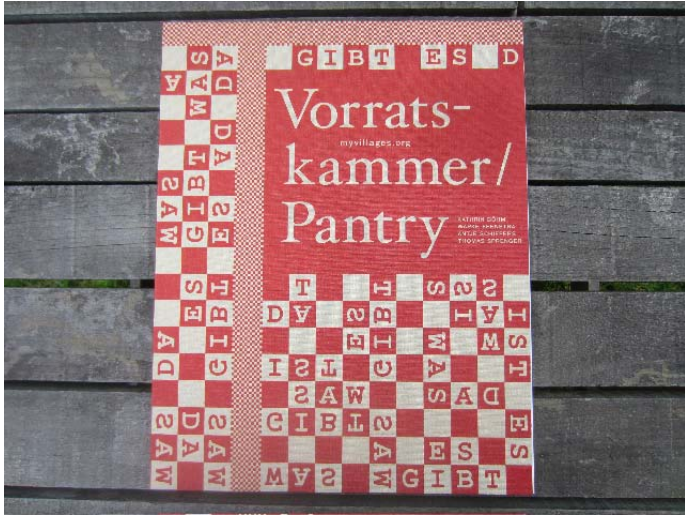


# myvillages.org newsletter

September 2012

Harvest festival time again, and it's nice to have a full basket.

Here's a list of the small and big projects we've been up to over the last year, and also links to the different collaborators, hosts and locations involved. This is not to show off (well, a little bit) but part of what myvillages.org is also about is to make interesting work and projects with a rural concern more visible.



[VORRATSKAMMER](#) (Pantry), together with Thomas Sprenger

## [BOOK FILM EDITION](#)

Summer 2011 ended with an empty larder. After gathering food for one year, the Vorratskammer (Pantry) was filled with produce made in Berlin and its hinterland. Everything was eaten during a five day Festival on Culture and Sustainability in Berlin. 5000 guests were expected and 8000 came. The book and film document the filling and emptying of the pantry. Like store cupboards they are filled with a range of facts, images and concepts about food production.

The 150-page publication is designed by [Kristina Brusa](#), Leipzig (D) and is

published by [argobooks](#), Berlin (D) and [Jap Sam Books](#), Heijningen (NL). The 45min-long documentary film made in collaboration with Martin König, Berlin. The book, film and a 240 cm x 160 cm "Es gibt was da ist" specially woven linen tablecloth are available as a special edition.

The book and film were launched at Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, during "[Summer in the NAI](#)" in Rotterdam and Agrocite/[R-urban](#) in Colombe, Paris.

## **LONDON LAUNCH**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 18.30 - 22.00.

Book presentation, conversation and screening, together with [Clare Cumberlidge](#) and Leila McAlister. At [Leila's Shop](#) and Café on Calvert Avenue, off Arnold Circus, London E2.

## [ECO NOMADIC SCHOOL](#)

myvillages.org is one of the four organisations involved in running local seminars with guests from the partnering projects, together with [aaa](#) in Paris, [Agency](#) from Sheffield and [FCDL](#) from Brezoi. The next Eco Nomadic School session is organised by Kathrin around issues of rural economies and women. It takes place from [19 - 21 October](#) 2012 in Frensdorf, Höfen and Sulzbürg in Southern Germany, in cooperation with the [Farming Museum Frensdorf](#) and Heide Inhetveen, [Landfrauenzentrum Sulzbürg](#).

The Eco Nomadic School is a continuation of [Rhyzom](#), a pan-European collective research project on local cultural production and trans-local dissemination. You can download the Trans Local Act publication [here](#).



## MYVILLAGES AT TENT

Rotterdam, NL

During five days in October 2011 we presented a programme of trips, talks, food, a shop and exhibition. Highlights include the trip to [Rijk Zwaan](#)'s 50 000 sq ft green house for growing (or engineering) 20 types of tomatoes, a Village Brunch, the Farmer's Medley Media Corner and a presentation by [Martin Oosthoek](#), shepherd, on highway and canal landscaping with Rotterdam sheep.



## INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE SHOP

The shop is going strong, with branches run by Wapke at TENT and during "Als die Wälder auf Reisen gingen" at [Kunstverein Pforzheim](#) (curated by Robert Eikmeyer and Bettina Schönfelder), selling shop classics, fresh vegetables and some "Schwarzwaldglück". In spring we had a one-day-shop run by Antje's students at the University of Hildesheim, and Kathrin's "[shop in a shop](#)" version at Kunstmuseum Thurgau for the "[10 000 Hours](#)" exhibition (curated by Dorothee Messmer) opened in May for five months. A permanent shop is now on at Gasthaus Timmer, the local pub in the village Ohne, which specialises in Vechtewaren. A very good pub by the way.

New products are coming in from all directions.



Kathrin made [TINNED CLAY](#) dug in Höfen. Antje's students asked if they could have the International Village Shop as part of the Theatre Festival Transeuropa in Hildesheim for which they developed a **EUROPEAN SOAP**. Their special technique for being shopkeepers was to record Antje's stories about all the goods, and learn them by heart. Impressive!

