

Birgitta Volz
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Birgitta Volz: Silent Witnesses

**Art Installation with root prints
from trees which witnessed
the cremation of hundreds of
prisoners by the Nazis.**

Most of the artwork in this booklet has been printed by Birgitta Volz in 2021 from tree roots located on the pathway to the memorial site "Schupf", near Happurg, Germany.

It is a place in nature where the corpses of hundreds of political prisoners were secretly cremated by the SS.

Between 1944 and 1945 more than 4000 slave workers died of inhuman living and working conditions in the Hersbruck concentration camp.

Silent Witnesses, 2021

97 x 96 cm

Bark print from a tree root with oil colour on Chinese paper

Art Installation "Silent Witnesses" in the exhibition hall of Sawitri Bhavan, Auroville, India from 17.12.2021 - 14.1.2022

and in the

Exhibition Space of Pitanga Cultural Centre, Samasti, Auroville, India from 27.1. - 4.2.2022



"Research of the Invisible" is my artistic theme since more than 25 years.

I work with block prints, which I take directly from the bark of living trees or other plants, as well as from natural stones and sometimes also from man made structures.

Magic is unfolding, as soon as I do my printing work. My "models" gift me with different archetypes and stories, depending on their cultural environment.

I am convinced that the trees, stones or our environment in general are recording the history of their place and of its "clandestine" inhabitants.

I try to unveil the inner aspect, the very soul of nature, which has been well known and venerated in most ancient cultures.

Once I finish the printing beautiful structures are visible on the bark.

The trees or stones look like pieces of art themselves and they attract the attention of the people, who start seeing them with different eyes.



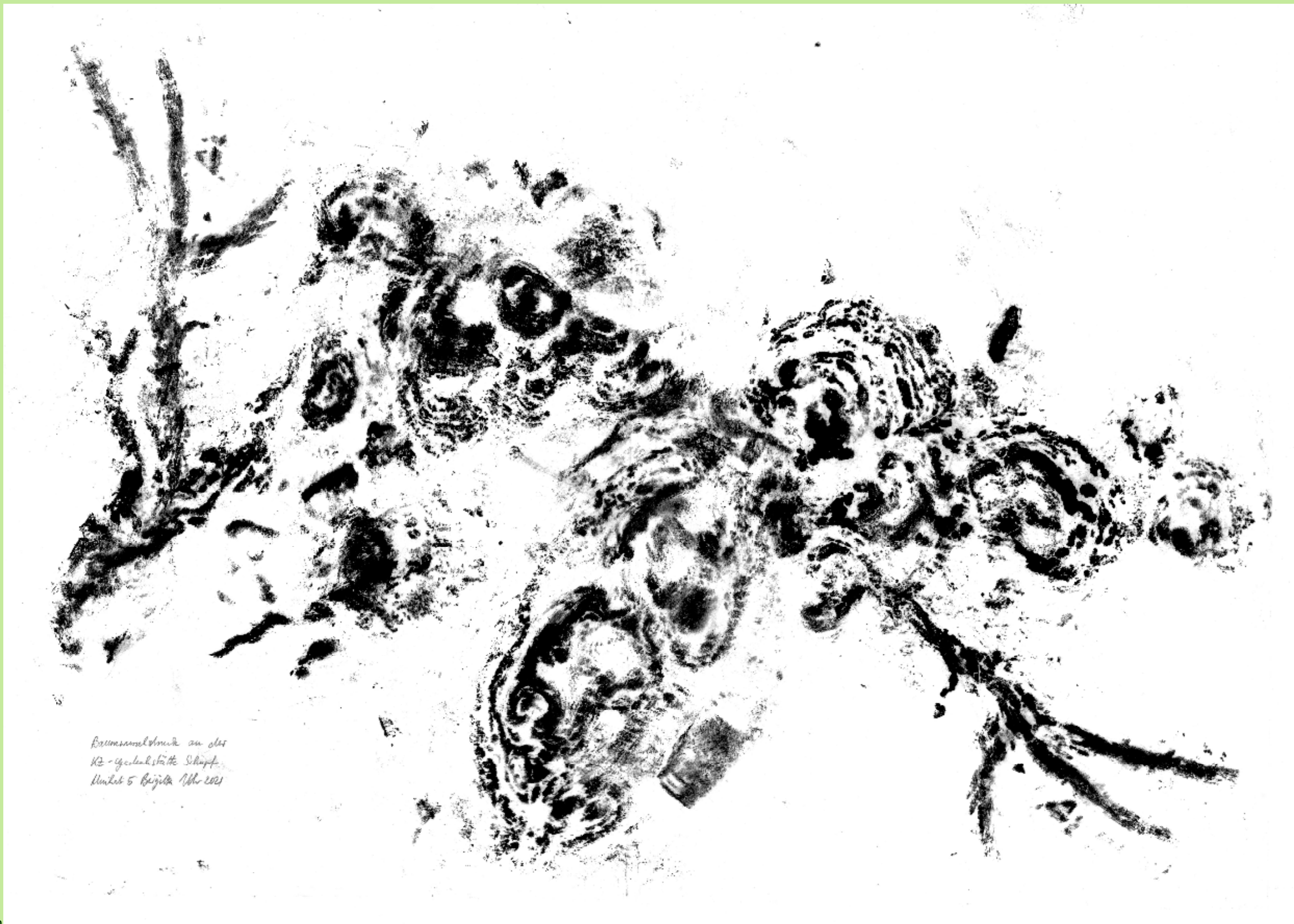
I try to open the hearts of people through the beauty of nature.

