

Event Flow Borrowed Scenery***31 August – 04 November 2012, Snoepwinkel, Vooruit, Ghent*****About Borrowed Scenery**

Borrowed Scenery is a story about an alternate reality (past, future or parallel) where plants are a central aspect of human society. The story can be experienced as woven through the physical spaces of everyday life, wherever plants and humans interact. Borrowed Scenery encourages us to see urban plant-life with fresh eyes and re-imagine our cities as places of intricate interactions between humans and plants: starting from plants providing food or materials, to plants which become our neighbours, teachers and gateways to the planetary 'other'. Borrowed scenery holds a magnifying glass to reveal vegetation where we would usually overlook it: in cracks between buildings, on our plates, in emerging technologies and age-old stories. Whereas in our reality humans cultivate plants (or so we think), in Borrowed Scenery plants are able to cultivate humans and absorb human culture into their growth and form. Borrowed Scenery is about dissolution of borders between reality and fiction, mysticism and technology, nature and culture. It is a story that wants to become reality. By 'borrowing' the setting of everyday life in the city, it attempts to infuse our habitual activities, such as walking or eating, with a vision of a possible future where endless economic growth is replaced by an atmosphere based economy, where nature has a voice.

The story begins with a group of 'patabotanists', researchers in human-plant communication from an alternate reality, who have set-up their lab in the vacant back-room of an abandoned candy-store (Snoepwinkel). Their task is to attempt to establish human-plant communication, using adapted digital communication technologies from our reality in which they have found themselves. To do that, they have to first understand how our current culture interacts with plants; by mapping places of interaction, collecting existing ethnobotanical research, tasting vegetarian food, conducting rituals, etc. Secondly, they must attempt to reverse engineer our pre- and post-industrial technologies to turn them into communication devices between humans and non-human life, starting with trees and mushrooms. Based on gathered knowledge, they devise a series of experiments to enable humans to translate voices of plants, weather and the environment.

The patabotanists' research takes place in the candy-store, online and on the streets of Ghent. The candy-store is their lab and living space. From the lab they conduct experiments and go on expeditions through Ghent's city centre. Their perimeter is a radius of about ~15 minutes walk from the candy-store. They document their activities online using blogs, micro-blogs, image sites



and their field guide – a specially created interactive map of Ghent (including edible plants, communal gardens, vegetarian restaurants and other related places of interest). This map is connected to an online game, that allows players from outside of Ghent to be involved in the creation of the stories. The research of the patabotanists is continuous, but there are days on which they are involved in 'extra-curricular' activities – feasts, public salons, etc. to mark a

seasonal change or a botanical holiday. The narrative will evolve from September to November, beginning with mapping real plants and places that will become infused with responsive sound, text, imagery and physical artefacts over the course of two months.

What can the visitors experience in Borrowed Scenery?

The visitors to Borrowed scenery can explore the materials in the lab (Snoepwinkel), as if they entered into a friend's house and their friend had stepped out for a while. They can read, listen, watch or taste traces of the patabotanists' research – in physical artefacts (papers, images, cards, maps...), sound ('patabotanical radio – an evolving sound installation), blogs, through interactive and audiovisual media. Occasionally the visitors will be invited to participate or assist in experiments conducted by patabotanists' research assistants (FoAM collaborators). They can go on walks on their own, using the online map and physical instruction cards, or join periodic guided walks. On some days there are scheduled activities that visitors can join (for some they will have to register in advance). People who aren't physically in Ghent can participate in the online game and communicate with the people on the streets, read and comment on the online journals, etc.

