

ZeeWier

08/07 - 29/08/2024

Ada Van Hoorebeke, Chloé Schuiten & Clément Thiry, Various Artists

ZeeWier is an artistic exchange with Ada Van Hoorebeke, Chloé Schuiten & Clément Thiry and Various Artists.

While working remotely on their own projects in different locations, the island of Samsø (Denmark), Wissant (France) and Boulogne-sur-mer (France), a dialogue emerged in n0dine during the summer. The sea was their common setting and workplace, in relation to the specific localities and people, that co-created their work.

Their actions result in a collective exhibition, open to the public during the finissage.

Ada Van Hoorebeke had a residency on the island of Samsø, Denmark. The starting point of her work on site was 'How to start anew with what is on the island of Samsø?' Her project *The Planetary Printer* researches machine versus human creation and printing 'with the planet'. In n0dine, she enlarged the concept of *The Planetary Printer* in the form of a riddle that enabled to experiment with printing, patterns, language and news/information.

Chloé Schuiten & Clément Thiry have been working in a natural area/park in Wissant (between Calais and Boulogne-sur-Mer). During their residency, they focused on the area itself, as well as human and non-human migration. They collected traces: material traces in the form of clothes they find in the dunes, and other materials/cultural traces through exchanging with people and organisations. In n0dine, they present a series of weavings *Miettissages* that they made from 'crumbs' of the territory.

Since 2004, Various Artists walks Boucalais (Boulogne-sur-Mer > Calais/Dunkerque). Over time, it changed from a solo-trip to a trip with other guest walkers, Being Boucalais. The walk always develops along a protocol and is accumulative; it grows because of the previous walks. It also relies on maintenance, dealing with natural decay and re-assuming their work in relation to the change of locality and people. In n0dine, Various Artists will map this two-way endeavour of Boucalais: on stage (public-consumer) and Backstage (maintenance) walks. Practically, they will alternate the protocol and open it up by a live book making process.

THE PLANETARY PRINTER – Ada Van Hoorebeke

The Planetary Printer is a tool, a rudimentary machine as well as the person and the natural force that operates it.

The Planetary Printer reinvents itself; it may consist of a printer that works with and on local resources such as seaweed, seawater and natural, plant-based colour.

Who is the printer?

Is it the floor, is it the wall, is it the window that prints so queer?

The *Planetary Printer* is an ongoing project by Ada Van Hoorebeke that seeks out to bring artists together with non-human actors – such as organic materials, algae, roots and plants as well as sunlight and time – to continuously participate in an ongoing, creative process.

The *Planetary Printer* revolves around and tests the possibilities of recycling and working circularly with materials and nature's resources, where nature partly is allowed to take over. For instance, home-grown seeds from the old dye plant woad (*isatis tinctoria*) are incorporated into the paper – the works can therefore potentially be buried and grown into new dye plants in the future. By working with invasive species, e.g. algae, as a basis for creating printing ink, Ada Van Hoorebeke investigates how attempts to reduce climate footprints can open up new understandings of the properties of the algae. Printed motifs ('Vinca' and the illustration of a shark) are logos from companies that no longer exist, which are reused for new compositions. Van Hoorebeke thus combines materials and processes from the world of mass production with traditional craft methods to produce new meanings.

Through several artist residencies on the Danish island Samsø since 2021, Ada experiments with extracting colors from seaweed and plants from, among other places, Samsø. Likewise the paper she prints on, is handmade recycled paper, produced in local artist Ulla Enevoldsen's paper workshop on the island.

The participative process was explored in a former incarnation in collaboration with the artist Katja Stoye-Cetin (Berlin), who created a series of linoleum cuts with Van Hoorebeke's natural printing inks. Unlike conventional printing inks, the ink reacts unpredictably and adds an organic texture to the work. During a printing workshop, children and adults could interact with the exhibition's materials and themes. Here the idea of "planetary news" was explored and resulted in a newspaper for different species – both humans and plants.

In n0dine, Ada shows two short videos including her research, and during the last week of August some prints and performative actions will follow. The *Planetary Printer* will translate its working methods to the direct neighbourhood of the project room, experimenting with algi from the Asian shop, additives for inks from the drogerie Le Lion, invasive plants found in urban surroundings and a typography created by the Brussels based hand cut out sticker typographer Christelle Crickx made accessible by OSP foundry Crickx.

Ada Van Hoorebeke would like to thank Samsø Municipality's Art Council, Ulla Enevoldsen and the team from Terraform Samsø 2021 for the introduction to the island and its community. She also thanks the Sofam grant (Belgium) and Flanders State of the Art, which made possible an artist residency earlier this year where the *Planetary Printer* was born.

MIETTISAGES – Chloé Schuiten & Clément Thiry

Chloé Schuiten & Clément Thiry are having a two-year residency in the north of France, as part of Terre des 2 Caps, an experimental program initiated by Groupe A focusing on the territory between Boulogne-sur-Mer and Calais. During the residency, they meet various partners such as militant associations, nature researchers and anthropologists, operating in a context where temporary housing is linked to the migration crisis or tourism, and permanent housing is threatened by coastal erosion and climate change.