I hope the manifestations in my prints makes humans reflect about a consciousness, that inhabits everything around us.

Hopefully, some will be able to gain access to the spiritual aspects of the nature and treating it with more respect.

Silent Witnesses
119 x 84 cm





*Raumauswahlstück an der
KZ-Gedenkstätte Schupf
Humbert 5. August 1981*

Silent
Witnesses
50 x 70 cm

About the Technique of Bark Printing:

The process of printing starts with a good cleaning of the tree surface. A thin layer of oil colour is applied to it with a roller. Then paper or fabric is placed and soft pressure is applied to rub the colour into it.

As I work entirely without chemicals and solvents, my technique does not harm the trees. The excess colour stays visible on the bark making the tree look like a beautiful sculpture for some time, as the beauty of its structures is more prominent.

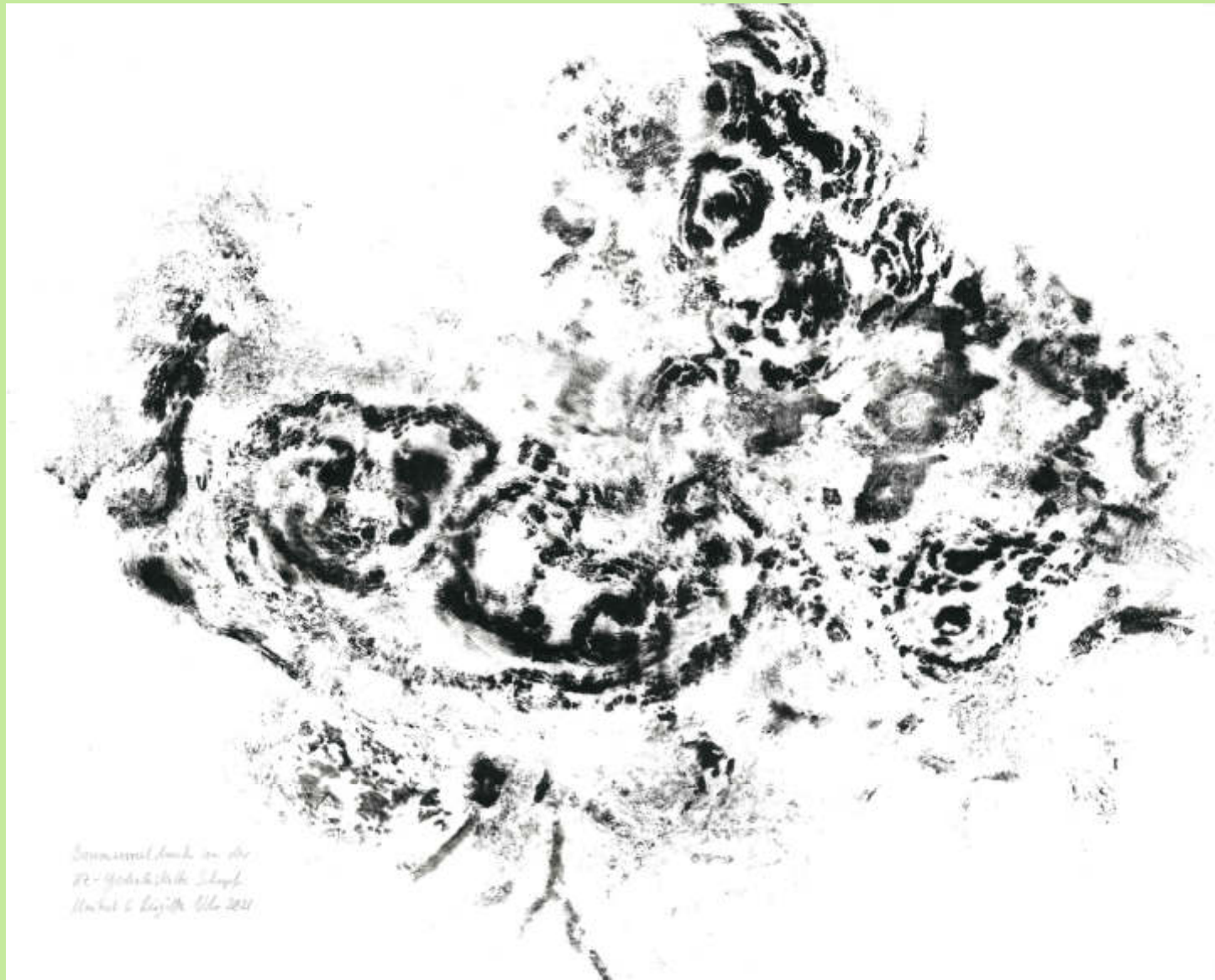
The print needs to dry overnight in a safe space. The process is physically very challenging and works like a meditation in motion. I can only control the composition while I am printing, the result often is a surprise. I try not to manipulate but to unveil what wants to be seen.



