

EPIDERMA

workshop & happening

per **Stupinigi Fertile**

curated by Rebecca De Marchi



EPIDERMA - workshop and public happening, Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Torino) Italy, June-September 2014

The EPIDERMA project focus the attention on the **Skin**, semi-permeable membrane that at the same time separates our body from the surrounding environment and puts us in connection with it, allowing substances from outside to get into our body and vice versa. The skin is the interface with the external world, and is a way through which we can feed on our body. Epiderma is an experimentation on our deep relationship with plants: what seems to be «other than us» become part of our body entering through our skin, another way to feed ourselves.

> June-August 2014 - 2 workshops with 15 persons in the territory of Stupinigi Park in which we try to identify, gather and then transform all the vegetable species that have some medicinal or cosmetic properties and that could be used in direct contact with human skin.

> 20 September 2014 iV public happening, in collaboration with a team of professional beauticians and therapists, in which the public could experimented the preparations (compresses, poultices, foot baths and hand baths, ointments, creams, vegetable powders, hair masks etc.) obtained from the transformation of the plants gathered and transformed during the workshops.



The happening *Epiderma*, conceived by the artists Andrea Caretto and Raffaella Spagna, follows and concludes a path started in June with the homonym workshop that involved the inhabitants of Nichelino and the nearby communes on a day dedicated to the discovery of the natural scenery. During it, the artists guided patrols in the territories of the park of Stupinigi, looking for spontaneous vegetables of different species apt to have a contact with human epidermis. An aesthetic experimentation, soliciting all the senses, within the routes of the park, to rediscover the relation of proximity among living beings.

An experience that originated a group of work that consequently met during the summer to collect, study and transform the materials in a researching process and shared elaboration in which any participant offered his knowledge and sensibility. Different natural preparations have been experienced: tablets, compresses, poultices, foot-baths, hand-baths, baths, holistic solutions, unguents, creams, waters, vegetable powders, etc. Some of them have cosmetic properties, some others therapeutic and curative ones, starting from the historically consolidated medical and natural cosmetics formulae.

The artistic research envisaged by Caretto and Spagna through *Epiderma* is centred on relation. The one among the participants to the development of the work (the working group gathered together due to the project, the farmers, the local enterprises and lastly the active public of the happening) and, that with the surrounding world through the epidermis. At the same time, this semi-permeable membrane separates the human body from the environment and creates a contact with it, allowing to the substances coming from the outside to enter our body and generate different reactions.

The artists choose the physical contact, through skin, as an experiential channel of the relationship Human being-Vegetable world, Citizen-Park.

The happening closes the cycle started with the workshop through a collective action and gives back to the visitors the activities experienced by the working group during the summer: from the route in the park, to the observation of the fresh plants, the dry ones, their elaboration and ultimately the body contact. A brief path through the courses leads to a fully equipped area where different locations welcome the public to experiment the natural preparations on its own skin, receiving nourishment.

The contact with the park through its natural substance is extended to the sunbeds, the seats, the basins, the platforms that welcome the participants in the middle of the trees, all realised by using the wood of some poplars set into the selective felling campaigns made within the park, and from the hay of the seasonal harvesting.

The happening unveils then another way of perceiving and experiencing the landscape of Stupinigi, feeling it own and nearby more than ever through the "activation" of the epidermis, in a sensible practice of proximity with nature, rediscover of oneself and the surroundings.

Rebecca De Marchi

Epiderma, Workshop and Happening, 2014

artwork by Andrea Caretto and Raffaella Spagna

working group: Andrea Alauria, Guido Battistin, Elena Carena, Laura Caretto, Nella Convertini, Palmira Convertini, Francesco Cottone, Gabriella Crivellaro, Gabriella Dantona, Carla De Michelis, Ivana Dolce, Viviana Goggi, Alexander Kaiser, Eleonora Lano, Clara Madaro, Danilo Marcuzzo, Alessia Pace, Jolanda Pace, Elisabetta Reali, Valentina Serra, Elena Sorrentino, Tecla Zaia

with the participation of Azienda Agricola Avattaneo, Azienda Agricola Barale Bertola, Azienda Pagge Valter, beauty centre Ivanity di Dolce Ivana (Nichelino), NaturHouse (Nichelino), Thierry Thévenin phytotherapy's herbalist





EPIDERMA - workshop at Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Torino), June 2014

Participants harvesting wild plants



EPIDERMA - workshop at Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Torino), June 2014

botanical identification of the plants



EPIDERMA - workshop at Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Torino), June 2014

transformation of the plants and preparation of products suitable for human skin



EPIDERMA _workshop, Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Turin), June 2014

Face and hair treatments



EPIDERMA_workshop, Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Turin), June 2014

feet treatment



EPIDERMA - workshop at Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Torino), August 2014

Participants harvesting wild plants



EPIDERMA_workshop, Cambiano, August 2014

identification and transformation of the plants



EPIDERMA_happening

Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Turin, Italy), 20th September 2014



EPIDERMA happening at Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Torino), 20th September 2014

Participants harvesting wild plants



EPIDERMA_happening, Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Turin), 20th September 2014

body treatments



EPIDERMA_happening, Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Turin), 20th September 2014

collective pediluvium



EPIDERMA_happening, Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Turin), 20th September 2014

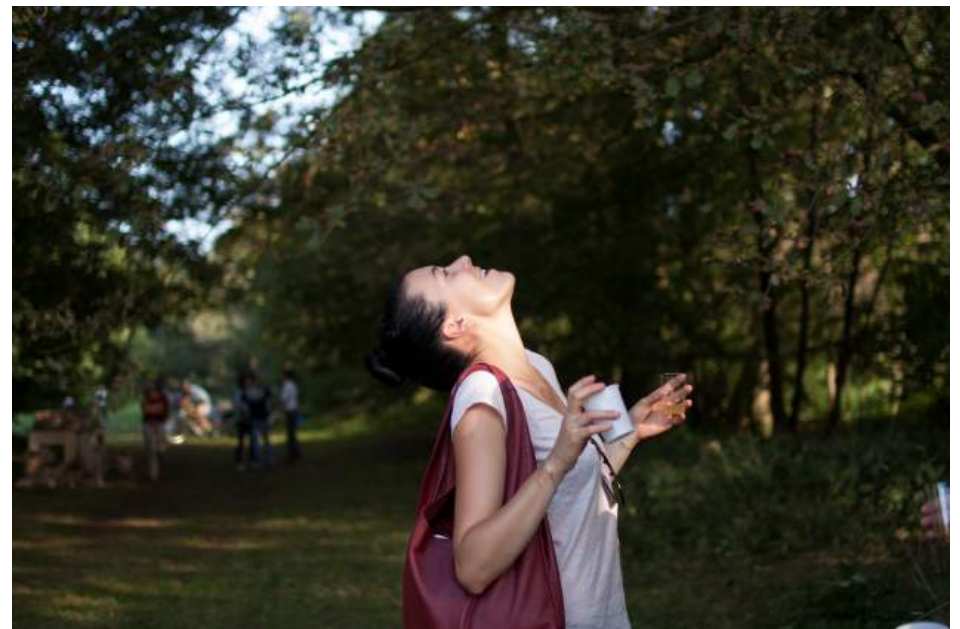
> preparation of products suitable for human skin

> professional ayurvedic massage



EPIDERMA_happening, Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Turin), 20th September 2014

Face and hair treatments



EPIDERMA_happening, Stupinigi Park, Nichelino (Turin), 20th September 2014

- > collective maniluvium
- > gargling