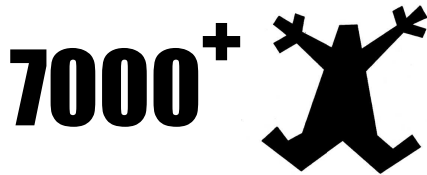


GREENHOUSE GALLERY

AN INVITATION TO ARTISTS:

to use the motif of trees in visual work and the art action of planting and caring for trees in order to engage with the Environment and Climate Change Emergency.



Is centred around the conceptual art action *7,000 Eichen*

by Joseph Beuys and places art practice within the context of Culture Declares and the work of the Soil Association.

- *Identify a location that needs a tree*
- *create an artwork to record the location with or without the tree*
- *register as 7,000+ participant*
- *Purchase a sapling from the Greenhouse – Gallery*
- *Plant the tree*
- *Care for, and continue to record the tree and the surrounding nature and environment as time passes*
- *Place your art practice in the context of Culture Declares and the Soil Association*



<https://www.culturedeclares.org/>



<https://www.soilassociation.org/>

7,000 EICHEN (OAKS)



In 1982, Joseph Beuys, a leading internationalist, conceptual artist, sculptor, activist, environmentalist, declared that all cities and towns should become 'forest-like', and that art must be a social force for change connected to lives of individuals and communities. Beuys planted the first tree in 1982 to inaugurate the opening of Documenta 7 in Kassel, Germany. His son planted the last tree in 1987 - a year after Beuys died, in the late autumn of 2007.

Joseph Beuys saw this idea as a "first step of averting the present disaster affecting our life-sustaining environment."

"This is my concept of art, which I call the expanded art or the social sculpture."

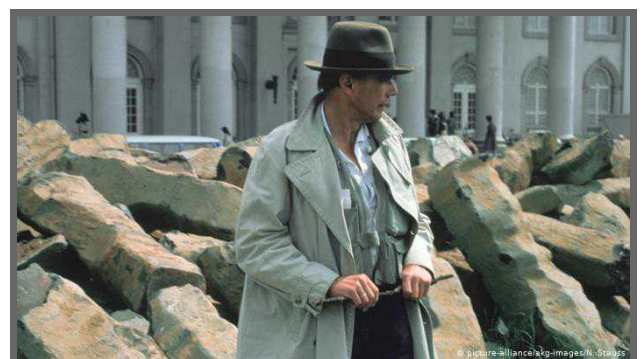
"For art is the only form in which the environmental problems can be solved..." "I think that planting these oaks is not only one particular action related to the necessities of our biosphere, that is, relevant only to this purely material ecological context, but that here, in the course of the years, through the planting, a much more comprehensive concept of ecology is developed – since we don't want the planting action to end ever again...."

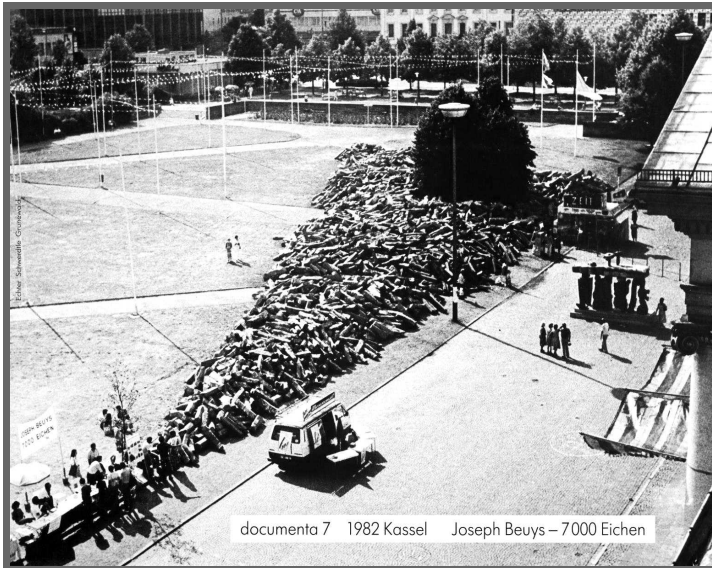
"Naturally, our task does not end by one single person planting with some means 7,000 oaks, One will have to connect with this action and with this stone as a symbolic deed and with this being of a tree the appropriate inspirational images, for these inspirational images are what matters.... 7,000 oaks are a sculpture which has human life past its proper focus and the human everyday work as its scope of relevance."

