



Marguerite Kahrl

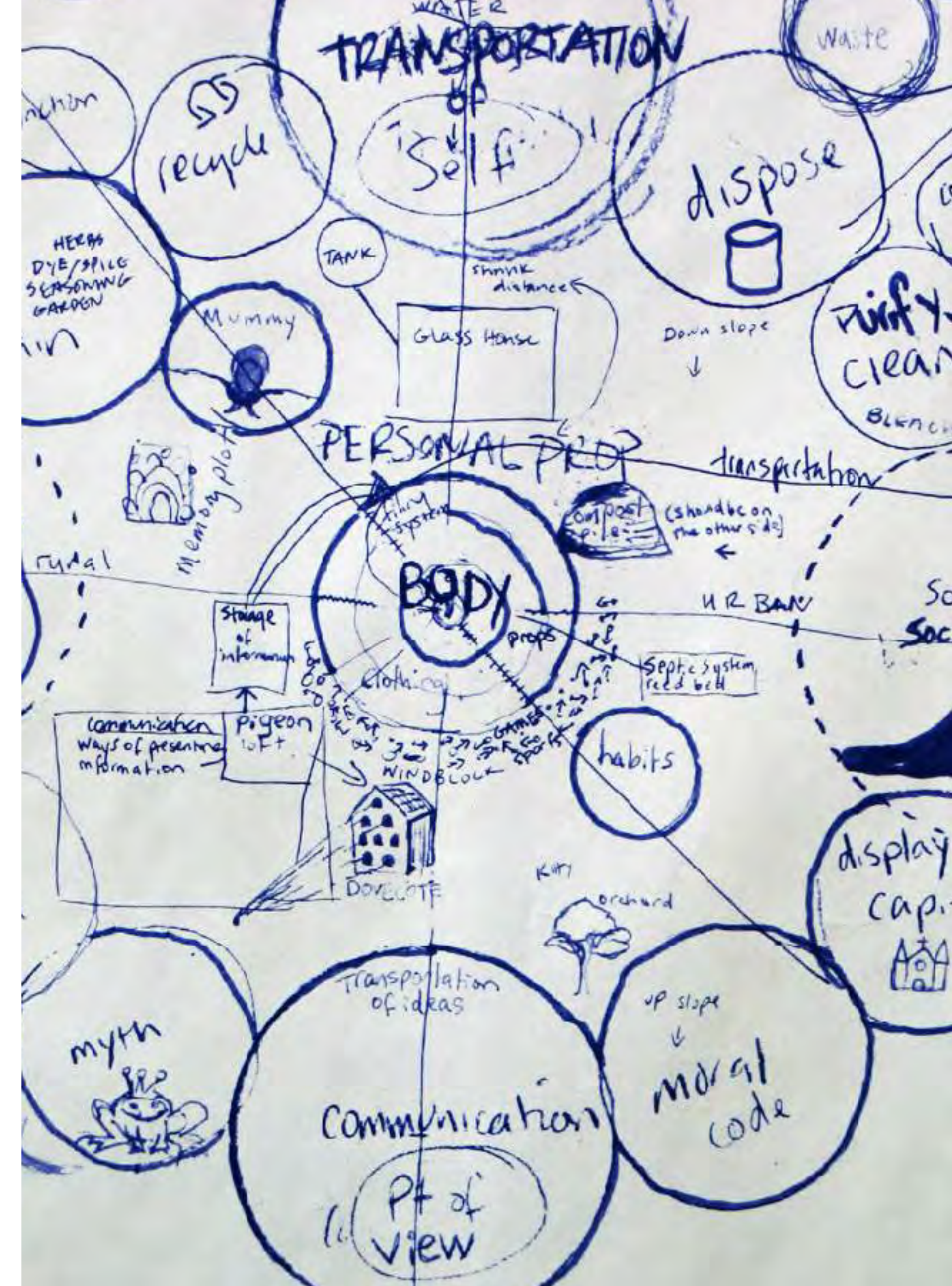
Permaculture and Art

Presentation of work for Merit Diploma
by **International Permaculture Innovators**

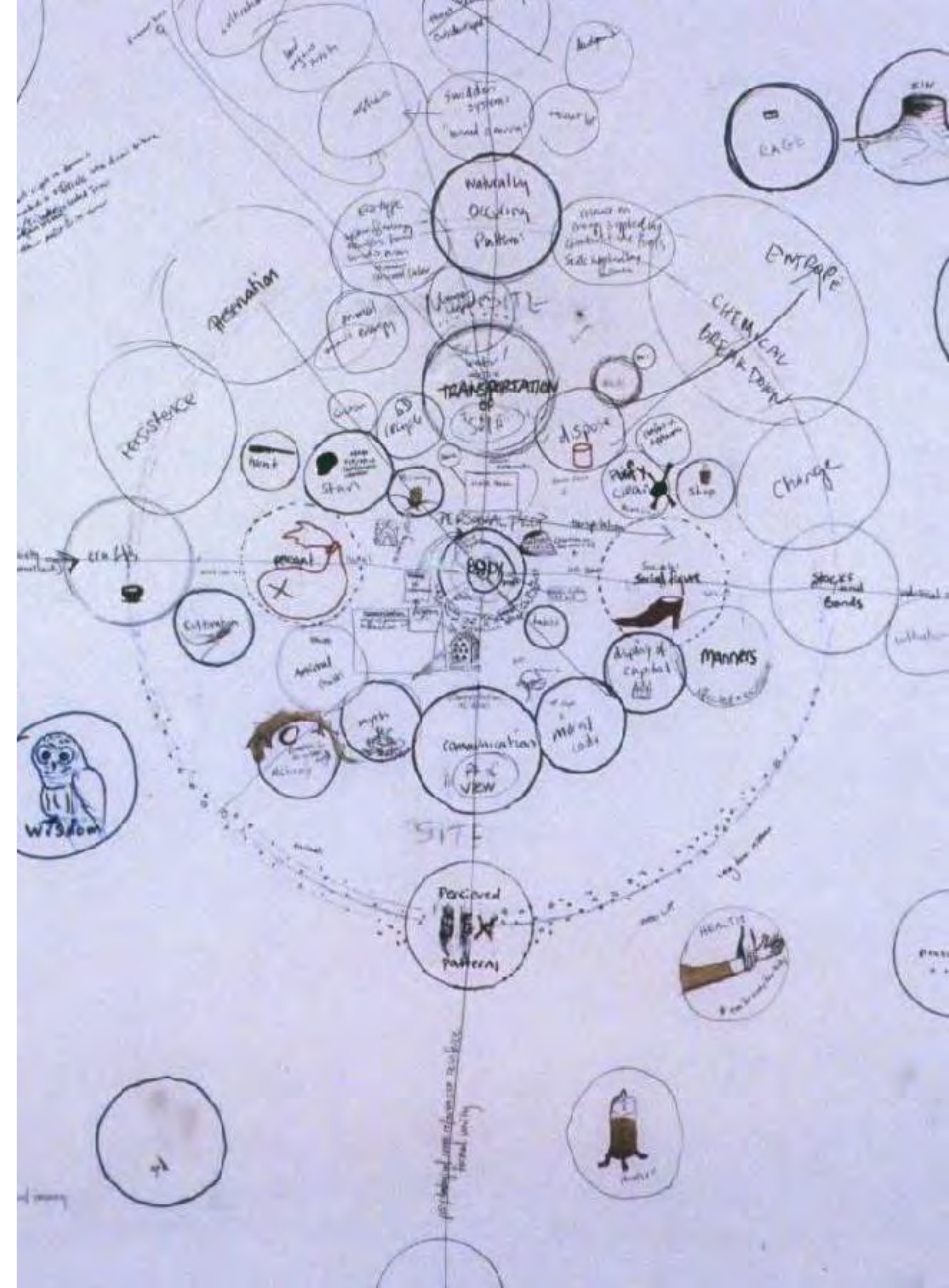
IPC India 2017 Telangana, India
Blue Mountains Permaculture Institute
29 November, 2017

For Zone one, I used the form of evolving blueprints and later a personal filing system to communicate the evolution of ideas and test their relevance.

