International
Firefly Symposium
Parque Biológico de Gaia
Portugal
June 2022

FIREFLIES PRETEXT FOR WARNING

Attracted by the mysterious phenomenon of bioluminescence, my interest in fireflies started in 1990, and I began to work on my first art projects involving these fascinating lightning bugs.

I took inspiration from the names of firefly species, from myths and legends as well as from scientific texts about fireflies about topics such as their sexuality and their light signals, about Luciferin and the hunting of fireflies for the commercialization of D-Luciferin, about the firefly larvae and how they devour snails, about environmental issues and light pollution.

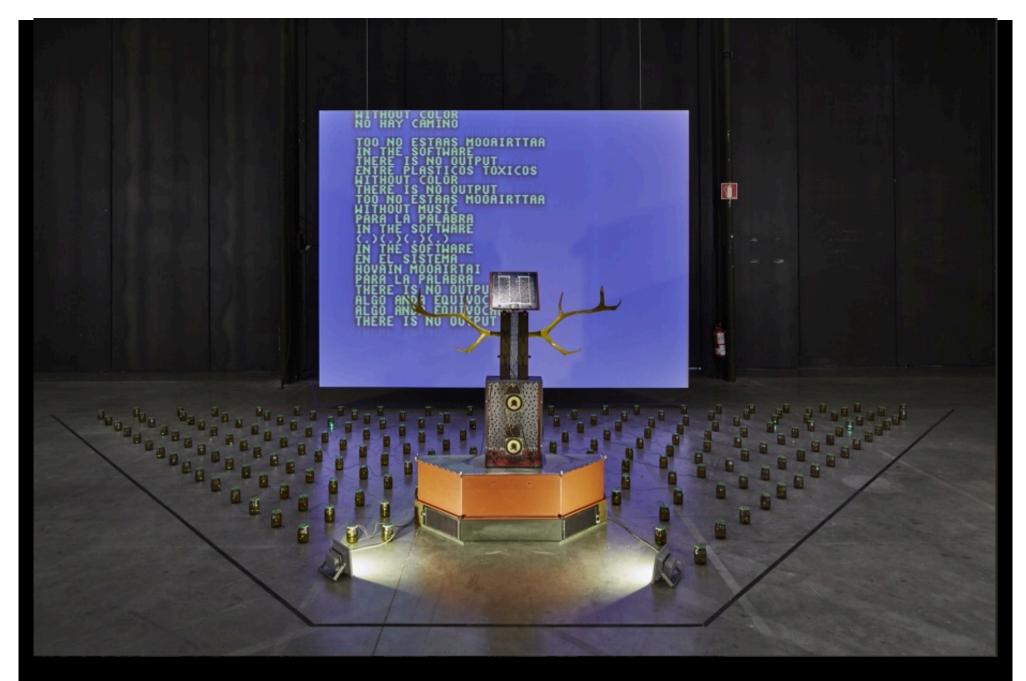
It became clear to me that the firefly is a perfect indicator of an intact habitat and also a privileged communication tool for art projects.

In all its manifestations, the firefly and the survival of fireflies appear as a warning about the degradation of evolution, the destruction of the environment and the irresponsibility of extractivism and urban sprawl.



GAIA / THE RETURN OF FIREFLIES

BELGRAD 1990



GAIA / THE RETURN OF FIREFLIES

MADRID 2020





1989 together with Klaus Geldmacher we started the art Project Lucciola and called it

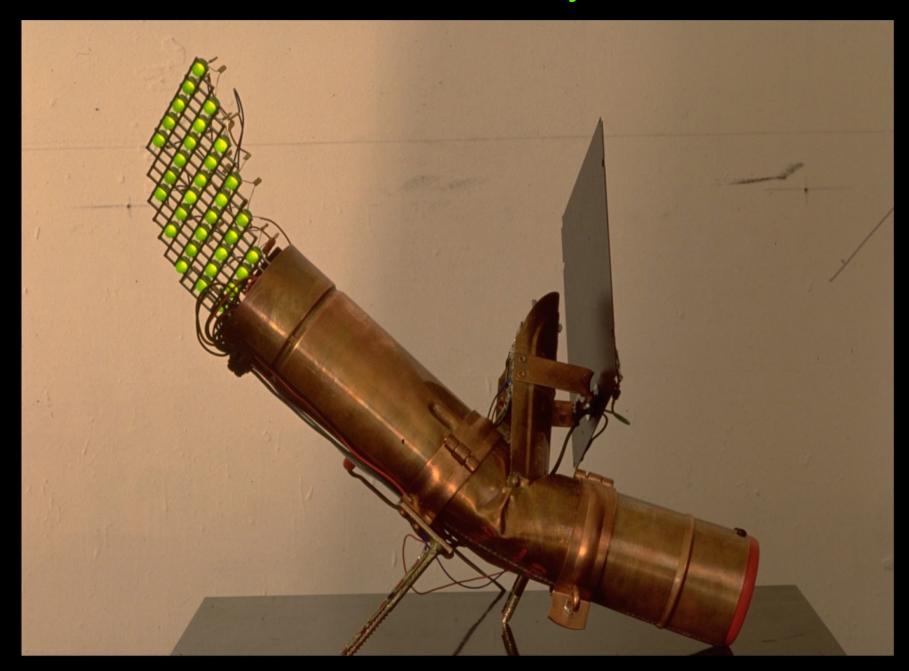
A biotecnical ART-Project with Fireflies

