

THINKING
THE CON-
TEMPORARY
LANDSCAPE
-POSITIONS
& OPPOSI-
TIONS

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INTERNATI-
ONAL CON-
FERENCE

20-22 6 13

HERREN-
HAUSEN /
HANOVER

ETH Zurich, Chair of Landscape

Architecture, Professor Christophe Girot

Anette Freytag / Dora Imhof (project lead),

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Websites girot.arch.ethz.ch

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Registration attendance free, limited

seating, landscape@volkswagenstiftung.de

CORNER / DESCOMBES / DÜMPPELMANN / FUNG / STAFSON / HILL / IMBERT ATHERBARROW / MAROT PROMINSKI / REKITTKE / ASSEN / VON SEGGERN WALDHEIM / YU

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Landscape finds its roots in the Old Dutch word Landskip, which designates a stretch of cultivated land. Similarly, paysage in French stems from the Latin word pagus, meaning peasant, which designates an extent of land made by that same person. In other words landscape is the belaboured making of humans, and has nothing to do with the ideal of an untouched wilderness.

This plain definition of the word can help frame a potential for discussion with respect to a long standing tradition of form-giving on the land.

It is essentially by questioning and bringing symbolic expressions of nature back into focus that landscape will resolve the inherent contradiction of its being, namely that of offering the

promise of a wilderness where there is none. In contrast: great spatial disparity and dispersion prevail in today's landscape; this can be attributed to the multitude of actors and factors shaping the land.

This conference is looking for a critical debate about the contemporary intelligence of landscape at a time of relentless conceptual oscillation and uncertainty. Outstanding thinkers and practitioners will share their thoughts and convictions, to help shed light on a multitude of issues, on one of the most ill-defined concepts of our age – call it landscape if you will. Lectures and discussions gravitate around the main topics: Science & Memory, Power & Terrain, Method & Design.