1994-5



1994-5



Project by
Marguerite Kahr1

Zone one built

Permaculture principle:

Design from patterns to details

Categories of a suspended filing system correspond to blueprint zone one drawings. The files most used had to be positioned in the center or else the structure became unbalanced, a physical model of the zone system, reflecting logic of placement of in a permaculture design. **1995**



Active citizenship

Maine Yankee is a nuclear power plant nearby my family home in Maine. Understanding the temporal effects and dangers of nuclear power, I committed to **researching and implementing alternative technologies** for our off the grid home.

My interest in Permaculture was born from this commitment and experience.

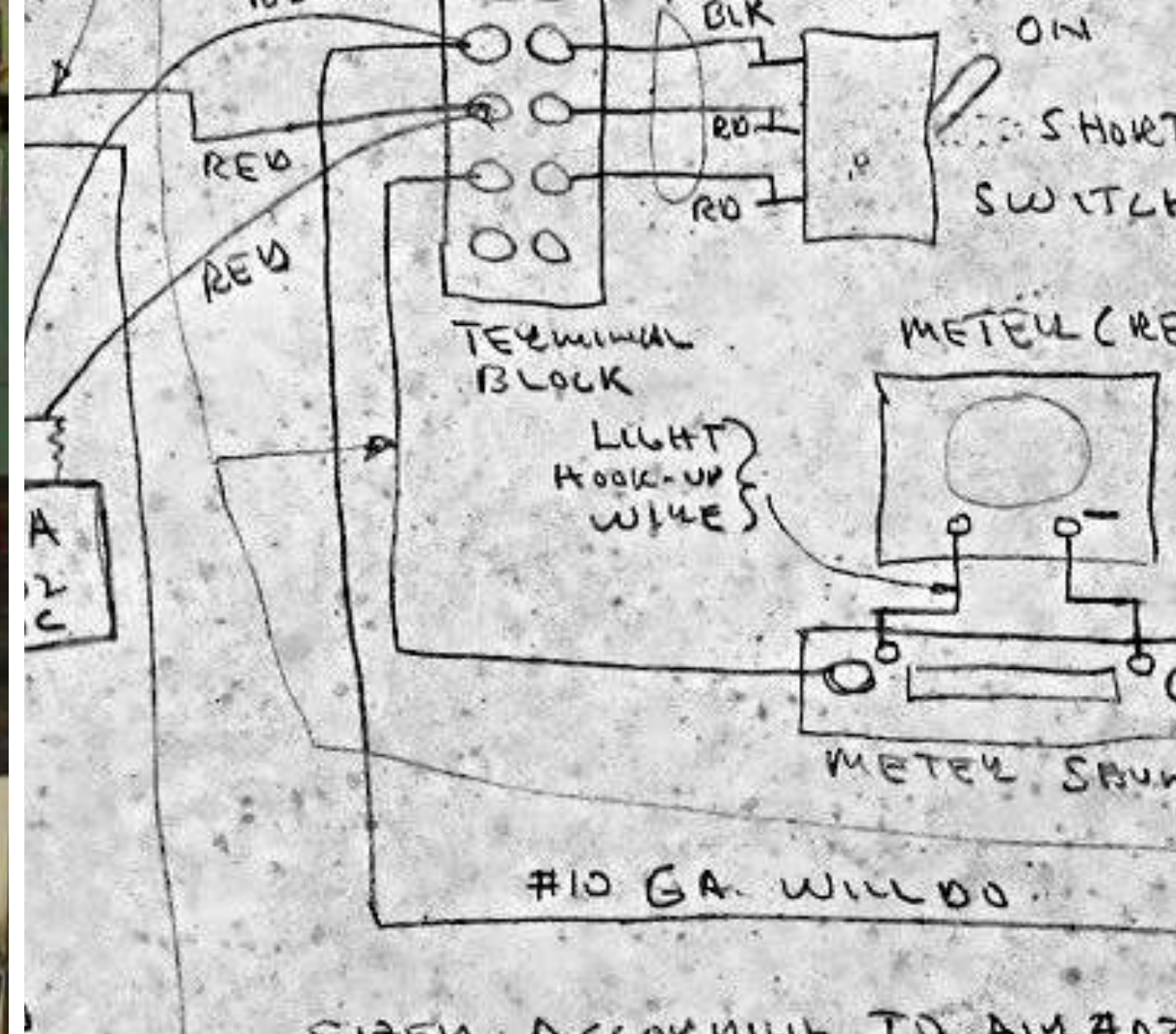
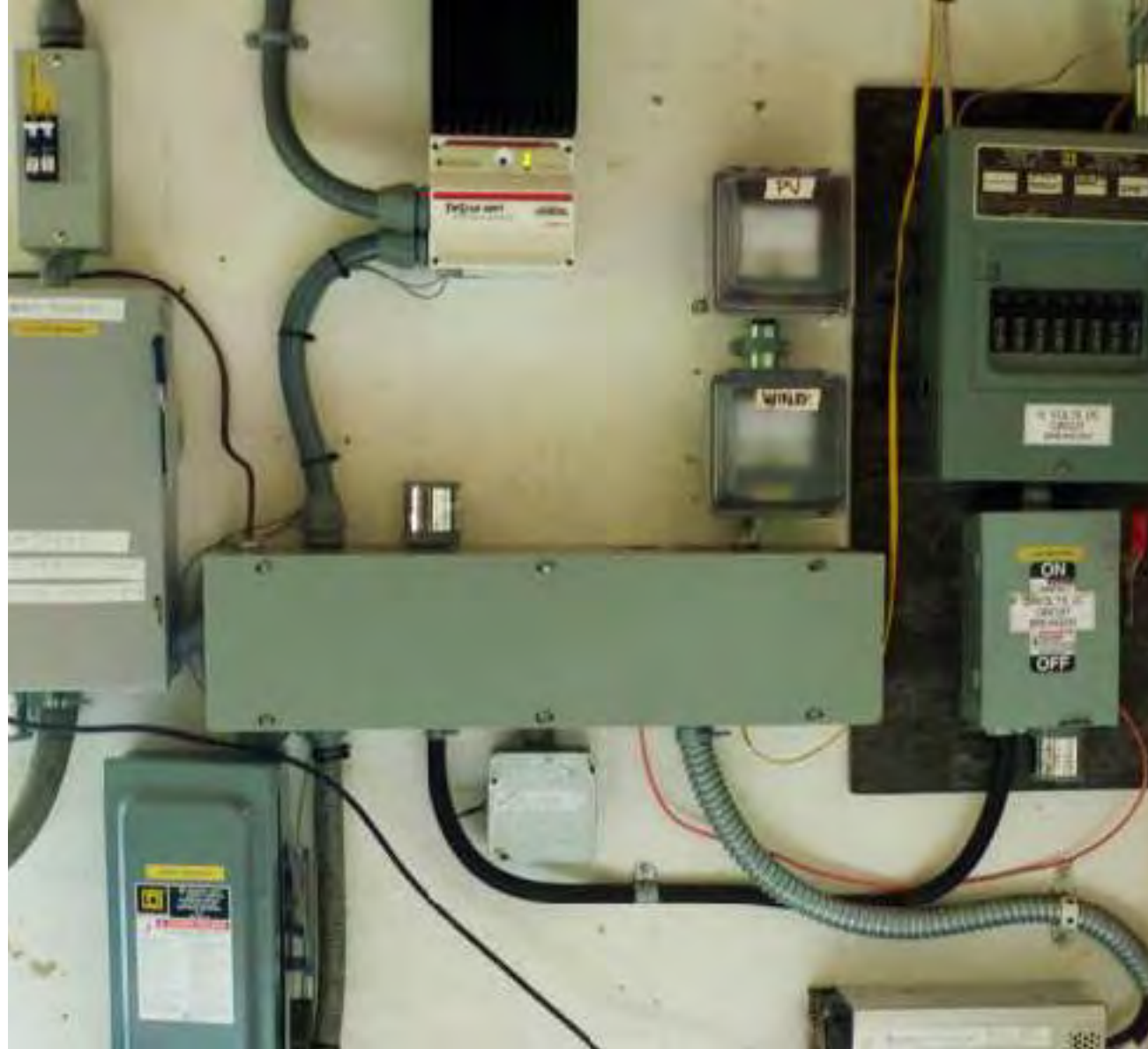
Maine Yankee has since been privatized and decommissioned, however the high level nuclear waste remaining onsite is an **ongoing risk to the community**. Evacuation sirens have been removed and there is no communication with residents about the risk of radiation levels.

