

Toinen puoli

L'Autre Costat

The Other Side

El Otro Lado

L'Autre Côté

Aural space

by Ulla Taipale / Melliferopolis

Linnunlaulu park // Helsinki

Melliferopolis Fest 2016

Poblenou Cementery // Barcelona

Beehave exhibition // Fundació Miró 2018

Cimetière des Rois // Geneva

1000 Ecologies // Utopiana

2019

The Other Side

Our ancestors knew something about bees that we've forgotten or refuse to recognise, that bees, with their incomparable senses, can sense the thin spots between worlds and break through; use their efficient little jaws to nibble a hole from one universe to another.

Johanna Sinisalo, *The Blood of Angels*, 2011

Our curiosity and our need to understand other forms of intelligence have brought about, among other interests, the study of the life of bees in different centuries and cultures. There is a striking number of thinkers who have shown an interest in the ingenuity and the extraordinary capacities of bees. Since ancient times, these insects have also been associated with immortality and the ability to communicate across parallel worlds.

The Other Side is a site-specific artwork, based in artistic research and designed to be installed to public parks, cemeteries or other aesthetically appealing places with conditions for listening. In Finland the work was presented in 2016 at a natural space in the centre of Helsinki, in 2018 it was installed to the historical cemetery of Poblenou in Barcelona where seven angel sculptures were paired with fragments from literary works, and in 2019, in a popular park-like cemetery in the heart of Geneva, Cemetery of Kings. In each of the places the audience could listen to a selection of text fragments, which illustrate the role played by bees in the words written by great thinkers over the course of history. The listening is made possible by using augmented reality application*, at visitors smart device, in English, Spanish, Catalan, French and Finnish.

The research and the artwork are inspired by a science fiction novel *Blood of Angels* (Enkelten verta), 2011 by a Finnish author Johanna Sinisalo. A family tragedy and the decline of the bees intertwine in the novel in a fascinating manner, offering a great amount of knowledge of bees by telling a story, in which the protagonist is able to shift between two parallel worlds assisted by a dead queen bee.

While the tendency of our society is to categorise honeybee as a production animal and highlight solely the utilitarian values of these insects, many authors express in their writings the philosophically and spiritually rich connotations of Bee Life.

The Other Side is a project by Ulla Taipale. In Barcelona the work was commissioned as part of *Beehave*, an exhibition curated by Martina Millá and run by the Fundació Joan Miró. It's first version was presented in Helsinki as a part of Melliferopolis Fest, in 2016 and in Geneva, it was a commission by Utopiana and curated by Anna Barseghian for 1000 Ecologies Biennale.

*The Other Side can be activated anytime by downloading the free Arilyn app from App Store or Google Play.

Selection of texts:

Johanna Sinisalo. The Blood of Angels, 2011

Virgilio. Geórgicas, Book IV, 29 BC.

Svetlana Aleksíévich. Voices of Chernobyl, 1997

Maurice Maeterlinck. The Life of the Bee, 1901

Mercé Rododera. The Death and the Spring, 1986

Elias Lönnrot. Kalevala, Rune XV, Restauration of Lemminkäinen, 1835

Jo Shapcott. I Tell the Bees, 2010

Jorge Luis Borges. The Secret Miracle, 1943



El otro lado, Cemetery of Poblenou, Barcelona, 2018

— Our ancestors must have envied, and perhaps feared, the bees. Not because they could sting but because they were necessary and yet uncontrollable; they couldn't be tied in a stall, shut up in a barn or tethered to a post. You couldn't call them like a dog or treat them to a meaty bone or a drink of milk. And when our ancestors realized that bees had an ability to travel between worlds, a capacity to break through the walls of the universe when necessary to save the swarm or the species, they tried to use charms, magic spells and rituals to obtain a little piece of that divine ability.

Knowledge of this can be found in traditions everywhere once you know what to look for. It's been so watered down, so altered and obscured, that you can't always recognize it. But it's there.

In virtually every culture where honey is gathered it is considered a food of the gods and is also often thought to confer immortality. The bodies of great men have been interred in honey (this actually does prevent the body from decomposing, but there may be other reasons behind it as well).

In Wales it's believed that bees are the only animals that originate directly from paradise.

