

Workshop (action10a)

**Local clay production/Feminine Rural Production
24 – 26 May 2010
in the village of Höfen, Southern Germany**

**Organised by public works in cooperation with the women of Höfen and
Celine Condorelli/a42.org**

About

Kathrin Böhm from public works/myvillages.org started in 2006 to work with the women in her home village Höfen on a long-term project called "Höfer Goods".

The "goods" are results from collective brainstorm and workshop sessions with the women from Höfen and at times external contributors. They reflect on specific local narratives, skills and materials associated. Items so far include a butterspoonstamp, doyllee bags, jar lamps – you can watch short documentaries that show the producers and production online. (www.toadball.tv/works/village.produce.films)

The project is addressing how women in the village see and define their forms of production, and is trying to collectively explore narratives and techniques that can be used to create new outputs.

The project is part of the International Village Shop, an initiative to network local producers and goods across an informal network of rural and urban places.

The Rhyzom workshop

The workshop brings together three groups, and aims to result in concrete ideas and prototypes for new "Höfer Goods", which will be launched and traded locally but also across the network of the International Village Shop (the next trans-local village shop will be at Tate Britain on 4th June, which might be an opportunity to already present goods).

The workshop will focus on clay as a local material resource, the history of clay in the village and its traditions of manufacturing and usage. The idea is to brainstorm and develop either new tools or goods which make use of the material and/or refer to its different aspects in regards to female forms of production.

The workshop will take place in the village, and the programme will include presentations on the history of clay and local particularities, conversations and mapping, clay digging, ad hoc prototyping and presentations. The group of women is organised very informally, and involves around 15 women between 40 and 80. The village itself has 200 residents. Accommodation will be available locally.

General Info for the two public works workshops for Rhyzom (action 10a and 10b)

public works is involved in a long term project called International Village Shop, a platform for the production and distribution of locally informed goods across a network of urban and rural communities.

As part of the International Village Shop we are generating new products which directly refers to a local situation and are developed collaboratively.

We have set up the two workshops for Rhyzom as productive workshops towards this initiative. The workshops will involve Rhyzom members, local partners and specialists for particular subjects. The result of the workshop can be a brief for a/many new produce, a prototype for a new produce and/or even the ad hoc and on-site production of new goods.

Programme

All events take place at the Community House in Höfen.

RHYZOM sessions will take place in English, public sessions and events in German, with whispering translations.

Mon 24th

10.30 – 12.30 Introduction to RHYZOM and Höfer Waren as part of the international Village Shop. Issues of local cultural production, collective production and trans-local distribution.

Lunch

14.30 – 16.30 “Clay Reading” with Alexandra Gaba van Dongen.
Coffee and Cake drop in session, with the invitation to the women of Höfen to bring clay or clay related items/stories/photos.
Alexandra is the curator of the ceramics collection, and can read items within their historic cultural and design context.
This session will lead to a first survey of local goods and knowledge in context.

17.00 – 18.00 Wrapping up and outlining first themes for new products.

Dinner

Tues 25th

09.00 – 12.00 Clay digging and processing.
Michael Back who is a clay specialist and runs the historic Brick Factory at the open-air Museum in Bad Windsheim will join us to dig clay locally and process it for first product prototypes. He will bring tools and equipment to process the clay into first products and prototypes.

Lunch

Group session to assess product ideas and themes so far.
Break out groups, developing articulate briefs for new products.
Sketching, 3D model making, filming or photo diary, etc.

Dinner

19.00 Public event with
Thomas Gunzelmann, local historian, on the history of the village within the region.
Alexandra Gaba van Dongen, on findings and observations from the clay reading
And the workshop so far.

Wed 27th

9.00 – 12.00 Conclusion day one and two.
Refining product ideas and prototypes.

Lunch

Group presentation and discussion on the economy of production and the different value systems involved in their production and distribution.

14.00 Preparing workshop material and outcomes for and informal public exhibition

15.00 Public presentation

16.00 End

Participants

RHYZOM

Kathrin Böhm (public works, myvillages.org, RHYZOM), London/Höfen
Andreas Lang (public works, RHYZOM), London
Celine Condorelli (support structure, a42.org, RHYZOM), London/Nürnberg
Bryonie Reid (PS2, RHYZOM), Belfast
Constantin Petcou (aaa, RHYZOM), Paris

A42.org

Arno Brandlhuber (a42.org), Berlin/Nürnberg
Silvan Linden (a42.org), Berlin/Nürnberg
Martin Eberle (a42.org), Berlin/Nürnberg
Barbara Geralis (a42.org), Nürnberg
Tamara Härty (a42.org), Nürnberg
Martin Leiderer (a42.org), Nürnberg
Matthias Spielvogel (a42.org), Nürnberg
Nils Wolfbauer (a42.org), Nürnberg
Andreas (a42.org), Nürnberg

GUESTS

Alexandra Gaba van Dongen (Boijmans Van Beuningen/ Ceramic Collection), Rotterdam
Michael Back (Freilandmuseum Bad Windsheim/Ziegelei)
Thomas Gunzelmann (Amt für Denkmalpflege, Bamberg)

HÖFER FRAUEN

Waltraut und Gabi Müller
Hildegard Lyssek
Rosa Leimbach
Resi Derra
Gertrud Stowasser
Maria Seuss
Ingrid Fischer
Kerstin Fischer
Annette und Christina Gütthlein
Erna Gütthlein
Gunda Derra
Sieglinde Gast
Paulina Köst
Rita Schuller
Bärberl Batzner
Marlene Baum
Birgit
Susi Gunnermann
Sylvia Helmut
Meisner
Maria Lysek

Contact:

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Links:

<http://www.rhyzom.net/>
www.publicworksgroup.net/internationalvillageshop
www.myvillages.org
<http://www.myvillages.org/index.php?a=kathrin> (Höfer Goods)
<http://www.toadball.tv/works/village.produce.films> (Village Produce Films)
<http://www.a42.org/>
<http://www.supportstructure.org/> (Celine Condorelli)