"The tree planting action is not simply a mere direct critique of the progressive destruction of the natural fundamental basis of human life and of all living beings and even of nature itself by the present form of industrial society and its technologies; it is also something more than a mere sign of the necessary changes, - it is an action, a deed, from which a justifiable hope can spring."

"The project has a lot to do with the quality of time, and also it has a lot to do with the new understanding of the human being in itself; that everyone is basically a creative soul, whether they are a doctor, a policeman, a bus driver, a street cleaner, a prisoner, or a prison officer."

This has to be more than a clear and reasonable practical anthropology: it is also a spiritual necessity, which we have to view in relation to this permanent performance of the planting of the oaks." Joseph Beuys 1982.





The 7,000 trees were matched in number by 7,000 basalt stelies. These sculptural stones were stored in a wedge like arrangement in the Friedrichsplatz in front of the Fridericianum. At each tree planting, a stone was placed alongside the tree as a marker next to the young tree. Like a 'stone clock' the relationship between the trees and the stones will grow.

With the planting of trees Beuys sought to mobilise artists to take action. '7,000 Eichen, though tied to a specific place and time, it was conceived as an idea that would radiate from its origins in Kassel.

"I believe that planting these oaks is necessary not only in biospheric terms, that is to say, in the context of matter and ecology, but in that it will raise ecological consciousness - in the course of the years to come, because we shall never stop planting." "We must continue along the road of interrelating socio-ecologically all the forces present in our society until we perform an action which extends to the fields of culture, economy and democratic rights."

Joseph Beuys, 1982.

THE INSPIRATION FOR THE WORK BY BEUYS

Beuys cites French author Jean Giono's classic parable *The Man Who Planted Trees* as the source of inspiration for his world renowned artwork *7,000 Eichen (Oaks)*.

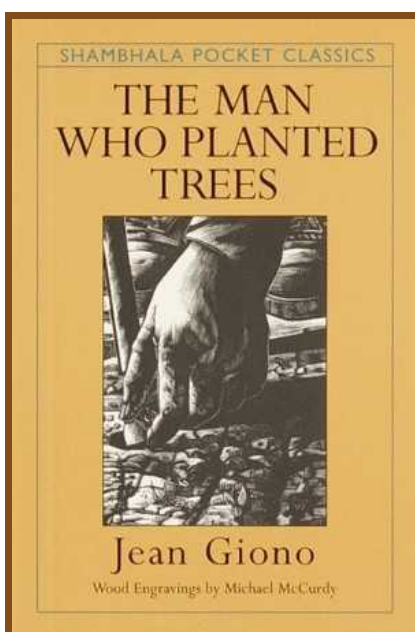
Jean Giono wrote that his purpose in creating Elzeard Bouffier was to make people love trees, or more precisely to make 'them love planting trees.' Giono termed his confidence in the future *esperance*, or hopefulness, not *espoir*, which is the masculine word for hope, but *esperance*, the feminine word designating the permanent state or condition of living one's life in the hopeful tranquillity.

The poet must know the magical effect of certain words: hay, grass, meadows, willows, firs, mountains, hills. People have suffered so long inside walls that they have forgotten to be free, Giono thought. Human beings were not created to live forever in subways and tenements'. 'There are times in life when a person has to rush off in pursuit of hopefulness.

Richard Mabey, Extract from foreword to Jean Giono's



The Man Who Planted Trees.



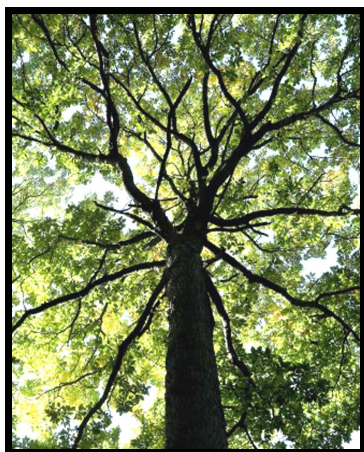
CULTURE DECLARES



'Tree planting has too often become an easy escape clause, a cheap- skate forfeit for fossil-fuel abuse, a PR gesture by dubious corporation, a panacea for environmental ills that would have been better prevented than compensated for. It's been done sometimes in the the wrong places, with the wrong species and where it might have been better to have let nature itself decide the planting programme. Giono has Elzeard Bouffier (in 'The Man Who Planted Trees') says ironically to the State foresters, determined to protect his "natural" forest, that "this was the first time ever...that a forest had sprung up of it's own accord". But of course forests do, everywhere, and have done so for aeons. To forget this is to ignore nature's own capacity for reparation, and feed our hubris.

