

# speak (spēk) v. spoke (spōk), spo·ken (spō'kən), speak·ing, speaks

To express thoughts or feelings to convey information in speech or writing; to convey information or ideas in text; to engage in conversation; to say with the voice, pronounce or utter; to express in words, to tell. Also, to speak out: To talk freely and fearlessly, for example about a public issue. To speak up: to speak loudly enough to be audible; to speak with-out fear or hesitation. From Middle English speken, from Old English sprecan, specan. In old Slavic, the word for speaking is vět-iti or věfati, which also means «to inform», to «say», to «speak». It is related to věty («agreement»), věfe («assembly»), otvěfati («to answer»), oběfati («to promise, to pledge»), as well as the Slavic věst («news»), the English wise, the root in ad-vis-or, the Dutch weten or the German wissen («to know»). Combined with the prefix so-, from old Slavic su- («together») it also forms the root of the word «soviet.» Philosophers like Boris Groys and Maurice Blanchot have described the exercise of collective speech as the essence of the «unideo-logical communism» of revolution.

STATEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE,  
Performance/Video, 15 min,  
2019/2022

Akademie der Künste,  
Pariser Platz

*Material:* declarations, manifestos, and lists of demands put forward by working groups and individuals, dissidents, artists and cultural workers, labour unions, women's groups, as well as gay and lesbian organisations in the GDR in the autumn and winter of 1989/90. Performance recorded on 9 November, 2019, the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, at Sala Omnia, a former assembly space of the Romanian Communist Party in Bucharest and on 30 April 2022 in the old water reservoir in Berlin Prenzlauer Berg.

ANOTHER ROUND,  
single-channel video, loop,  
2012/2022

Hamburger Bahnhof

*Material:* Video Footage recorded spontaneously while driving around Tahrir Square, Cairo, on the evening of 20 February 2012; various sounds Cairo, 2011 to 2012 (found online, e.g. in the 858 Archive by Mosireen Collective); video snippet, Tahrir Square, 2021.

# to cir·cle (sûr'kəl)/ to re·volve (rī-vōlve) v. cir·cled, cir·cling, cir·cles

# v. re·volved, re·volv·ing, re·volves

# n. rev·o·lu·tion (rĕv'ə-lōō'shən)

To circle is to form a circle, to surround or move in a circle around something. To revolve is, similarly, to orbit a central point, or to turn on an axis, but also to recur at periodical intervals. Circling combines continuous movement with the act of remaining in place. Geometrically, a circle can open up into a helix, a spring, when imagined in the act of remaining in place. In physics, a revolution refers to the periodic movement of an object around a focal point, which is enabled by the balancing of an inward acceleration and a tangential velocity. In its wider usage it refers to a sudden radical change in a system of ideas or technologies, a process of potentially violent social and political transition, the overthrow of a regime. In Marxist theory, a revolution is the violent and historically necessary changeover from one system to another.

# stand (stānd), v. stood (stōd), stand·ing, stands

*Material:* Two photos of the Standing Man Erdem Gündüz (EPA/Vassil Donev and Erdem/Depo Photos/dbocapress.com; performance artist Vito Accorci's 1971 video work "Centers", in which Accorci tries to hold his index finger steady on the camera lens for 23 mins.

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2-channel video, 23 mins, 2022  
Akademie der Künste,  
Pariser Platz

To stand is to rise to an upright position on the feet and to maintain such a position. Something that stands comes to a stop, it becomes or remains motionless. To stand means two contradictory things at once: to resist, to stand against, to withstand — and to put up with, to bear something patiently. As a noun, stand is an act of standing, but also a cessation of activity, a standsstill, or a halt. To make a stand is to resist, or to defend oneself. To take a stand is to uphold one's opinion, to make a strong case for it. Physiologically, standing still consists of the complex balancing of a multiplicity of micro-movements requiring the activation of the visual, vestibular, and somatosensory sense systems.

To interrupt is to stop something, to cause a break in the continuity of a process or a condition, in its uniformity, to break this something off in the middle. One can interrupt a person to get them to stop what they are doing, or one can interrupt someone who is speaking. For computers one speaks of an interruption, if one programme is stopped so that another procedure can be carried out. In its Latin origin (rumpere), the word is connected to notions of breaking, uprooting, bursting, tearing, rupturing, breaking asunder, or forcing open.

*Material:* Excerpt of a video recording of the first session of the Central Round Table of the GDR, 7 December 1989, East Berlin (courtesy of the Robert Havemann Gesellschaft e.V./Archive of the GDR Opposition). At its first meeting, members of the new political groups and citizens' movements and of the established parties came together to discuss the role of the Round Table in aiding the democratic transformation of the country. The session was recorded unofficially by Klaus Feyrmut (1948–1991), an independent filmmaker and member of the oppositional New Forum.

