

the fate

learnings from the CUT



UMBAU STATT ABRISS



House Europe! initiative against demolition



## **The urgency**

In a time of material scarcity, energy crisis and climate urgency, the reuse and transformation of the existing is not only sustainable but also ethically necessary. The project addresses these concerns by exploring how to work with the cultural, spatial and material richness of existing structures rather than replacing them.

## **An artwork on site**

It was only after I started my journey of this research, that I learnt that I wasn't the only one who felt the spirit of Gordon Matta-Clark on this site. The artist Daems Van Remoortere created 2021 his artwork „Art Hours“, a cut into the vacant industrial hall as a tribute to Gordon Matta-Clark, and a play of light and darkness into the halls.





## **An artist and his tools**

The artwork of Gordon Matta-Clark presented the start of my study of material transformation and obsolescence. Through his practice, he forcefully cuts into neglected and obsolete buildings, slicing through materials with precision, and leaving behind voids that challenge the conventional perception of architectural integrity. His chainsaw acts as both an instrument of artistic expression and an agent of destruction.

## **The Conical Intersect**

Conical Intersect, a temporary cut through a soon-to-be-demolished 17th-century building near the Centre Pompidou, critiques urban gentrification. The incision reveals hidden architectural layers and invites reflection on the erasure of history.

The act of cutting isn't destruction but a challenge to capitalist-driven urban redevelopment. His purposeless voids question the logic of such transformations. The cuts expose a building's internal structure, like slicing a sandwich, revealing what's usually hidden. These interventions reshape perspective, offering glimpses into the past and altering how people interact with the space. The hole symbolizes both loss and a bridge between past and present.



## On how to tell a story

the crime board



## **The window of uncertainty**

What interacts with the neglected buildings? How does decay occur? In the case of the Lemmerz factory we can follow the process going back in time. The first empty untouched building one year after closure. 5 years later, visible signs of Human destruction start to destroy windows. Followed by measurements of preservation, also stopping further interventions by blocking entrances and windows. Windows with artwork to improve visual appearance. Lastly without human touch, nature is overgrowing the facades and taking over the building.





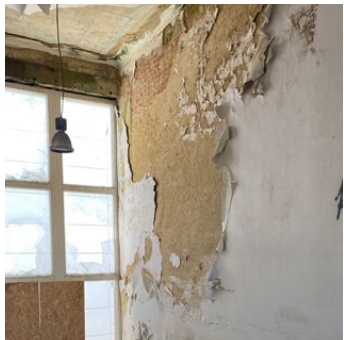
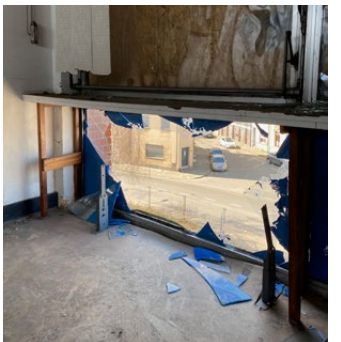
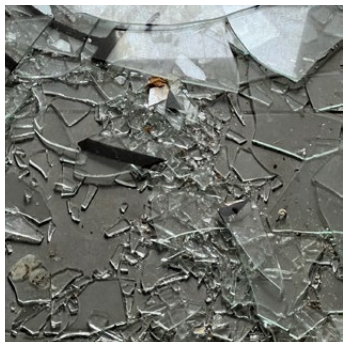
## Investiagtions

I research by collecting. You could call me a horder. My digital mindmap is full and I continue searching for new links and clues. I struggle to settle. To settle and start diving deep into on direction is scary to me. I'm not confident with what I have yet, so I continue searching. But further searches only lead to more chaos.

## The fate of the obsolete

Like the demolished buildings in Paris, a similar future is awaiting the Blikfabriek site. The lifetime of the factory halls as an operating industry ended in 2008. Temporarily they remain but only until the most profitable moment for developers, and then it awaits its demolition.

Holes that represent a past life can be found already. Carved out forms in the concrete floor that represent former industrial activities. Will these holes disappear into one big hole of demolition?



Splitting, Gordon Matta-Clark



Lageweg 390

**Vacancy and vandalism**

The vacancy allows for vandalism. By destructive actions, they also reveal hidden layers. Structure of the ceiling, infrastructure, wall and floor structures, hidden treasures behind the plaster as well as single-glazed windows.

