

# «A Line in the earth made of coins (and all that which follows out of sight out of mind)»

Earth Work Installation, Folkeparken, Tromsø, Norway.

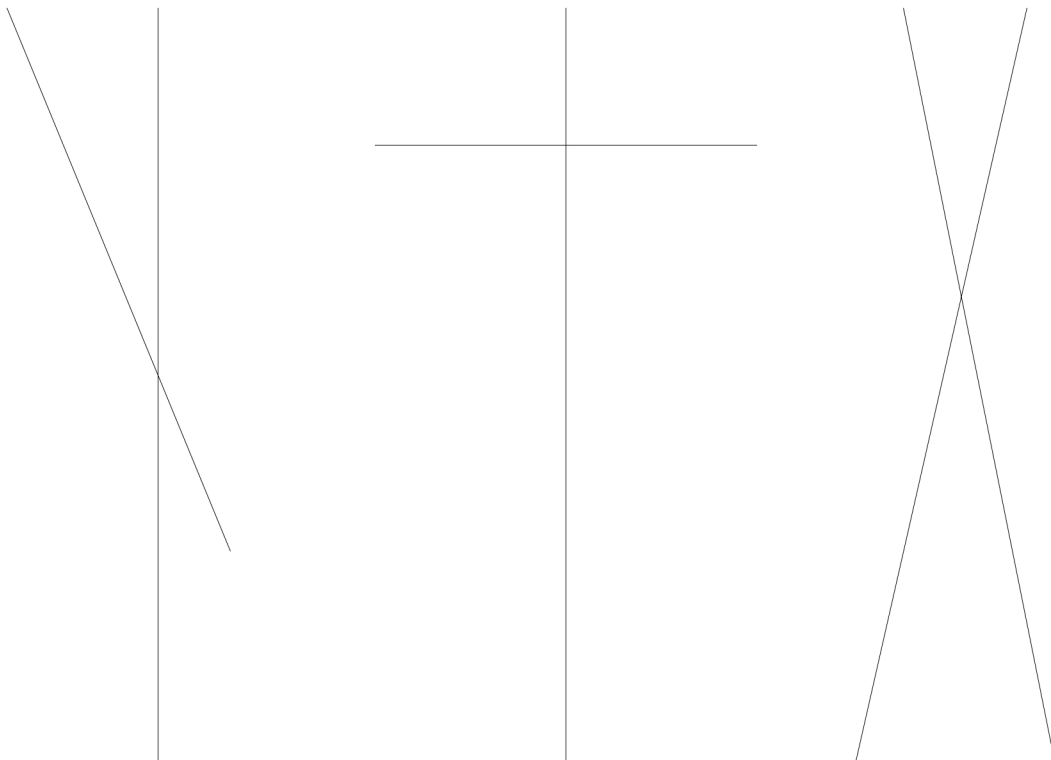
«A Line in the earth made of coins (and all that which follows out of sight out of mind)»

Instructions:

1. Make a small ditch in the ground measuring 2 cm deep, 2 cm wide, and 63 cm long.
2. In the newly dug ditch, 300 «enkrone» will be placed side by side, filling the ditch both in width and in length.
3. The installer should prepare a collection of sticks from the surrounding area, or broom handels, iron rods etc. measuring either the height of the installer or a length that is in some way relates to the installers body. Depending on the outcome of the installation, up to 300 sticks might be required.
4. A contribution to a charity of the installers choosing, amount to be decided by the actions of the visitors.

Execution:

After the ditch is dug and the coins are placed within it, the ditch is left unprotected and open to visitors, each time one of the coins are removed, a stick is set in the ground creating a line that intersects with the original ditch. At the end of the exhibition periode the money that is left shall be given to a charity of the installers choosing, and the work is then completed.



To be constructed only if needed, or, in times of great distress

This work should only be installed if crisis arise, or if the installer sees that the political and environmental climate requires it. It is not a work for every age—although every age comes with its crisis and needs—and perhaps it is time sensitive, and perhaps I write this instruction now because both I as an artist need to make it within my practice, and also that society and the world is in need of a different way of making—I recognize these notes as larger assumptions on the state of a world that right now has been thrown into chaos from pandemic to uprising and my own role as an outside spectator.

The proposed installation borrows its language from the tradition of geomancy and earth acupuncture, one of the seven forbidden arts together with necromancy, hydromancy, aeromancy, pyromancy, chiromancy (palmistry), and spatulamancy (scapulimancy) and shares a strong connection to the eastern philosophies of I-Ching and Feng Shui. Geomancy is the divination of earth, the tossing of sand, stones or other materials to create different shapes from which the divinator could read or interpret the fate of both land and the people living on and off it. The general idea of Geomancy is that the earth, its energies, landscape, and our manipulation of it has a direct influence on the fate of the people living on and off it, thus it speaks to a pre-christian, natur religion, where people are seen as a part of the earth, nature, and where our fate is almost—stress the almost—dictated by it. The installation also includes the idea of healing through the newer practice of earth acupuncture, where a divinator through different means interprets the man made impacts on a given site and how this again can affect the land and the people. These effects can be as varied as mudslides, cancer, and failing crops, and through interpretation the divinator can see where the earths energies has been broken and construct new lines that will restore the natural flow of energy both through the earth and through the people living there. Geomancy in this installation becomes a metaphor for an environmental idea of connection, that is; we have to see ourselves as part of something rather than apart.

For someone to receive something, someone has to give, for someone to gain something, someone else must loose. These are matter of fact, basic principles that scale our world, things, people, riches, and gold are distributed by what appears as a simple toss of a coin—or a strong-willed intention. For this system to change, a total re-imagining of society is required, but, and a big but it is, it might not be the system as such that is faulty, but how it is scaled.

Henry David Thoreau famously said, in his seminal work *Walden*, after leaving his hut by the lake, that crime and injustice will always continue as long as someone has more than someone else—the non-paraphrased quote would be « I am convinced, that if all men were to live as simply as I then did, thieving and robbery would be unknown. These take place only in communities where some have got more than is sufficient while others have not enough. The Pope's Homers would soon get properly distributed.» These ideas are usually placed outside society, onto people and cultures that situate themselves on the fringes, or breaks away in one way or the other from society at large. And, perhaps, it is only found there because it's an impossible thing to reimagine the way we live and how it could become more just, not only to the earth, but to other people, and how we see these two entities—earth and people—as interconnected, and through this be able to perform a unifying action to change the status quo.

Through this installation I wish to gather numerous ideas, current issues, and strifes into one coherent body, specifically those of money, environmentalism, and social justice. But, as is in the nature of the installation, it's both a reflection and a mirage, it asks the question of who this is for, who must sacrifice something for others to gain, who can have more without giving, and finally, what is left for the initial purpose of our actions.

Note on the instruction sheet: When the installation and project has come to an end the instruction sheet—if it is printed—shall be recycled either through the municipal recycling system for paper, or, it can be used as a sheet for notes or bookmarks before it is recycled, or it can be used to start a fire and the ashes used for fertilization, or in some other way given a life and purpose after the project has been concluded.

Note on the sticks: When the installation and project has come to an end, the sticks and rods that were used in the project should be returned to its original site, then to decompose, or continue a life and use until they are discarded.