1994-5

Maine Yankee
Evacuation siren/
evacuation route
Arrowsic, Maine



Off-the-grid homestead, Arrowsic Maine, USA

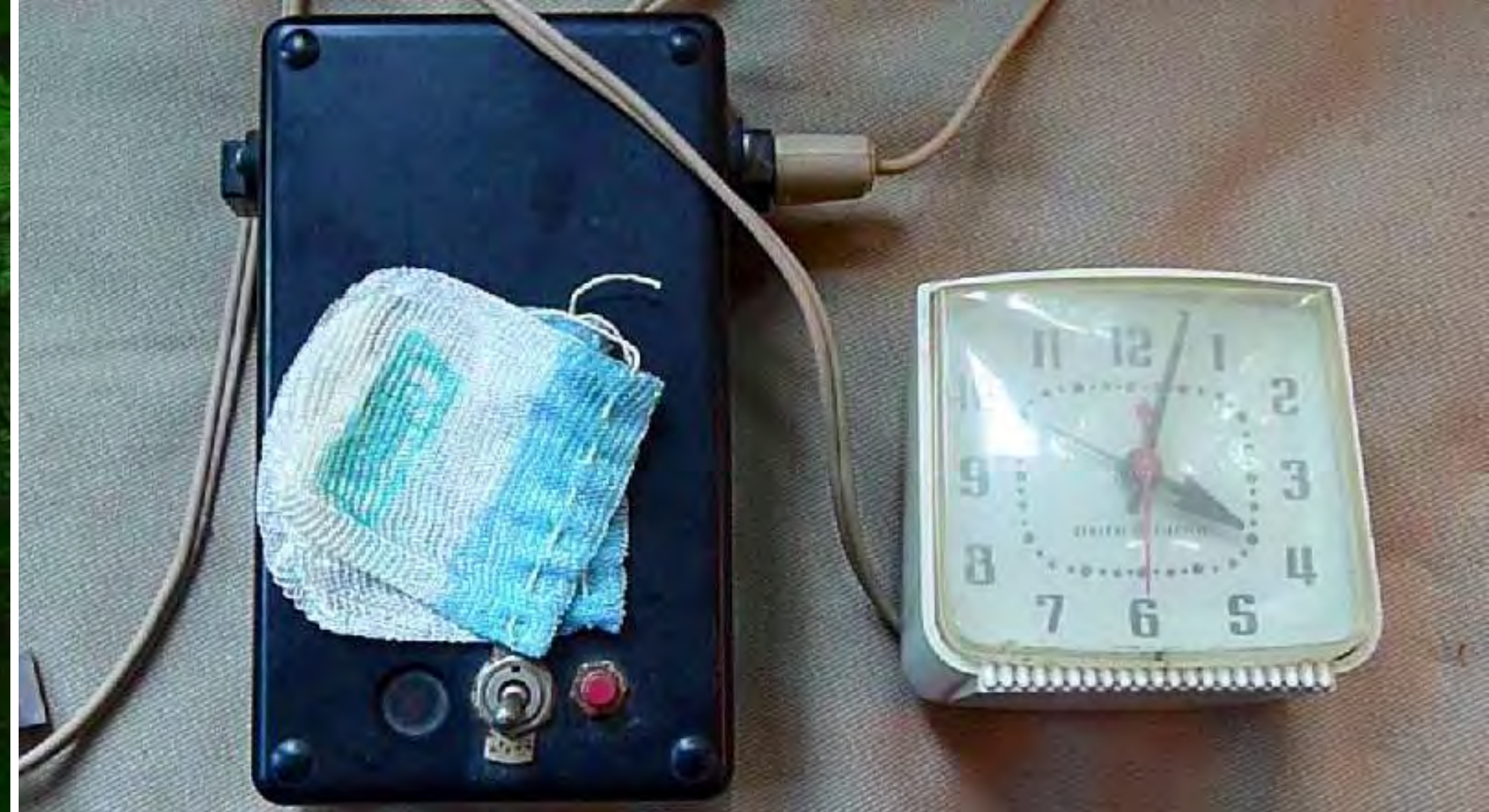


Permaculture principle:

**Use and value renewable
resources & services**



Permaculture principle:
Integrate rather than segregate



Active citizenship Homemade radiation monitors in use around Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant 2007

Project by
Marguerite Kahrl
and Kevin Lay

Permaculture
principle:

Observe and interact

Hot Spot: Mesh Networked Radiation Monitors

This project employed tangible media to represent radiation, an invisible element. During a workshop we took information transmitted from a mesh-networked real time radiation monitor and interpreted it into artifacts and other sensory venues.

Much important data about nuclear power production is being privatized or withheld from public access.

The **lack of public disclosure of radiation levels** around many nuclear facilities is one such example.

Hot Spot draws a circle on a video monitor corresponding to the presence of radiation levels.

2008 Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Project Residency at the Studio for Interrelated Media, Boston, MA, USA



Project by
Marguerite Kahrl
and Kevin Lay



Hot Spot: workshop to build radiation monitors

The workshop experience prompted students to rethink their relationship to data concerning their environment and how it is collected, monitored and distributed.

2008 Massachusetts College of Art and Design,
Boston, MA, USA

Permaculture principle:

Observe and interact

Project by
Marguerite Kahr1

Permaculture
principle:

**Appropriate
Technology**

Meek and Timid Action Figure

Nuclear cooling tower accessory kit

For the *Nuclear cooling tower accessory kit*, I used the language of Children's toys to speak about what we are passing down to future generations. Cows graze around nuclear power plants, producing milk contaminated with radioactive iodine. A nuclear scientist lost his hair due to radiation exposure.

2001





Marguerite Kahrl Nuclear cooling tower accessory kit 2001



Project by
Marguerite Kahr1

Permaculture
principle:

Limit waste

Methane powered remote controlled vehicles

The methane-powered vehicles were originally created for the exhibition *Fresh Kills: Artists Respond to the Closure of the Staten Island Landfill*, which commemorated the closing of what for decades had been the world's largest landfill.

At the height of its operation, Fresh Kills Landfill was said to have produced **two percent of the world's methane gas**. I built the remote-controlled vehicles from parts found in junkyards and powered them by methane or landfill gas.