Silent Witnesses
21 x 30 cm

Silent Witnesses
99 x 70 cm





*Baumstammstück von der
KZ-Gedenkstätte Schuyf
Bijlitz Ubr 2021 Nummer 8*

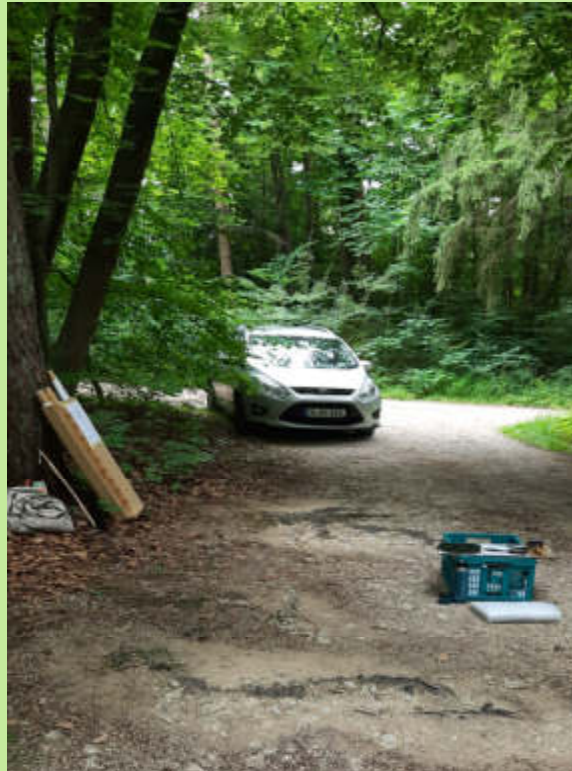
Silent Witnesses
40 x 50 cm



*Baumstammstück von der
KZ-Gedenkstätte Schuyf
Bijlitz Ubr 2021 Nummer 8*

Silent Witnesses
30 x 21 cm





The pathway to the "Schupf" memorial with the printed roots and the printing equipment.

When I passed those hardly visible roots gave me the message by that I need to come back to print them.

The silent witnesses have got a voice now.

The huge urn containing the ashes of the victims.

roots after printing



Bark print from a huge Baobab tree in the bush of Namibia

Is it natural or could it be a carving ?

Could it be a warning for travellers of the past, to beware of the swamps nearby?

"Reaching out", 2018, 70 x 50 cm

Baobab bark print with oil colour on Japanese paper



"Priestess"

holding a male Head,

2021, 150 x 60 cm

Print from a very old Latvian Idol

Linden tree (*Tilia europaea*,

circumference approx. 7 m),

oil colour on banner cloth





"Men made of Granite"

2021, 100 x 70 cm

Print from a Granite bolder with oil colour on Chinese paper, shaded with pencil.