Porfirius wrote that the moon goddess Artemis sent peoples' spirits to Earth in the form of a bee, and – get this – after death the spirits returned to their own world like a bee to its hive.



El otro lado, Cemetery of Poble Nou, Barcelona, 2018



El otro lado, Cemetery of Poblenou, Barcelona, 2018

Photo: Ulla Taipale





El otro lado, Linnunlaulu, Helsinki, 2016

Photo: Ulla Taipale



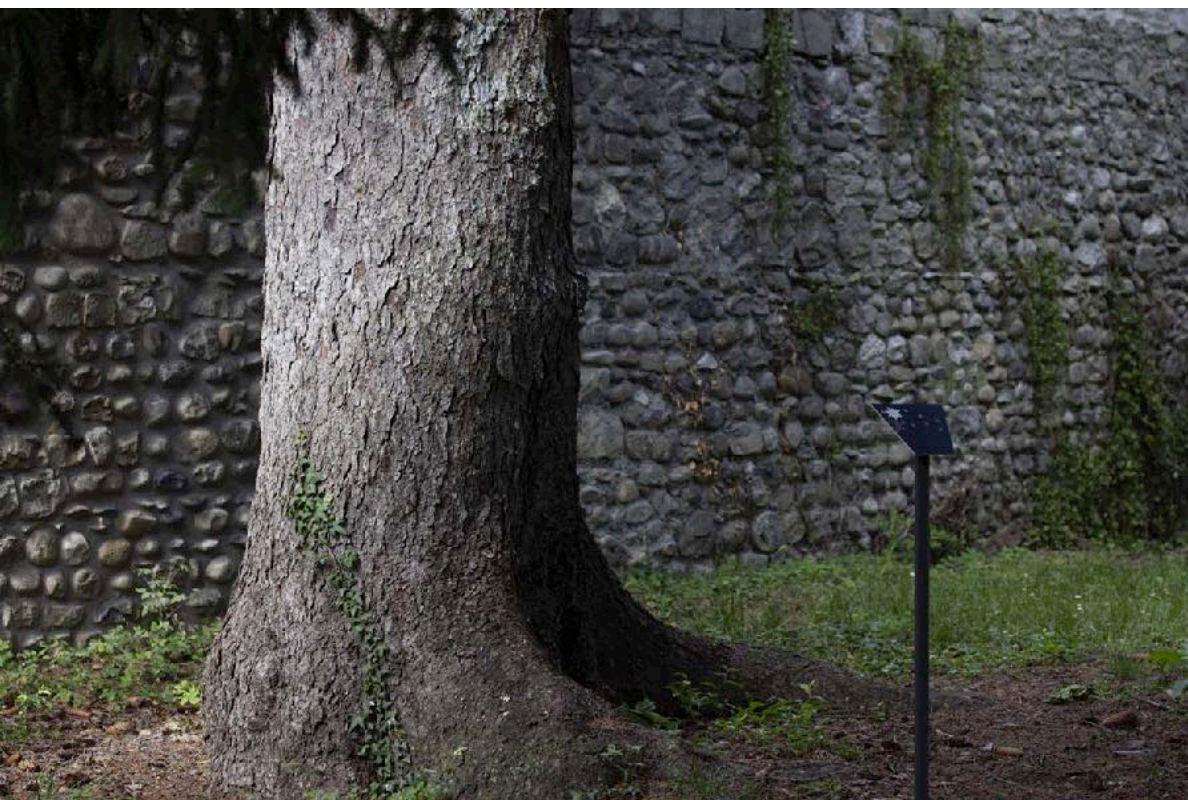
And though the end of a brief life awaits the bees themselves
(since it never extends beyond the seventh summer)
the species remains immortal, and the fortune of the hive
is good for many years, and grandfathers' grandfathers are counted.

With the leader safe all are of the same mind:
if the leader's lost they break faith, and tear down the honey
they've made, themselves, and dissolve the latticed combs.
The leader is the guardian of their labours: to the leader
they do reverence, and all sit round the leader in a noisy throng,
and crowd round in large numbers, and often
they lift the leader on their shoulders and expose their bodies
in war, and, among wounds, seek a glorious death.

