

AKTIVIERUNGSFLÄCHE

Die große Aktivierungsfläche gibt die Möglichkeit, unterschiedliche Ausstellungskopien des *Ersten Werksatzes* und der *Handlungsbahnen* in die Handlung zu übertragen. Die Werke können in die Hand genommen, angezogen oder übergestülpt werden. Durch die Interaktion zwischen Körper und Objekt wird jede*r selbst zum Teil des Kunstwerks. Die Ausführenden schaffen ihre eigenen Erzählungen, und das Werk ist in einer ständigen Veränderung begriffen: Werk, Körper, Ort und Raum verschmelzen in ungewohnter Weise zu einer Einheit.

Ein*e Ansprechpartner*in unterstützt Sie sonntags von 12 bis 18 Uhr bei der Nutzung der *Handlungsbahnen*.

Die Teile des *Ersten Werksatzes* können wochentags auch allein aktiviert werden. Speziell für Kinder wird sonntags das *Handlungsbuch II* als angeleitete Aktivierung angeboten.

Bitte nehmen Sie sich eine Handlungskarte mit einer Anleitung*, ziehen Sie die Schuhe aus, treten Sie auf die Aktivierungsfläche, und nehmen Sie eine Exhibition Copy aus der Umhüllung. Entfalten Sie das Werk, und führen Sie die Handlung aus. Sobald sie beendet ist, falten Sie bitte die Stücke wieder zusammen und legen sie sorgfältig zurück in die Umhüllung.

ACTIVATION AREA IN THE EXHIBITION

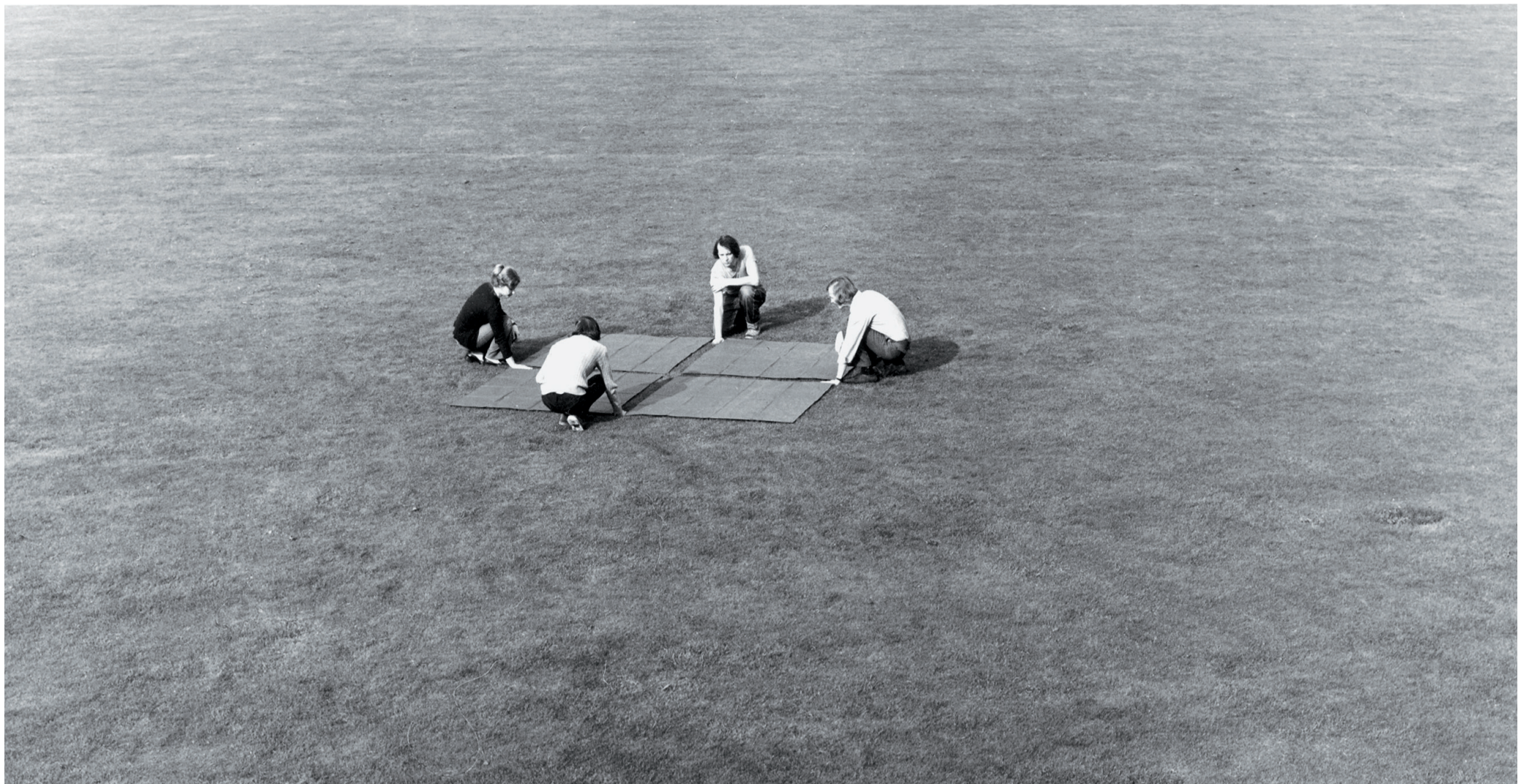
A large activation area in the centre of the exhibition offers the opportunity to activate different Exhibition Copies of the *First Work Set* and of *Action Paths*; the works can be picked up, put on, or placed over the visitor's body. Through the interaction between body and object, everyone becomes part of the work. The performers create their own narratives, and the work is in a constant state of flux: work, body, place, and space merge in an unusual way to form a unity.

A contact person will be on hand on Sundays from 12 noon to 6 pm in using the *Action Paths*. You can activate the parts of the *First Work Set* on your own on weekdays. Especially for children, the *Handling Book II* will be offered as a guided activation.

Please take an activation card with instructions*, take off your shoes, step onto the activation area and take an Exhibition Copy out of its cover. Unfold the work and carry out the action. As soon as you have finished, please fold the pieces back up and carefully place them back in the cover.

*Die Zitate in den Texten zu den einzelnen Aktivierungen stammen aus dem Katalog „Franz Erhard Walther. Diagramme zum 1. Werksatz“, München 1976, und aus „Franz Erhard Walther. Stirn statt Auge, das Sprachwerk“, Ostfildern-Ruit, 1997

*The quotations in the texts on the individual activations are taken from the catalog „Franz Erhard Walther. Diagramme zum 1. Werksatz“, Munich 1976 and from „Franz Erhard Walther. Stirn statt Auge, das Sprachwerk“, Ostfildern-Ruit, 1997



