

VEHICULE

VOL 5 / LODOWN

ACOUSTIC PANZERISM



previous spread:
Panzer, nickelplated, wood, steel, resin, fiber glass, suitcaseequipment, sound, 2011, 250 x 550 x 140cm



Panzer Cockpit, 2011



NIK NOWAK.

'Social commentary and alternatives to the anonymization of life in virtual space.'

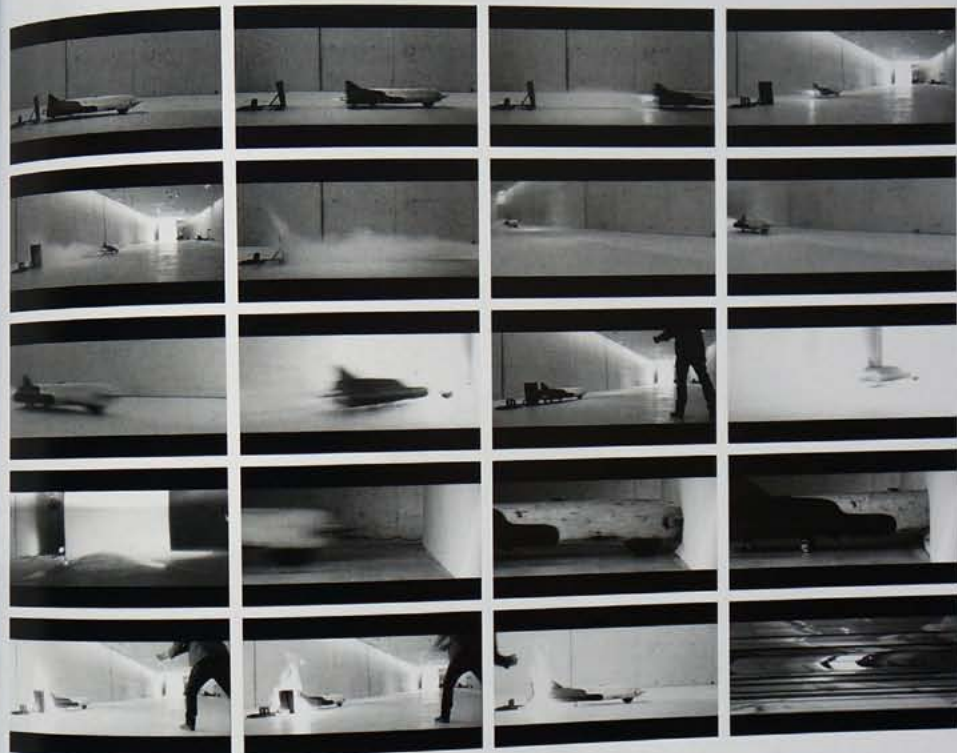
Nik Nowak was born in Mainz in 1981. He studied art at the Universität der Künste Berlin and his professor was the German conceptual artist Lothar Baumgarten.

In his work, Nik captures technical phenomena like car-tuning, acoustic weapons, drones, and soundsystems oscillating between cute and dangerous. He uses the concept of mobile sound sources like pimped-out cars, ice cream trucks or propaganda vehicles to occupy and shift public space temporarily. Nik utilizes self-composed electronic music to fill the place he attends with sound.