Antje signed a seven year contract to invent and produce new goods in the Duchy of Bentheim in far west Germany. This is a commission by [Raumsichten - Kunstwegen](#), a



public realm sculpture project. Together with Thomas and villagers from Ohne, they grew linseed on a field in the village centre. It was harvested, processed and is now turned into [OHNER LEINEN](#) (linen). Because 100 were people involved and the actual labour exceeding everyone's expectations there is nothing to be sold. What they made they kept. However, another item from the [VECHTEWAREN](#) range, beautifully embroidered boiler suits are for sale in the shop.

Kathrin is working with staff from the Kartause Ittingen estate on a new [ITTINGER WARE](#) to be launched and named on 30<sup>th</sup> October, using hop-fibre, secret chambers and a collective outdoor clay firing.

Keep following the [International Village Shop website](#) for new shops and goods, and of course don't miss out on [Grizedale](#)'s fantastic new Honest Shop at the Coniston Institute.

### [BIBLIOBOX](#)

The Bibliobox has also been traveling quite a bit last year. It first went up North to the "[Mobile Solutions](#)" exhibition at the Mackintosh Museum at the Glasgow School of Art (curated by Jenny Browning). Then to the small village of Kravínin in the Czech Republic for a festival of rural art, culture and ecology, organised by Lenka Dolanova and the [yo-yo](#) group. A local cabinetmaker copied the Bibliobox and doubled its archive and display size to make space for the 107 documents on rural art projects that have been collected so far. Until the end of October the Bibliobox is at the "[Hungry City](#)" exhibition at Kunstraum Kreuzberg (Künstlerhaus Bethanien) in Berlin (curated by Anne Kersten).

After traveling and opening the box at 37 rural locations since 2005, we think the box might be ready to go public in some big town art spaces to let urban art audiences know what is going on in the rural.

### GOING ABROAD (for more than a few days)

#### [LUCAS ARTISTS RESIDENCY PROGRAM](#)

##### **MONTALVO ARTS CENTRE, CA**

February and March we stayed in Silicon Valley. Wapke had a studio house. Antje, Thomas and Iwan worked just two minutes uphill in a second house. Every evening deer came to graze, some black widows and a pregnant bobcat (no photos unfortunately). We enjoyed great dinners cooked by Niki Ford, and the days were spent working hard on the Vorratskammer book. But enough time was left to visit [local farmers](#), plant some beetroot and visit [Fieldfaring](#) and [Future Farmers](#) in San Francisco.

Lucky us, we are invited back to think about a new project.



### GOING EAST

Wapke went to Zvizzchi in Russia for three weeks, a small village with just over 150 residents, where the ambitious new Nikola-Lenivets Park is popping up next field. Plans for the park include a brand new farm, a camping site, a seminar hotel and artist residencies. Wapke spent her time talking and walking around Zvizzchi, to collect local knowledge and spotting produce. "Made in Zvizzchi" is a project which starts with six postcards from the village. Two are already chosen, and in 2013 the project will be developed further with the support of AIRteam, the Mondriaan Fund and curator Georgy Nikich.

## **I LIKE BEING A FARMER... SPANISH VERSION**

Antje and Thomas thought that "[I like being a farmer ...](#)" was finished as a project, but it turned out not to be that simple because they like it too much. This summer they spent four weeks in the district of Enkarterri in the Basque country, on invitation by [Campo Adentro](#). They were collaborating with three farmers and their families - Ana, dedicated to growing the famous red onions of Zalla, Gorka, a farmer without a farm, and the Isusi brothers with their four wheel drives and dogs high up in the mountains, where their flocks live surrounded by wolves and vultures. The results are currently on show at the "Hungry City" exhibition in Kunstraum Kreuzberg in Berlin, and during November in the village hall of Güenes, Enkarterri, Spain.



## **Upcoming**

### **Horsemilk and [The Spirit of Things](#)**

10 - 14 October 2012

At Grizedale's "Colosseum of the Consumed" during Frieze Art Fair in London.  
Watch out for some schnaps in your milk!

### **A collaboration with [M12](#)**

3 - 12 November 2012

Wapke has been invited by the Colorado based M12 group to work with a group of young farmers (Future Farmers of America). Students from Deer Trail will be part of this rural exchange by producing and sending images of farming overseas.

### **Everything (but) Cricket**

Oct/Nov 2012

Kathrin is interviewing residents in Coniston, Cumbria, about all things Cricket, to contribute to the architectural brief for a new [Cricket Pavilion in Coniston](#), initiated by Grizedale Arts.

### **New Ourvillages book**

["Ourvillages"](#) is the name for projects done back home, in the villages where we come from. Wapke's book about her home-village Wjelsryp will be ready in early November. The book is called "A Photographic Portrait of a Landscape. New Dimensions in Landscape Philosophy" and is published by Jap Sam Books, Heijningen. With an essay by Pietsie Feenstra, poems by Beart Oosterhaven, and lots of photographs taken in the village by some of the villagers.