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

FOUR FIELDS, 1966

NO. 21, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2012

Cotton fabric, 4 parts, each: 145 × 145 cm

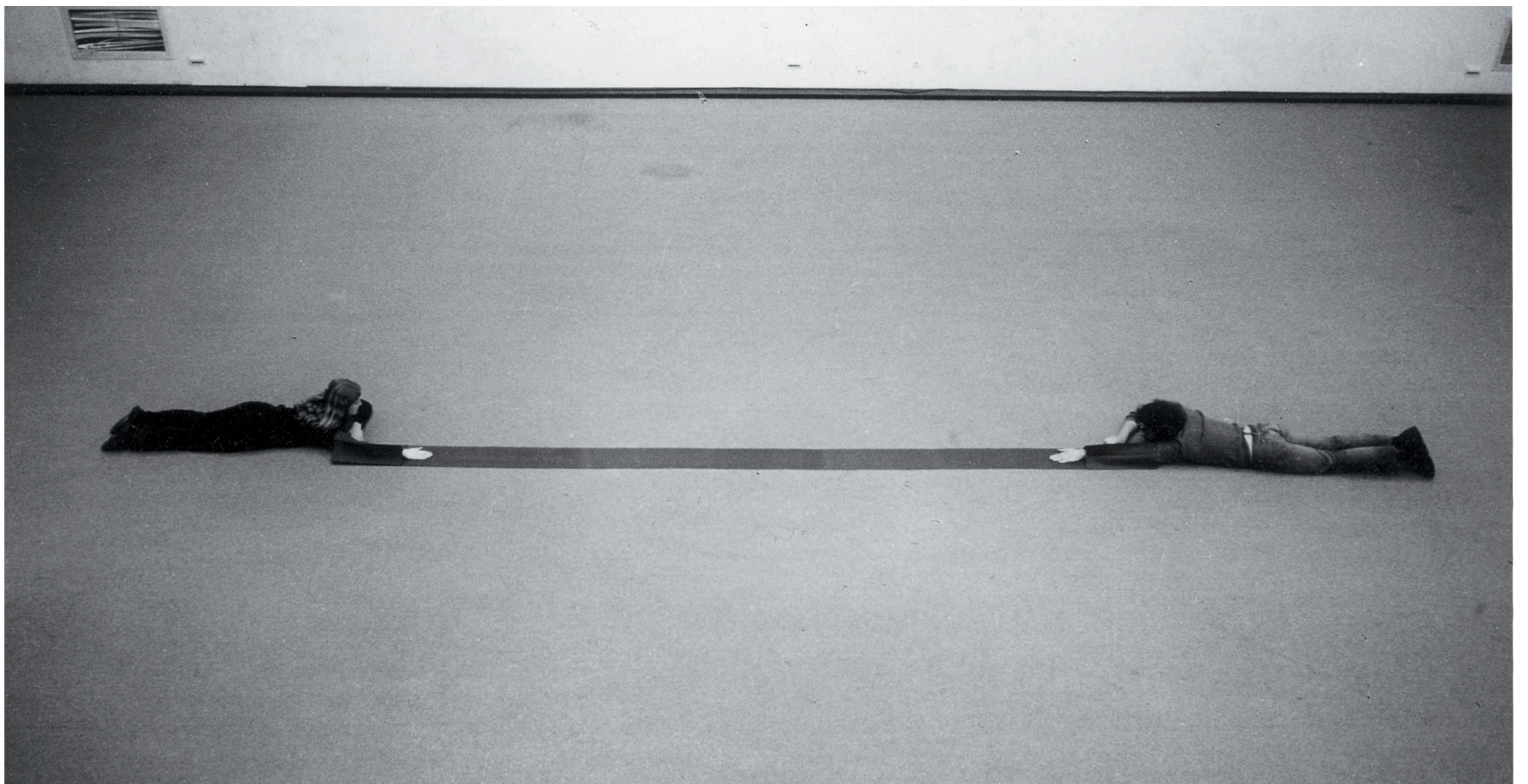
Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘The four parts of the piece are laid out by four users in the shape of a large square, initially so that the space between the pieces is the width of a finger. The users squat in front of the ends of the cross formed by the gaps and place a finger between the pieces. They then move the pieces further apart, without changing the arrangement, so that the space between them is first a hand’s width, then a double foot’s width (in the latter case, the four users can walk towards each other until they reach the centre), and finally so that the space can be bridged by straddling the legs or by lying down with the body stretched out. This ends the possibility of connecting the parts of the piece with each other by body measurements, so that now free – regular or irregular – arrangements have to be found.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

4 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

VIA ARM, 1967

NO. 25, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2012

Cotton fabric, strip: 515 × 22 cm, loop: 45 × 38 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘The piece is unfolded and spread out on the floor. Two users lie opposite each other on the floor and each stretch one arm through the loop. This can be the right arm of one and the left arm of the other so that both are exactly opposite each other; however, they can also lie sideways, which will influence the process.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

2 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

HEAD BODY LIMBS, 1967

NO. 26, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2023

Cotton fabric, 275 × 110 × 100 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

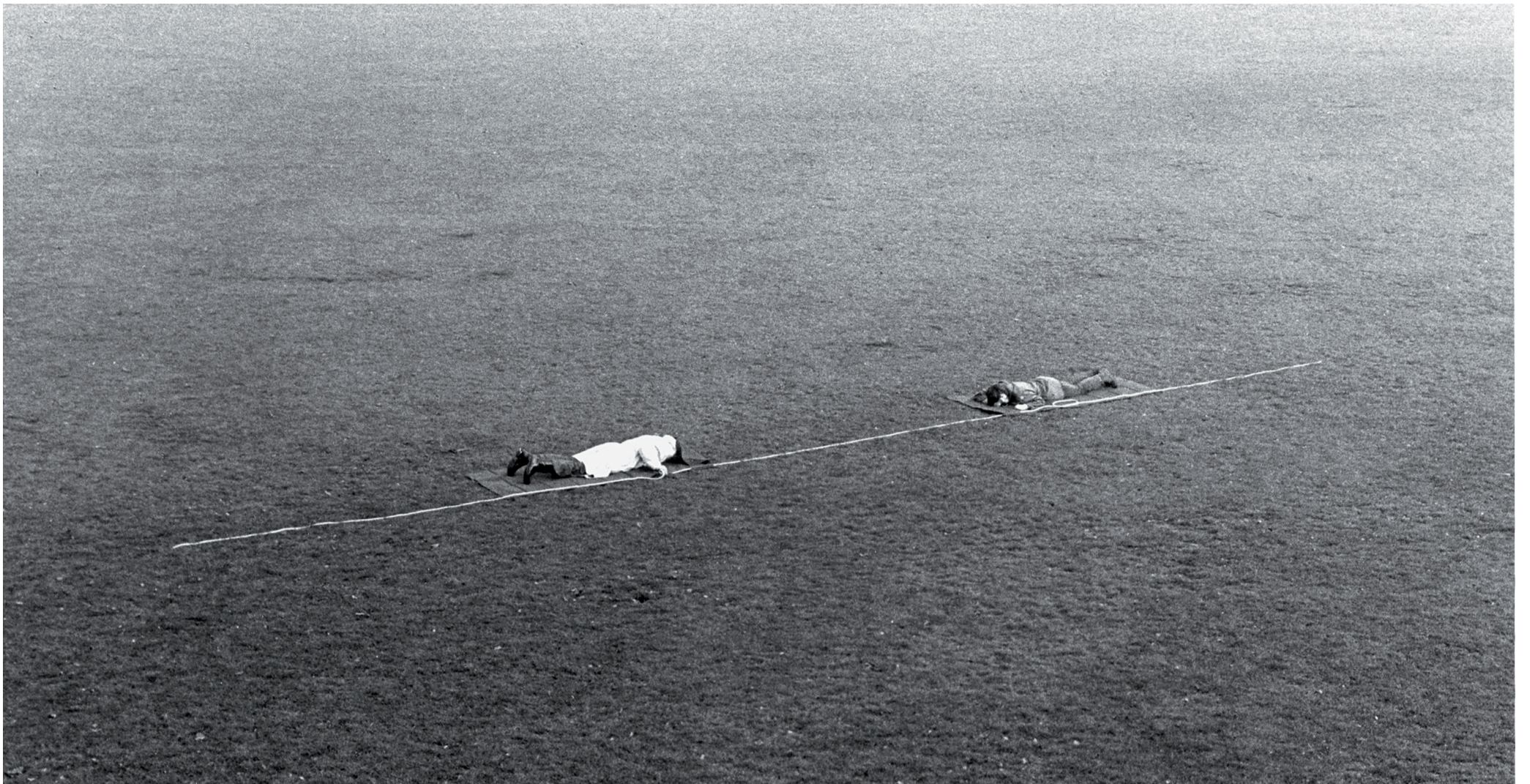
‘The piece is unfolded by four users. At each corner, one user squats on the floor, presses the lower loop to the floor with one hand (after the floor piece has been stretched), and pulls the other loop vertically upwards so that the side walls are also stretched. A fifth user sits in front of the open box, looks inside, and observes the situation. This user can make corrections. After a while, this user changes places with one of the four others who have been holding the piece for him or her. This continuous change can take place in turn, but also out of turn if a user needs to be relieved.

