

FRESH A.I.R. #4
Stiftung Berliner Leben

COLLECTIVE MATTERS

From organic waste to living sculptures

october 2020 - march 2021

META-colectivo

Collective matters is an exploration to transform organic waste collected in Berlin-Schöneberg into sculptoric installations. These installations are ephemeral, biodegradable, and produced by the collaboration of different living and nonliving organisms.

Inspired by the notion of the Chthulucene proposed by Donna Haraway, a speculative space-time that acts as an alternative to what has been called the Anthropocene or Capitalocene, we ask ourselves what type of art could we create together-with and for our near environment. According to Haraway, in the Chthulucene, the human and nonhuman are inextricably linked in tentacular practices and require sym-poiesis, or making-with, rather than autopoiesis, or self-making. Collective matters has its starting point here, where we started asking ourselves what type of art would we create together with nonhumans and which materials would we select if thinking about the necessities of different agents of the ecosystem we have been living in the past six months.

During the making process, we have tried to incorporate non-dualist approaches that challenge the ontological divide between nature and culture, human and nonhuman; a divide argued to ground the faith in human exceptionalism. With this aim, we have been working together with air, water, mold, temperature, mycelium, and the different organic waste to create the pieces, letting go of the impulse of controlling the results and adopting the role of facilitators or teammates. The shapes of the pieces are also trying to break this human-nature division by being difficult to classify as human-made or nature-made.

We placed the pieces in different green spaces nearby and then bring them back to the studio. But only for a short time, as once the exhibition is over, the pieces will go back to green spaces where they can keep on transforming in dialogue with Berlin inhabitants.

1

ZERO ZONE

Coffee grounds, malt, human hair, leaves, agar agar, vegetable glycerine, water, vinegar, climatic conditions of the studio, Victoria Park and Gleisdreieck Park. Timelapses of the slugs growing.

2

17 COPIES OF A ROCK

Coffee grounds, malt, human hair, leaves, chicken eggshells, agar agar, alginate, salt, climatic conditions of the studio, and Gleisdreieck Park.

3

BEE-MADE OR NATURE-MADE?

Mycelium and aspergillus mold growing on coffee grounds and agar agar medium.

4

ASPERGILLUS MOULD

GROWING ON A COFFEE GROUNDS MEDIUM

Coffee grounds, agar agar, vegetable glycerine, water.

5

COFFEE DESERT

Coffee grounds, agar agar, vegetable glycerine, water, and vinegar drying on the studio.

6

FLYING SLUGS

Coffee grounds, malt, chicken eggshells, agar agar, vegetable glycerine, water, vinegar.

7

MATERIAL SAMPLES / WORKING PROCESS

