

Sampling and mapping Left-over-Landscapes of the “Anthropocene”

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Buro *jan-ZE*

Geographical maps of Anthropogenic Urban Left Over Landscapes.

Good afternoon. I am Irene Janze. I am an artist. Thank you all for having me here. I will tell you stories about the sampling and mapping of Left-over-Landscapes. Why?

Well waste has technical and economical properties. Those properties are important, but waste also has historical, cultural, political and international properties. To illustrate what I mean I will tell you stories about the colors and the invisibility of waste. First I will show you a hierarchy in colors.

I will take you to the center of Amsterdam in the year 2002. In a church on the Dam square the marriage of our crown prince takes place.

After the event the “thrown away ’s” changed the colours of the square.

*Tales of the Apostates,
Urban_Waste_Scapes*



sample 9. Royal Waste

Royal site of the fence 20.00 hours.

The private part of the Dam Square, only accessible to the Royal invitees, was covered with islands of yellow and golden bits of paper.

The public part was a wave of garbage consisting out of a wave of

Public waste

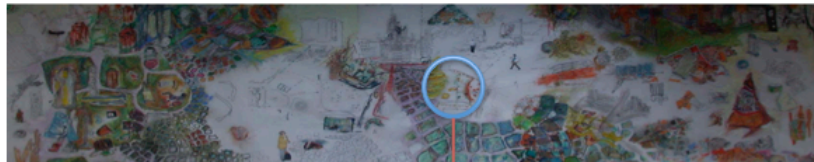


Waste Scape DAM 02022002
20.00 hours

orange coasters, orange shish kebab skewers, orange crowns, orange balls, orange chairs, news papers ,plastic bags and red-white-and-blue flags that had gathered against the fences

I sampled the leftover landscape *and draw my results on an artistic outcrop map.*

leftoverlandscape 02022002DAM; 2 m. 60 - 0,75cm



Middle part with the locations where the samples are taken, on scale.



Orange is our national color, but orange is not the color of our flag (red, white and blue). Many believe that the orange color has something to do with the House of Orange as the house of the Royal family is called, but the division in colors dates

further back: from the age of chivalry. *Knights that were higher in rang carried golden en yellow lions on their banners and the “lower” knights carried orange and red ones.) Orange and red is made out of Madder, a little plant that grew abundantly in the south of the Netherlands (and Belgium) at that time. In the middle ages the highest military rank was assigned to a king. Our king used to be the head of the military and in the colors of the Royal waste the highest military rank is still visible.*

*Show them the examples: throw into the public
The Golden One*



Sample 8 Royal Leftovers DAM02022002

The people's waste have climbed up the ladder from no died color at all, up to the bright orange colors of the 'lower in rank' knights.



Wastelandscape after the wedding - right part drawing

This long vertical orange color, as I call it, enables people to connect. But where inclusion emerges, exclusion emerges as well. Some find the color vulgar, common because of the amount of alcohol consumption during sport and other national events.



Detail: drunken man stepping over the fence

*For others this color is not in their “genes” of origin” so to speak. During the wedding action groups made a White square with white flags that was accessible for **everybody** as the action group stated. Rest my case.*



Launch of the campaign

Nedvang did not pick up this idea of inclusiveness and colour. The company started a campaign in 2010 in the Netherlands to separate plastic waste. They launched a commercial with a gay orange poppet and placed bright orange bins that stood out on the pavements. They tried to create a national feeling to tackle the plastic problem as a matter of national interest. The metaphors of the battle “against the flow of plastics” reminded me as the struggle against the water and the bins could be considered as “Nano Delta-works”. But of course since the “Delta-Works” society has changed. Although we do all perform a lot of work.

In some neighbourhoods they had to place huge garbage bins with less orange and transparent walls because people did not use them, did not know what to do with it or found the outstanding orange bins provocative, In other neighbourhoods the bins shrank after a while and they became the example for the new urban designed waste bins, which separate waste into resources. As I have shown there is a local, national and historical component in the colouring. It is a debate in the plastic industry and amongst urban planners to design a standard European colouring for waste bins. So which country will produce a prototype for the whole of Europe? I do not know, but I think it might have been better to launch mint-green or soft blue waste bins to collect plastics instead.

Why? Let me tell you another waste story: let's go to the city of Rome, to the funeral of Pope JP the second on April 5, 2005



The square ground level,
16.45 hours, April 8 2005



At the end of the day the left overs
gave Rome, with its temporary
Roman Catholic Thrown Away
Identity , a mint green and light blue
glow.

The colour of the *"Roman Catholic thrown away identity"* of that day was mint-green and soft blue due to plastic water bottles, interrupted every now and then with a brown blanket and red plastic candleholders with flickering lights. It gave Rome a fabulous atmosphere. People from all over the world start talking to each other. The colours soften our feelings of anxiety

In our network's 'showroom, which is called *'Het Huis der Afvalligen (the Rest-home of the Apostates)'*, the Roman Rests are on display.