The activity of several for the individual, who also bears responsibility in his or her own way. The weakening of physical strength, reflected in the gradual collapse of the construction.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

5 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

OPPOSITE, 1967

NO. 28, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition copy 2012

Cotton and hemp cord, 243 × 112 cm, hood: 95 × 28 × 6 cm, hemp cord: ca. 20 m

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘The elements are laid out opposite each other. The distance can be chosen freely, thus altering the situation. The users are in contact with each other through the cord that can be pulled by either of them. Each partner can hold the cord in his or her hand, offer resistance, or observe it. Through frequent use of the piece, a kind of language can be silently developed between two partners.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

2 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

FOR TWO, 1967

NO. 31, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2012

Cotton fabric, 124 x 46 cm, cutouts: 25 x 21.5 cm (distance between cutouts: 40 cm)

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

A strip of light cotton fabric with two oval, lengthwise cutouts. 'Two users stand in front of each other and put their heads through the openings. They should be facing one another.' The object creates an intense closeness between the activators, whose fields of vision are almost entirely restricted to the person opposite.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

2 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

SHORTLY BEFORE TWILIGHT, 1967
NO. 32, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2012

Cotton fabric, 612 x 45 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

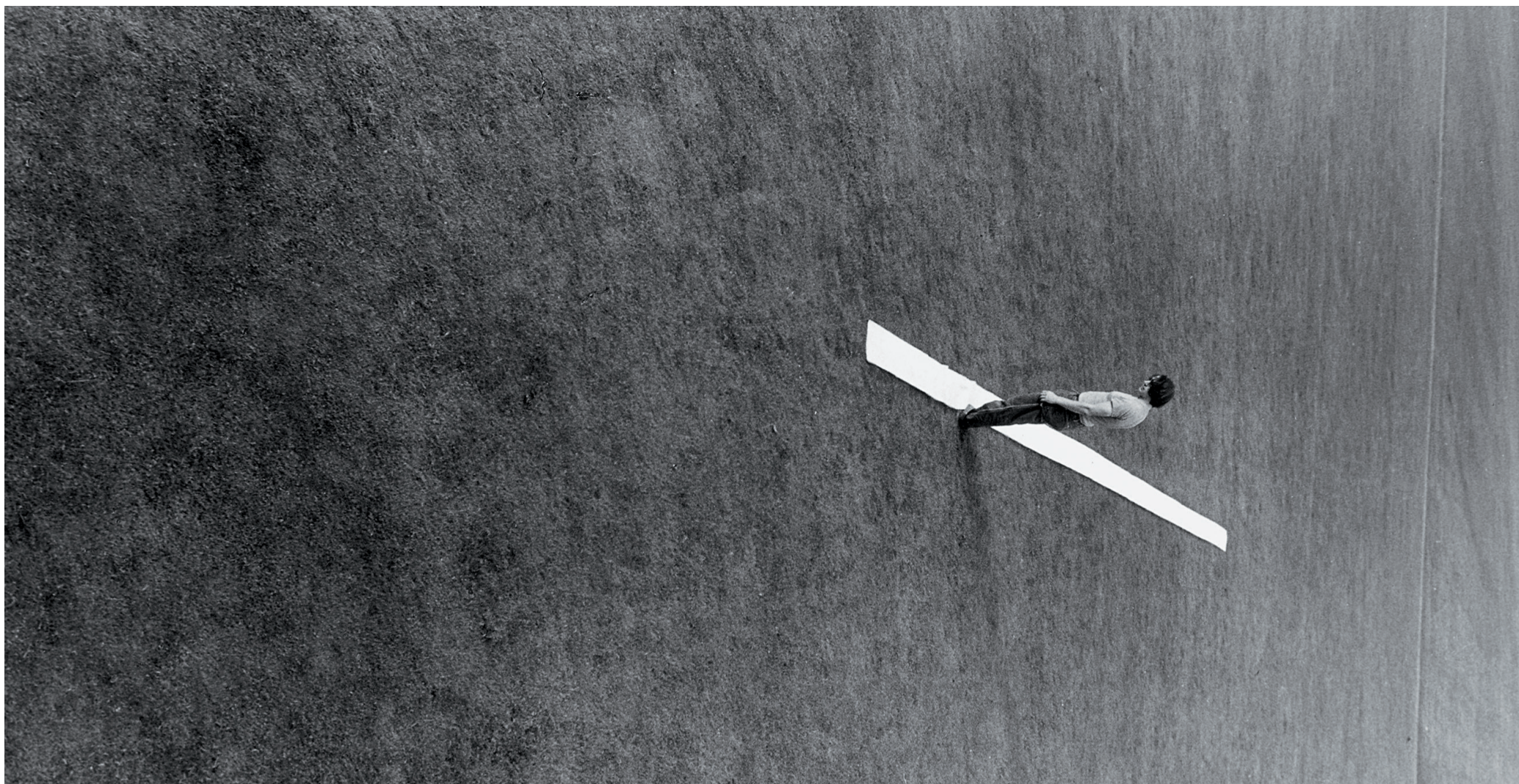
Two long, wide strips of cotton duck are divided into nine segments. Latch-like handles have been sewn on the outside. 'Nine users step into the nine openings and pull the piece up to about waist level so that each can reach into the handles on either side. They walk about inside the piece, one behind the other.

Without having to walk in step, the group is bound to end up rhythmically coordinated, even if their steps are out of sync, although this usually only happens or is arrived at after a period of some time. The group could also potentially change direction by everyone turning around in their place, but the piece should not be used in a sideways direction.'

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

9 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

28 POCKET SEGMENTS, 1967

NO. 35, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2012

Cotton fabric, 1025 × 28 cm, each pocket: 38 cm long

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘The piece is unrolled and spread out. The user stands at one end of the piece, inserting his or her feet into the outermost pocket. This is done by bending down and lifting the upper part of the pocket. The user then changes position and repeats the process so that, at the end, each pocket has been used once. This can be done in a regular or irregular rhythm, the regularity of which can be estimated or ensured by using a watch. The backward repetition of the sequence could, as a counteraction, cancel out the first action, as it were.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

1 PERSON

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

CROSS CONNECTING FORM, 1967 NO. 36, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2014

Cotton fabric, large cross: 646 × 646 cm, arms, each: 300 × 46 cm;