Troubles Patches Sparkling Fawn

2001 Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, Staten Island, NY USA



Troubles



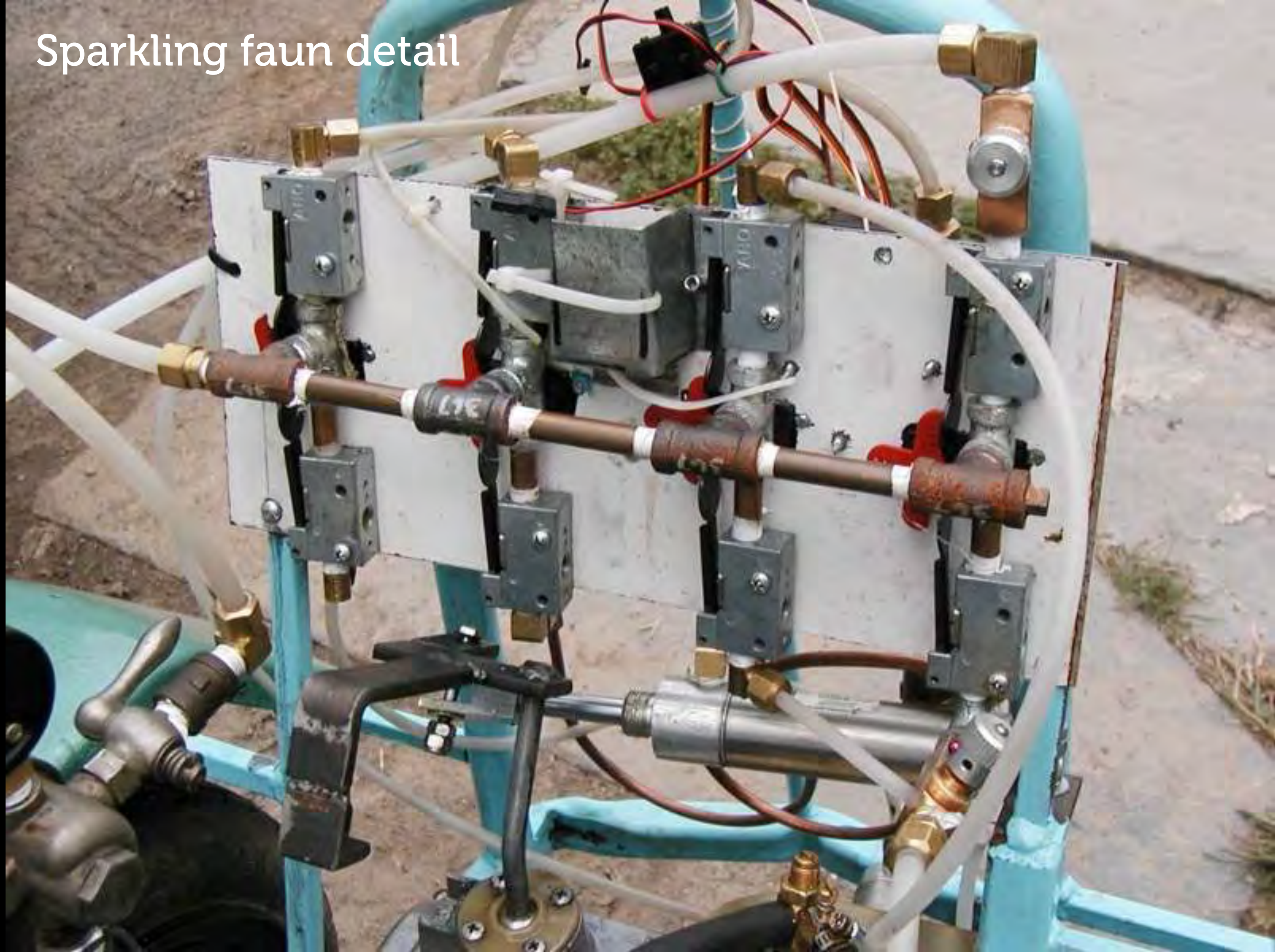
Patches



Sparkling faun



Sparkling faun detail



Rainwater harvesting Project at a farm, St.Erasmo Island

The **premise** of Rainwater harvesting was to reach across disciplines of art and architecture to **imagine the future of the Venetian lagoon as a sustainable environment**.

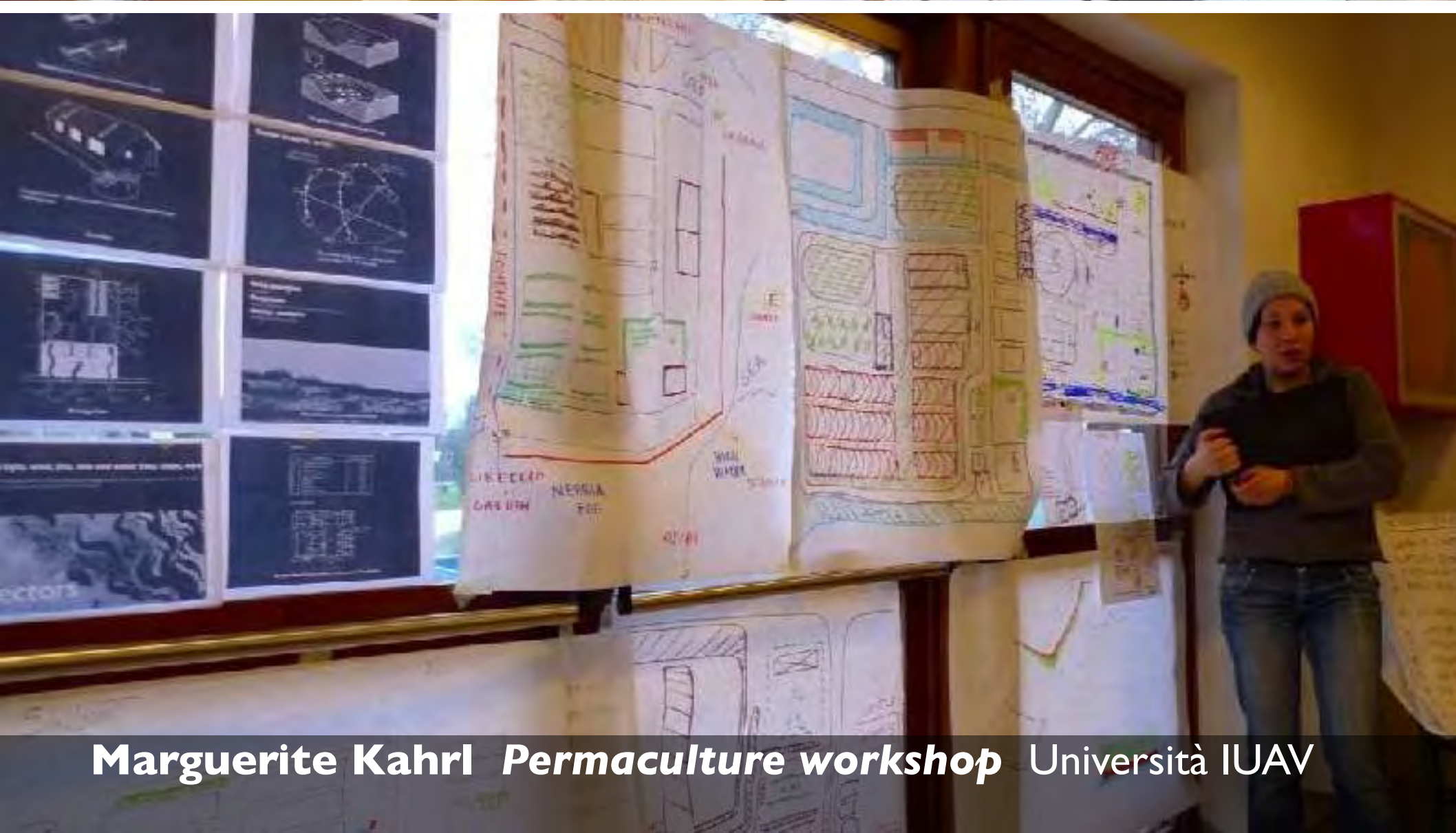
Rainwater collected from greenhouse roofs is used to irrigate the crops inside. Like Venice itself, the farm's very existence is dependent on water. But because the Lagoon is subsiding, the Venetian government plans to limit the use of water from underground aquifers, a measure that threatens local food production and farmers' livelihoods. The farm considers the project a **useful prototype** to evaluate the benefit of rainwater harvesting for their particular needs. It will also allow for a comparison between the quality of vegetables irrigated by rainwater.

