

Project: Mortise and Tenon = Nature-Culture

" An artistic assembly of trees from Antarctica to the Arctic "

In the conjunction of climate change and biodiversity loss, in the midst of geopolitical unrest:

the Anthropocene is there.

Human finitude then appears to us!

As a man I am worried about the predictions announced by the climate experts.

As an artist I question how to say these fears and the possibility that art can change the course of things and I know that:

indifference is unacceptable because it is towards death.

Resolutely towards life and having been animated with the same intention by creating the Botanical Garden of Champagne in Marnay-sur-Seine, I wish to react by proposing the realization of a work involving collectively the botanical gardens of the world.

This work that I'm undertaking is a:

manifesto calling for a paradigm shift in our way of being in the world.

My project is as follows:

I will go in January 2020 to the Antarctic, (Ushuaia in Argentina) and to the Arctic (Kemijärvi in Finland) polar regions. On the spot I will make in a tree a monumental sculpture in tenon-mortise that will remain on site. From there I will bring back to France two smaller pieces from which I can begin to assemble logs of the same size that will be provided by the botanical gardens of the world.

These pieces of wood will be cut to be assembled and gradually constitute a chain or ring of alliance or a structure unfolding in the space.

Each log will be engraved with the geodesic coordinates of where the tree has grown. Other entries may include: Words, sentences, signatures...

The two logs coming from the poles will be dyed white to recall the melting ice, the others will show black traces of burns to recall the forest fires.

Proposal:

Oak log length 50 cm diameter 30 cm.



Why a log ? :

Firstly, The log is the image of the wood that creates heat, in some cultures the log is brought to share the conviviality of the home during meetings.

Repeating this age-old gesture, the idea will be to ask each participating country to bring a piece of wood of that size to protect it from forest fires that are ravaging the planet that is our home.

Then each log will be cut to make a tenon and a mortise. It will be a link ready for assembly.

Realising a tenon and mortise in the log.





Repetition of the procedure to create mutual bonds of reciprocity, which the American psychologist James Jérôme Gibson named “affordances” ; and that the French geographer and mesologist Augustin Berque calls “ ecumenal holds ”.

These pieces of trees each have an individual history, they are open and generous hands, and assembled they will form a «trajective chain» to evoke our connection to the Earth.



Then the logs are assembled on a curve including two elements that will be tinted with white, one from the Arctic Circle and the other from Antarctica. The whole can be presented as a circle to evoke the contour of the earth and symbolically represent an alliance, the sign of a commitment of nations to a common project. The whole can take a different form depending on the constraints of the place where it is exhibited, but keeping the image of the link between all the links in this chain.

Ring Assembly Sketch.



Diameter of this model 150 cm, height 30 cm.



prototype

The bark is removed so as not to harbour possible xylophage insects and, after a rounded cut of the tenon and a hole for fastening with a dowel, the link is ready to be assembled in the chain.

This link can be used to detect the shape of a USB stick containing the shaft memory. It proposes another connection, that of thinking about reality.





Each tree, like all living beings, is a singular subject, not an object. Each tree is born somewhere where it grew up, where it is inscribed in a geographical area, its place on earth where it found an existential environment by sharing with other living beings the same breath.

To remind us of this evidence, on each piece will be engraved the geodesic code of the place it has grown its roots, the name of the country from which it comes, as well as the binominal name of the species in Latin, to recall the conservation work done by the botanical gardens of the world.



Floor and space assembly possibilities.



Trees that need to be cut in the forest to log are often marked with a fluorescent orange line.



This same color which means cut I use here for an opposite destination since in my work the orange ankles serve to maintain a link.

The cut-out shape of these logs is reminiscent of the letter A.

I propose to begin collectively writing a new history of human relationship with the earth, the key words of which are :

Art, with Trees, for a
Assembly, and an
Articulation, from
Antarctica, up to the
Arctic, to say the
Anthropocene and the
Assassination of
biodiversity and
Atmosphere, and call an
Alliance for
Actions... Before being
Zapped