Perhaps the way to read 'The Man Who Planted Trees' in the 21st century is to fully respect Giono's imaginative intentions. The trees, like the story, are allegorical, symbols of reciprocity. We can gift them to earth, but the earth, properly treated, also gifts them back to us.'

Trees will cool a city by up to 10°C



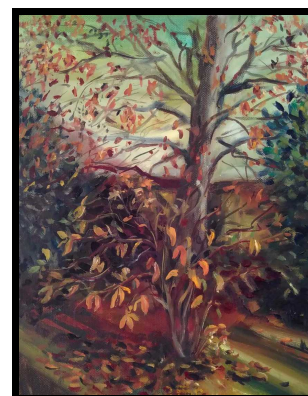
If we act now we can make a significant difference to our neighbourhoods. Planting trees in cities could mean the difference between life and death for millions of people, plants and animals. Trees purify the air in cities by filtering fine particulate matter and absorbing pollutants. They regulate water flow, buffer flooding and increase urban species diversity.

One of the many great things about trees is that they grow upright, catching sunlight from a different angle. As farming is essentially the art of catching sunlight and turning it into food, this means that an acre of land can produce much more if it has trees and shrubs as well as a flat crop. It's three-dimensional farming, if you like.

Trees also cut the wind, and hold soils in place. Animals are always happier when they have trees to shelter under, both in winter and in summer.'

'Trees can also help nature thrive, providing food, shelter and nesting sites. They can draw nutrients up from deep in the soil, below the level that most crop roots will penetrate, so that minerals that might otherwise leach into the watercourses can be captured, and some of them recycled into topsoil as leaf litter. And they store carbon, vast amounts of it – if not as much as the soil itself – so at a time when we desperately need to reduce carbon in the atmosphere, trees have got a big role to play.

Until recently, we've tended to think that trees live in woods or forests, and of course, that's a good place for them. But we've divided our land into 'woodland' and 'cropland' without thinking of the benefits of mixing them up. That's what I'm interested in: growing productive trees, whether for fruit, nuts, timber or biomass, on land which will also be cropped or grazed. This approach is called agroforestry. f course, we have always had orchards, sometimes (but rarely commercially) with animals grazing within them. In the UK though, we've destroyed most of our orchards, and now import nearly 90% of our fruit. Growing fruit without chemicals is not easy in England; our warm, wet summers mean that diseases spreadreadily. In a traditional orchard, with trees close together, often on rootstocks that are designed for yield and ease of harvest rather than



Peter Offord - Meddlar - 2022

resilience, pesticides feel like an essential tool to many growers, But if we spaced the trees out more, this should be much less of a problem. '

At Lower Farm the Soil Association are starting to plant the fields with trees in rows that are 27 metres apart; this allows us to crop between them if we want to, and if the farm stays in grass, we will have sensible-sized paddocks for grazing. The first field we planted was Barn field, a small (eight acres) sheltered patch close to the farm entrance. This is the most intensive and varied mixture, where we are testing out a number of tree crops on narrower 10-metre-row spacings, and planting soft fruits and sea buckthorn, which is increasingly thought to have powerful anti-oxidant properties, underneath the trees too.'



'Natural systems are very complex, with infinite interdependencies and usually very productive too. Our current ways of farming, even organic ones, aren't perhaps the most efficient ways of generating biomass and foodstuffs. Diversity is the watchword, in business as in ecology. We need to shift from simplicity to complexity, mimicking and working with nature to produce what we need. In my view, there's no problem with our ability to produce enough food if we move to more ecologically intensive methods. Farming systems such as permaculture, where landscapes are designed to deliver a range of benefits, and the food producing components are more focussed on perennial crops, like shrubs and trees, rather than annuals such as cereals.'

'A mix of ecologically intensive, perennially based cropping on the one hand, and high-tech approaches that are very resource efficient on the other, could allow much more of our land to be free to provide ecosystem services like carbon sequestration, water management, and plenty of space for other species to thrive and for people to enjoy and live in.'



Tigger - Harvesting Sunshine 2022

Delivering agroforestry in towns and cities would have major implications, not only in increasing quality of life, but also potentially a step change in the contribution of more urban food production which would leave more land available for environmental protection and social enjoyment.

