

Jaron Vandevelde

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@woodwormdesigner

www.meerkoetminderafval.com



artistic practice



Jaron Vandeveldel is a Belgian visual artist (MA in Fine Arts, School of Arts, Ghent - Belgium) and designer (BA in Furniture Design, Thomas More University, Malines - Belgium). His practice explores the intersection of art, design, and ecology, with a focus on collaboration between humans and non-human organisms. Rather than using nature as a passive resource, he integrates living systems—such as insects, fungi, and birds—into his creative process, treating them as active co-creators.

His projects, including *Woodwormdesign*, *Bark Beetle Fungus*, and *Meerkoet minder afval*, investigate how natural processes can shape materials, influence design, and inspire new ways of thinking about sustainability. By studying and influencing the behaviors of species like woodworms, bark beetles, and coots, he develops innovative methods for working with organic matter, exploring themes of circularity, adaptation, and ecological resilience.

Jaron's work moves beyond traditional artistic boundaries, incorporating material research, bio-design, and participatory art. He collaborates with scientists, designers, and local communities to test the practical and conceptual implications of human-nature partnerships. His approach is both experimental and process-driven, often resulting in works that evolve over time, shaped by the natural forces at play.

At its core, his practice challenges the notion of human dominance over nature. By embracing unpredictability and ecological interdependence, he aims to foster a deeper awareness of how design can function within, rather than outside of, the natural world. Through his work, Jaron invites us to rethink our relationship with the environment and explore new possibilities for sustainable collaboration.

Education

2016-2019 Bachelor (BA) in Fine Arts, School of Arts (KASK), Ghent - Belgium

Bachelor (BA-after-BA) in Furniture Design, Thomas More University, Malines – Belgium

2024-2025 Master (MA) in Fine Arts, School of Arts (KASK), Ghent - Belgium

Public Projects

2025 invited artist at Elementary school 'het Klaverblad' (Dynamoproject), Ghent – Belgium

2024-2025 Public installation project Meerkoet Minder Afval, Ghent - Belgium

Professional Development & Residencies

2019 Internship Gallery Tatjana Pieters, Ghent – Belgium

2022 Internship Atelier Kaspar Hamacher, Raeren – Belgium

2024 residency emanzipatorische Ländlichkeit, Bad Wildungen - Germany

2024 invited member Masterclass soft-connection-lab, Ghent - Belgium

2025 residency - Collaboration Ida Bomm: Project 'the Woods, Schwanheim - Germany

Exhibitions

2017 Ingeolied (group), Kunsttoeren – KASK, Ghent - Belgium

2018 Paint Untitled (group), Zwarte zaal – KASK, Ghent – Belgium

2020 De curieuze collectie laureaat (group), Campo Santo, Gent – Belgium

2022 Up close, Malines (group) – Belgium

2024 Puzzle Pause (solo), Lerverk galleri, Gothenburg – Sweden

2024 group exhibition at Röhsska Museum Gothenburg – Sweden

2024 group exhibition at Wonder Creativity festival, Kortrijk - Belgium

Artist Talks

2022 The wonders of decay, KKV Gothenburg – Sweden

2024 The wonders of decay, Röhsska Museum in Gothenburg - Sweden

Hosted Workshops

2023 Woodcarving workshop host at Gemenskapen Nabo, Gothenburg – Sweden

2023 + 2024 Wood Joinery workshop host at Konstnärernas Kollektivverkstad, Gothenburg – Sweden