small cross: 138 × 138 cm, arms, each: 46 × 46 cm; openings, each: 25 × 21.5 cm

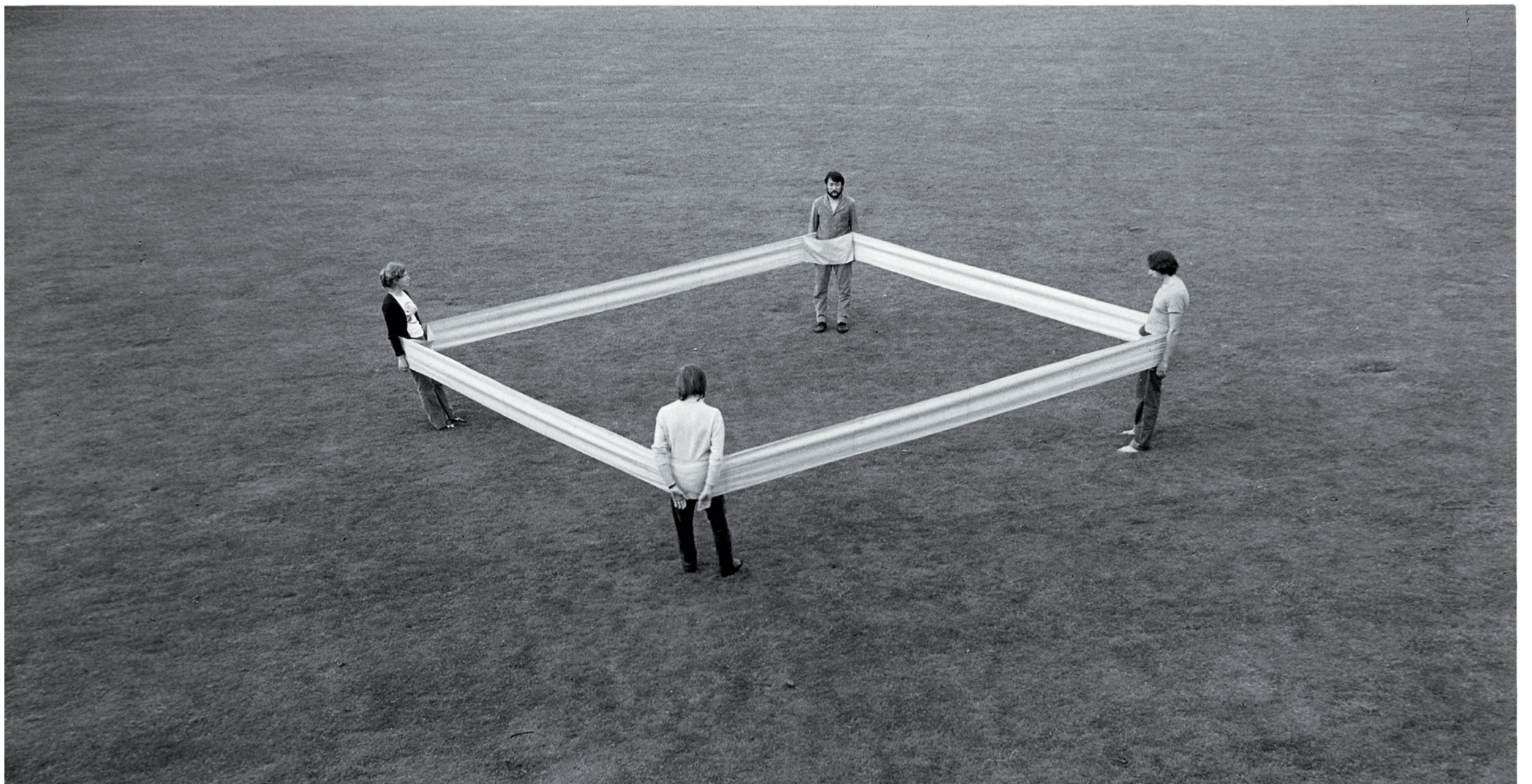
Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘Four users each hang one end of the large cross around their necks and stand in the way determined by the piece, making sure that the lengths of fabric are not noticeably taut. After a while, the large cross can be exchanged for the small one. The small cross suggests talking to each other, which the large cross seems to exclude. The four users should ensure that the shape of the cross is maintained and that they are evenly spaced.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

4 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

FOUR BODY WEIGHTS, 1968

NO. 42, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2012

Cotton fabric, 520 x 35 cm, loops: each 75 cm wide

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘The piece is unfolded, with each of the four users holding the strip of fabric by one of the [...] loops. Each user climbs in, facing towards the centre of the square, still holding the piece close to the ground. They then pull it up to waist level. To find the centre, the users can pull their loops up on either side. When they have all helped to form an exact square, the four users lean backwards, having observed each other and gained mutual confidence. Obviously, different body weights can be balanced by leaning at different angles. Changes in a person’s position must be offset and compensated for in the same way.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

4 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

APPROACH STEPS SIDeways, 1968
NO. 47, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2023

Cotton fabric, 534 × 13 cm

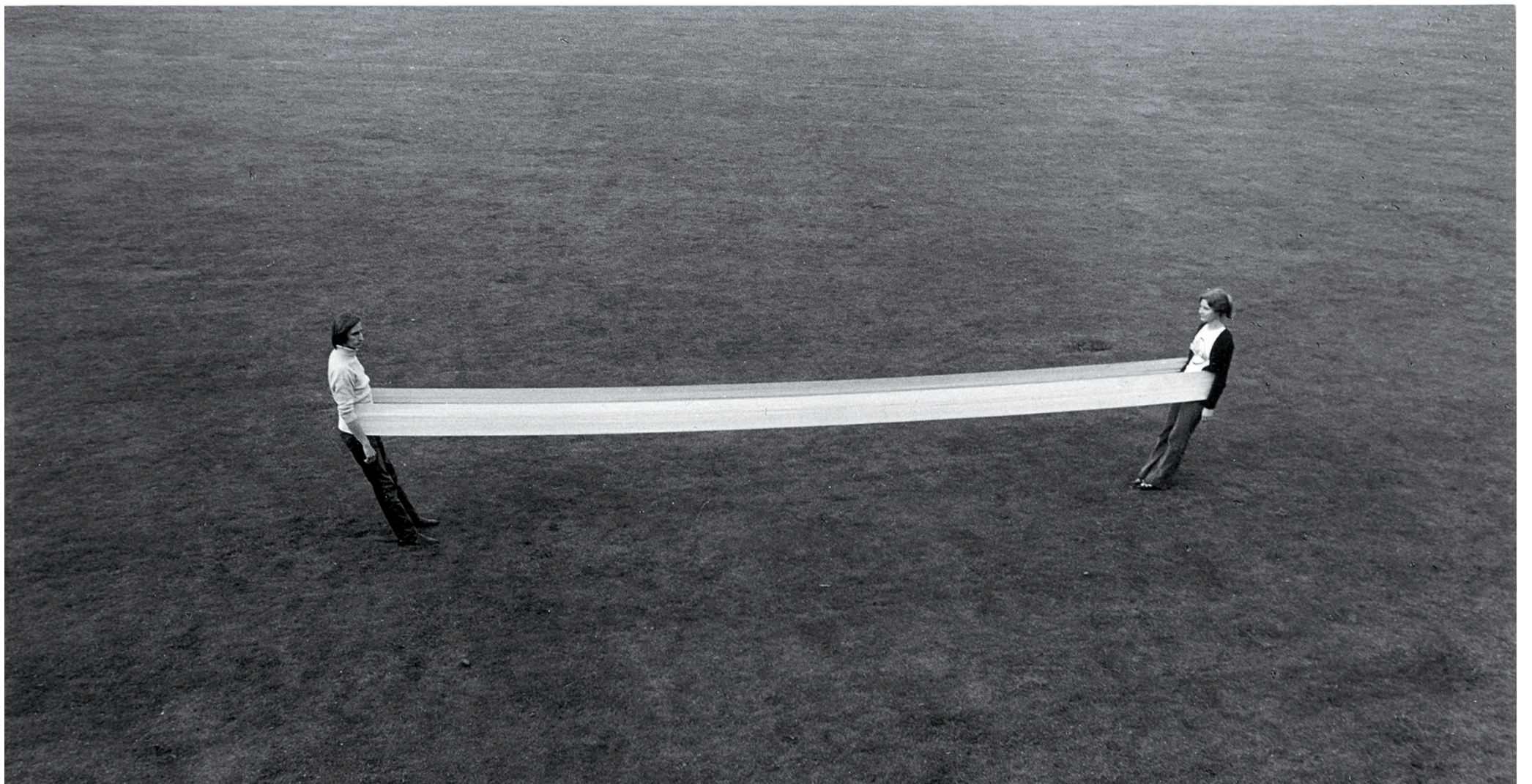
Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘The piece is laid out on the floor. Two users stand at the ends with their feet in the pockets. Step by step, they move inwards towards each other, then move away from each other again until they return to the starting position. This can be done individually (which makes the meeting point arbitrary) or in unison.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

2 PEOPLE

Please take off your shoes, step onto the activation area and take the Exhibition Copy out of its cover. Unfold the work and carry out the action. As soon as you have finished, please fold the pieces back up and carefully place them back in the cover.