2010 Supported by the Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation & IUAV, Facoltà di Design e Arti (Faculty of Arts & Design), Venice, Italy





Marguerite Kahrl and Marjetica Potrč Azienda Agricola Finotello
'Rainwater Harvesting Project at a farm on Sant'Erasmo Island'



Marguerite Kahrl *Permaculture workshop* Università IUAV



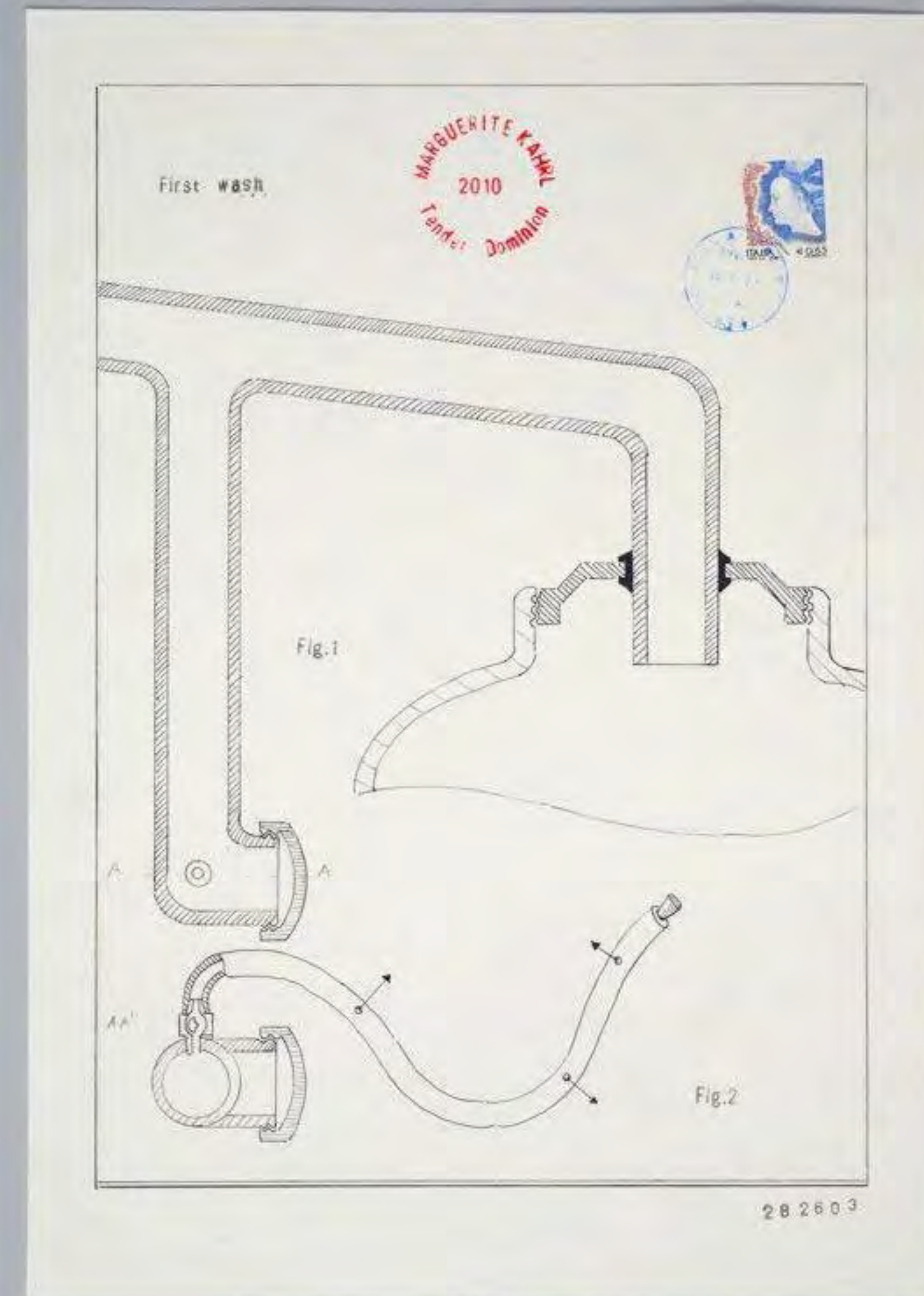
Marguerite Kahrl and Marjetica Potrč Azienda Agricola Finotello
'Rainwater Harvesting Project at a farm on Sant'Erasmo Island'

Tender Dominion

Drawings from the 'Tender Dominion' series **depict patent applications for water harvesting and purification.** Examples include capturing condensation in a tree's breath #282601 to first wash #282603 which I designed for the rainwater harvesting project on Sant' Erasmo (first rainfall is used to wash the roof before sending water into cistern).

My use of patents for something as basic as water collection is a commentary on the profit driven trend to patent living matter and knowledge. The **Tender Dominion** drawings exist as records of experiments and propositions whose function is to bring attention to **traditional knowledge and blueprints for survival**, rather than to license natural processes.

2010 Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Palazzetto Tito, Venice, Italy