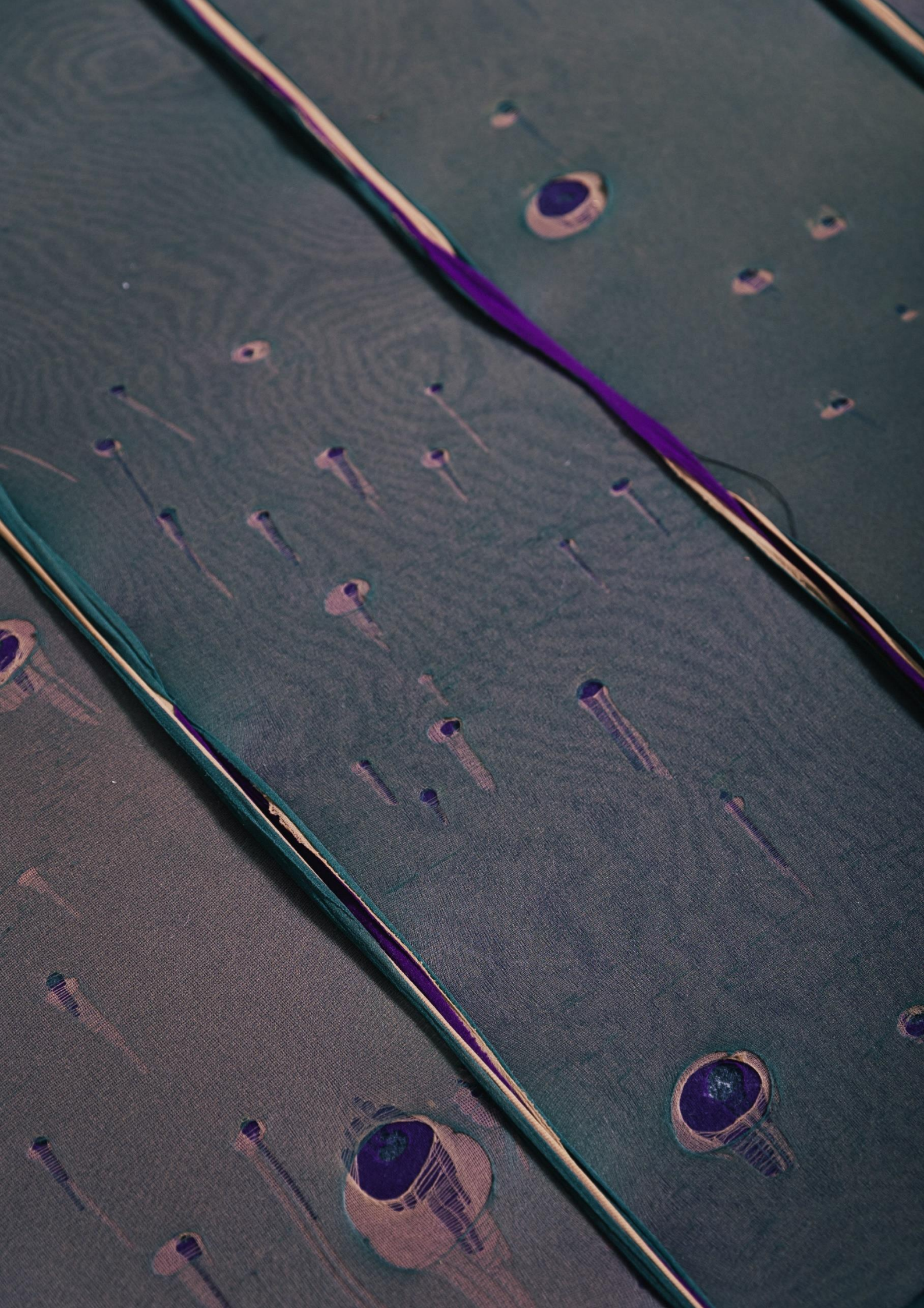
2024 Woodcarving workshop host at Wonder Creativity festival, Kortrijk - Belgium

project description

Picatsofa embraces the natural wear and tear caused by cats, transforming their scratching instincts into an integral part of the design. Rather than seeing scratches as damage, this project reinterprets them as a form of artistic contribution, allowing the sofa to evolve over time. By integrating the natural behavior of cats into the design process, Picatsofa creates a living piece of furniture that gains character with each mark. This project redefines the relationship between animals and design, demonstrating how collaboration with non-human species can lead to dynamic and sustainable creations.

