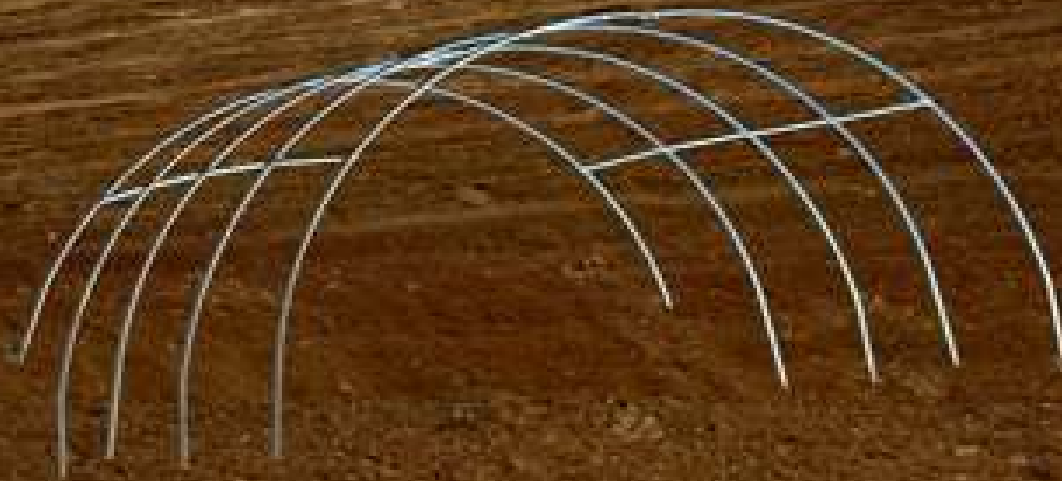



P E D O G E N E S I S

PAV (Park of Living Art), Turin, Italy - 2009-2012





PEDOGENESIS is an art project developed by Andrea Caretto and Raffaella Spagna for the PAV – Parco d'Arte Vivente (*Park of Living Art*) Contemporary Art Centre in Turin. Pedogenesis, from the Greek words *pedos*, «soil» and *genesis*, «birth», enquires the Soil, meeting point par excellence where geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere meet each other. Here organic and inorganic matter come into contact creating metamorphic processes involving the different states of matter, solid, liquid and gaseous. Pedogenesis is a system consisting of two strictly connected installations: the "Trasmutatore di Sostanza Organica" (*Organic matter transmuter*), an organic matter transformer and the "OrtoArca" (*Vegetable Garden-Ark*), objects that function as catalyzers for broad-spectrum relations among people, places and matter.

The installation "Trasmuter of Organic Matter" is a sort of composter consisting of a ring shaped tunnel greenhouse made of zinc-coated iron where a group of citizens from the surrounding area leave their organic waste. People participating to the project receive, for each bag of organic waste left in the Transformer, some food and a new biodegradable bag for organic waste.

In this way food and organic waste are put on the same level since both are made of the same mutating matter.

The transformation from organic waste to compost takes place in the Transformer; later the compost will be used to fertilize the soil of the Vegetable Garden-Ark, a tunnel greenhouse made of zinc-coated iron and turned upside down, delimiting a garden and a public area where people can rest on benches.

The tunnel greenhouse is a very common element of the rural landscape in the Pianura Padana. This structure excludes the external environment, creating an induced microclimate; when turned upside down, the tunnel greenhouse becomes as a sort of big crib sunk in the earth, ready to welcome whatever comes from the outside.

The portion of land delimited by the "Vegetable Garden-Ark", which hangs in balance between public and private dimension, was assigned to a small group of citizen from Turin through a public lottery called «Estrazione del Lotto». Over 80 people, among which several groups of young people, participated to this public contest.

The winner of the drawing had the opportunity to cultivate, for at least two years, those piece of land to produce food. However, anybody can visit the Vegetable Garden-Ark since it is situated in a public area within the PAV. Visitors can actually sit on the benches located in the "Vegetable Garden Ark", close to the cultivated area.



The project started in 2009 and ever since a small group of residents of PAV neighborhood regularly takes their organic waste to the installation/composter. For some of them this is only a way to obtain free food; others instead participate to the project because it makes them feel part of a complex system, a transformation cycle in which they are protagonist.

After more than two years, The “Vegetable GardenArk” is still active today.

This space of relations and confrontation revealed also some critical aspects that stimulate many reflections about the problematic nature of the coexistence of public and private spheres.













Trasmuter of Organic Matter_Opening - 18th june 2009













Pedogenesis_VegetableGardenArk - Lotto Draw

Park of Living Art, Turin, Italy -2nd October 2009





