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

BODY WEIGHTS, 1969

NO. 48, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition copy 2021

Cotton fabric, 650 x 22 cm

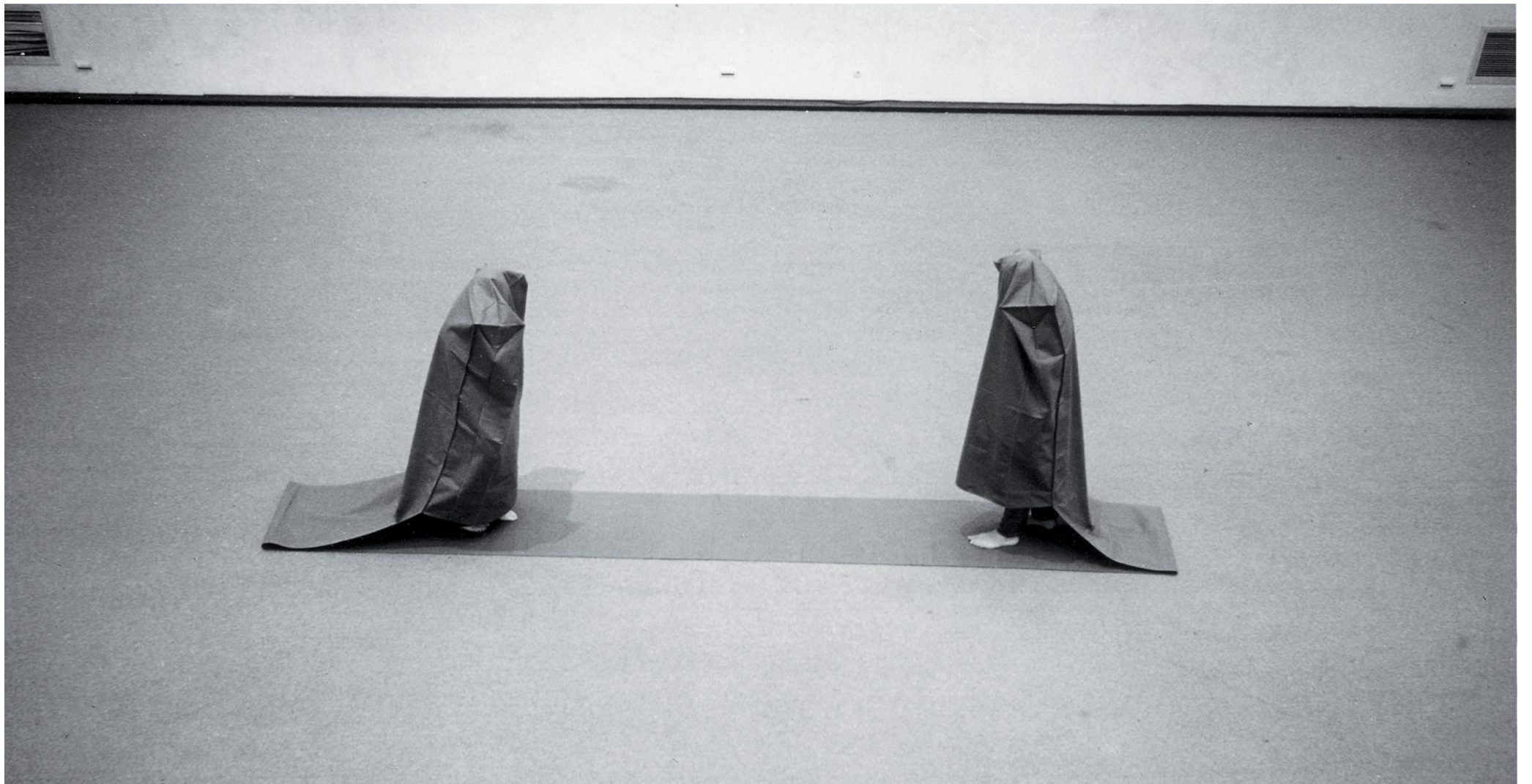
Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘Two users climb into the ring and place the fabric around their hips. Grasping the edges on either side with their hands, they adjust the position so that they support each other as they lean back. They stand and mutually balance out shifts in weight. These are amplified by the swaying weight of the belt itself.’ In keeping with the initial title of the object – *Einheitsstück* (Unity Piece) – the activators form a union in which each person registers every physical movement of the other. This piece requires taking mutual responsibility: every movement I make has consequences for my counterpart.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

2 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

SCULPTURAL, 1969

NO. 52, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2023

Cotton fabric, 900 x 67 cm, sacks: each 135 x 67 x 30 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

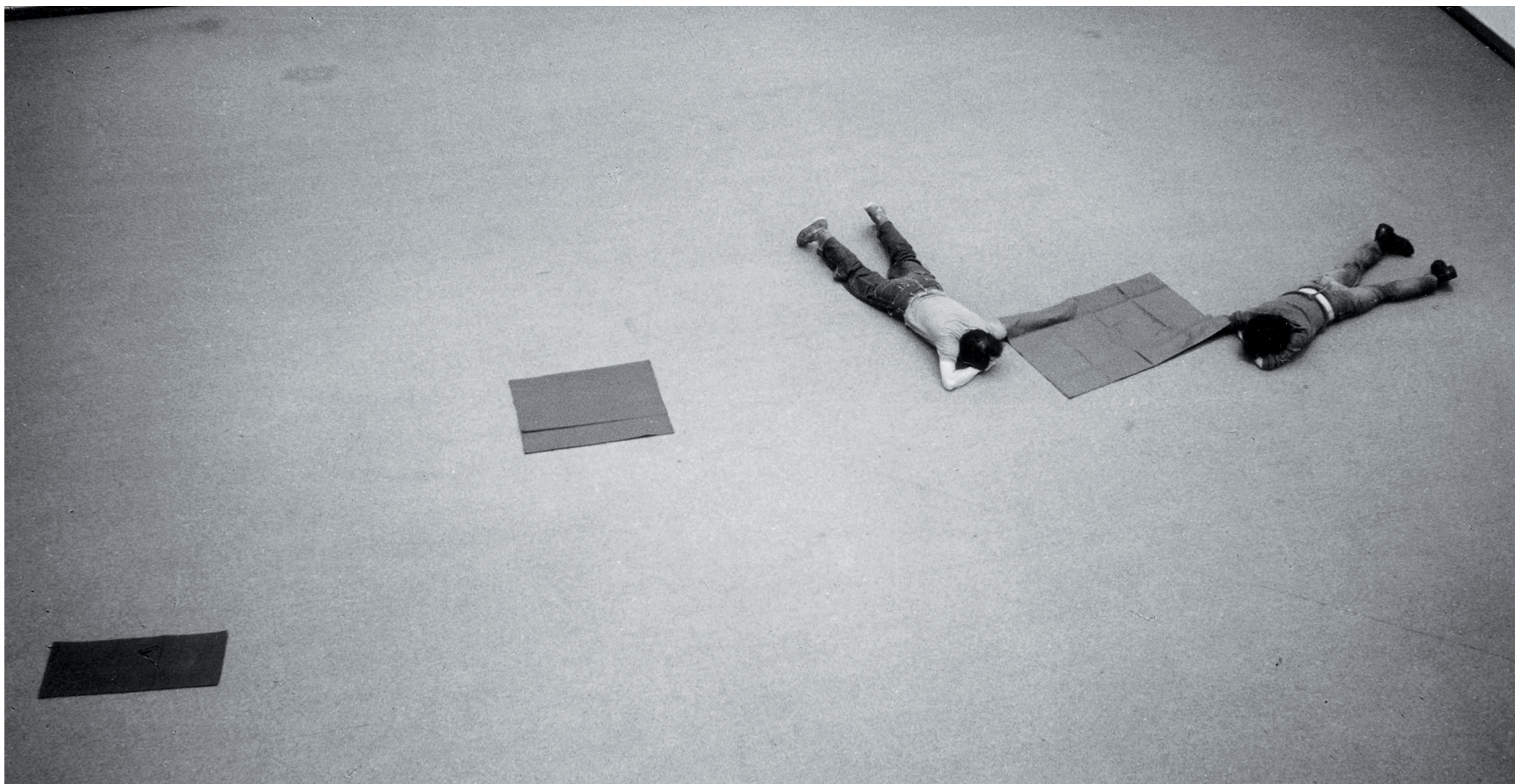
‘The piece is laid out on the floor. Two users take the sacks and drag them to the centre by walking towards each other along the path. Once there, they pull the sacks over their heads so that they can only see the section of floor at their feet. Walking backwards, the activators move away from each other, smoothing out the path beneath them with their feet, step by step, until the feeling of falling backwards brings them to a halt. They stop according to their individual needs. Now there is the possibility of walking towards each other, continuously or in spurts, guided by their own impulses and their relationship with the other. The situation could end at the meeting point, or the users could pause for a while and then repeat the process.