Slide Het Huis der Afvalligen/Resthome for the Apostates



Rest-home for the Apostates. Here waste can stay waste, before it is *electrocuted, gassed, burned or buried.*



Roman samples

Roman Apostates on display in the showroom

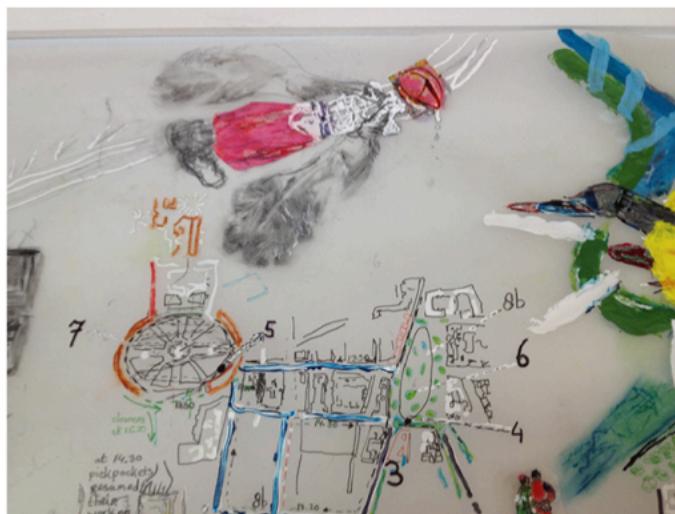
Visitors of our showroom said that the shiny mint-green and soft blue colours reminded them of nature and in doing so the product looks pure and healthy, not toxic. (That is remarkable in itself, is nature good? or not toxic)

And:” Green becomes **invisible** in forests and parks; light blue becomes invisible in water, said a visitor.” It gives a sense that nature will take care of it and that the bottles will be decomposed in the forest or in the ocean. The colours camouflage my feeling of guilt, when I throw them away.”



Sample 6 ROME 04082005

So some colours resemble nature and de-toxicate waste and our behaviour. But why do we throw away our bottles in the first place instead of refilling them?
Slide 11 Left Over Landscape: outcrop map, detail



Part of drawing; “LeftoverLandscape 080405.” The pope is flying to heaven over the outcrop map of the Rome

On the outcrop map one can spot the amount of thrown – away 's.

Plastics are really very sustainable and durable, they will last forever but we use them as packing materials. To be thrown away. That feels counter intuitive to me.

Could that have something to do with durability and attachment? Can we handle real durability and sustainability? Could it be that we need change? When we buy the bottles they are light, shiny and appealing, but when used they get wrinkled and dented. It looks like we maintain a serial monogamous relationship with the water bottles. As some have with their lovers. After a while the promising lover also gets indentations and little cracks. When swapped, after a painful divorce, for a shiny and promising new one we find ourselves getting the same problems after a while as with our old lover. Recognize that?

This is not about de-toxication. This is about behaviour! Let's take a closer look at this behaviour....

I learned from a few women in our showroom that they try to re-use the little plastic boxes, " they are often very beautiful" (they put corals and paperclips in them).

But in no time the household is flooded with plastics. Plastics take over our homes and introduce new rituals, as one of the visitors explains: " I feel overwhelmed by the plastics as if an industrial process takes over my place. So I throw them away. But usually I try to care for "things". They stay longer in my life than persons usually do, to give an example: the watch of my father. I get attached to the shiny little shapes. That's why, before I throw the plastics away I take care of them. I clean, dry and look at them, before I throw them away. I want to pay my respect as I would do to a dead person." [end of quote] However if we clean plastics the footprint of the Carbon Man



will increase.

Slide 12 Carbo(o)n Man, Carboniferous Man (please meet the Carboniferous Man on the slide, his footprint has become famous)

So instead of being re-used, plastics are cleaned and thrown away. Not only as a ritual, but also for reasons of smell and hygiene, because they are collected in a bin or a bag in the house. The waste separation process already starts on the kitchen-sink.



Slide 13 Bin on sink

The container on the sidewalk collects plastics, and in doing so becomes a rescuer as well. So we throw our plastics away. End of story. End of waste.

Somewhere out there the “waste” industry will take care of it. And what makes the industry make out of it? More plastics? And with more plastics more sustainable “waste” in the future? Or will it be Fuel for our incinerators that produce our energy? What is the carbon footprint of the plastic waste industry? (The carbon Man peeps up again).

And how much plastic is needed to make the plastic industry profitable? Waste can no longer stay waste.

Slide Afvalligen/ Apostates

(I have no correct translation in English for the word Afvalligen, because in Dutch the word means lost of religion, or other overpowering, overwhelming or dominant believes, discourses and isms. It also refers to waste/ rubbish, or something that falls off (capacities you loose)).



Parade of the Apostates



Dusty's Pixar Pavilion



Eternal Flame for the Anonymous Waste

*The march and rise
of the Apostates*



Here rust (rests) Urban Dust



Archeoptechnyx

There is a run for waste and is made invisible.

Will waste or as I call it the Apostates rise to the occasion? To be seen, have shows, be distinguished, honoured, and awarded. Will their stories be told? Their lives valued? Their properties noticed, before they are electrocuted, buried, burned or gassed?

With invisibility we loose sight of an important question: do we need sustainable matter in the first place. And can we handle sustainability? Plastics inhabit our world and have become one of us! They are born (they are with millions), alive (amongst millions) and burned or buried at the end of their lives.

Our next speaker Marco Scoponi is an expert in plastics or better polymers. So let us hear what he has to say about the subject. When I met him a year ago he talked about the recycling of plastic bottles, today I think he will talk about the state of the art of polymers and bio-plastics.