The white water solvable ground colour on the Granite bolder makes sure that the next heavy rain will wash off the black oil colour, so that the land art installation will look untouched again.

Below: Birgitta's Granite prints dry open air on another installation in "Pedvale Art Park", Latvia, 2021



Birgitta Volz: Curriculum Vitae

- 1964 Born in Nuremberg, Germany
- 1982 Begins artistic works with woodcuts
- 1985 Youngest member of the Association of Professional Artists in Nuremberg
- 1984-88 Studies at the Würzburg College (Commercial Art), BA
- 1987 Guest student at the "Academia de Bellas Artes", Madrid
- 1988-91 MA-Programme for graphic arts at the University of Modern Arts in Kassel

- 1996-97 Invitation to lecture at the College of Art, New Delhi, India, as an invited guest of the German Cultural Institute and at the University for Modern Arts in Porto, Portugal
- 1993-98 Fellowship in the House of Fine Arts, Wiesbaden, Germany
- 1998 Rewarded the "HAP Grieshaber Prize" for wood print
- 1999-00 Awarded by the Bavarian Government with a 1 year fellowship at the "International House of Artists Villa Concordia" in Bamberg for artistic life achievements
- 2000 Awarded by the "New Saxonian Gallery" Invitation to lecture at the College of Art in Kumasi, Ghana, as an invited guest of the German Cultural Institute and Alliance Française
- 2001 Fellowship of the German-Italian Institute "Villa Vigoni", Italy
- 2003 "Brenner's Artists in Residence" Fellowship, Baden-Baden, Germany Fellowship "Le Centre Est-Nord-Est", St-Jean-Port-Joli, Québec, Canada
- 2004 Artist in residence "Engramme", Quebec, Canada
- 2005 joining the international community of Auroville in the south of India
- 2006 founding "Matrigold", Birgitta's Indian jewellery label, design and art brand (www.matrigold.in)

- 2014 International Narrative Art Residency, Goa Chitra Museum, Goa, India
- 2018 International Chittorgarh Art Festival, Medan, India "The Baobab Project": Expedition with the author Konny von Schmettau into the bush of Namibia to print a 3000 year old Baobab tree
- 2019 Auroville International Art Camp, India 15. International Art Residency, "Werkstattwoche Lüben", Germany "Uronto" International Art Exchange Program, Bangladesh
- 2021 Auroville International Art Camp, India International art residency in "Pedvale Art Park", Latvia
- 2022 Auroville International Art Camp, India



Katalog / Video download: www.birgittavolz.de/katalog.htm

"Lineamenta arborum" – "The Features of Trees"

Catalog in English, German and Spanish about the early bark prints of Birgitta Volz (1994 - 99), 84 pages, size: 30 x 22 cm, 1000 pieces, published in 2000

"Holzschnitte und Holzdrucke"

Catalog in German about the wood prints of Birgitta Volz between 1994 and 2000 28 pages, size: 25 x 21 cm, 1000 pieces, published in 2000, ISBN: 3-935094-06-X

"Exotic Botanical Prints"

Catalog in English or German about the botanical prints of Birgitta Volz 46 pages, size: 28 x 21 cm, mini edition, published in 2010

"Research of the Invisible" – Magical Bark Prints by Birgitta Volz

Catalog in English about the magic bark prints and the "Namibia Project" 56 pages, size: 24 x 17 cm, 100 pieces, published in 2018

"The Magic Drawingbook" – Varied Lewels of Perception by Birgitta Volz

Drawing book for adults in English or German with motifs of magic bark prints 80 pages, size: 22 x 16 cm, 300 pieces, published in 2019

"Bangla Time Travel" – Magical Prints by Birgitta Volz

Catalog in English about the magic prints during the "Uronto Residency" in Bangladesh 44 pages, size: 30 x 21 cm, mini edition, published in 2020

"Temple Tree" – Magical Bark Prints by Birgitta Volz

Catalog in English about the "Temple Tree Project" in the Auroville Art Camp 28 pages, size: 30 x 21 cm, mini edition, published in 2021



Birgitta Volz, an artist with major international recognition, can be credited with more than 100 solo exhibitions, 200 group exhibitions, and work in 20 different countries. Her artwork is found in many public and private collections, and in public buildings.

Temple Tree (2021)

<https://youtu.be/EnW5OSW29YE>

Art and Crisis (2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4fD30FsWAY&app=desktop>

Tree art by Birgitta Volz (2018) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEWm0F0MOqc>