



For your diary:

- Sunday 12th May: Final "Eco Nomadic School" event and first "Haystack" session at Farm:Shop, London, UK
- Saturday 25th May: Presentation of the latest myvillages book at Fries Museum, Leeuwarden, NL
- Thursday 6th June: Launch "Ittinger Ei" and "International Village Shop" at Kunstmuseum Thurgau, CH



Eco Nomadic School event

Throughout 2012 the Eco Nomadic School took place across four locations, with four partners and four local projects. A final event on Sunday 12th May 2013 brings together participants and stories from the civic seminars in each location, with Doina Petrescou and Constantin Petcou from aaa and the R-urban project in Colombe, Paris (F), Kim Trogal and Sam Brown and the Food Commons project from Todmorden (UK), Kathrin Böhm and Antje Schiffers from myvillages will give feedback from a weekend on rural women's economies in Southern Germany, and a report from Brezoi (Romania) about Odajas and traditions of self-subsistence. The event starts with presentations at 17.00 at the Farm:Shop, 20 Dalston Lane, London E8 3AZ, followed by food and drinks.

Please RSVP kathrin@myvillages.org.

Haystacks

We all have images of haystacks in our head. Monet painted nineteen. Piled up dried grass, harvested and formatted in group effort. Different looks in different countries. Most Haystacks now are large round cylinders wrapped in green or black plastic.

Kathrin is organising a series of monthly events about rural projects and practices, our relationships with the rural and rural-urban connections.



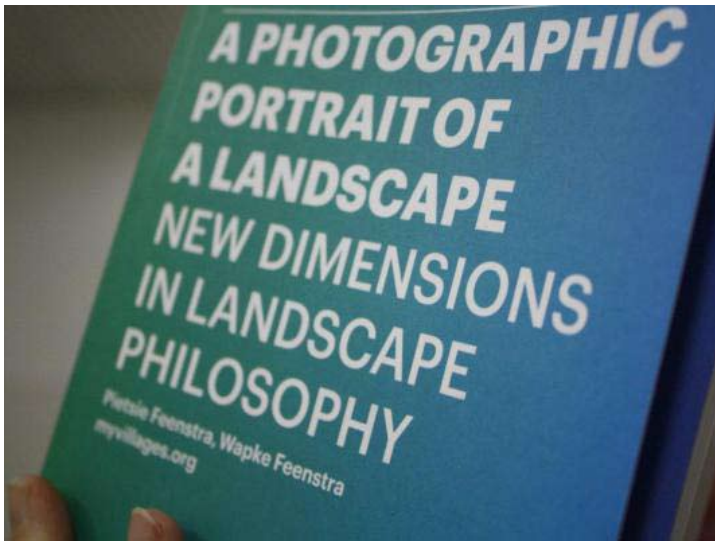
A clear split between the urban and the rural is impossible, yet most discussions focus on either or. Haystacks are a series of informal meetings to talk about rural links and rural realities in our work and our lives - always keeping in mind that we are meeting in London to have these conversations.

Haystack 01 is the Eco Nomad School event on 12th May. Haystack 02 is with Sigrid Holmwood and her ongoing "Peasant Painter" project. For details and updates visit www.h-a-y-s-t-a-c-k-s.net.



Ittinger Ei and a permanent International Village Shop

The building of the Charterhouse Ittingen sits in a vast agricultural estate. The old monastery building with its many chambers and corridors is surrounded by vineyards, hop gardens, forests, vegetable gardens, fields and orchards. Staff from the foundation, collaborating with Kathrin from myvillages, have come up with a new product to embody some of what makes Ittingen so special. The new "Ittinger Ei" will be launched on 6th June, together with a trunk size permanent International Village Shop for the Kunstmuseum Thurgau. A short documentary of the origins of the "Ittinger Ei" has been made by Andrea Sievering. If you're in the area join us for an Aperero and summer drinks in the stunning cloister garden.



The latest myvillages book

"A Photographic Portrait of a Landscape: New Dimensions in Landscape Philosophy" by Pietsie Feenstra and Wapke Feenstra, Jap Sam Books. The book explores cultural centers and their relationship to land ownership, based on photos, histories and observations from Wjelsryp in Friesland, the home-village of Pietsie and Wapke Feenstra. The book is based on a micro-study of this village and contains an extensive essay on cultural history by Pietsie Feenstra and a photo essay by Wapke.

The book is part of an ongoing myvillages publication series with Jap Sam Books, and is the result of Wapke's ourvillages project. The Dutch launch is on 25th May at the Fries Museum in Leeuwarden, with poems read by Beart Oosterhaven.

Wapke in Zvizzchi

Wapke is spending quite a bit of time in the Russian village of Zvizzchi this year, working on an image of the village throughout three seasons: "Made in Zvizzchi". No, she is not painting, but making a postcard folder about the village, invited a geologist to exam the boulders found in the local fields, short animations about the geology of the village are on the go and Wapke is organising a trial field with Dutch vegetables next to the village school to mark the Netherlands-Russia Year. Zvizzchi is located in the Nikola Lenivets Park, and the project will also be shown during the Moscow Biennial 2013, partnered by AMK and supported by the Mondriaan Fund.



Farmers and Ranchers

During 2013/14 Wapke is setting up a photo project with young farmers from the Deer Trail area in Colorado (US) and trainee farmers from Friesland (NL). The project is in cooperation with M12 in Denver-Byers, Colorado.

Ongoing: International Village Shop

The shop keeps going strong, with new products entering from Ittingen (CH), Ohne (D), Zvizzchi (R) and Ballykinlar (UK), alongside permanent and temporary shops opening in each place. Looking for a shop near you? Check the [International Village Shop](#) website for locations and opening times.



Ongoing: I like being a Farmer

Antje and Thomas have been to the Spanish Basque Country in 2012, and results from the film - painting barter were on show at Matadero during Arco in Madrid, organized by Campo Adentro. The next paintings to be swapped for documentaries made by farmers will be done in Marchfeld in Austria, a fertile region on the banks of the river Danube near Vienna. So far the collection of bartered films includes contributions from Switzerland, Macedonia, Romania, England, Wales, the Netherlands, Austria, Germany and Spain.

Ongoing: Pantry on tour

The documentary we made about the [Vorratskammer / Pantry](#), our year long food gathering project in Berlin in 2011, talks about the local but likes to travel. Recent screenings took place at Eastside Projects in Birmingham (UK), at Bildmuseet in Umea (SE), at 501 Art Space in Chongqing (CN) and at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles (US).



Ongoing: Bibliobox

The [Bibliobox](#) is quietly but steadily making its journeys, and has most recently been to "Rural Paradises" in the Czech Republic, "Hungry City" at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, at CBK Drenthe during CO-OP in Assen (NL) and it will spend some time this summer in Somerset (UK). The box now contains more than 80 documentations of (what we consider interesting) projects in the rural (and we we might have missed some).



And last but not least

Myvillages is 10 this year

Over a private candle lit dinner in early June the three of us will be plotting some exciting celebrations for the autumn, likely to take place in Hackney/London. Invitations to follow.