Arboral metabolism



Fig.1 Juglans nigra



Fig.2 Explanet

MARGUERITE KAHL
2010
Tender Dominion

Solar distillation



Fig.1



Fig.2

MARGUERITE KAHL
2010
Tender Dominion



Fig.3



Fig.4

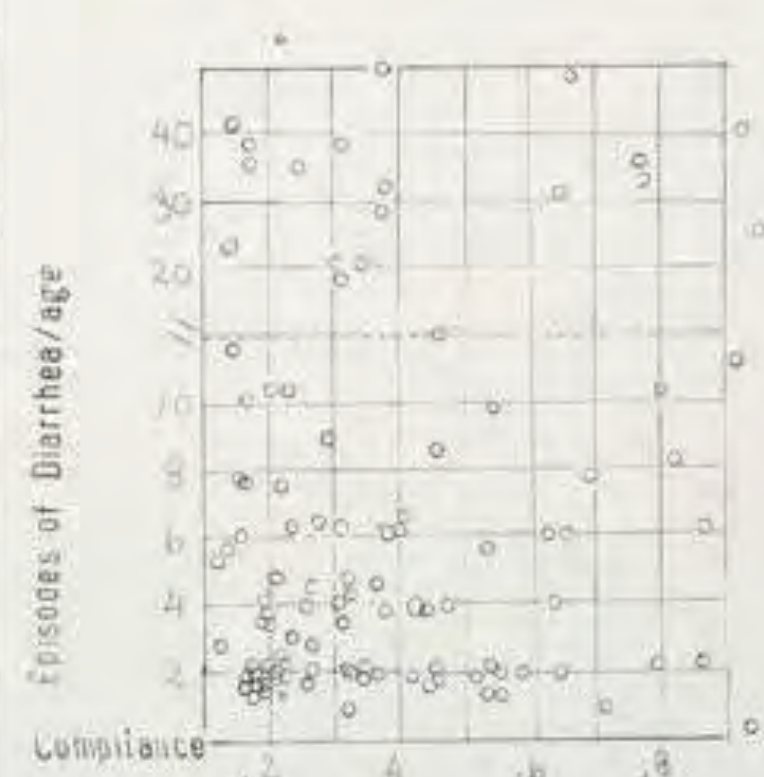


Fig.1

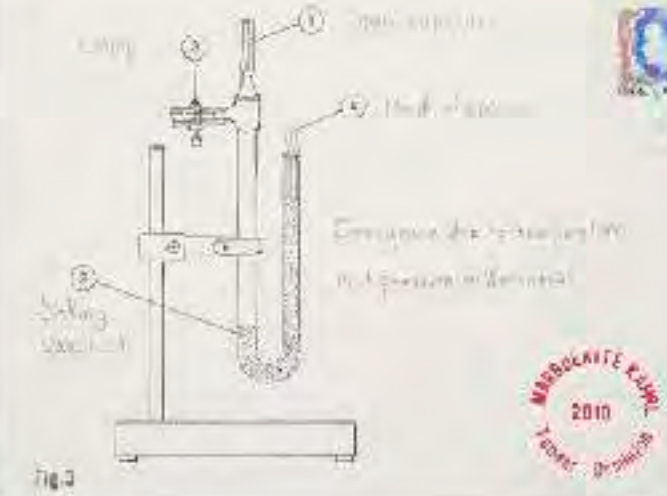


Fig.2

MARGUERITE KAHL
2010
Tender Dominion

Day

Night

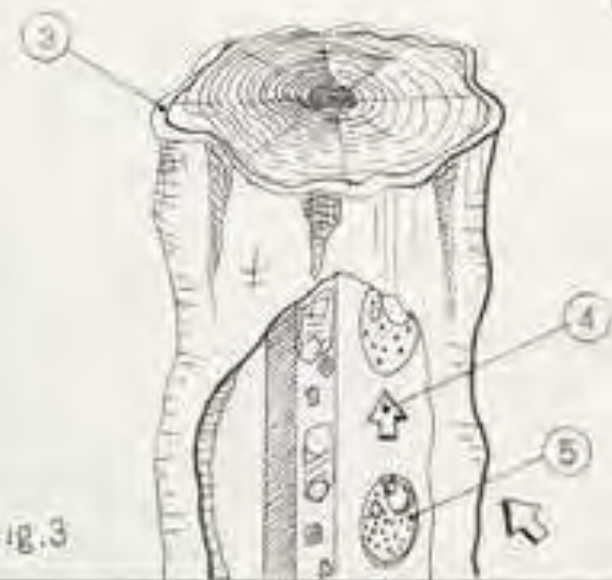


Fig.3



Fig.4

28.2601

Water full sun

UV-A

Max 2L

Episodes of Diarrhea/age

Compliance

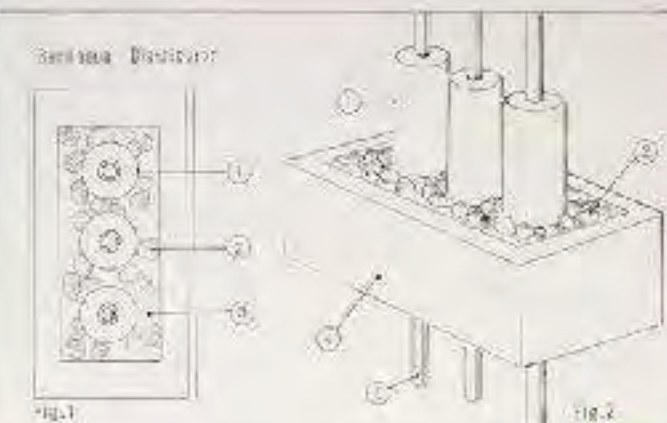


Fig.1

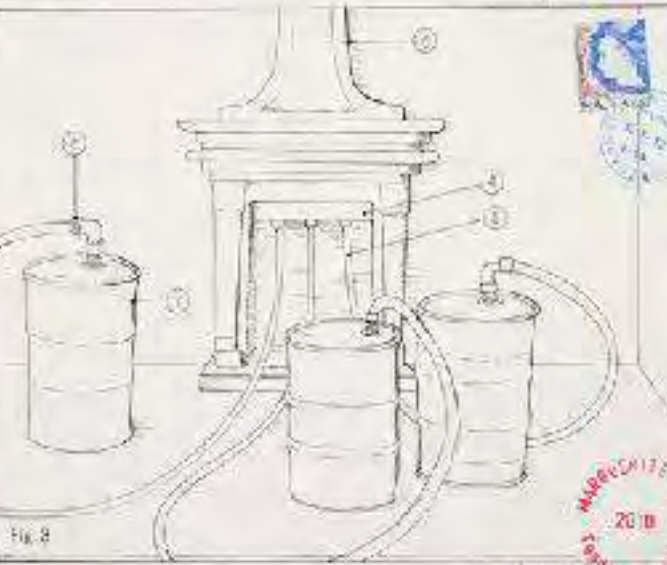


Fig.2

MARGUERITE KAHL
2010
Tender Dominion

28.2605

Seeds of Winterslag (SOW)

Seeds of Winterslag (SOW) is part of my ongoing exploration to represent reality by drawing connections between **aesthetic expressions and living systems**. I designed the **graphic identity and succession plan** for a family of seed packs and seed ball pouches distributed to people at the Vennestraat Markt, during Manifesta 09, Parallel events in Genk, Belgium in an effort to encourage **citizen participation** in the project.

The seeds packs were gifted in exchange for helping to document, seed and transform a test plot on Winterslag Terril throughout the season. For SOW I collaborated with architect Matteo Gianotti and the citizens of Genk.

2012 Manifesta 09, Parallel events, Vennestraat, Winterslag, Genk, Belgium
Seed packs and seed balls, public workshops and test plot established on the Winterslag Terril.

Within the framework of Hidden places and Identities
Curators: Michela Sacchetto and Francesca Berardi

Winterslag Terril
Genk, Belgium



Permaculture
principle:

Succession

Characteristic of seed lot mixture 1 vigorous

Height of plants 3 to 60 cm

Origin seeds sourced/collected in Northern Europe

Mixture of seeds *Herniaria glabra*, *Satureja montana*,
Achillea millefolium cerise queen, *Sedum mixture*,
Chamaemelum nobile, *Hieracium aurantiacum*,
Herniaria glabra, *Lotus corniculatus*, *salvia pratensis*,
Dianthus myrtinervius.

Sowing period fall or spring

SOW 1

SEEDS OF WINTERSLAG

50.98718°N, 5.477543°E



Characteristic of seed lot mixture 1 requires existing ground cover

Height of plants 3 to 60 cm

Origin seeds sourced/collected in Northern Europe

Mixture of seeds *Bupthalmum salicifolium*, *Potentilla*
neumanniana, *Hieracium niveum*, *Anthemis tinctoria*,
Cicharium intybus, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Papaver*
rhoeas, *Salvia nemorosa*, *Eragrostis spectabilis*,
Thymus serpyllum.

Sowing period Spring

SOW 2

SEEDS OF WINTERSLAG

50.98718°N, 5.477543°E





Permaculture principle:

Succession



Noble Savages

The Noble Savages sculptures derive from Francesco Goya's series of 80 etchings and aquatint prints entitled *Los Caprichos*, published in 1799. In this critique of Spanish society, Goya portrays complex characters who often deceive themselves while "pantomiming" for others.