Noting these tokens and examples some have said
that a share of divine intelligence is in bees,
and a draught of aether: since there is a god in everything,
earth and the expanse of sea and the sky's depths:
from this source the flocks and herds, men, and every species
of creature, each derive their little life, at birth:
to it surely all then return, and dissolved, are remade,
and there is no room for death, but still living
they fly to the ranks of the stars, and climb the high heavens.



L'Autre Côté, Cimetière des Rois, Geneva, 2019



L'Autre Côté, Cimetière des Rois, Geneva, 2019

Photos: Oceana Antonyan
Poster: Christian Bili

L'autre côté *The Other Side* Ulla Taipale



Du 20 juin au 10 octobre
Cimetière des Rois, Genève
www.utopiana.art
1000 écologies

Bees and angels will accompany you on your walk between the silent passageways of Poblenou Cemetery as you listen to excerpts from seven literary works, that illustrate the role played by bees, via words written by great thinkers over the course of history.

- 1

Johanna Sinisalo

The Blood of Angels, 2011
- 2

Virgil

Georgics, Book IV, 29 BC
- 3

Svetlana Aleksiéovich

Voices of Chernobyl, 1997
- 4

Bees of Natural Park of Montseny

Courtesy of Àlex Muñoz
- 5

Maurice Maeterlinck

The Life of the Bee, 1901
- 6

Mercè Rodoreda

Death in Spring, 1986
- 7

Elias Lönnrot

Kalevala, Rune XV, Restauration of Lemminkäinen, 1835
- 8

Jo Shapcott

I Tell the Bees, 2010

Readings:

Kira O'Reilly

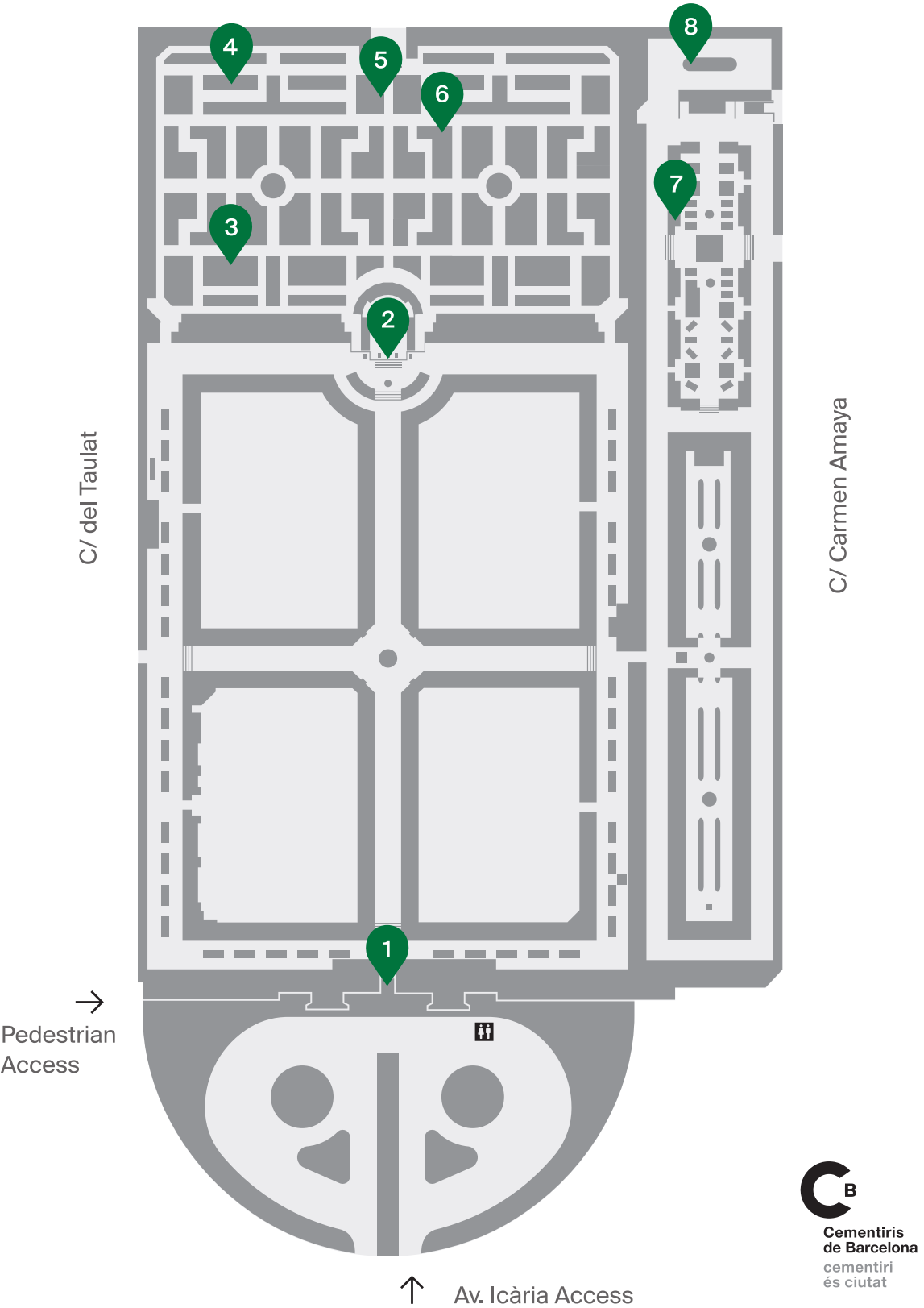
#beehaveBCN

Recordings and editing:

Kirill Lorech & Mikko Viskari

Sign illustrations:

Andrés Marín Jarque



L'Autre côté

The Other Side

Ulla Taipale

Curatrice: Anna Barseghian

Exposition
du 20 juin au 11 octobre (7h30-19h)

En allant sur App Store ou Google Play, téléchargez l'application gratuite Arilyn sur votre smartphone ou tablette.

Prenez une photo de la carte avec votre smartphone ou tablette pour découvrir les dix panneaux installés à travers le cimetière.

Approchez-vous d'une plaque et scannez-la en utilisant l'application Arilyn pour activer l'enregistrement. disponible en quatre langues : le français, l'anglais, l'espagnol et le catalan.

Download the free Arilyn app onto your smart device from the App Store or Google Play.

Take a photo of the map with your smartphone to find ten signs, installed in the cemetery

Go to a sign and scan it using the Arilyn app to activate a recording, available in four languages: French, English, Spanish and Catalan.

Notre curiosité et notre besoin de comprendre d'autres formes d'intelligence ont amené, entre autres, à l'étude de la vie des abeilles en différents siècles et dans différentes cultures. Depuis l'Antiquité, ces insectes ont également été associés à l'immortalité et à la capacité de voyager entre les mondes des vivants et celui des morts.

Dans *L'Autre côté*, à l'aide d'une application de smartphone, les visiteurs seront guidés à travers les réflexions d'auteurs de différents pays et siècles, dont Jorge Luis Borges qui repose dans ce cimetière. En écoutant les textes, on comprend que les abeilles sont si profondément ancrées dans nos environnements naturels, nos cycles de vie et nos cultures, et de manière si subtile, que leur signification est souvent ignorée jusqu'à ce qu'elles disparaissent de nos vies.

Cette troisième édition de *L'autre côté* est dédiée à l'extraordinaire naturaliste François Huber, né à Genève en 1750. Malgré sa cécité, il fit des découvertes révolutionnaires concernant la vie magique et mystérieuse de l'abeille. Les premières éditions ont été présentées à Helsinki en 2016 et au Cimetière de Poblenu à Barcelone en 2018, faisant partie de l'exposition *Beehave*, mandatée par Fundació Joan Miró. *L'autre côté* a été créé dans le cadre d'un projet plus large, appelé *Melliferopolis — Honeybees in Urban Environments*.

L'Autre côté fait partie des projets que l'association Utopiana réalisera cette année dans le cadre de l'événement *Les 1000 Écologies* du 9 septembre au 10 octobre dans l'espace *Le Commun*.

Plus d'information sur www.utopiana.ch, www.melliferopolis.net

Soutiens: Office de la Culture et du Sport (Canton de Genève); Fonds municipal d'art contemporain (Ville de Genève); Département de la cohésion sociale et de la solidarité, Service des pompes funèbres, cimetières et crématoire (Ville de Genève); Commune de Presinge; Chambre de l'économie sociale et solidaire — Après-GE; ArtSchema.