The sculptural form created here is not visible to the users, nor can it be imagined with any certainty because the behaviour of the second user can only be guessed at, not determined with certainty.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

2 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

LINES (ARMS / FEET), 1969

NO. 56, FIRST WORK SET, 1963–1969

Exhibition Copy 2012

Cotton fabric, 3 parts: 91 × 36 cm, 91 × 74 cm (tubes: circumference 37 cm),
140 × 85 cm (flaps: 18 cm wide)

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘The feet can be inserted into the first piece, the arms into the second – either in extension of the body, stretched out, or held at right angles to the side – and both feet and arms can be inserted into the third.

Two people use the pieces together or separately, changing their own position or their position in relation to each other in the manner indicated, the relationship of the pieces to each other providing a further means of variation.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

2 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

**TEN PEDESTALS
(PLACE DISTANCE DIRECTION), 1969
NO. 57, FIRST WORK SET, 1963-1969**

Exhibition Copy 2012

Cotton fabric and hemp cords, 10 parts, sacks: each 52 cm, circumference: 114 cm

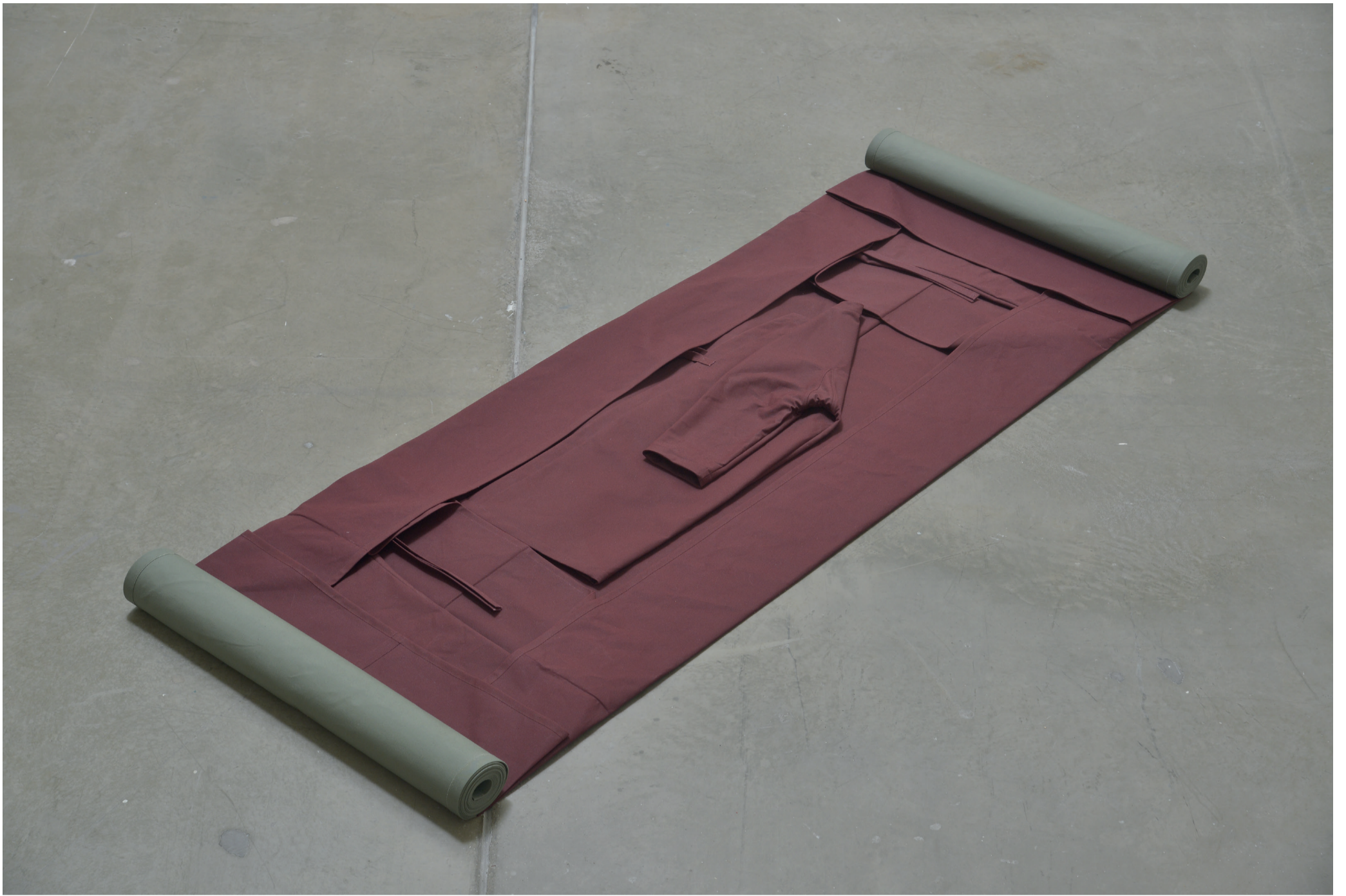
Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

‘The sacks are laid out. Ten people take one each and leave the starting point in different directions, keeping an eye on the others and stopping from time to time to stand inside the sack, which they tie up firmly at knee height. Each time they feel they should leave their position, they repeat the process. A slowly unfolding organism emerges from the starting point, the direction and the length of the path, from the place and duration of remaining on the spot. This is the primary situation that results from the conditions of the piece and allows everyone to act individually. However, the piece can also be used according to a common concept: starting from a geometric arrangement, such as a circle, systematic changes are made to the geometric form, with curves perhaps creating certain surfaces through the action, which can be mentally retained.’

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED

10 PEOPLE

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FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

ACTION PATH #5, 1997–2003

Exhibition Copy 2022

Wood, foam, and cotton fabric, Path: 1230 × 100 cm, action form: 270 × 100 × 28 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

The work is completely unrolled. The four users take the folded coat and trouser parts from the burgundy boxes and place them, still folded, on the surface of the path. They then squat down on the floor at one corner of each box and lift the outer and middle walls so that they are taut. Now they can put on an article of clothing, a trouser leg and a coat part, on each side of the path. They can then change their position in relation to each other in the room. They communicate silently or verbally. As soon as they want to finish the activity together, they take off the items of clothing and then fold the path up again.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED UNDER SUPERVISION ON SUNDAYS FROM 12–6 PM
4 PEOPLE



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

ACTION PATH #12, 1997–2003

Exhibition Copy 2022

Wood, foam, and cotton fabric, Path: 1100 × 100 cm,
action form: 100 cm × Ø 200 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

The users unroll the path and find a round action body in the centre. They can unfold this and hold it up by its side seams to form a voluminous wheel. However, they do not enter the path while unfolding the wheel. One or two people can step into the drum form. When they step out of the form, the action body collapses. When they want to end the action with the work, they fold the action body and the path back into their original state.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED UNDER SUPERVISION ON SUNDAYS FROM 12–6 PM
1–2 PEOPLE



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

ACTION PATH #16, 1997–2003

Exhibition Copy 2022

Wood, foam, and cotton fabric, Path: 1240 × 100 cm, coats, each: 130 cm high, connecting sleeve 400 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

Two people roll out the path. First, they unfold the two coats and the sleeve that connects them and lay them on the floor, crossing the path. Then each person puts on a coat. The connecting sleeve always remains in contact with the path. The two users stand facing each other and look at each other or turn sideways and look in one direction.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED UNDER SUPERVISION ON SUNDAYS FROM 12–6 PM
2 PEOPLE