Picatsofa
2021 - 2022

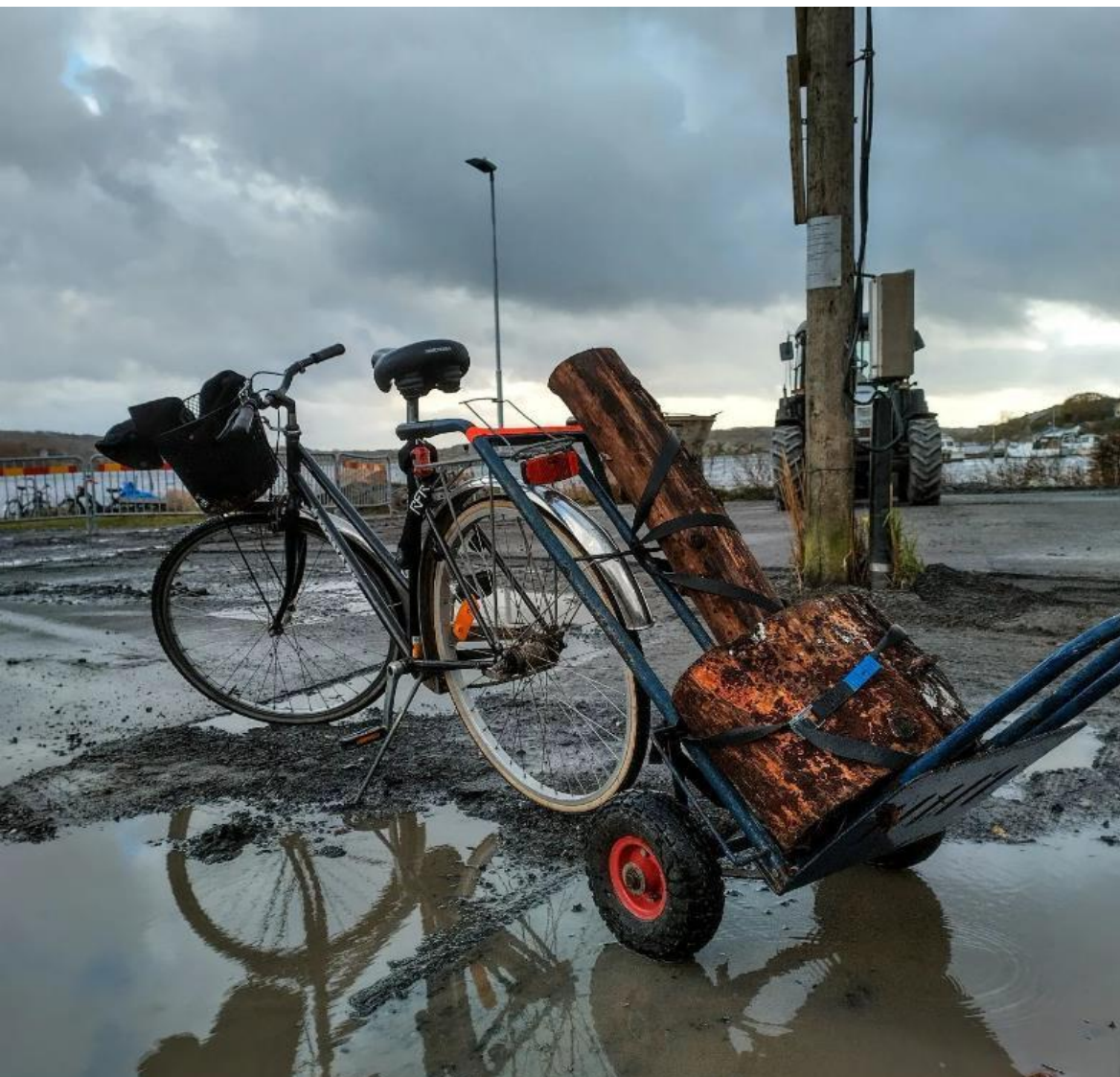




project description

The sculptural series *Wonders of Decay* emerged from Jaron's first visit to Gothenburg (Sweden) in the summer of 2022. While exploring the rugged coastline of Brännö, he became captivated by the quiet, perpetual cycle of driftwood—its slow arrival, transformation, and eventual disappearance into the sea. This ever-changing material, shaped by the forces of nature, awakened a desire to engage in dialogue with the natural world, granting the driftwood a new chapter in its life cycle.