The sculptures offer an encyclopedia of universal personality types. My decision to use hemp textiles for the portraits came from a desire to combine the warmth and intimacy of such "earthy" fabrics with Goya's monstrous or exaggeratedly self-important characters, which continue to be relevant today. The result is a collection of hand-sewn heroic busts, which are distinctly expressive.

2003 - ongoing



Marguerite Kahrl



Marguerite Kahrl



Marguerite Kahrl







Wild energies: vento, fuoco e persone in movimento

This participatory project began with an analysis of urban areas around PAV, during a workshop called ‘**Wild Energies: wind, fire, and people on the move**’ that Marjetica and I held in March 2015. The workshop included group practices, a review of permaculture design principles, mapping, on-site explorations, discussions with residents and examples of community spaces with the capacity to build resilient neighborhoods.

The objective of the workshop was to **identify nodal points in the neighborhood** (social and environmental) for an onsite project that could **serve as a refuge towards a more balanced and inclusive society**. Ex Moi (ex Mercati Ortofrutticoli all’Ingrosso) was selected as the context for our collaborative project. Ex Moi is a settlement in the former Olympic village in Turin that has been occupied for the last four years by over one thousand two hundred migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

2015 Wild Energies: Persone in Movimento Workshop_40, PAV, Turin, Italy





Permaculture principle:
Observe and interact



Marguerite Kahrl Workshop_40, PAV 2015

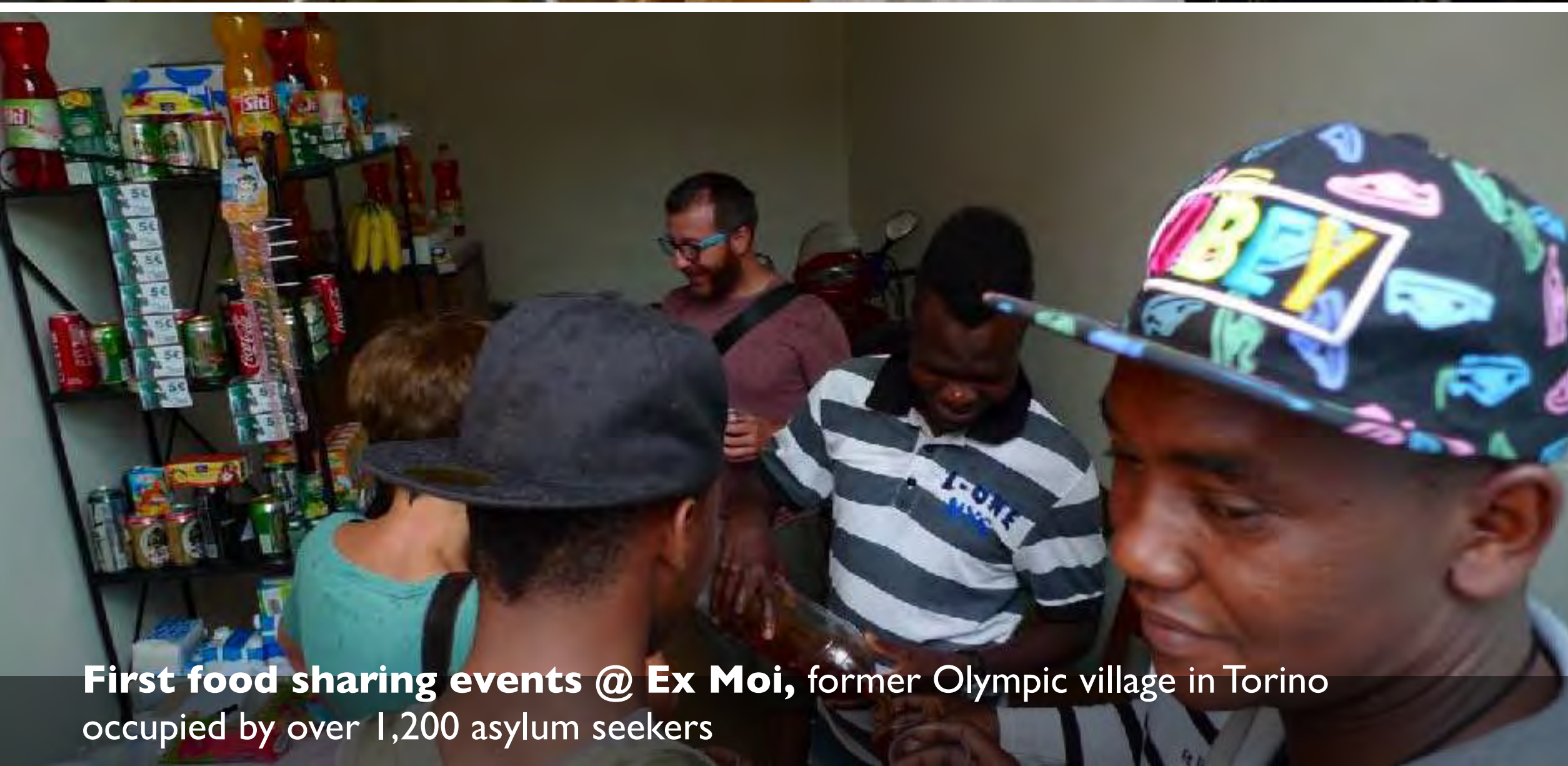


Engagement



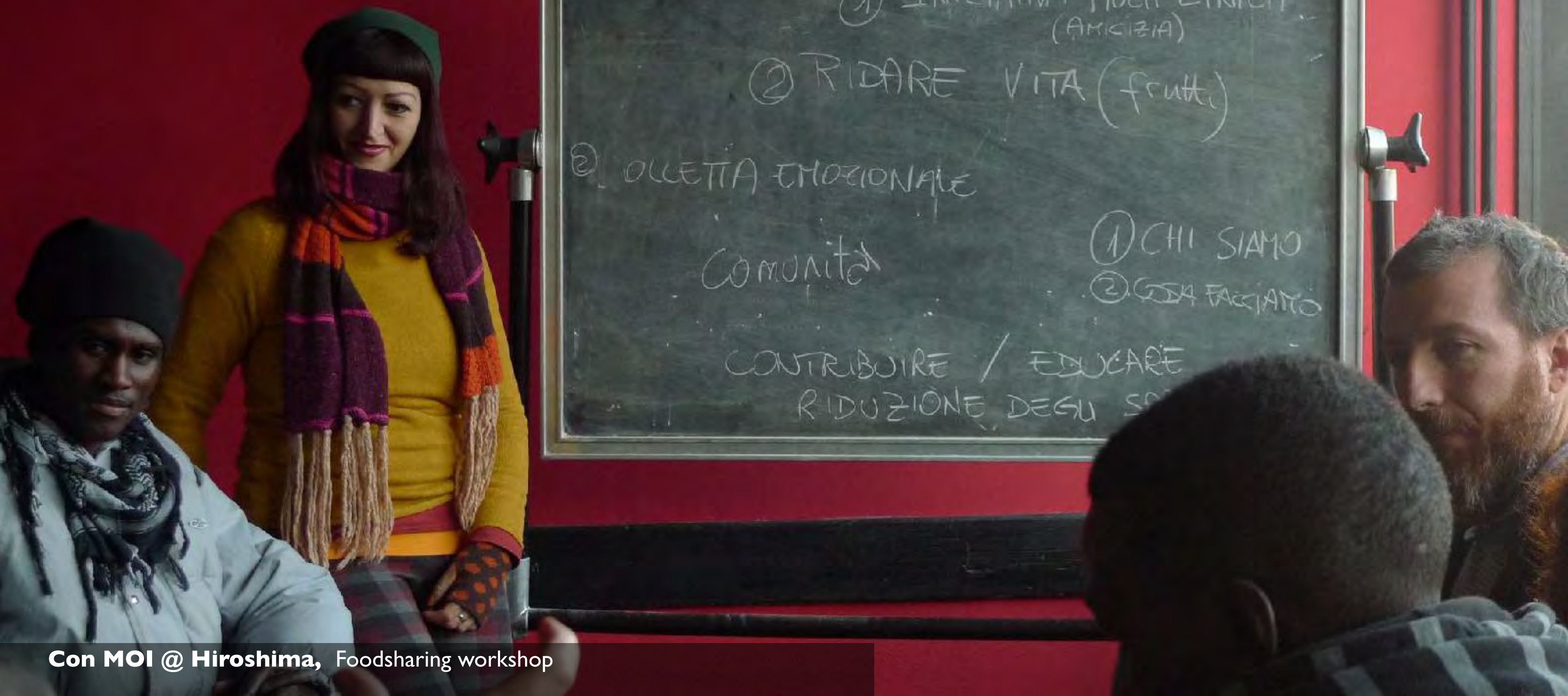


Permaculture principle:
Give away the surplus



First food sharing events @ Ex Moi, former Olympic village in Torino
occupied by over 1,200 asylum seekers

Workshops





Permaculture principle:
Apply self regulation and
accept feedback



Con MOI @ PAV, Identity workshop at Parco Arte Vivente