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

ACTION PATH #18, 1997–2003

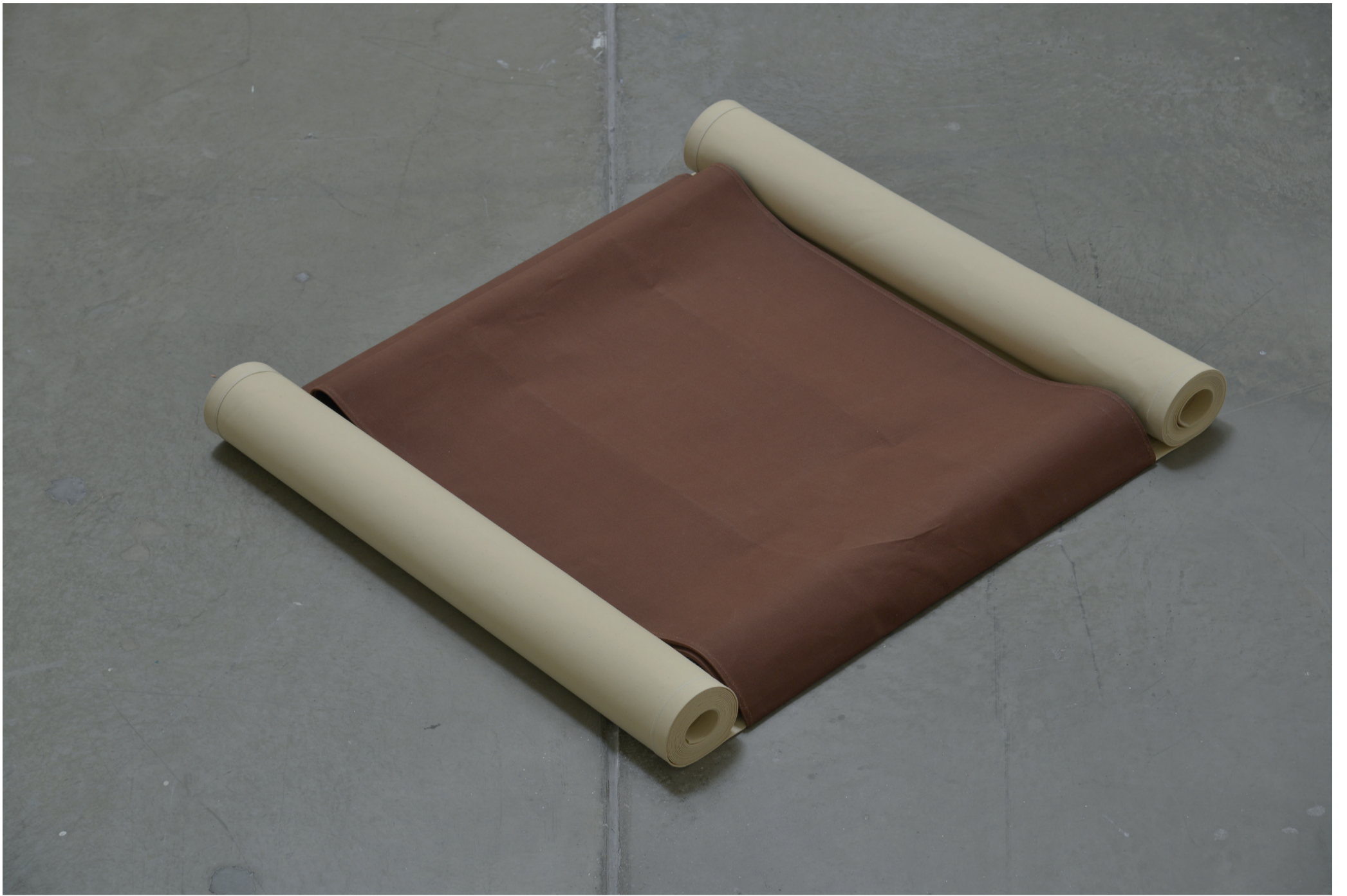
Exhibition Copy 2023

Wood, foam, and cotton fabric, Path: 840 × 100 cm,
action bodies: each 50 cm × Ø 140 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

Two users unroll the path completely. Facing each other in the middle of the path, they insert their hands and forearms into the orange loops. To do this, they squat in front of the action body, lift the loop with one hand and insert one arm, then the other. They stand up with their forearms in the loops and look at each other until they agree – verbally or silently – to end the action.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED UNDER SUPERVISION ON SUNDAYS FROM 12–6 PM
2 PEOPLE



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

ACTION PATH #28, 1997–2003

Exhibition Copy 2023

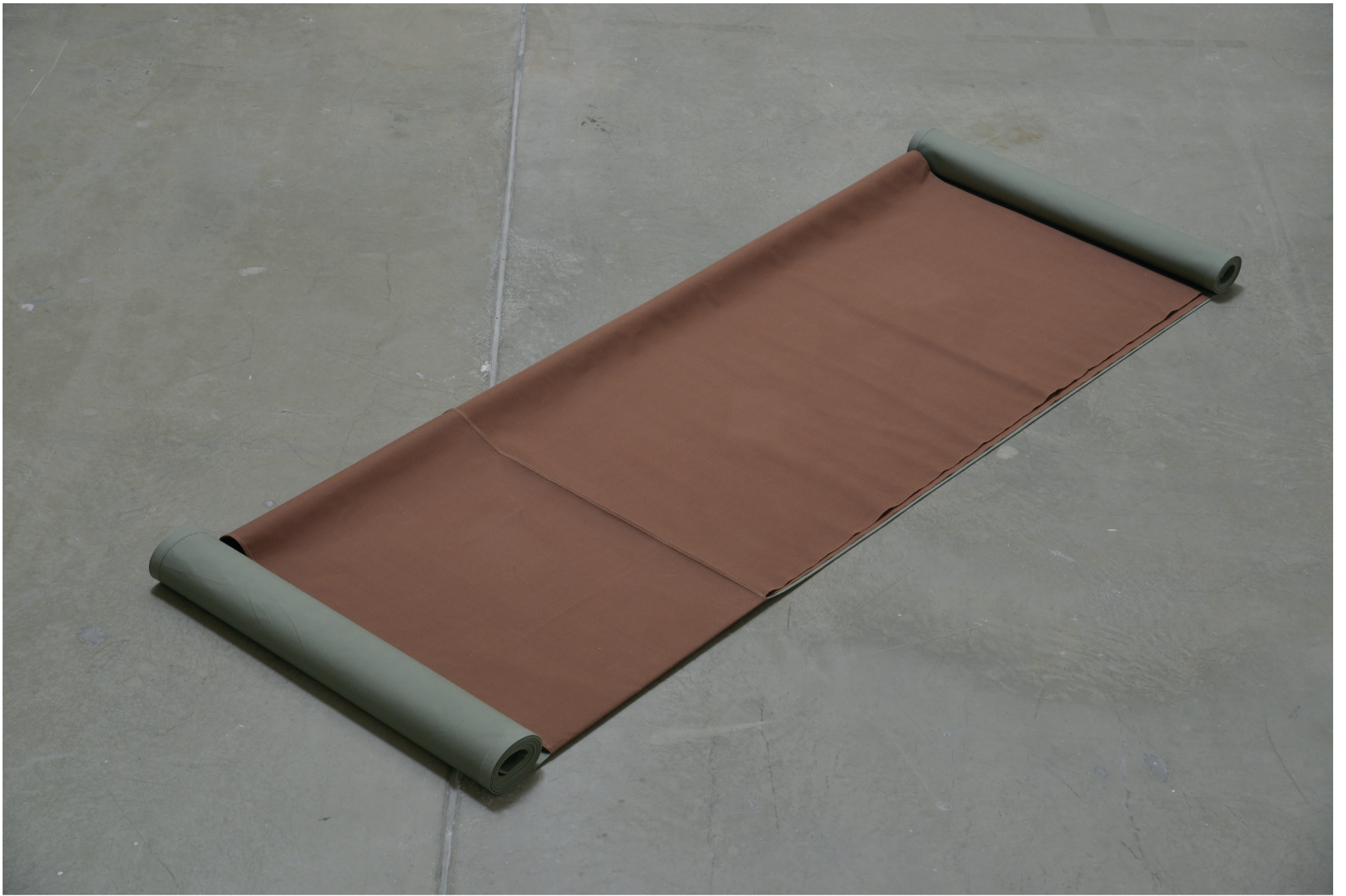
Wood, foam, and cotton fabric, path: 840 × 100 cm,
action forms: each 50 cm × Ø 140 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

Two users unroll the action path completely. They also unfold the brownish action bodies in the middle to the sides.