This summer, they have been working in the commune of Ambleteuse, in particular on the nature reserve and the dune crossed by a major trunk road. They focused on the area itself, as well as human and non-human migration by collecting traces, 'crumbs' that linger in the area and which are of no use anymore, clothes they find on the beach or previous camps, natural elements and garbage that was spit out by the sea. They are often charged elements that frighten and disturb. They have a strong presence, they bear witness to a temporary passage, a partially inhabited zone, a hidden moment of life on the margins. The artist duo recuperated these crumbs and created a series of weavings with them *Miettissages*. These weavings speak about the territory, hovering between what's visible and invisible.

Clément and Chloé hung out the blankets they collected during their outreach with Rivage Propre. Rivage Propre is a social inclusion association that specialises in cleaning beaches and coastlines. Rivage Propre has also been commissioned by the sub-prefecture to recover the personal possessions of people trying to make the crossing to England, leaving behind their bags, blankets and sometimes all their belongings, including medicines, glasses, etc.

The blankets Chloé Clément retrieved were stretched over frames made of broken slats from the attic floor. These were the discarded blankets that could not be 'recycled' by Rivage Propre and its partner Face Valo. The others were washed, dried and donated in the gîte. While cleaning up, Chloé Clément collected a few items, not many compared to the total amount of items left behind. It is a kind of poaching that allows a bifurcation in the lives of these objects.

The personal belongings or remains that Chloé Clément collected, gathered or poached are of the order of the 'leftovers'. The objects left behind by the people who made the crossing are also the objects that had to be left behind. In the artistic work, they escape their 'becoming trash' and the life they would have had if they had ended up 'in a bag'.

extracts from 'Miettes de Conversation', Emilie De Lage (original text in French available)

Chloé Schuiten & Clément Thiry would like to thank Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Groupe A and Terre des 2 Caps, Emilie Da Lage for the text

BOUCALAIS – Various Artists

Boucalais is a walking trail from Boulogne-sur-Mer to Calais (with an epilogue to Dunkerque) which Various Artists travels several times a year for almost twenty years now. Boucalais started in 2005 as a fixed walking trail, and grew over the years to a format, a state of mind. The walking format challenges the artist's production mechanisms, and makes room for another interpretation of what constitutes artistic work. At times, the work is no more than a distinctive mark or a trace on the trail. The Various Artists are thus continuously led to adapt their idea of creation and constantly develop different work methods. The creations are poetic expressions on the road, as it were, and which – given the mobile context – are necessarily on a small scale or 'light'. In this sense Boucalais can be seen as a real-time performance, a performed creative process out of which work emerges that is shown either en route or at predefined locations along the trail: interventions on the roadside and routines in hotel rooms are subtle installations and markings executed by Various Artists, but without an audience consciously looking on. These are but small interventions in the landscape, fragments of songs by a singer-songwriter, anonymous witnesses who return every day for this temporary artist-walker. At the same time the Boucalais project also pays homage to the artist-collector who, in the course of his journey, assembles a collection of objects and observations, which will – sometimes literally – be dragged back to his studio as so many installations and 'objets trouvés'.

Being Boucalais – map and publication

Being Boucalais is an experiential walking tour for three people, gathering artists, curators, or writers for a four day performance on the road from Boulogne-sur-Mer to Calais (with an epilogue to Dunkerque). With Being Boucalais the focus of the walk experience shifts from an individual experience to an observation exercise where three participants immerse themselves in a particular environment where fiction and reality are mixed in real time. The initial goal of this interactive series was to present the walking art project Boucalais to this group as a mobile creation studio. After a few trips Various Artists realised that tapping into the creative DNA of the participants, multiplying several accidental occurrences, and accumulating these actions trigger elaborate story lines. The scripting of the banal and the ritualisation of the holiday stroller's routine creates a puzzling set of situations for the participants. Manipulating and repeating some of the occurrences make the participants doubt the veracity of their daily experience along the walk. The initial vagueness of the set of instructions, and the use of non-art practices (like objets trouvés, faux art, local craftwork and its appropriation) introduce the partakers to a collective and interactive experience. Connecting and communicating with locals is encouraged, as outsiders can introduce new elements into the process. Halfway the trip, in Hotel Bellevue in Wissant, every guest is asked to create a 'roomwork' in his/her hotel room: a temporary, non-intrusive installation/performance that should be documented. The walks are guided by Paoln Sudo, who is the spokesperson, and mediator for Various Artists. They play with obviousness, clichés and heavy-handed jokes by parodying tourists, and exaggerating certain aspects inherent to our vacationist society.

Since 2013 Being Boucalais got another dimension, adding a theme to the walk with other artists. Four versions have been realised so far with the themes: R.G.B., Stalker, Les Mariées, and The Backstage. In this setting the performative aspect becomes a more important focus point. From a group observing their surroundings, the focus shifts to the performers becoming the centre of attention on their walk.