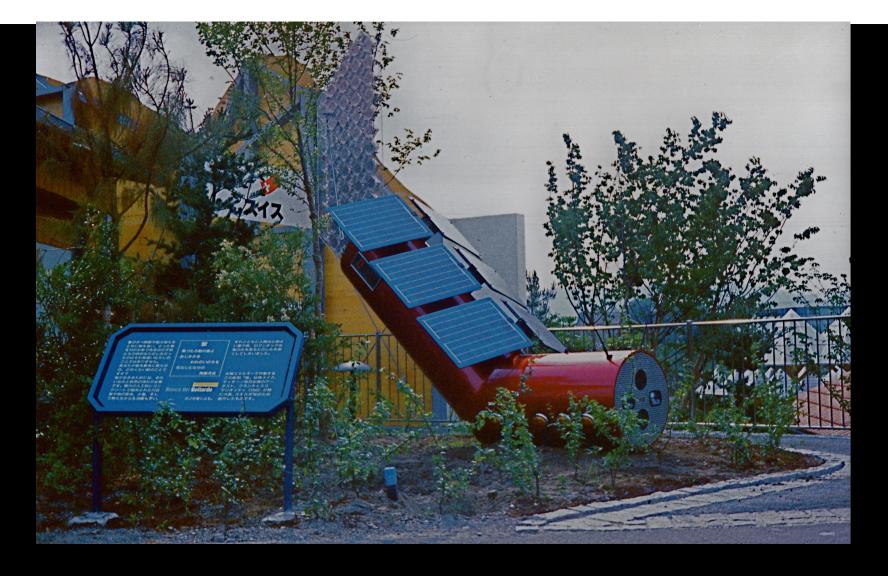
We were togheter with Armin Fuchs, a german Friend in the Onsernone Valley in Ticino and in the evening we observed Fireflies. In his diary Armin wrote: The day before yesterday half joking, half seriously

we set up a foundation for the preservation of the glow-worms, which is supposed to take care of the fate of the little luminous beings.

Francesco Mariotti and Klaus Geldmacher dedicatetd their new electronic object that they finished here to the Fireflies

