais. We will start the week observing ice features at the Great Aletsch Glacier, and the geological markings traced into its bordering landscape, guided by quaternary geologist Prof. Flavio Anselmetti. Mid-week we will examine the Massa River and Gorge, and tour the Gibidum Dam and connecting Hydroelectric Power Plant.

Towards the end of the week, we will explore a salt mine, stone quarry and compare sediment movements at the Rhone River, visiting the largest debris flow measuring system in the world, whilst collecting sounds alongside composer Giuseppe Ielasi. Throughout the week artist Raphael Hefti will be present to guide observations at each site.

This seminar week is a research trip bound to the specific topic of Change: Towards Hydroscopic Design by Chair Holtrop. It is highly recommended to students in the chair to take part, and they will have first priority. The seminar week is also offered and open to external students to participate if there are available spaces. This seminar week is open to a maximum of 25 students.

Guests: Raphael Hefti (Artist), Prof. Flavio Anselmetti (Quaternary Geologist), Giuseppe Ielasi (Music Composer). Our guests will give lectures on their professional experiences during the week.

Expense category D including transportation, accommodation, guided visits and a dinner. The cost will be approximately 800 CHF.

Prof. Anne Holtrop and assistants Yuiko Shigeta, Stephan Lando, Cecilia Marzullo, Grace Prince.