Our curiosity and our need to understand other forms of intelligence have brought about, among other interests, the study of the life of bees in different centuries and cultures. There is a striking number of thinkers who have shown an interest in the ingenuity and the extraordinary capacities of bees. Since ancient times, these insects have also been associated with immortality and the ability to communicate across parallel worlds.

The Other Side is an auditory space, where the audience can listen to fragments of bee-related texts by eight authors via the Arilyn smartphone application. Among the selected texts, one will recognise Jorge Luis Borges, whose remains rest at this cemetery.

Listening to the writings encourages one to understand that bees are embedded in our natural environments, lifecycles and cultures so profoundly but in such subtle ways, that their significance is often ignored, until they recently started vanishing from our lives.

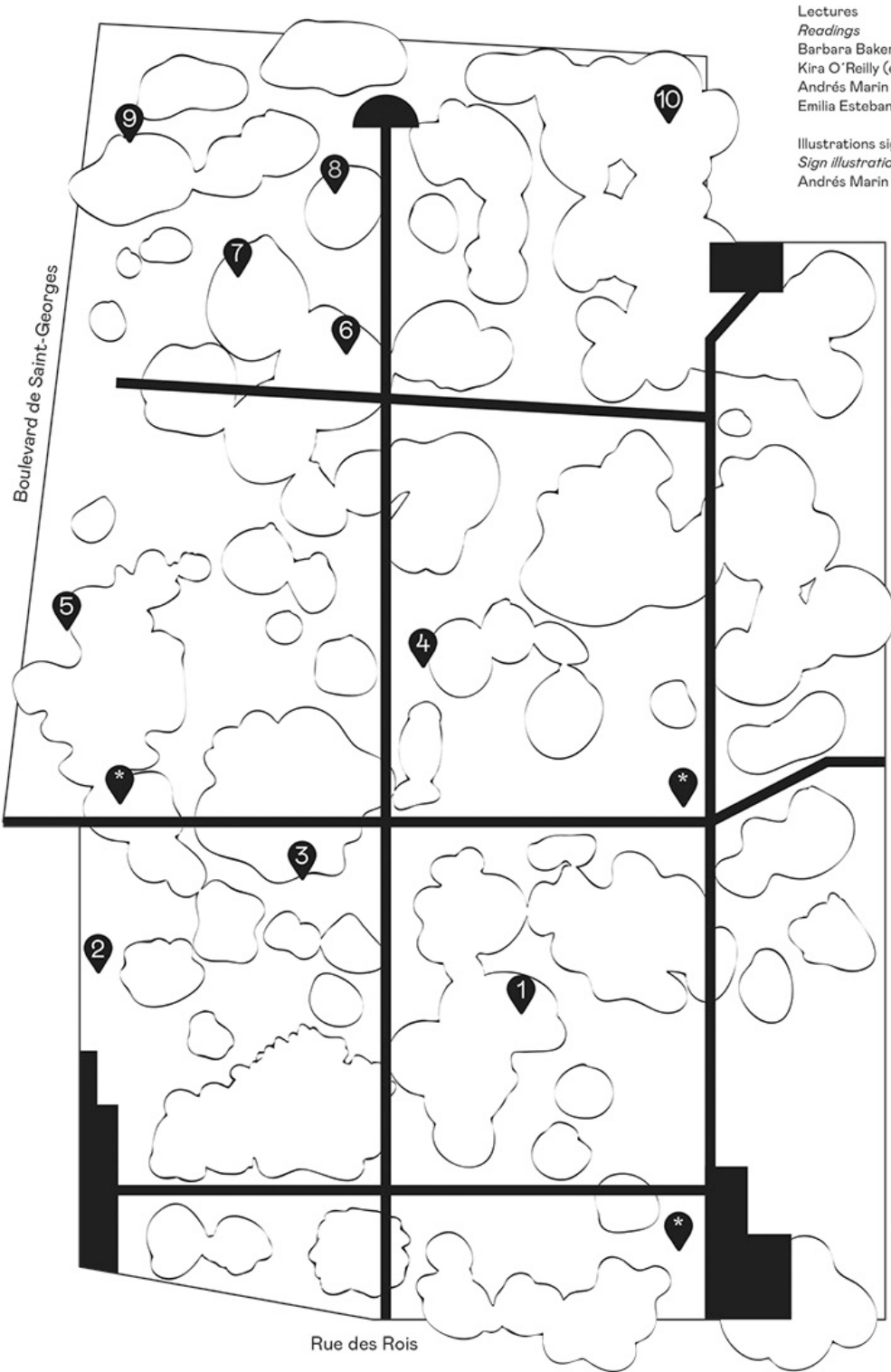
The Swiss edition of the project is dedicated to the extraordinary naturalist François Huber, who was born in Geneva in 1750. In spite being blind, he made groundbreaking discoveries regarding the magical and mysterious life of the bee.