**Slice of the building**

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from  
waste



to  
gift





## **motto of the studio**

can ones waste become anothers gift?

## **renvoation process**

looking outside my window

obsolete materials waiting for their disposal

wondering where they come from

I hear noises of construction

curiously I step outside may house

knocking on the neighbours door

a friendly man greets me

I ask him about the materials

He kindly invites me to the construction site, hidden from the outside

the house is completely being gutted internally

The cut out materials are dumped in the container, waitng for their disposal

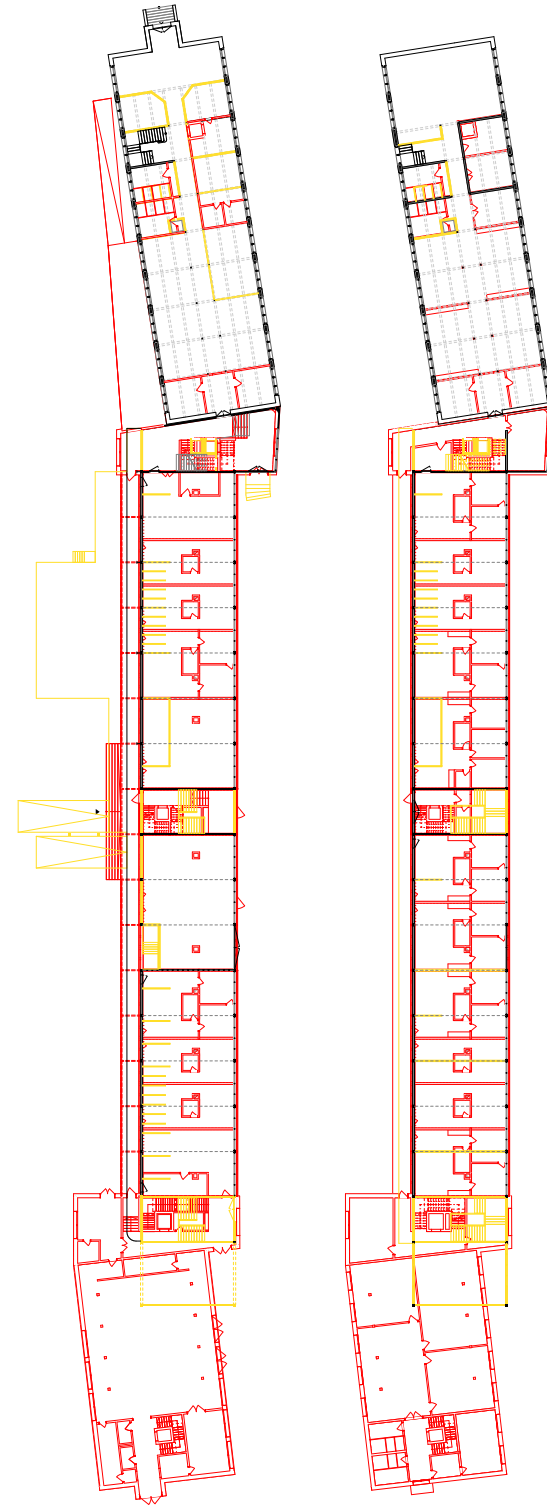
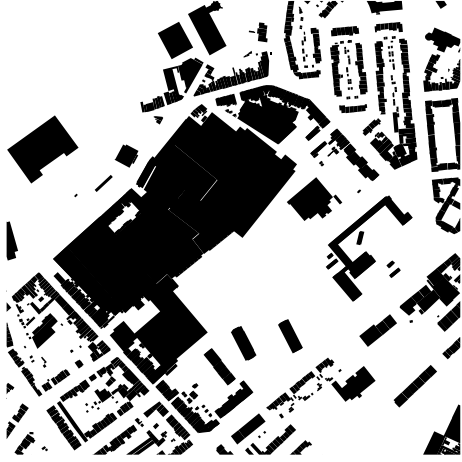
I save a few

What do I do with them?



**SHIFT TO COME CLOSER TO THE BUILDING\_\_**

**the surfaces and textures of the unwanted cutouts**





**what to keep?**

**what to demolish?**