



## note from the editor

Welkom back to OTCHO. In this issue we bring you the antics and philosophies of fingerboarding. Presenting an excerpt of All The Small Things, an undergraduate thesis from babeblade fingerboarder Lucia Vives. I met Lucia on a summer day and said goodbye on a summer train. We took many photos on that trip and I lost all of them.

Local dancer TKY guides us through fingerboarding history, unraveling the friendships of our community. Narty Tran provides warm photo moments of Rendezvous 30. Enjoying it and reading it right now

-andrew

*"Teenage obsessions, transfeminism, fingerboarding, family, fears, and clubbing. All The Small Things is a fanfiction-essay on Paul B. Preciado's way to understand and overcome my feelings. Through the story of being a professional fingerboarder, a new relationship with objects, architecture and sexuality is unraveled."*

I put my gaze through a microscope now, unsettling what builds the fingerboarding practice. From something to be deconstructed, we need to know what it's built on in the first place. It's a miniaturized skateboard, but any object with a slight curvature on its ends would work for this trial - I can kickflip on a banana, for instance. Most people's first instinct is to place three fingers on the board: the ring finger, the middle finger and the index finger. This moment comes closest to a child finding a new toy.

Nevertheless, this doesn't allow for much control, nor technicalities. The confusion comes at this point: How do you do this? How much time did you spend on this? 10 years?! Wait, doesn't it stick to your fingers?! What the fuck?

When you start using two fingers, you can understand how to replicate the movements of the feet on an up-sized board and, through time, retain the muscle memory. Straight shoulders before a kickflip could translate to placing the whole fingertip horizontally on the griptape. The confidence from bent knees going down a hill could translate to an extremely loose wrist before a switch flip. The softer you feel it, the cleaner it is. Your hand just knows - but this is not only a matter of translation. Once you learn the basics - such as an ollie, a shove-it or riding different stances - you can start to expand the relationship to your surroundings. The most common starting situation is an open school book, easily becoming a ramp with a gap in the middle.

The school book has the extra perk of muting the annoying sound of a fingerboard in class, so most fingerboarders relate to this scenery as learning their first tricks. "But books could only go so far."

Then, your gaze starts to sharpen - the kitchen counter, a sink, somebody's foot, a log, a chair - they all become potential playgrounds. I recall what my uncle once said about it: "pero vamos a ver, ¿esto para qué sirve?" I am not only thinking through the conceptualization of fingerboarding through a queer lens but also noticing a new realm in which fingerboarding and objects co-depend on one another in their own activations.

The skateboard enabled the skater to both simulate one activity - that of surfing - and to initiate a second - that of skateboarding. As its extension, I add: the fingerboard enabled the finger skater to both simulate one activity - that of skateboarding - and to initiate a second - that of fingerboarding. I remember Paul talking about the history of the dildo in the Counter-Sexual Manifesto: "It adds only to replace." I suggest that this addition happens as fingerboarding is not a body-centric practice as skateboarding is in its relation to architecture, but instead, I would define it as object-centric. I feel like I am the tool for objects to be activated. I downscale myself for fun.

*"Can fingerboarding be a practice that performs queer phenomena, owing to non-normative possibilities of inhabiting your surroundings through...fun?"*



Hope you like it and it fits size-wise  
I didn't count  
Would appreciate if you can go through in terms of correctness  
and write time due I wasn't sure sometimes

## How I met Winkler.

In the year 2003 the first German Fingerboard Championships were organized and it happened that one of the stops should be in Berlin. I just started working for Titus Berlin, the biggest Skateshop in town and they told me that I would be responsible for all the organization and preparation for this event. I never done something like that before and burned my right hand badly adjusting the hot spotlights right before the contest started. Back then you were winning contest by flipping over the whole park with huge Ollies.

Martin Winkler was the host and he did a very good job. I just met him randomly in Munich at the beginning of the year but we didn't talk much. After the event was over we headed to my crib for some beer and a smoke and I recognized that Martin just took his skateboard (no backpack or nothing) and was ready to go!

Some beers later Winkler prepared me my first all-set-up-by-himself complete fingerboard. To get Martin Winkler himself set-up your Board was THE THING at Events back then. I was blown away, never had such a good working fingerboard before. It happened that we ended up at the Cafe Burger on a Russian Disco party something where I immediately lost my new board and was never found again. But that didn't reduce the fun and we had a long and happy night with lots of dancing and many laughter.

The next morning when everyone prepared to travel home Winkler asked me if it was ok if he's staying a bit longer at my apartment because he would like to explore the city on his own and with the skateboard. For sure I said that wasn't even a question...

When we met later that day he was still wearing that American flag shorts he already wore at the event the day before, and I first started to realize that these weren't even shorts but just normal underwear to cover the bare minimum. He stayed for a few days more and left on Thursday and I eventually borrowed him some new boxers for his way home because his American Flag he was still wearing was looking hella dirty.

I do love Winkler ever since,

TKY

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Mit freundlichen Grüßen / Best Regards

Timo "TKY" Kranz

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