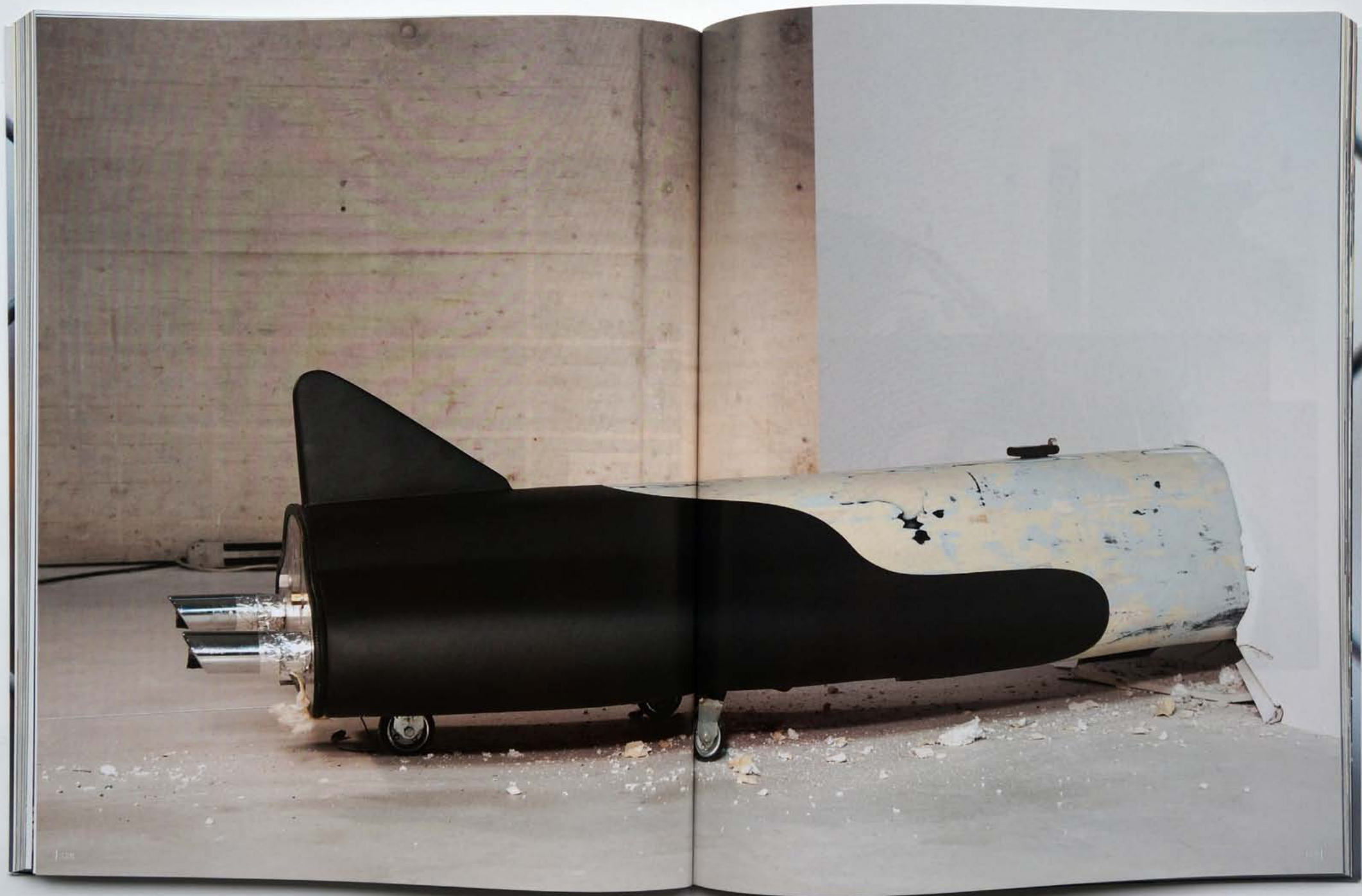
His *pièce de résistance* so far is "Panzer," a mobile audio platform with over a dozen speakers on it, built on the frame of a Japanese industrial dumping vehicle with steel tracks. Nik reassembled it with a lot of added bits and pieces and, under consideration of acoustic parameters, rebuilt it into a sound vehicle. The cockpit contains beat-making gear as well as stations for a drum machine, mixer, and synthesizer. The intact dumping mechanism allows the custom speaker compartment to be hydraulically raised and aligned. Six 12-inch mid-range drivers, three 18-inch subwoofers, four tweeters are ready to blast 4,000 watts of sound.

His sculptures are utopian objects, and while some of them are fully functional, they are not supposed to be utility vehicles. In times of global networking his mobile sculptures thematizes local coherences. "It's a relationship of tension that's highly relevant and bears a resemblance, especially with regard to drone technology and telecommunication. The use of a smartphone for example is a steady global/local extreme situation."

niknowak.de



Rakete
KIT Düsseldorf, 2010





Bombyk
2011
photo: David Brandt



Booster
2015