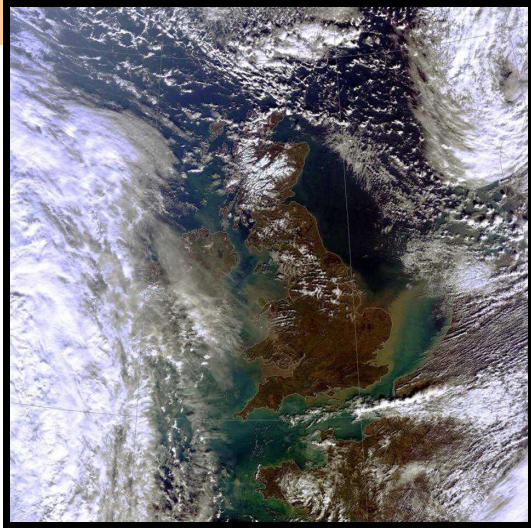
'We have squeezed out most other species, have degraded much of the planet's best soils – and thus our chances of feeding ourselves well in the future – treated our farm animals poorly, and fed ourselves poorly too, so that very many of us are malnourished, not getting the nutrients we need, while at the same time we are increasingly obese through eating too many empty calories from sugar, refined carbohydrates and poor-quality fats.'

'I can't know all that I need to on every subject, so at times I reassure myself that the most important contribution to make is to bring organic values to every conversation. If we are guided by these values, of care, health, ecology and fairness in all that we do, we won't go too far astray.'

'Organic farming is a significant step in the right direction. But it's not enough. To meet the challenges the world is facing, we need to do much, much more.' **Helen Browning – OBE**

"The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery, not over nature but over ourselves" – Rachel Carson.

eARTH



Soil run-off into the sea around the UK - NASA

seeks to explore the vital role that soils play in managing our climate and in improving environmental and human health and engage the public with the Soil Association's campaign to increase organic matter in soils.

Soil degradation is due primarily to the loss of organic matter in the soil, particularly soil-carbon, but including the sum of hugely diverse organisms such as fungi, invertebrates such as worms, slugs, grubs and other insects, as well as root matter and decomposing vegetation.

Soil carbon is considered to be the single most important element in this mix because it sustains huge populations of micro-organisms, and determines the availability of nutrient for plant growth.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) states that as much as 25% of the Earth's productive land is now so degraded that it can no longer be used for food production and that at least 24 billion tonnes of fertile topsoil are lost every year to erosion, deforestation and unsustainable chemical-dependent farming.



Doreen Wells - Symbiosis

Constant applications of pesticides and fertilisers have permanently disrupted the balance of microorganisms in the soil, fundamentally undermining one of the most important biological partnerships powering all life on Earth – namely between plants and the mycorrhizae on which life depends. Mycorrhizae (from the Greek words 'myco' for fungi, and 'rhizae' for roots) provide nutrients for the plants (nitrogen, phosphorus, etc.), and in return the plants provide carbon-based sugars (referred to as 'exudates') for the bacteria and fungi.

Climate Change and Land is the title of an International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published in August 2019, it makes clear that building carbon in the soil is one of the most significant climate actions available to us. At the Paris COP in 2015 '4 Per 1,000' was launched. The overall objective is to increase soil carbon by 0.4% (four parts per thousand) per annum.

A 0.4% increase in global soil carbon would deliver annual carbon savings equivalent to the current total anthropogenic emissions of CO₂. Though hypothetical, this illustrates how important soils are as a carbon store. Restoring the natural world from decades of chemical abuse is going to demand the return of a whole new generation of 'Land Army' stewards and campaigners.

CULTURE DECLARES



The earliest meaning of 'culture' was a cultivated field or piece of land', and as the soil is improved and made productive by tillage, so the mind and manners may be improved by education and training.

The nineteenth century brings us the advance of society from country to city - cultivation comes to mean civility, 'of, or pertaining to, the city'.

The meaning of Culture, shifts from cultivating land to the action of 'cultivation: to the science of farming: cultivation, not only of crops, but of fish, bees, crops for clothing. Allegorically the march to modernity is revealed in the change in meaning and use of the word.

CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION: Communicating the urgency and vital importance of reducing CO₂ during the 2020's in order to combat an over-heating planet and social breakdown. The Greenhouse Gallery is working with artists seeking to create art - work - actions that communicate the why, where and how we can transform urban and rural spaces.

GREENHOUSE GALLERY - EXHIBITION FOCUS: 7,000⁺ and the continuing research and creative engagement with the Nature and Climate Emergency.

ART PRACTICE: Encouraging and involving artists in developing and applying their skills and knowledge. to increase the cultural role of the artist in engaging the public in creative responses to the Nature and Climate Emergency..

COMMUNICATING AND MARKETING: promoting high-quality contemporary art to the widest possible audience via the Greenhouse Gallery, involving artists, writers, poets and activists in residence to engage new audiences in the context of Culture Declares.



'There are times in life when a person has to rush off in pursuit of hopefulness.