Glühwürmchen M / Firefly M 1989

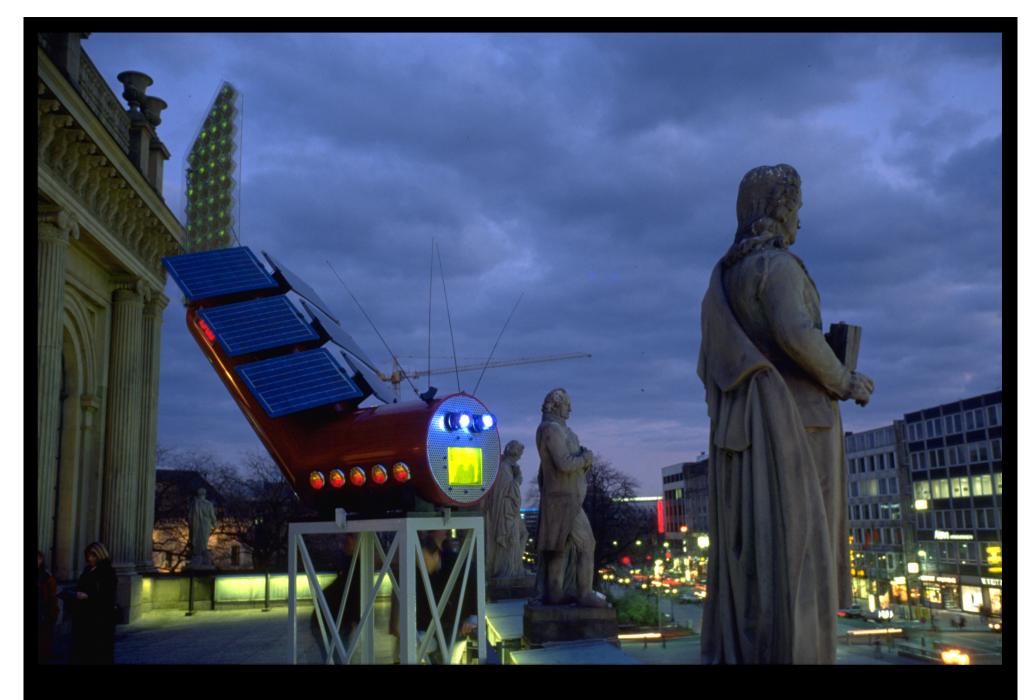




Super – Lucciola Osaka 1991

The International Garden and Greenery Exposition

organized as a part of the International Expositions Convention, was the first large-scale international gardening exposition in Asia focused on the theme of the "Harmonious Coexistence of Nature and Mankind."





Luciferase kann aus den Körpern der amerikanischen Feuerfliege isoliert werden. Getrocknete "Fireflies" sind eine Handelsware und werden für etwa 31 € pro 1 g angeboten. Es gibt auch nur die Laternen oder getrocknetes Laternenpulver, je nach dem was man will. Die grosse Menge an Luciferase wird allerdings gentechnisch hergestellt.





Bild 2 und 3: Die Bilder zeigen getrocknete amerikanische Leuchtkäfer *Photinus pyralis*

Gentechnik

Es gibt mittlerweile verschiedene Methoden um Fremdgene in Zellen einzuschleusen. Allen gemeinsam ist jedoch, dass man nie weiss ob die Übertragung funktioniert hat oder nicht, da man das übertragene Gen oft schlecht oder erst in einem viel späteren Entwicklungsstadium nachweisen kann. Deshalb bedient man sich sogenannter Reportergene. Das sind Gene die mit dem eigentlichen Ziel der Genübertragung nichts zu tun haben, sich aber leicht nachweisen lassen. Diese werden mit dem zu übertragenden Gen gekoppelt und zusammen eingeschleust. Im Falle der Luciferase bedeutet dies, dass nach einer erfolgreichen Genübertragung die entsprechende Zelle oder der Organismus nach Zugabe von Luciferin Licht emittiert 6.

D-Luciferin potassium salt, 99%	
Order Number:	bc219
Molecular Formula:	$C_{11}H_7KN_2O_3S_2$
Molecular Weight:	318.415 g/mol
CAS Number:	115144-35-9

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Qty and Price:

500 mg = 300 EUR

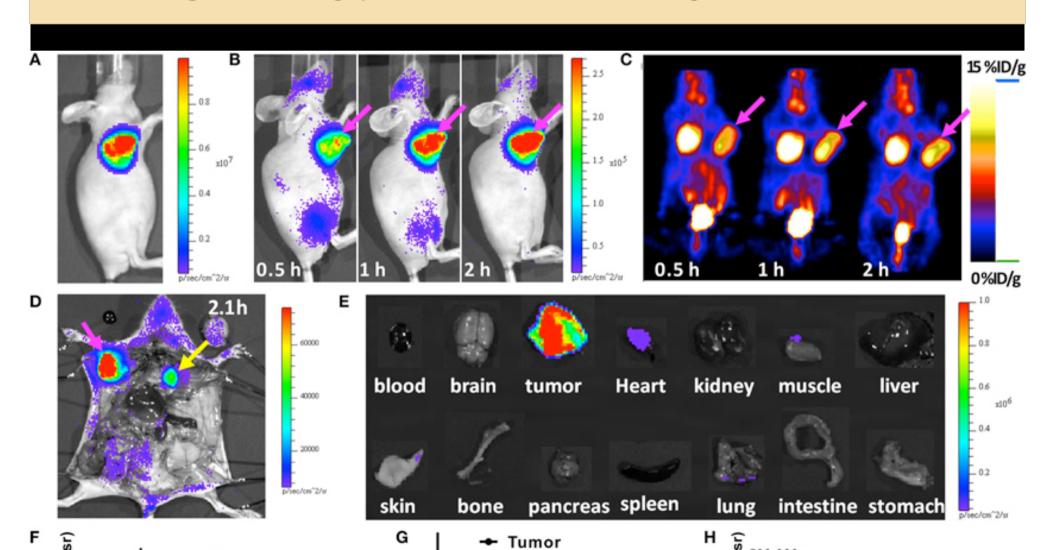
1 g = 500 EUR

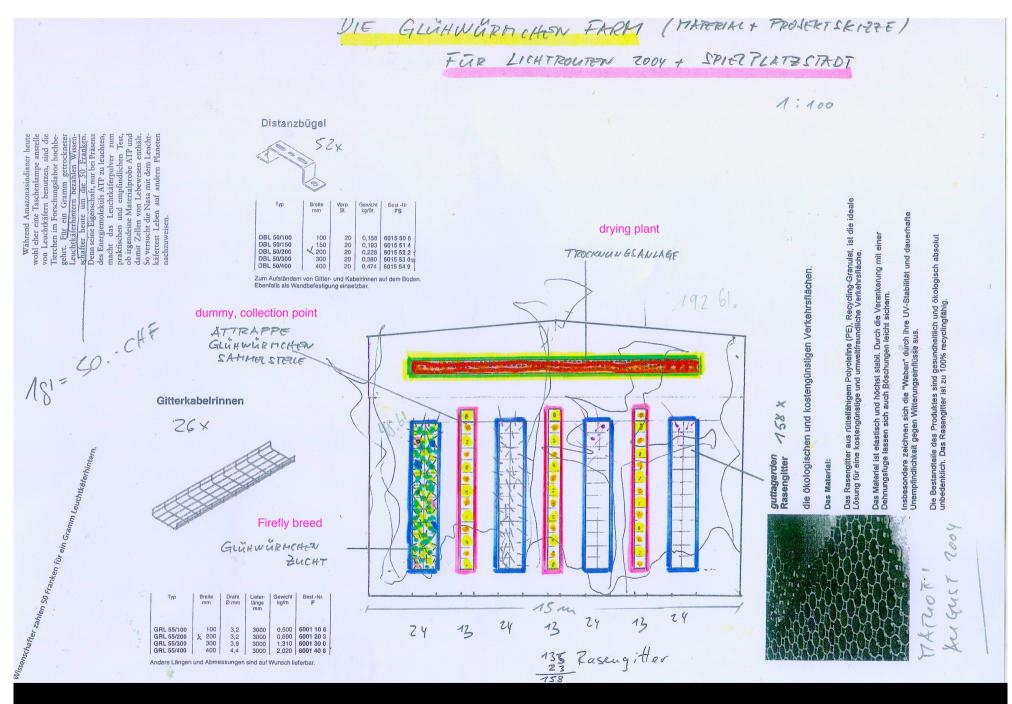
Request

Request

Medizinische Grundlagenforschung

Hier benutzt man ebenfalls Zellen oder Bakterien die das Luciferase-Gen tragen. Injiziert man zum Beispiel einer Ratte Salmonellen-Erreger die das Luciferase Gen tragen, so breiten sich die Erreger im Rattenkörper aus. Infusiert man eine Luciferinlösung so kann man diese Ausbreitung durch das entstehende Licht von aussen verfolgen, ohne die Ratte zu töten. Analog verhält es sich mit markierten Karzinomen bei denen man die Metastasenbildung und Verbreitung optisch durch das emitierte Licht verfolgen kann 7.