Borrowed Scenery aesthetics/atmosphere:

<http://pinterest.com/deziluzija/groworld-borrowed-scenery/>

Borrowed Scenery: Activities

Continuous, walk-in activities:

- Borrowed Scenery physical narrative in the Snoepwinkel: 'patabotanists' lab and lounge, including physical and audiovisual media (setup end of August, strike 5 November)
- Borrowed Scenery online: interactive map, stories (online from 1 September), game (online TBD)
- Patabotanical walks (not guided), with instructions on (post)cards, maps, visitor's own mobile phones or mp3 players

Ad-hoc activities (to be announced a few weeks or days in advance):

- guided walks: mapping, psychobotany, radio mycellium, whispering trees...
- salon conversations
- botanical communication experiments
- food-related activities in Vooruit Cafe and vegetarian restaurants

Scheduled activities:

Date & type of activity	Name & description of activity	Location	Duration	Participants
31 August 2012 Vernissage and picnic	Eat outside day: Patabotanical picnic A thematic picnic to mark the start of Borrowed Scenery, with 'patabotanical foods', a mixture of historical plant dishes from Ghent region, with ethereal contemporary twists – cooking with floral mists, herbal scents and essential oils. Every bite comes paired with fragments of the patabotanists' story.	Kiosk of the Citadelpark	2 hours	~100-200
9 September 2012 Urban ikebana: workshop, public experiment, walk	Chrisantemum day: Urban Ikebana A patabotanical experiment to focus attention to places of special interest to human-plant interactions. Found materials will be arranged as ikebana sculptures in public space ('guerilla flower arranging'). The sculptures are used by the patabotanists to frame plant-life in the spaces of everyday life.	Workshop in Snoepwinkel Walks and ikebana experiments in the city	13:00 – 19:00	Workshop: ~20 Walk: ~30-50
22 September 2012 Harvest festival and exchange 'market'	Autumn Equinox Jam Session At the moment of the Autumn Equinox (16:49h), the snoepwinkel will be the site of the patabotanists' harvest festival, a time of thanks-giving to the plants and the mythical 'green man', a human-plant hybrid in charge of negotiating harvesting rights between humans and plants. Humans preserve plant essences that can survive harsh winter months – as jams, nut-breads and seed mixtures. The harvest festival encourages people to exchange their produce and invite bio-diversity into their pantries. Everyone is invited to bring their preserves, if possible made with fruit and vegetables from Ghent and surroundings and exchange them for others.	Snoepwinkel	16:45-19:00	~100

7 October 2012 Sonic meanders	Listening to the vegetal mind On this day Hildegard of Bingen will be canonised and proclaimed Doctor of the Church, almost 1000 years after her death. To commemorate Hildegard's connection with plants as well as music, the patabotanists will spread out into the city on a silent walk, accompanied by an atmospheric, plant-location guided sound composition. This composition uses the patabotanists' experimental plant-translator, allowing the humans to hear the weather and the environment in their audible frequency spectrum.	City	13-19h	~100
13 October 2012 Legal rights for trees election campaign, with a guided 'tree' walk	Legal rights for trees! Patabotanists attempt to hold a campaign demanding legal and voting rights for trees, including a guided walk to visit significant trees and tree-culture sites in Ghent, ending in a salon conversation regarding rights of non-human species with whom we share our environment.	Campaign and walk: Streets Salon: Snoepwinkel, Cafe/ another Vooruit space	Campaign: 13-15h Walk: 15-17h Salon: 17:30-19h	Campaign: unlimited Walk: ~20 Salon: ~30-40
31 October 2012 Sonic lounge, procession and performance for voices, trees and church bells	Inner Garden At the very end of the summer, as winter sets in, the patabotanists and plants alike turn inwards, attending to non-physical aspects of life. To commemorate this cyclical rite of introspection, the patabotanists move into a greenhouse, where greenery is still lush and protected, to convert it to a botanical listening lounge. In the greenhouse of the botanic gardens, human voices and plant whispers mingle to create an ambient, meditative atmosphere. After dark, the patabotanists host a procession to the Klein Begijnhof. In the church and in the surrounding trees a choir sings a lullaby to Viriditas, the infinite greenness of nature and culture, performed by Synfonie and the community choir of FoAM and Vooruit.	Lounge: Botanic Garden Performance: Church of Klein Begijnhof	Lounge: 13-19h Performance: 20h	Lounge: ~200 Performance: ~100
4 November 2012 Auction	Public auction Patabotanists have 'left the building' and the 'research assistants' are auctioning off some of the materials that they left behind. At the end of the auction, no trace of the patabotanists activities will remain.	Snoepwinkel	17-19h	~50



