

Fig.125 Screenshot showing me picking trash on a Russian sidewalk. Here I found far more little trash than in a western city. The reason behind it is that consumerism there is more of a thing for the upper classes and less for the lower classes who just have to content themselves with what they can afford.

TRASH 05

Picking trash from the sidewalk I avoid contaminated trash like packaging of liquid food such as yogurt but also trash that due to rain or snow got too wet. If I do pick up wet trash by the time I scan it, not only it has molded but it has compromised the other trash I placed with. In many cities my expectation to explore them and pick trash is in fact diminished by weather conditions but also by extreme tidiness. One of such examples are Austrian cities like Innsbruck where I spent days going through and around every little neighborhood with absolutely nothing to pick. In the course of my project wealthier cities became like airports with machines constantly operating to brush them clean and no longer any of the dustmen slowly sweeping through the boulevards as I could still experience at the beginning of the project. After scanning all the trash I keep a selection of it for my physical archive. Here once again I make sure to discard trash that is too dirty and could contaminate the archive For this further selection I am more likely to keep the more solid trash such as the one that has been laminated but also when possible the trash that is more unique such as papers with handwritten phone numbers and shopping lists but also business cards of local artists and producers or even postcards and passport photos.