# in·ter·rupt (in'te-rŭpt') v. in·ter·rupt·ed, in·ter·rupt·ing, in·ter·rupts

Akademie der Künste,  
Pariser Platz

2-channel video, 14 min, 2014  
A BIT OF A COMPLEX SITUATION,

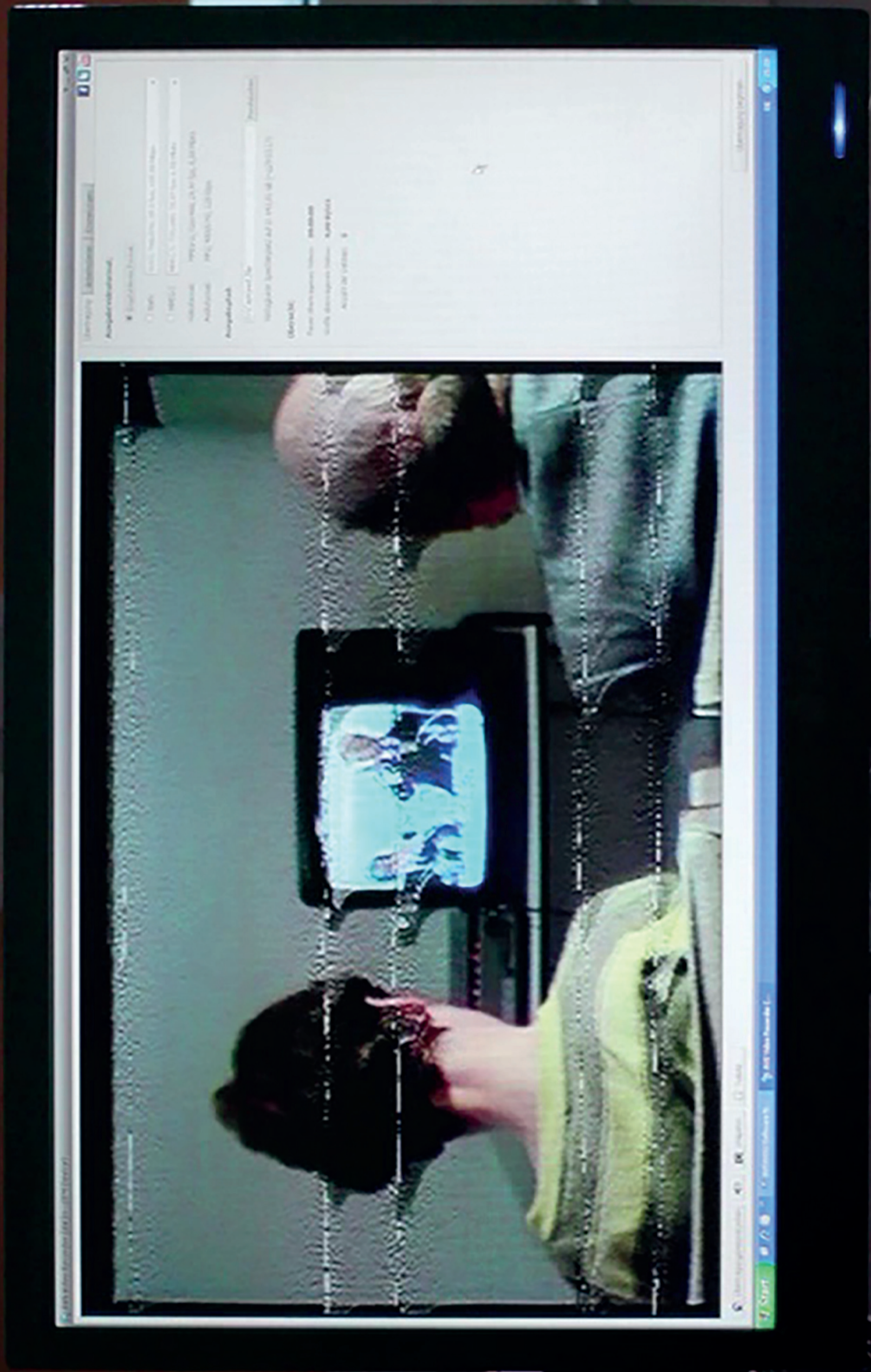
**re·peat**

(rĭ-pē't' rē'pēt')

v. re·peat·ed, re·peat·ing, re·peats

To repeat something is to say or do again the words or actions of oneself or of another, to experience or to produce again, to re-iterate, or restate something, or reproduce something from memory. For Sigmund Freud, repetition was a reaction to the experience of a traumatic event, through which that event is relived in the present. In the understanding of various schools of bodywork, such as the Feldenkrais Method, patterns of movement developed in response to traumatic experiences can archive this trauma in the body. When these counterreactions of the body to a past experience are integrated through therapy, patients have been found to achieve better functionality than that available before experiencing the trauma.

VIDEO LINK:



I'll rewind a bit.

VERSUCHE/FRAMED, single-channel video, 20 mins, 2018/2022

Material: Unedited video clips by Klaus Freymuth (courtesy of the Robert Havemann Gesellschaft e.V./ Archive of the GDR Opposition) of try-outs for a campaign video for the alliance of former citizens' movements of the GDR in the first German post-unification elections of December 1990, with former Central Round Table attendees Ingrid Köppe and Wolfgang Ullmann. The election commercial appears not to have been completed or broadcast.

AN ARCHIVE OF GESTURES IS A RESEARCH PLATFORM AND ARCHIVE IN PROGRESS ABOUT THE EMBODIMENT OF REVOLT AND REVOLUTION FROM 1989/90 TO THE PRESENT BY ELSKE ROSENFELD.

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