The Other Side was created in the framework of Melliferopolis — Honeybees in Urban Environments project. It is shown in Geneva as a part of 1000 Ecologies, a project by Utopiana.

The earlier editions of The Other Side were shown in 2016 in Helsinki and in 2018 in the Cemetery of Poblenu, Barcelona, as a part of Beehave exhibition, commissioned by Fundació Joan Miró.

More information: www.utopiana.ch www.melliferopolis.net

Supported by the Cantonal Office of Culture and Sport, The State of Geneva, the Municipal Fund of Contemporary Art, City of Geneva, Funeral Service, Cemeteries and Crematorium (SPF), City of Geneva, Frame Finland, Kone Foundation, the Cultural Activities of the University of Geneva.



Lectures
Readings
Barbara Baker (fr)
Kira O'Reilly (eng)
Andrés Marin Jarque (es)
Emilia Esteban Langstroff (cat)

Illustrations signalétique
Sign illustrations
Andrés Marin Jarque

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|---|--|--|---|
| 1 Johanna Sinisalo
Le Sang des fleurs
<i>The Blood of Angels</i> , 2011 | 4 Jo Shapcott
Je dis aux abeilles
<i>I tell the Bees</i> , 2010 | 7 Mercè Rodoreda
La mort et le printemps
<i>The Death and the Spring</i> , 1986 | 9 Elias Lönnrot
Kalevala (Rune XV)
<i>Kalevala</i> , Rune XV, Restoration of Lemminkäinen, 1835 |
| 2 Svetlana Aleksievich
La supplication: Tchernobyl, chronique du monde après l'apocalypse
<i>Voices of Chernobyl</i> , 1997 | 5 Virgile/Virgil
Georgiques livre IV, 29 av. J.C.
<i>Georgics</i> , Book IV, 29 b.C. | 8 Abeilles dans le parc naturel de Montseny, Catalogne, Avec l'aimable autorisation de Àlex Muñoz
<i>Bees at Natural Park of Montseny, Catalunya</i> , 2018
Courtesy of Àlex Muñoz | 10 Maurice Maeterlinck
La vie des abeilles
<i>The Life of the Bee</i> , 1901 |
| 3 Maurice Maeterlinck
La vie des abeilles
<i>The Life of the Bee</i> , 1901 | | | * Signalétique
Introduction signs |



www.utopiana.art
1000 écologies

Credits:

Illustrations: Andrés Marin Jarque

Audio recordings and editing: Kirill Lorech, Mikko Viskari and Guy Schneider

Readings: Emilia Esteban Langstroff(cat), Kira O'Reilly (eng) , Andres Marín Jarque (esp), Barbara Barker (fr), Merja Markkula (fin)

Map design in Barcelona: Todojunto, in Geneva: Christian Bili

App Arilyn

Melliferopolis - Honeybees in Urban Environments

www.melliferopolis.net

Fundación Joan Miró Barcelona

www.fmirobcn.org/en/exhibitions/5728/beehave

Curator Martina Millá

Utopiana, 1000 Ecologies

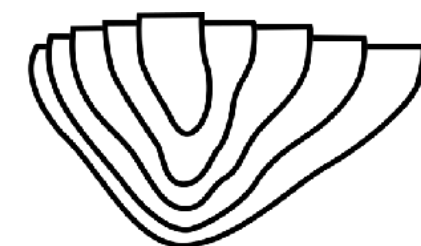
www.utopiana.art/en/1000-ecologies-ateliers-et-exposition

Curator Anna Barseghian

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