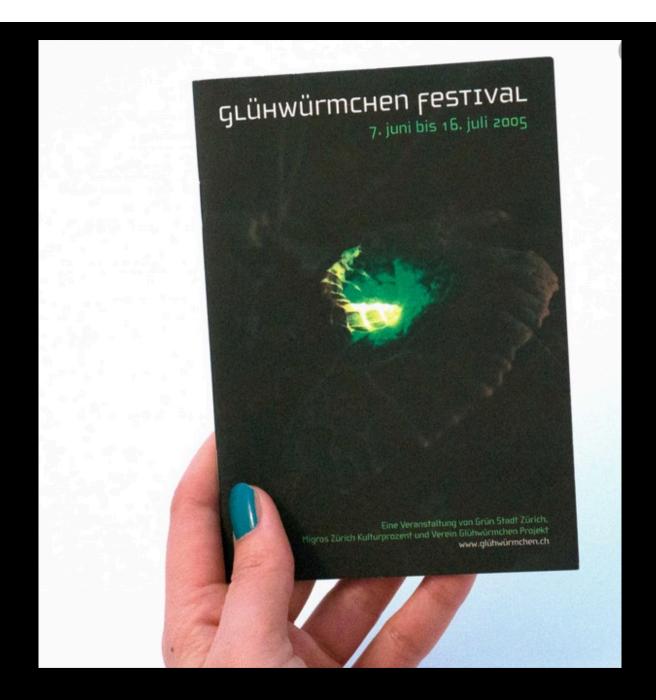


The Fireflies Factory

Lüdenscheid 2004







Firefly Festival 7. June until 16. July 2005

LUCCIOLA

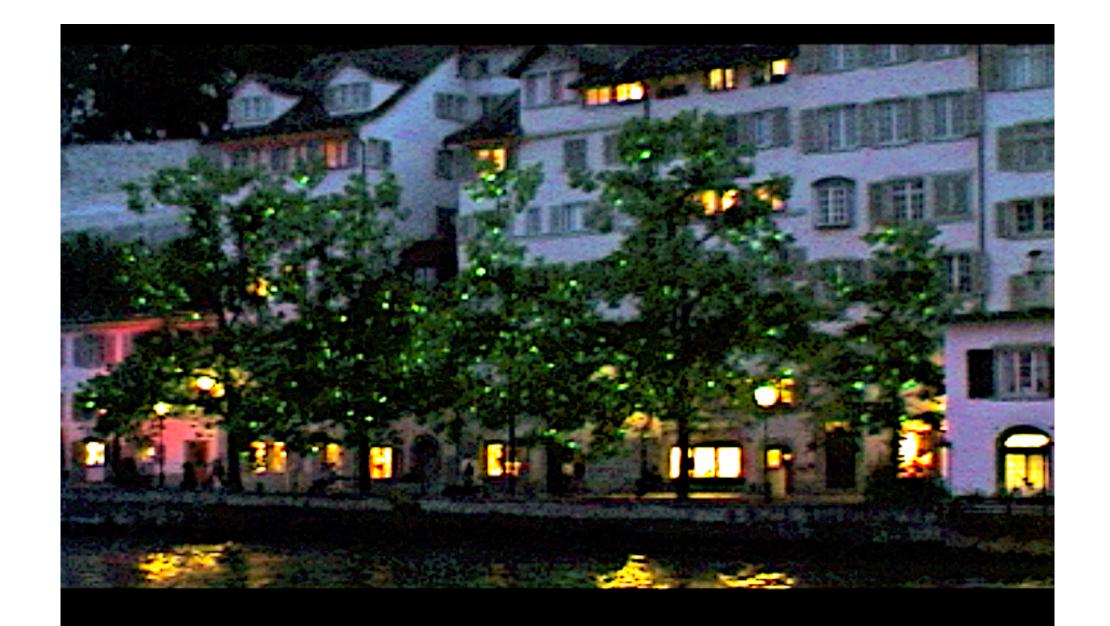
biotechnical art project with fireflies

platform elf, Zurich - Switzerland

Documents of the project from 1990 to 2005

Since 1989, the artists Francesco Mariotti and Klaus Geldmacher have been working intensively on fireflies, sometimes individually and often both together. Their light objects, which have been showed in Latin America, Japan and Europe, among other places, show respect for fireflies and an unexpected approach to the phenomenon of fireflies.

Geldmacher/ Mariotti's biotechnical "firefly project" lives and breathes in the field of tension between nature and technology, high-tech and waste, light and dark, image and sound, humor and seriousness, play and politics, autonomy and interactivity.



The Mating Dance of Fireflies

Zürich 2005



IMMIGRATION ARBEITSPAPIER September 2007

Eine biotechnische Kunst-Implantation mit Glühwürmchen Konzept, Francesco Mariotti & Klaus Geldmacher 2006

Kunst Projekt: Francesco Mariotti

www.mariotti.ch

Bioethische Beratung: Stefan Ineichen, Biolog. Verein Glühwürmchen Projekt. <u>www.gluehwuermchen.ch</u> Biotop, Giuseppe Camerini, Biolog

Torino, Italien

PAV Parco Arte Vivente: www.parcoartevivente.it Künstlerische Leitung: Piero Gilardi; Nicolas Bourriaud Landschaftsarchitekt; Gianluca Cosmacini

Lindabrunn, Austria

VSL: www.vsl.or.at, Symposion-Lindabrunn, in Kollaboration mit umraum, www.umraum.net

