



SYMBIOSIS.....

**Out of limitation grows innovation.
Out of innovation grows connectedness.
Out of connectedness grows symbiosis.
Symbiosis, the name of this exhibition.**



SYMBIOSIS.....

OUT OF LIMITATION GROWS INNOVATION.

Creating beautiful pieces of work with fresh flowers is *Yvonne Schuurmans* lust and life. There is no other option if you have worked at home and abroad for more than 25 years for Daniel Ost, the world-renowned floral artist. But gradually it became impossible for her to deal with these oh-so-fleeting flowers professionally any longer. She uses this limitation to look for innovation, other nature-bound materials, and new techniques to express her urge to create.

Autumn 2017: a storm is raging over Japan. Trees are collapsing and must be cleared. There is wood, there is tree bark, there are pine needles. At the beginning of 2018, Yvonne has the opportunity to explore to Japan to collect material to create pieces for a future exhibition from the ruins of a sacred temple pagoda. This is already a first revelation that shows her where her path may lie from now on: working with plant materials that are less perishable than fresh flowers, but that still retain their strong connection with nature. The introduction to the authentic production of handmade paper in Kyoto also offers a new opportunity. Incorporating paper into her creations allows her to add color, just like fresh flowers would.

OUT OF INNOVATION GROWS CONNECTEDNESS.

Working with less transient nature-bound materials requires a different approach for the start of a piece of work than working with fresh material. The piece of wood that forms a base... you do not want a colony of insects to crawl out of it after a while or that it pulverizes due to the attack of a fungus. It requires treatment that increases durability, and in Japan Yvonne studies the natural traditional “Kakishibu” persimmon tannin dyeing method for this.

Here comes *Jef*, a creative “centipede” who draws and paints, Japanese-inspired. In his trek through Japan with Yvonne in 2018, he becomes completely captivated by working and processing wood. He is fascinated by the treatment and sculpting of natural materials. The materials that both bring with them from Japan for use at home in creations for a future exhibition, represent an enormous innovation for both in their journey. They are the trigger for interaction, which leads to connection.

Marcel D'Hondt, an artist from Tielrode, is very well known for his poems, pen drawings and his extremely true-to-life wood sculptures. He immortalized our native bird species by capturing them in three dimensions in wood carvings and displaying their plumage in realistic colors. His craftsmanship, precision and correctness bring him into contact with Yvonne. Her work sometimes requires a basis that must be very precise, and Marcel offers her a technically perfect solution. Their cooperation grows into solidarity.

Another person who comes to innovation through limitation is *Anne Moens*. At a crucial point in her life, she meets Yvonne. She is immediately enchanted by Yvonne's work, techniques, and creativity. Her new insights change her view of nature. During walks, her eye increasingly falls on a stump, a piece of wood, a piece of tree bark, for which she feels that Marcel, Jef or Yvonne, can do something special with it. Anne's personal renewal leads to a special bond.



OUT OF CONNECTEDNESS GROWS SYMBIOSIS.

Symbiosis, it is a word for a form of society that often occurs in nature.

To elucidate an example: the clownfish and the sea anemone. The clownfish eats small animals that are on the sea anemone, so those animals cannot damage the sea anemone. The sea anemone gives the clownfish a place to hide when predators come. Symbiosis is therefore a form of living together, where there is a mutual benefit. The partners respect each other and take action and interaction. Sometimes they deliver performances that each would not have been able to do on their own.

Yvonne, Jef, Marcel, Anne, Marleen.

Their connectedness also leads to symbiosis. It is sometimes literally visible in a work of which *Anne* finds the special piece of wood, *Marcel* makes it a workable basis, *Jef* further sculpts and treats it, *Yvonne* completes the creation and *Marleen* photographs the whole.

SYMBIOSIS, THE NAME OF THIS EXHIBITION.

The impetus given by the collected materials from Japan to create visual art forms the basis for this exhibition. On the way through this process, all encounters have their own meaning in the realization of this whole. Symbiosis.

Symbiosis

Yvonne Schuurmans - Jef Dockx - Marcel D'Hondt

Visual art from nature-bound materials, Japanese-inspired drawings
and paintings and handmade paper.

Symbiosis...

Out of limitation grows innovation.

Out of innovation grows connectedness.

Out of connectedness grows symbiosis.

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Kasteelstraat 74

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November 6 to 28, 2021

Opened each:

Saturday 2-6 p.m.

Sunday 10-12 a.m. and 2-6 p.m.

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