Jaron embraced its organic aging process, allowing nature's inevitable decay to guide its evolution. Rather than treating nature as a passive element, he sees it as a collaborator—one that shapes, erodes, and reshapes the work over time, creating sculptures that exist in a constant state of transformation.



Wonders Of Decay

2022 - 2024









Meerkoet Minder Afval

2024-2025

project description

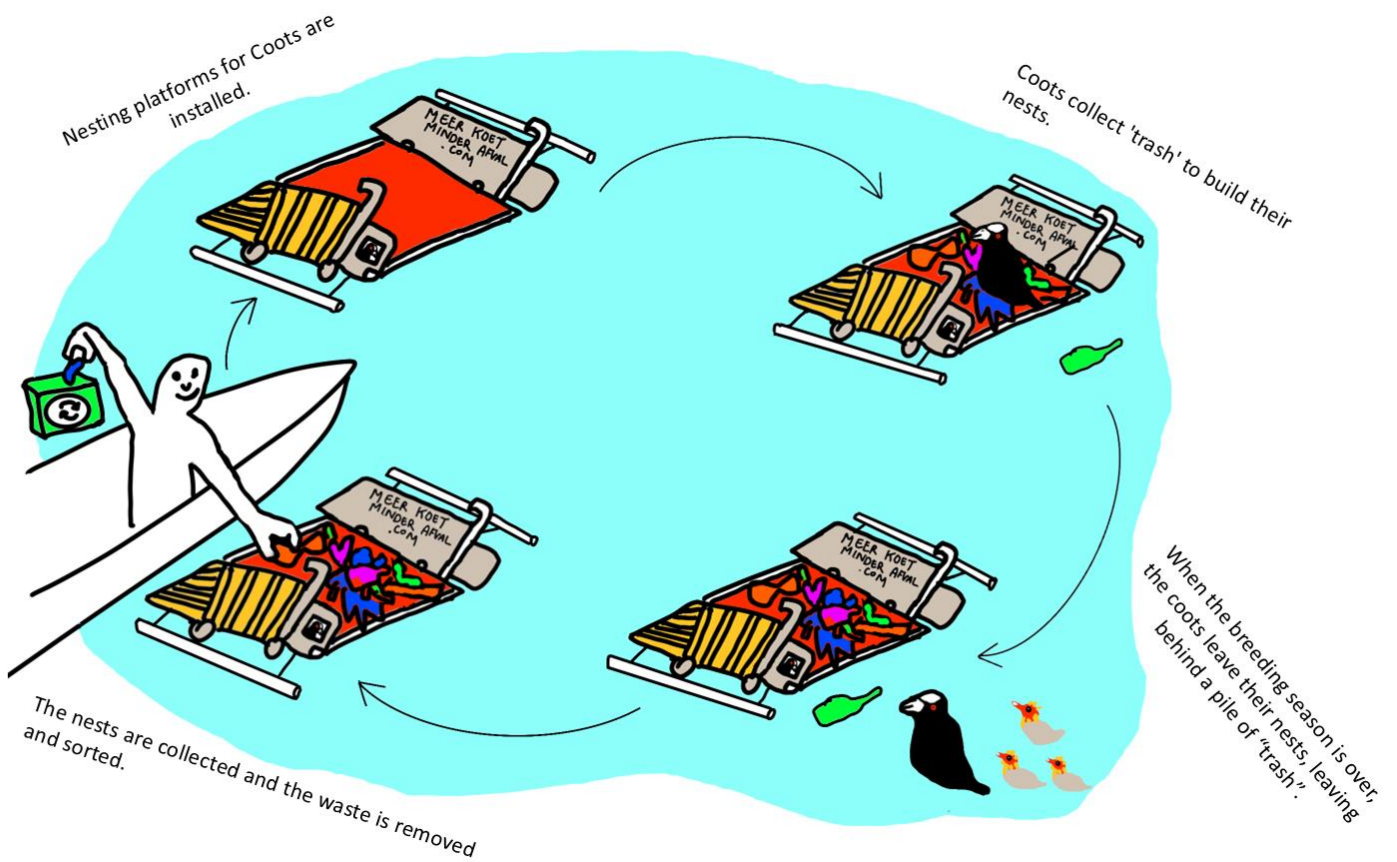
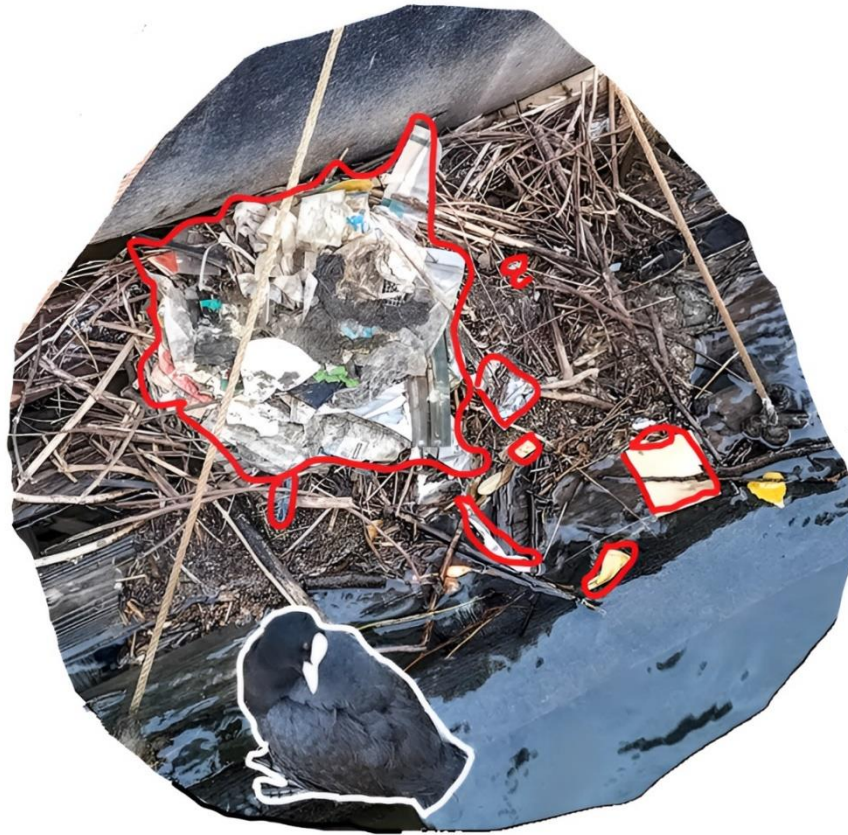
Project 'Meerkoet Minder Afval' integrates urban wildlife into the waste collection cycle by leveraging the nesting behavior of coots (meerkoeten). These resourceful birds repurpose discarded materials to build their nests in urban environments—a behavior shaped by environmental change. This project transforms their adaptative behaviour into a collaborative process between humans and coots.

Specially designed nesting platforms are installed in urban areas. Coots then collect waste materials to construct their nests on these platforms. After the breeding season, these nests will be carefully dismantled, with the gathered waste sorted and recycled. Through this process, coots become active participants in urban waste management, turning their adaptive behaviors into a valuable ecological service.

By exploring how artistic interventions can guide and amplify this human-animal collaboration, the project establishes a circular system where coots contribute to urban waste collection while benefiting from safer nesting opportunities.



The Coot (meerkoet) collects trash to build their nest.