Tech Rider*

Setup of the Snoepwinkel: last week of August (27-31st), or earlier if necessary

The Snoepwinkel's back room will be remodelled into a 'patabotanists' lab, where visitors can rest before/after walks and explore narrative, physical and audiovisual materials in the space. It will remain an open plan space, with several functions:

- entrance (corridor to the back room of the snoepwinkel)
- lab and working space
- lounge and library
- walls: projections, collages, maps

On the first day (1st of September) the Snoepwinkel will be quite sparse – a few maps and other 'research materials' of the 'patabotanists'. Over the course of the festival this space will evolve to include more audiovisual materials and physical artefacts.

MATERIALS and EQUIPMENT in the Snoepwinkel

- a few lab tables and stools (examples see images below)
- sofa (examples see images below)
- a few armchairs (examples see images below)
- book case with a lock and a glass front (examples see images below)
- 1 low table (examples see images below)
- red velvet curtains along the corridor to the back room of the Snoepwinkel
- old optical/mechanical equipment (if existing in vooruit storage, to add to atemporal atmosphere)
- glass display case (examples see images below)
- blackboard (can be painted on the wall)
- 1 printer / copier
- 2 Projectors ~2000 lumen, as energy efficient as possible
- 1 PA Sound system & cabling (ending in 1 minijack connector). Physical dimensions as small as possible.
- 1 Ethernet connection (as fast as available) and 8 port switch
- Sufficient extension cords and power-boards
- Fixtures for wall hangings (maps, prints, etc.)
- Plants in pots of various sizes (as many as possible).

INSURANCE (lists can be provided by FoAM)

- FoAM collaborators
- FoAM's equipment
- Books, prints, Installation materials and artworks

PEOPLE

- 2 Assistants/technicians for set-up and strike
- 1 volunteer (to be shared with other ELectrified projects) present during opening hours
- ~10 people interested in singing in the choir on the 31st of Oct. Rehearsals: end aug, 29/30 sep, 2 evenings in Oct, 30 Oct
- People involved in urban agriculture, nature guides, students, guerilla gardeners, for involvement in mapping and other experimental activities.
- Contacts with Plantentuin for the sonic lounge en Klein Begijnhof / kerk for organising rehearsals, possibly a residency of Stevie Wishart and the performance on the 31st of October

*** THIS IS A DRAFT, TO BE FINALISED IN AUGUST**



... the corridor to the back room covered in velvet curtains...



...inside the back room:

plants hanging from the ceiling...

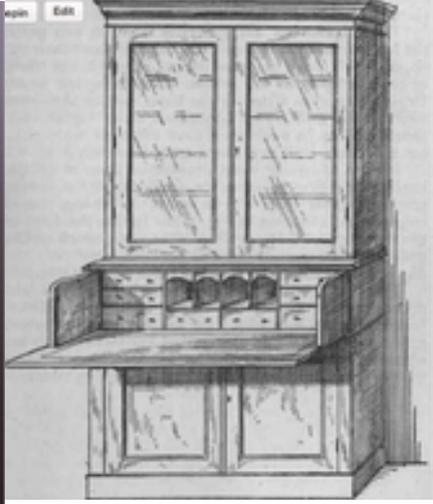


... the room is full of strange botanical apparatus and research materials...

.....on the far side of the room, it's a lab, in the front it looks like an 'elegant' lounge....



a few inspirational images of furniture... lab tables and chairs, armchairs, sofas, book and display cases





Activities inside and outside of the lab: human-plant interactions in various forms



alchemical, botanical, neurobiological and other experiments



Urban Ikebana and patabotanical spaces



Annotating, arranging, illuminating, electrifying...

