

Martin Kesting  
*Lua Mater*



## LUA MATER

MARTIN KESTING

I used to go swimming there in the summer nearby, looking for mushrooms in the fall. Chance made me discover this place. A place on the southern outskirts of Berlin filled with what the Trümmerfrauen couldn't use in 1945. One of Berlin's many Sore Spots. But unlike Teufelsberg or Bunkerberg it's not a mountain of WWII-debris, it's a filled up lake in the middle of the woods which is partly a swamp.

I am scavenging there from time to time. Just below the surface there is mostly rust and glass. Searching can be dangerous for a variety of reasons. For example wild boar. Or treasure hunters. But the treasure hunters know that I'm only looking for objects for my sculptures and installations. Remnants of tools and badges make me suspect that most of the debris comes from the former Exportviertel (Ritterstraße) or the Zeitungsviertel (Friedrichstraße). The northwest of Berlin Kreuzberg was almost completely razed to the ground by Allied bombers on February 3, 1945. It was one of the heaviest air raids on Berlin.

Lua Mater or Lua Saturni was a goddess to whom Roman soldiers sacrificed spoils of war and captured weapons. Her name may derive from the Latin "luo", which means "to pay" or "atonement". For me this Goddess poetically fits to this place. It's like a massive offering to Her. This place is like a store-house consciousness of pre-war Berlin. After atonement comes redeeming and liberation. Berlin, once World Headquarter of Evil mutated into a Capital of the Libertarians.

All the photos of this series were taken at that place or are photos of artefacts from there.