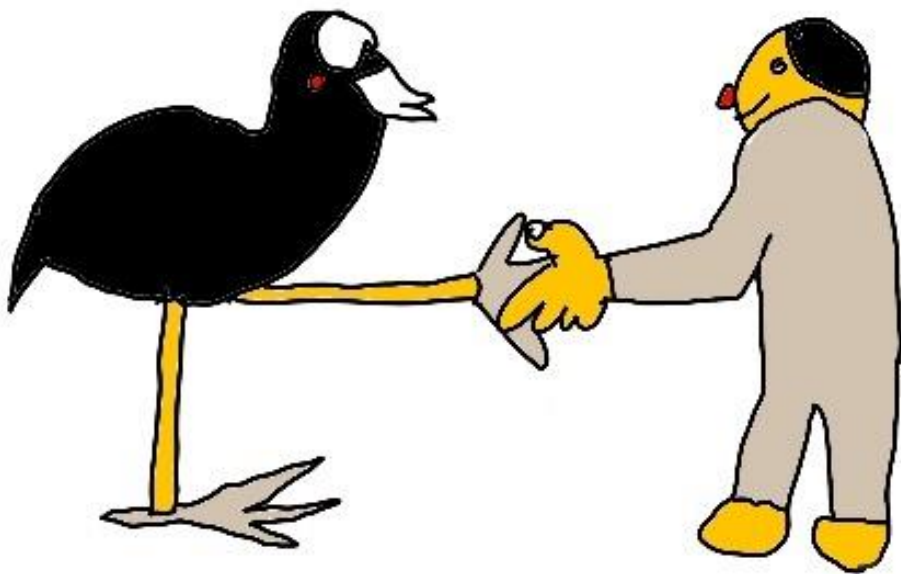


Nesting platforms for Coots are installed.

Coots collect 'trash' to build their nests.

When the breeding season is over, the coots leave their nests, leaving behind a pile of "trash".

The nests are collected and the waste is removed and sorted.



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Project: Bark Beetle Fungus

**Collaborative project with Ida Bomm,
Schwanheim – Germany**

2024 – ongoing



Project description

Forests worldwide are struggling with bark beetle infestations, a crisis worsened by rising temperatures and drought. What is often seen as pure destruction—entire forests left riddled with tunnels and stripped of their nutrients—can also be viewed as an opportunity for renewal.

Bark beetle larvae carve intricate networks of tunnels into wood, consuming its most nutritious parts and leaving behind a perforated landscape. Instead of seeing these boreholes as mere damage, we repurpose them as entry points for regeneration. In a human-designed inoculation process, holes must be drilled to introduce fungal spores—but here, the beetles have already done the work for us. By inoculating these natural openings with native fungi like oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), we accelerate decomposition, returning nutrients to the forest while also producing a valuable food source for both humans and wildlife. This process transforms dead wood into a site of ecological productivity, fast-tracking forest renewal.

This project is a hands-on, community-driven effort, bringing together foresters, biodesigners, and local residents to experiment with fungal cultivation. Together, we reframe ecological crises—not as disasters, but as invitations for care, renewal, and unexpected collaboration with nature.

By working with natural processes rather than against them, we foster resilience and unlock new possibilities for sustainable ecosystems.