IMMIGRATION

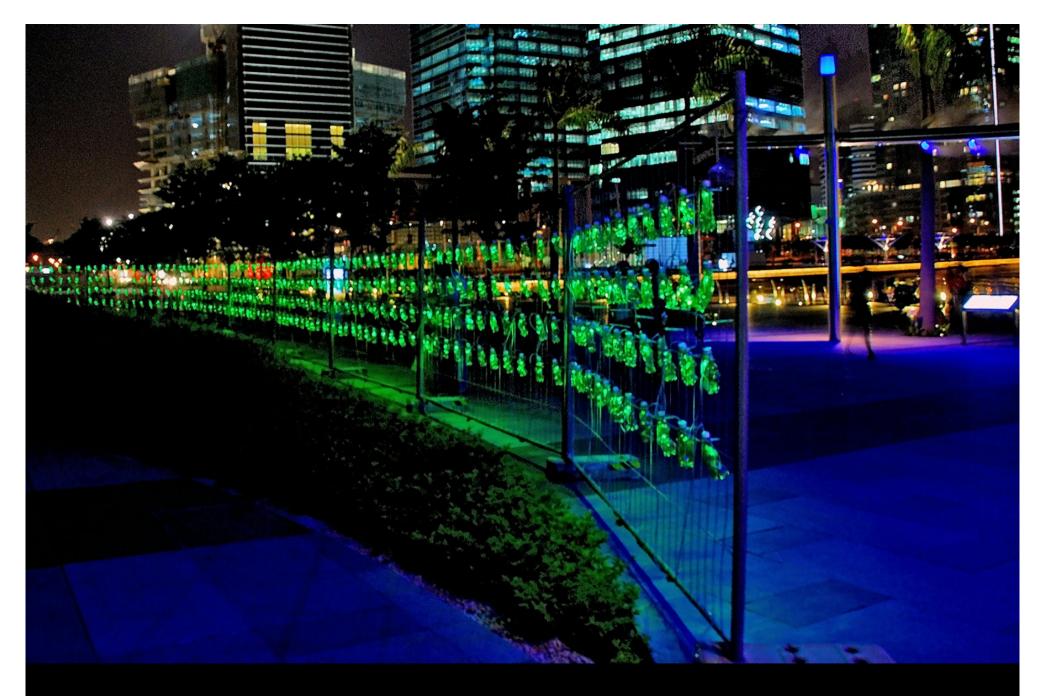
a biotechnical ART - implantation with fireflies

IMMIGRATION VSL LINDABRUNN AT 2007



I called the first phase **ENCLAVE**. The area for a future glowworm habitat is determined and marked with a light and sound fence.





Fireflies Fence





Fireflies Fence

Pedrinate / 2011



Francisco Alves Mendes Filho, was the leader of the agricultural workers' union and, as a rubber tapper in the Brazilian state of Acre, campaigned for the rights of workers threatened by land confiscation.

Born: December 15, 1944, Xapuri, Acre, Brazil Murdered: December 22, 1988, Xapuri, Acre,