Foodsharing



Permaculture principle:
Give away surplus



Con MOI food sharing, 28.2.2016



Timeline

Permaculture principle:
Design from patterns to details

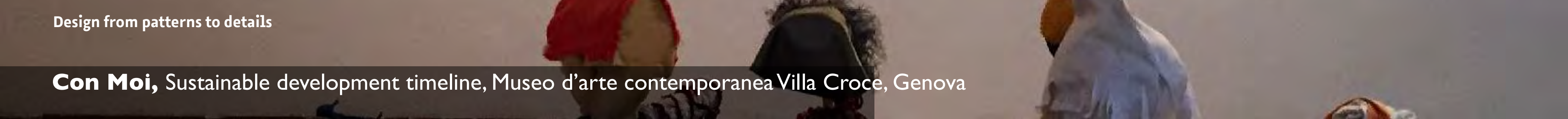
Con Moi, Sustainable development timeline, Museo d'arte contemporanea Villa Croce, Genova



Permaculture principle:

Design from patterns to details

Con Moi, Sustainable development timeline, Museo d'arte contemporanea Villa Croce, Genova



Design from patterns to details

Con Moi, Sustainable development timeline, Museo d'arte contemporanea Villa Croce, Genova

Con Moi, Sustainable development timeline, Museo d'arte contemporanea Villa Croce, Genova

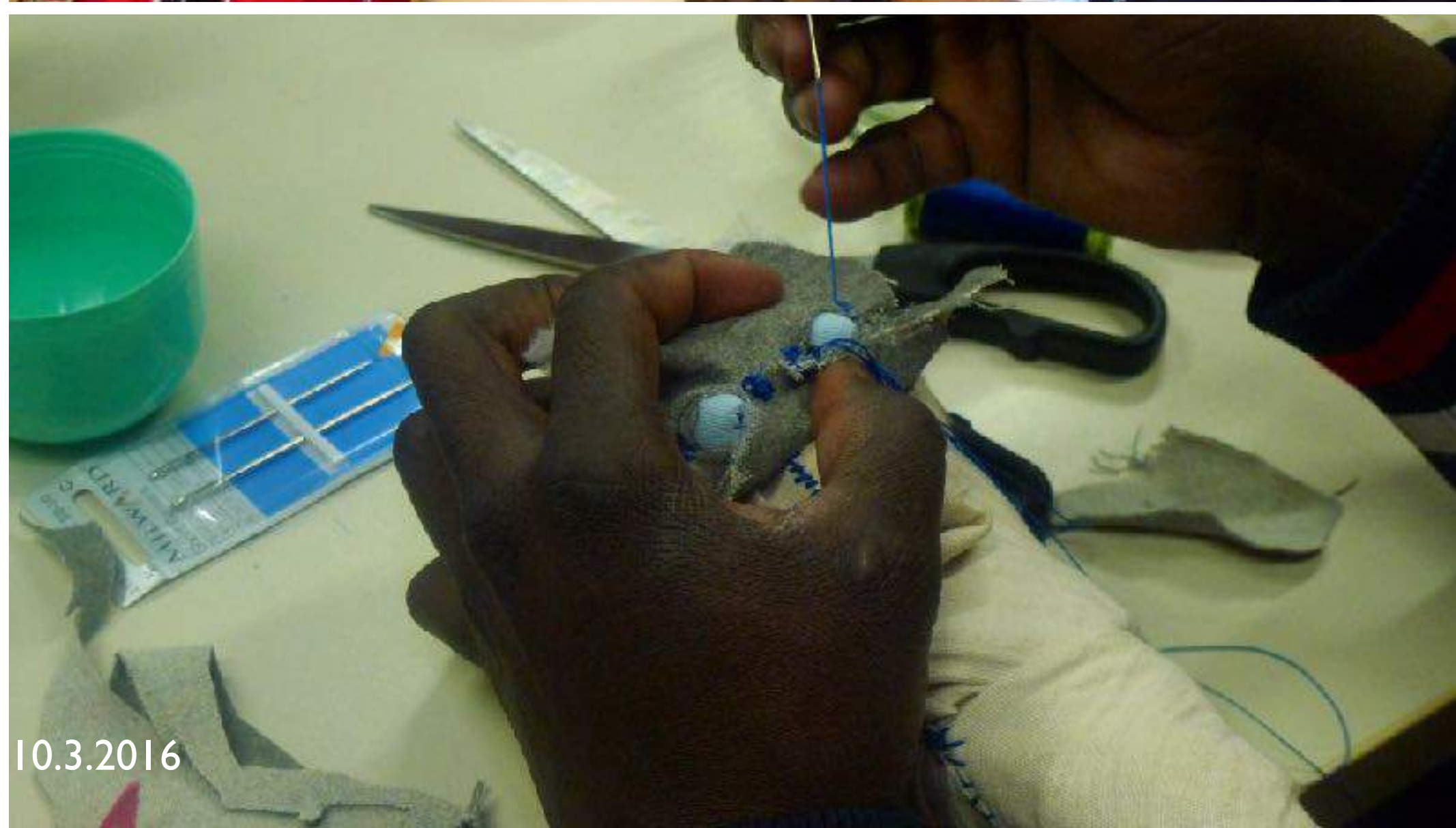
Art and community



Wild Energies: Persone in Movimento exhibition @ PAV 8.7 - 23.10.2016



workshop led by
Marguerite Kahrl





Con MOI, construction of Association Con MOI

Workshop
co facilitated by
Marguerite Kahr1

Permaculture
principle:

**Use and value
renewable resources
and services**

Bokashi workshop

Building soil, building community: through **active citizenship** activities, carried out in the field of social agriculture, we hoped to integrate the various actors to regenerate the La Salette area of Turin.

I led a series of **workshops in permaculture and soil building techniques** including production of biomass using food waste and local organic material, to create soil, increase and maintain soil fertility.

2017 Ortissimo, Con MOI and Salette, Turin, Italy



Arte Fuori

Co developed teachers training courses called 'Verde didattico nel Canavese'. The intent is to provide teachers with information and **educational strategies to help promote and perform "Green Education"** in support of subjects covered by the school curriculum in Kindergarten, lower and middle schools. My role is to support art and permaculture strategies, including theory and practice.

2014 - ongoing Verde Didattico nel Canavese, Italy





Thank you

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