

Project THE CYCLE

In May 2023 the artist Susanne Kompast took part at the International AIR-Programme at Pedvale Sculpture Park in Latvia. She was attracted to the place in its quality of tranquility and stillness.



Manor of Brinckenpedvale

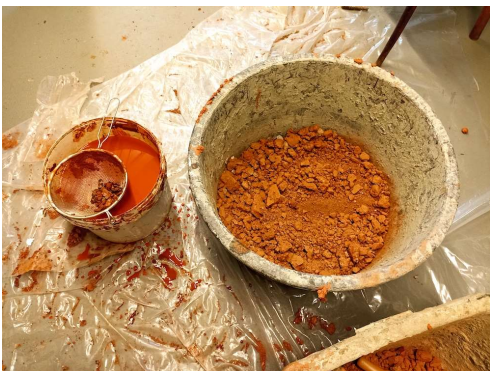


granite sculpture by Ojars Feldbergs

In the early 1990s the artist Ojars Feldbergs started to develop the Pedvale Sculpture Park after the liberation of Latvia from the Sowjet Union.

„The concept of the Art Park is the integration of natural landscape, cultural heritage and art into a single environment. It is a place where a creative idea can both be developed and realized in accordance with the scenic environment and as a result can become an integral part of this environment. The artists participating in the museum’s creative projects are encouraged to get inspiration from the surrounding area and to use the natural materials available there.“ www.pedvale.lv

As it is written in the text above „... artists are encouraged to get inspiration from the surrounding area and to use the natural materials available there....“ Susanne Kompast used clay found in the area of Pedvale. For many years she has been working with clay forming figures related to the term „fertility figures“, expressing the ambivalence of woman’s role in society. In Pedvale she decided to form 27 figures referring to the monthly cycle. By chance she found out that 27 is a special number for the Latvian people, 3 being the most stable number, by 3 and again by 9 – the figures had to be worked out.



She was also inspired to create the cycle in Pedvale seeing the chance to do a special sort of firing – sawdust firing. Therefore space is needed for the smouldering which takes 48 hours.



the evening before....



fotos: Susanne Kompast



27 figures, placed in layers in between the sawdust in the barrel





after 55 hours...

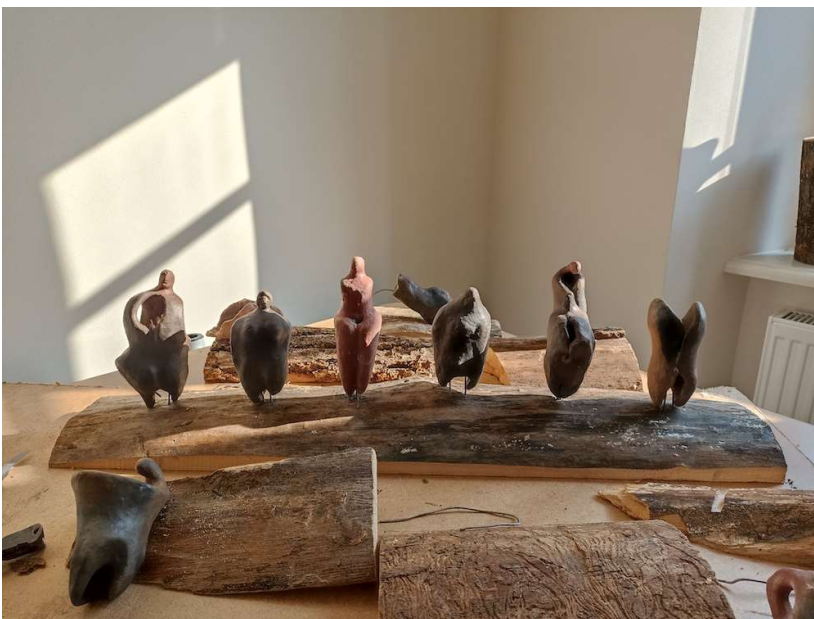


proved... the figures were thoroughly fired!

selfie of participants Francesca Carvallo Pirola, Susanne Kompast, Morelle Smith

„Since the material – clay – came from the land of Pedvāle, after burning the figures in an ancient technique, using a metal barrel and a mixture of sawdust and wood shavings, they were returned to the earth in a performative way. By implementing this art project, artist Susanne Kompast embodied the creative concept of Pedvāle Art Park – the unity of natural landscape, cultural heritage and contemporary art in one whole.“

<https://www.pedvale.lv/en/closure-of-the-may-residency-programme/>



installed figures for the exhibition taking place in the Manor of Brinckenpedvale on the 26th of May 2023

Performance „The Cycle“ on the 26th of May 2023

performers: Susanne Kompast, Laura Feldberga, Francesca Carvallo Pirola, Morelle Smith



the 27 figures created by Susanne Kompast were put into the basket to be transported to the pit where they have been fired



transport from the manor through the area, where Ojars Feldbergs works on granite sculptures



being awaited by five female folkore singers



Susanne Kompast and Francesca Carvallo Pirola took over the function of burying the figures



The figures were given back to nature combined with flower seedballs – the figures being seeds themselves. And instead of the common use „ashes to ashes“ Francesca Carvallo Pirola dripped the blood of her previous menstruation into the grave – figures and blood mingled.



performers: Laura Feldberga, Susanne Kompast, Morelle Smith, Francesca Carvallo Pirola
As the final part of the cyclic process the emptied basket was also returned to nature.



the basket became a landart piece in the woods of Pedvale Art Park



foto: Morelle Smith

Pedvale Art Park www.pedvale.lv

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