Each user lies down in one of the paths, feet first. Lying on their stomachs and leaning on their forearms, they can look at each other and interact with each other, protected by the forms.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED UNDER SUPERVISION ON SUNDAYS FROM 12–6 PM
2 PEOPLE



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

ACTION PATH #43, 1997–2003

Exhibition Copy 2022

Wood, foam, and cotton fabric, path: 840 × 100 cm,
action forms: each 50 cm × Ø 140 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

After five users have unrolled the action path and folded out the action bodies on their sides and placed them on the floor, they split into two groups so that two people are standing on the side with the smaller body and three people stand on the other side of the path with the larger action body. Now they can each lift the two shapes with their hands so that the openings are large enough for them to step into the bodies. As they enter the bodies one after the other, they all look in the same direction. Once inside, they hold the forms upright with their hands and heads until they leave the forms again, fold them up, and roll up the path.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED UNDER SUPERVISION ON SUNDAYS FROM 12–6 PM
5 PEOPLE



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

ACTION PATH #48, 1997–2003

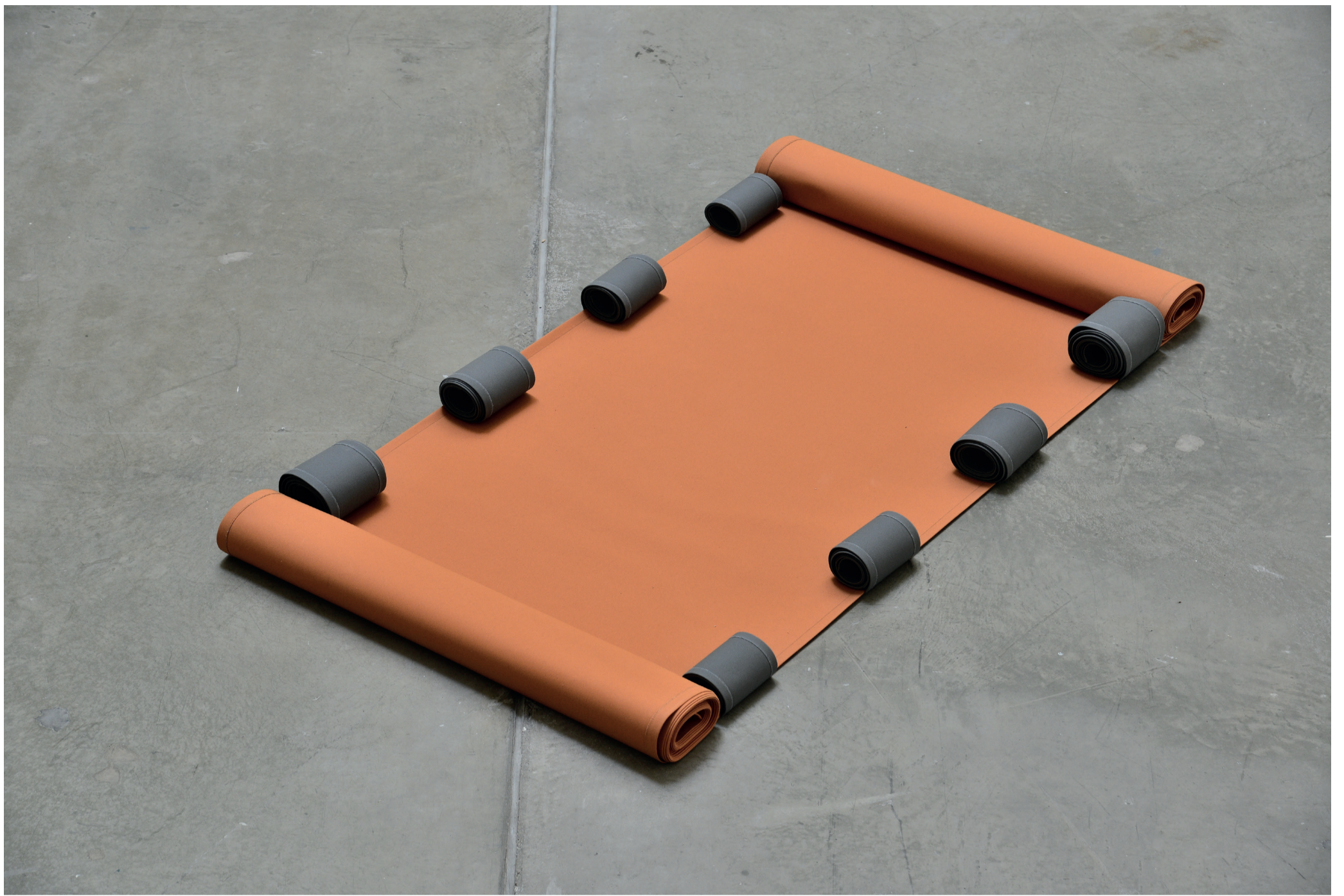
Exhibition Copy 2022

Wood, foam, and cotton fabric, path: 1520 × 100 cm,
action paths, each: 242 × 242 × 20 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

Four users roll out the path and the two action bodies to the sides of the path. Two people stand on either side of the path. One person then stands on the inside of the circular part and one on the outside. The activators can now insert their feet into the loops of the circular parts by briefly lifting the tops with their hands. They move sideways along the circular parts. It is up to them whether they start at the outer edge of the circular part or at the edge next to the path. They are also free to decide whether they move synchronously or independently of each other. The special feature here is that the people on the inside of the circular parts can only see the person opposite them on their side of the path but are still aware of the others.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED UNDER SUPERVISION ON SUNDAYS FROM 12–6 PM
4 PEOPLE



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

ACTION PATH #54, 1997–2003

Exhibition Copy 2023

Wood, foam, and cotton fabric, path: 1550 × 100 cm,
ribbons (each twice): 400 / 300 / 200 / 100 × 15 cm

Collection of the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

Eight users roll out the path, and then each user unrolls one of the four ribbons of the action body on either side of the path. As soon as they have unrolled them, they kneel or squat down in front of one of the ribbons place one hand flat on the end. They can either all choose the same hand or, if the person opposite chooses the right hand, they can choose the left hand themselves, and vice versa. Depending on this, the perception of the other person shifts by a few centimetres. They do not have to choose the same hand as the person next to them but can vary this.

THIS WORK CAN BE ACTIVATED UNDER SUPERVISION ON SUNDAYS FROM 12–6 PM
8 PEOPLE



FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

HANDLUNGSBUCH II [HANDLING BOOK II]

1969
Fabric object in book form with 29 pages: Hardboard, cotton fabric and metal screw pins
Edition of 80
Collection of The Franz Erhard Walther Foundation

“Almost from the very start of his work, the BOOK FORM was synonymous for [Walther] with BOOK BODIES. They are condensed collections of possible actions, whether of a sculptural, bodily nature or intellectual and immaterial. These books are not linear, i.e. to be read page by page, but can be employed and made use of in any order.”

The twenty-nine pages of the Handling Book can not only be turned over but also opened, unfolded and activated in various ways. The action with the pages always results from the form. The simplicity of the material and choice of color serves as a neutral part of departure for the activator.

THIS PIECE CAN BE ACTIVATED BY CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION ON SUNDAYS
FROM 12-6 PM
1-2 PEOPLE