

# On Display



Lynn Hershman Neeson, Hand Crashing Through the Window, New York 1976

*'Life is a window of vulnerability.'*  
by Donna Haraway

Bahnhofstrasse is the site of the most dramatic changes in Zurich. An out of town ditch beyond the city walls led its way through large villas and gardens. 19th century urbanisation saw it turn Zurich from a town on the river to a city on the lake. Its rise as the primary civic axis through the city is matched by unparalleled wealth in its banks and shops. However, within this space of display, the voices of protest and resistance have established a long tradition of public representation.

The architecture of Bahnhofstrasse bears witness to these past 150 years. Classical masonry has given way to steel and concrete, but perhaps it was glass that most changed the nature of architecture and public space, drawing it from the street into the depths of the city.

The end of shopping has been approaching slowly but surely since we became digital, until Covid dealt it a final blow. Manor is gone. The others will follow. But what will happen to Bahnhofstrasse? Will it find its original gardens below the concrete? Will it open new spaces to new uses? Will all that glass turn to stone? Where will the protests go if the power shifts? We shall go in search of the new heart of Zürich; within, behind, below or simply in front of us in plain sight – it just needs to be re-made, re-used, re-invented, re-designed.

Intro: Tuesday 15 September, 10:00

Location: Studio Tom Emerson Garden