

Inside the Flower

Janet Laurence Fellow Hanse - Wissenschaftskolleg Germany

in collaboration with: LAVA&Cityplot

Views of a Landscape curtated by Katja Aßmann

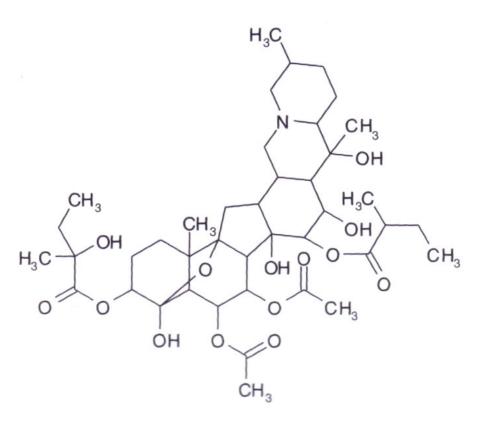


An experiential contemporary medicinal garden that immerses one into the historical, spiritual and mythological relationship with psychotropic plants. An invitation to understand the being of medicinal plants in a time when of biochemical intelligence, and its place in nature and history with man is being reconsidered.

The total work forms a living and museological Wunderkammer. Artwork elements form a link between historical folklore and our current use of medicinal plants, all centered around their natural toxicity. The elements within form both a botanical display and a laboratory-like performative space. Overhead is an inflated translucent water bubble which appears to connect with tubes and hanging vials of plant fluids contributing to the total alchemical, scientific, laboratory language of the space.

The project aims to communicate to audiences about specific medicinal herbal plants and their mythologies, their medicines and cures, as well as providing the opportunity to observe the beauty and wonder of botanical specimens and their biological systems. Surrounding the exterior of the pavilion is a delicate laboratory type garden of medicinal plants, supported and planted into transparent containers, scripted with their common and scientific names. Around the interior of the work, curving shelves house cellular clusters a museological content around the internal circumference. Botanical specimens, laboratory glass containing plant matter and fluids, photographic and drawing images 3D printed and cast and sculptural elements, charts and texts are curated and assembled combining multiple ways of experiencing and viewing the story and biological systems of the selected medicinal plants that reference the rich botanical history.

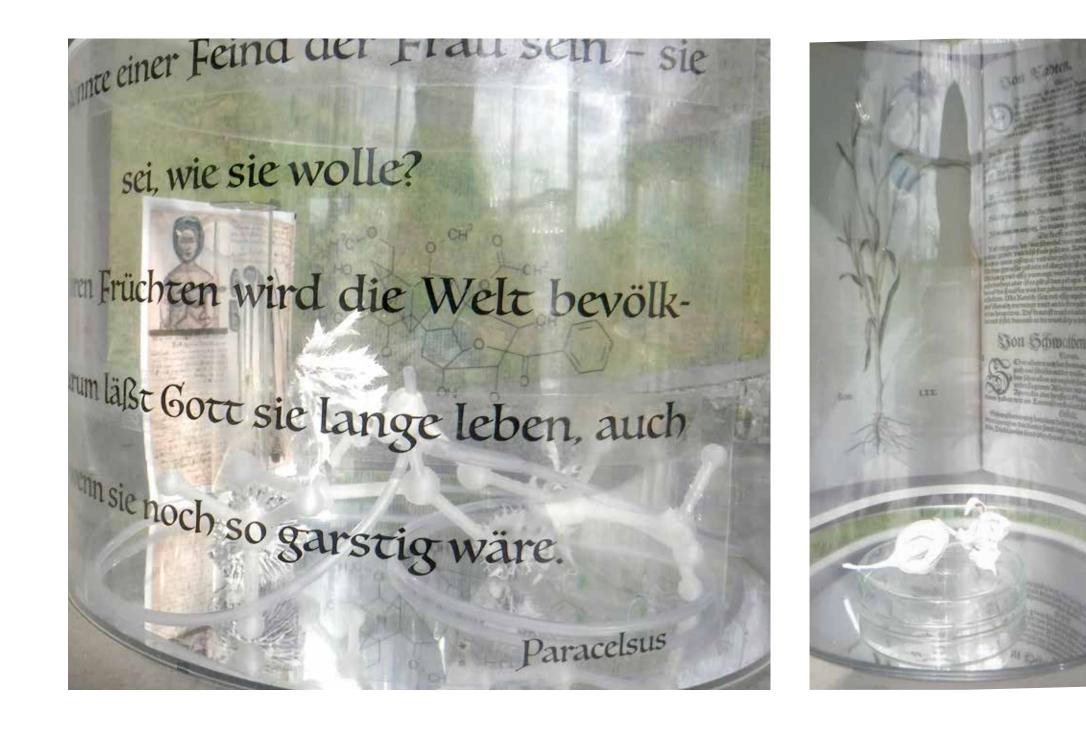
Texts of prominent German botanical figures including locally famed BerlinBotanist Louis Lewin whose extensive writings on stimulating plants and their power of affect over the mind, he termed 'THE PHANTASTICA'. Other historical figures and their writings include Hildegard von Bingen, and the historical herbal botanical drawings by the pioneer physician, Leonard Fuchs. Other content will be based on research connected to scientific institutions specifically Freie University of Berlin, Dahlem Centre of Plant Sciences, The Botanical Museum Berlin and in consultation with experts from these institutions including Kathrin Grotz and Professor Matthias Melzig.



- Janet Laurence, Berlin 2017







Views Of A Landscape

Contemporary Art At The IGA Berlin 2017

The artistic and medicinal garden entitled 'Inside the Flower' can be found on the Kienberg terraces. This installation invites visitors to explore the plant world from the inside – its healing power and poison, its beauty and curiosity, its biological diversity and ecological instability. In collaboration with LAVA and Cityplot, Australian artist Janet Laurence has created an experimental space of discovery. It is an exhibition of endangered medicinal plants and a performative laboratory revealing the diversity and ambivalence of botany in an unusual manner.

In her mixed-media installations, Janet Laurence explores nature-related themes from an artistic perspective. Shapes and structures from the natural world also inspire the work of LAVA – the Laboratory for Visionary Architecture in Berlin – and Cityplot, an urban farming collective from Berlin and Amsterdam.

