

Newsletter January 2010

Images of Farming

Symposium 28th - 30th Jan 2010, Städtische Galerie Nordhorn (Ger)

The Symposium brings together a wide range of practitioners, commissioners and researchers who are dealing with representations of farming and farmers from the recent past and the present. The symposium has been organised by Antje and Wapke and the Städtische Galerie Nordhorn (Veronika Olbrich with the assistance of Andrea Büttner) and coincides with the final exhibition of Antje's and Thomas' three year long project "I like being a farmer and would like to stay one".

A publication to bring together the different images of farming that were analysed and discussed during the symposium, plus additional material will be launched in 2011.

Funders: Stiftung Niedersachsen, Emsländische Landschaft and Mondriaan Foundation.



International Village Shop

... also known as Honesty Box, Internationaler Dorfladen, Village Kiosk...

myvillages.org, public works, Grizedale Arts and Somewhere continue to work on this joint venture which is set out to be long-term.

The International Village Shop brings together production and trade activities by the four organisations who are involved, and started as a collective initiative following a residency by Kathrin and Wapke at Grizedale Arts in 2007. In 2010 we'll be all making more produce, run more stalls and launch a much needed website in late Summer 2010.

www.internationalvillageshop.net Watch that space!



Somewhere's 'honesty table' at the opening of the Northern Art Prize, Leeds

Plans for an Online Honesty Stall

Karen from Somewhere is currently fundraising for an experimental Online Honesty Stall to be run from the new International Village Shop website.

Dorian Moore who will be constructing the website and this online shop is working on a number of possibilities to apply the principle of an honesty box to online trade.



Schnucken, Elefanten und andere Gastgeschenke

Nov 2009 - ongoing, Springhornhof (Ger)

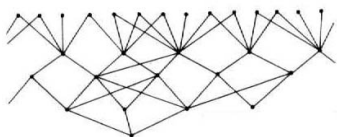
myvillages.org launched the start of a new collaborative local produce for the International Village Shop with an exhibition and open archive at the Springhornhof. We showed documentation from other rural places where produce had been developed so far, and set up large tables and a billboard to collect stories and items from Neuenkirchen. The project is to continue throughout 2010 - due to funding.

Update on Bibliobox travel

The Bibliobox is still in Australia. It arrived there last September on invitation by Neil Leonard Berecny Brown who is the director of Brown's Cows Art Projects. His e-mail from a few weeks ago reads: "I have just returned from Forbes where the Bibliobox was the feature of a one day symposium. It was a great success. I will send you details and reports of the other venues so far. It is now at the Regional Gallery in Swan Hill, Victoria." This March the box is coming back to Europe.



RHYZOM news



myvillages.org was part of a two day fieldtrip to Coniston and Lawson Park Farm which took place in late October 2010 and was organised by public works as part of a collective pan-european project called RHYZOM.

The project is about forms of local production and trans-local dissemination. The next phase of RHYZOM will be workshops, and some will directly feed into the International Village Shop.

public works is also planning a publication - in cooperation with the New Economics Foundation - to trace and map the different resources, costs and value systems involved in making and trading new produce for the shop.

www.rhiz.eu

Other projects that have just come to an end or started



"I like being a farmer and I would like to stay one" by Antje Schiffers and Thomas Sprenger comes to an end at the Städtische Galerie Nordhorn, with an extensive exhibition of paintings and films that have been produced during the course of their travels and barter to an end. A publication is available from January 2010: Antje Schiffers und Thomas Sprenger "I like being a farmer and want to stay one", argobooks, Berlin, ISBN 978-3-941560-57-4.

"Former Farmland" was part of the exhibition "landscape 2.0" at the Edith Russ Haus in Oldenburg (Ger) which finished in November 2009. The stories and pictures about former farmland in the area Bloherfelde are still online, please have a look at www.formerfarmland.org/de A catalogue called Landschaft 2.0 / Landscape 2.0 made by Stiftung Springhornhof and Edith Russ Haus was published in November 2009.

Wapke also started a new project called "**Moving Landscape**" for FLACC, Genk, Belgium.



As part of her three months residency at Grizedale Arts Wapke rebuild - with the help of Sophie Perry and Adam Sutherland - the **Lawson Park Honesty Stall**. During the launch celebrations of Lawson Park Wapke ran the shop with special village food. The ham from Hoefen was very popular, Heiligendorfer liverpaté

on English toast made a good cross-product and the famous horse milk from Friesland a real adventure for most British guests.

Annemarie Lean-Vercoe filmed the myvillages.org activities on the day, which was later edited by Maria Benjamin from Guestroom into a 15 min film called "I Value This". The residency was funded by the Fonds BKVB.

myvillages.org received a grant from The Dutch Architecture Foundation as part of their Cultural Heritage programme "Belvedere", to make a publication about the area and village of **Wjeslryp** where Wapke grew up. The publication will be based on research of the relationship between ground and culture which Wapke started in 2007 together with her sister Pietsie.

The publication of the play **"What is a farm"**, written by Wapke and Antje after their lecture at CCA in November 2008 at CCA, San Francisco is ready. The book is called "I am a park and you are a deer.." and is edited by Ted Purves at the Social Studio Program. Thanks to all master students involved and their inspiring talks with myvillages.org.



"Boxberg Produce" by Antje and Thomas for the International Village Shop, on invitation by Über Tage, Oberlausitz (Ger). The surrounding industrial landscape, a near-by power plant and the traditions of glass-blowing and linseed oil pressing informed a new "Boxberg Produce". It was developed together with several local groups and is a hand blown glass container in the shape of a cooling tower to contain oil. It was launched at a one day International Village Shop in Boxberg in August 2009.

The story of the project was later published in the Periphery magazine, on invitation by Harriet Mitchell, London (UK).

"a ball is a ball is a ball" by Kathrin as a member of public works and myvillages.org for the International Village Shop, Loughborough (UK). A group of sport enthusiastic teenagers from the village of Barrow upon Soar have been working with Sports Technologists from Loughborough University to come up with a "dressing up" kit for a football. The process and story is documented in Radar's recent publication "Group Process".

