Melliferopolis – Honeybees in Urban Contexts. Videos of Bio-Artistic Interventions

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Melliferopolis – Honeybees in Urban Contexts is a project that intertwines honeybees and arts in urban contexts. This trans-disciplinary initiative steps out of a merely anthropocentric view in order to focus on an api-centric world and explores the role of bees in urban environments as well as the relation between mankind and these insects.

The Melliferopolis hives, placed in public and visible places, are designed to invite city dwellers to engage with these animals and experience the effects the hives have on them and their immediate surroundings. Through public events and participatory workshops, the collective genius, the pollination activity, the architecture and the soundscape of the bees are being offered to the public to explore. Melliferopolis aims at appreciating the intrinsic value of honeybees, reaching beyond the reductionist view of bees as eco-system providers and honey-producers. The project is open for collaboration and participation.

Melliferopolis was launched in Helsinki, Finland, in 2012 by Christina Stadlbauer (artist, scientist, beekeeper) and Ulla Taipale (independent curator, researcher, beekeeper) and is active internationally.

Melliferopolis is introduced with the following 3 documentary videos:

HIVE FIVE (2’29, by Mikko Raskinen / Aalto University, 2013)

Hive Five is a sound picnic featuring five Helsinki based artists and the inhabitants of Hexa-Hives in a jam session at Aalto University Campus in Otaniemi, Espoo. The intervention was organised by the sound artist

Till Bovermann.

BEE ARK (4’31, by Kalle Kuisma / M2HZ, 2014)

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During a workshop in the Botanic Garden of Helsinki in 2014, the participants designed and co-created a hive with the Australian artist Nigel Helyer.

CITIES CARRYING HONEY (8’11, by Lotta Petronella, 2012)

A glimpse on the launch of Melliferopolis is given with a first workshop in 2012 on Harakka island, Helsinki.

Getting acquainted with the materials of beekeeping, the participants prepared the hives for an apiary.