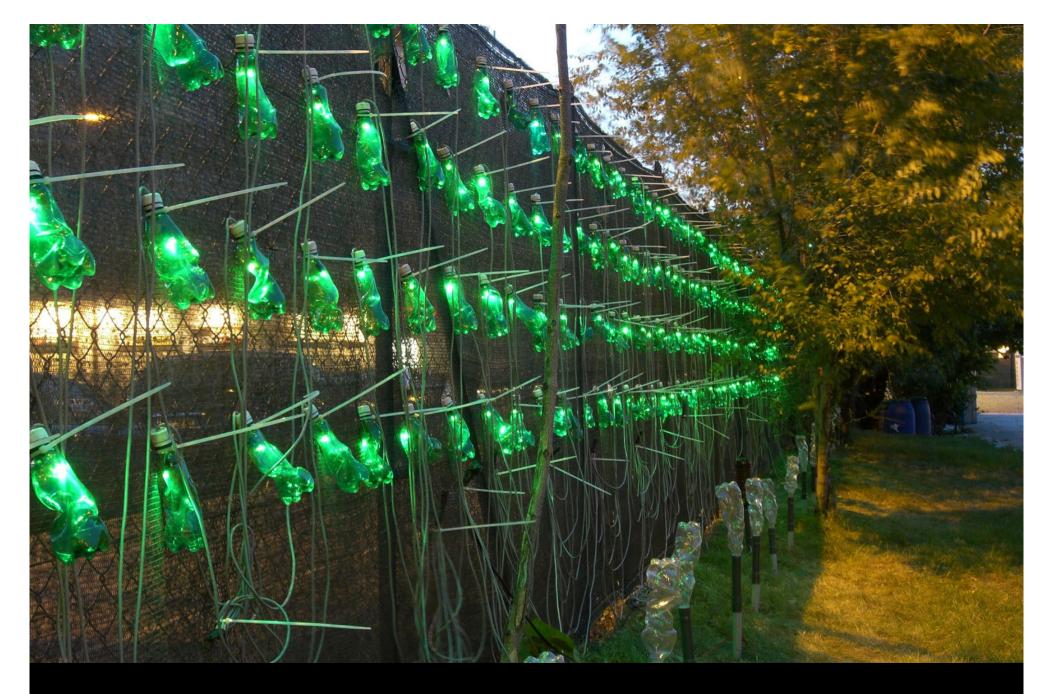


0 Lux / Absolute Darkness

Lindabrunn AT 2012

IMMIGRATION PAV TORINO IT 2007





ENCLAVE

TURIN 2007



PAV - Parco d'Arte Vivente

Sezione Ricerche Creative vi invita a partecipare al progetto

GLOW UP!



Diventa anche tu un **trovaluci** nel buio delle sere d'estate!

Percorso di ricerca e monitoraggio delle lucciole (*Lampyris noctiluca*) rivolto agli insegnanti e ai bambini delle scuole elementari della Città di Torino, ispirato all'opera d'arte ambientale

IMMIGRATION

di Francesco Mariotti













Il progetto didattico "Glow Up!" tra biologia e creatività

O. Brombin, G. Camerini Parco Arte Vivente, Torino

Riassunto

Il Parco Arte Vivente (PAV) di Torino è un'associazione che promuove lo sviluppo dell'arte del vivente, terreno di incontro fra arte e biologia. Nel 2007 il PAV ha realizzato un progetto didattico denominato "Glow Up!" rivolto alle scuole dell'area metropolitana torinese. Si tratta di un percorso educativo di natura creativa e scientifica che aveva come tema di interesse la luce prodotta dalle lucciole e, più in generale, la luce come strumento di espressività. I partecipanti sono stati chiamati ad analizzare la biologia dei Coleotteri Lampiridi, a segnalare la loro presenza nel territorio urbano e sono stati coinvolti in lavori di carattere artistico e creativo ispirati al tema della luce. Al termine del lavoro è stata ricavata un'interessante mappa della distribuzione delle lucciole nel territorio torinese, che rappresenta una base conoscitiva fondamentale per ulteriori indagini di approfondimento scientifico su distribuzione ed ecologia di questi insetti nell'ambiente urbano.

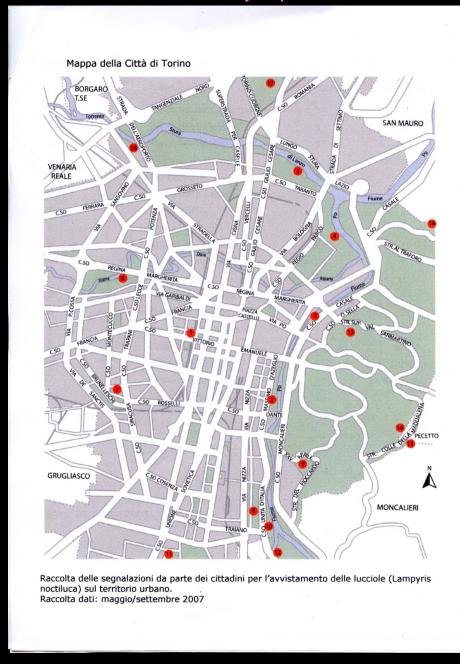
Summary

The Living Art Park (Parco Arte Vivente - PAV, Turin) has the mission of promoting living art as a meeting ground between art and biology. In 2007 PAV carried out an educational project called "Glow Up!", which involved students from Turin metropolitan area. The project was meant to deal with phenomena connected with Light seen both as a biological way of communication in fireflies and as a means of inspiration for artists.

On one hand students were asked to analyze fireflies' biology and to carry out a survey about the distribution of glow-worms in their urban area; on the other hand light was used as a source of inspiration for different kinds of graphic arts.

