

Cold Coast Archive: Global Seed Vault Collection CAE1612

Introduction/Abstract

Signe Lidén (Norway), Annesofie Norn (Denmark), and Steve Rowell (USA) collaborated to produce the project which included sound, videos, and photographs, an experimental garden field guide/map, and the contents from an imagined survival kit designed to help future generations successfully locate Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

Biographical Note: Signe Lidén (Norway)

makes sound installations and improvised performances that deals with resonance of places and objects. Her installations are often sonic and spatial examinations of social and cultural phenomena through an experiential form of research. She has studied at the Academy of Arts in Oslo and has over the last years shown her works in exhibitions and festivals in Denmark, Germany and Norway. She is currently taking part in the Nordic Sound Art MA program in Copenhagen.

Biographical Note: Annesofie Norn (Denmark)

has an educational background in set design and fine arts. She is currently studying in the Masters program at Art in Context in Berlin. Through her artistic practice she searches for strategies to map human system parameters and examine social, political and structural phenomena. Site specific work, audience involvement, conceptual art, experimental science and prototyping inform her work which often take final form as spatial installations. During the last years she has developed several art works in collaboration with Signe Lidén, participated in projects of the Norwegian group Motherboard, and developed stage concepts for opera, performance and contemporary theater.

Biographical Note: Steve Rowell (USA)

is an artist, designer, and researcher based in Los Angeles who appropriates the methods and tools of the geographer and cartographer. His spatial practice involves overlapping aspects and perceptions of technology, culture, and infrastructure on, beneath, and above the landscape to contextualize the built and natural environments. Photography, video, and audio field recordings are the media of his projects, often exhibited as installations or as public interventions. His collaborations include: Center for Land Use Interpretation since 2001, SIMPARCH since 2006, and The Office of Experiments since 2008.

Scope and Content

Signe Lidén (Norway), Annesofie Norn (Denmark), and Steve Rowell (USA) collaborated to produce The Cold Coast Archives. The project included: experiential and ambient sounds; videos and photographs from their visits to Svalbard in 2011; an experimental garden; field guide / map; and, the contents from an imagined survival kit designed to help future generations successfully locate this critical cache of seeds.

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault (GSV) opened in 2008 and hosts seeds from nearly every nation on Earth. The GSV is located on the outskirts of Longyearbyen, island of Spitsbergen, Svalbard Archipelago, halfway between the North Pole and Norway. It is also known as the "Doomsday Vault". A biological safety deposit box, the GSV has been compared to Noah's Ark, and a back-up hard drive. The project looked beyond the vault as metaphor to its future utility, using media and objects to evoke the imagined collapse of agriculture informed by investigations of existing contingency infrastructure.

Materials include exhibition text, labels and ephemera; maps; Svalbard and Global Seed Vault research materials; seed samples; and field tools.

This archive is currently in process.