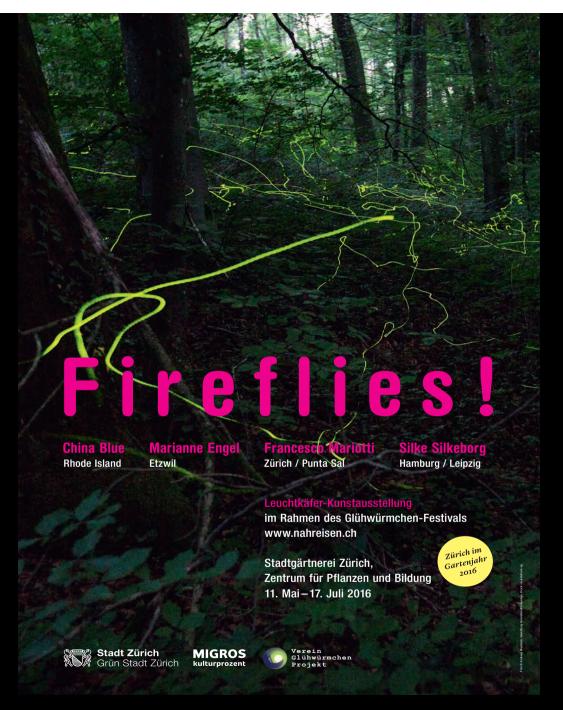
The final result was a map about glow-worms' distribution in the Turin area, which will be a meaningful reference for future researches on fireflies' ecology in an urban environment.

Turin City Map



Collection of reports from citizens for sighting of fireflies (Lampyris noctiluca) on the urban territory.









Fireflies Memorial

Heidelberg / Germany 2019



FIREFLIES MEMORIAL

MURDERED ENVIRONMENTALIST

BERTA CACERES 1971 - 2016

LA ESPERANZA HONDURAS

Saweto 2020



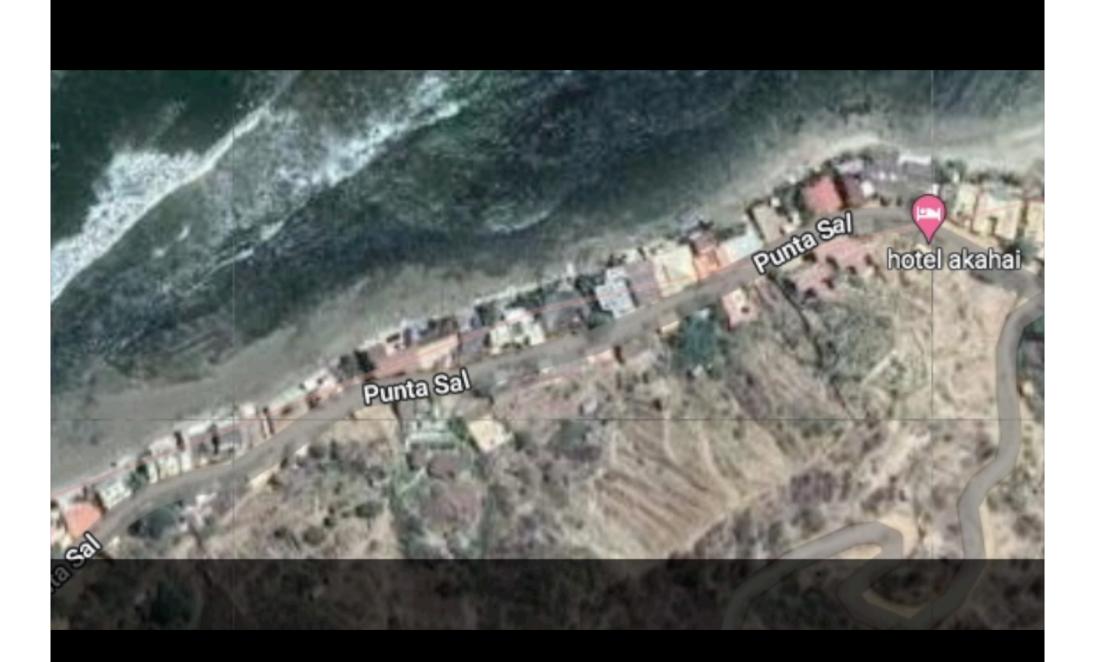
The four urns are a tribute to EDWIN CHOTA, JORGE RIOS PEREZ, LEONCIO QUINTISIMA MELENDEZ AND FRANCISCO PINEDO RAMIREZ Ashéninka leaders assassinated in Saweto, Peru, in 2014





Carob tree northern Perú

Punta Sal / Tumbes



FRANCESCO MARIOTTI 2022

www.mariotti.ch