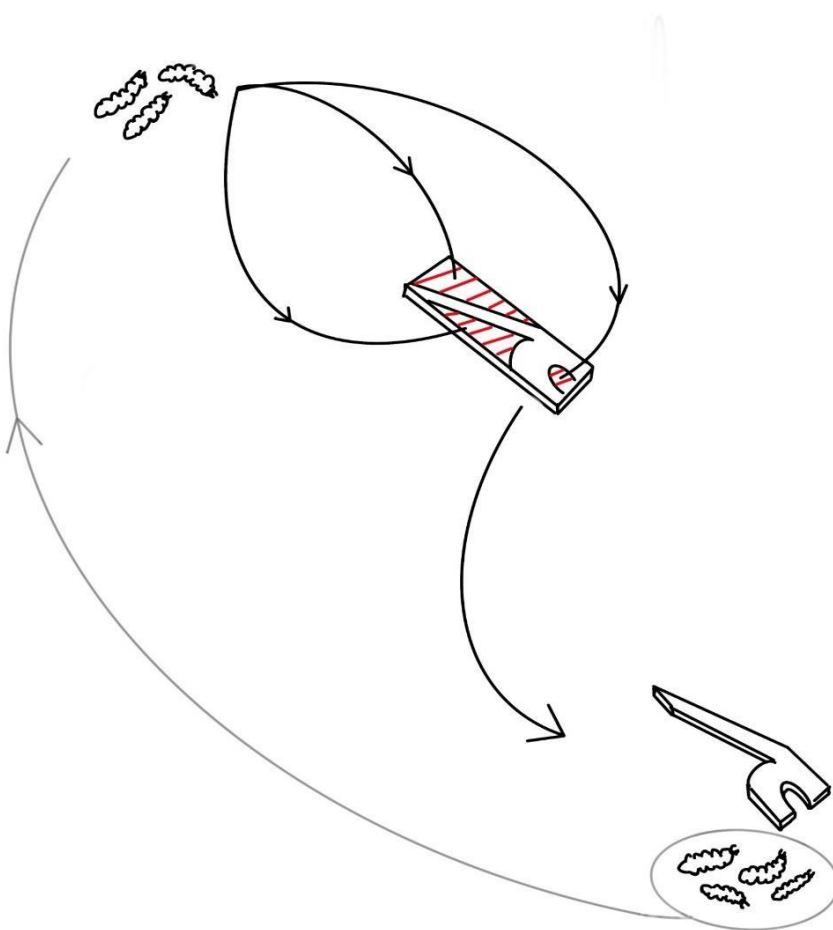


project description

In the ever-evolving landscape of sustainable energy and innovative design, this project explores a unique collaboration between woodworms and contemporary woodworking. Rather than viewing these larvae as destructive pests, we investigate how their natural wood-boring behavior can be integrated into artistic and functional woodwork, transforming them into active co-creators rather than adversaries.

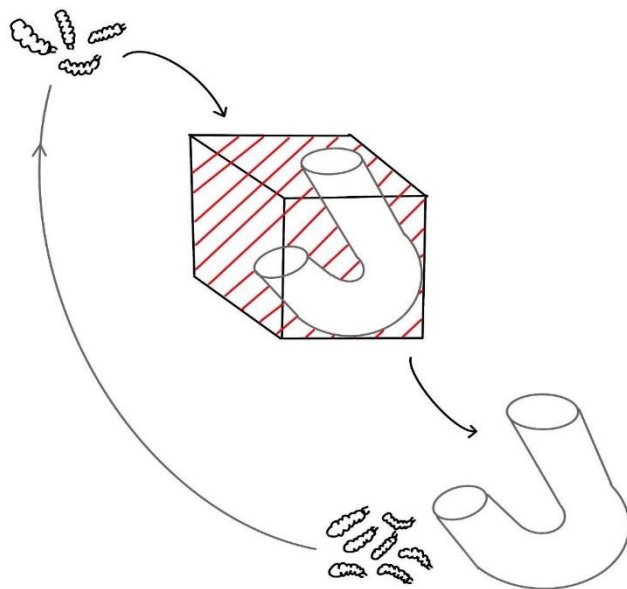
By guiding and harnessing woodworms as organic "carvers," we open new possibilities for bio-assisted design—where their movement and feeding patterns shape intricate textures and patterns in wood. Beyond aesthetics, this research delves into the potential of woodworms as a sustainable energy source within woodworking, bridging the gap between biology and design.

This project challenges traditional notions of craftsmanship by embracing organic, process-driven collaboration. It invites designers, biologists, and makers to rethink materiality, allowing nature to take an active role in shaping design outcomes. By working with, rather than against, these organisms, we uncover new possibilities for circular, sustainable, and ecologically integrated approaches to woodwork

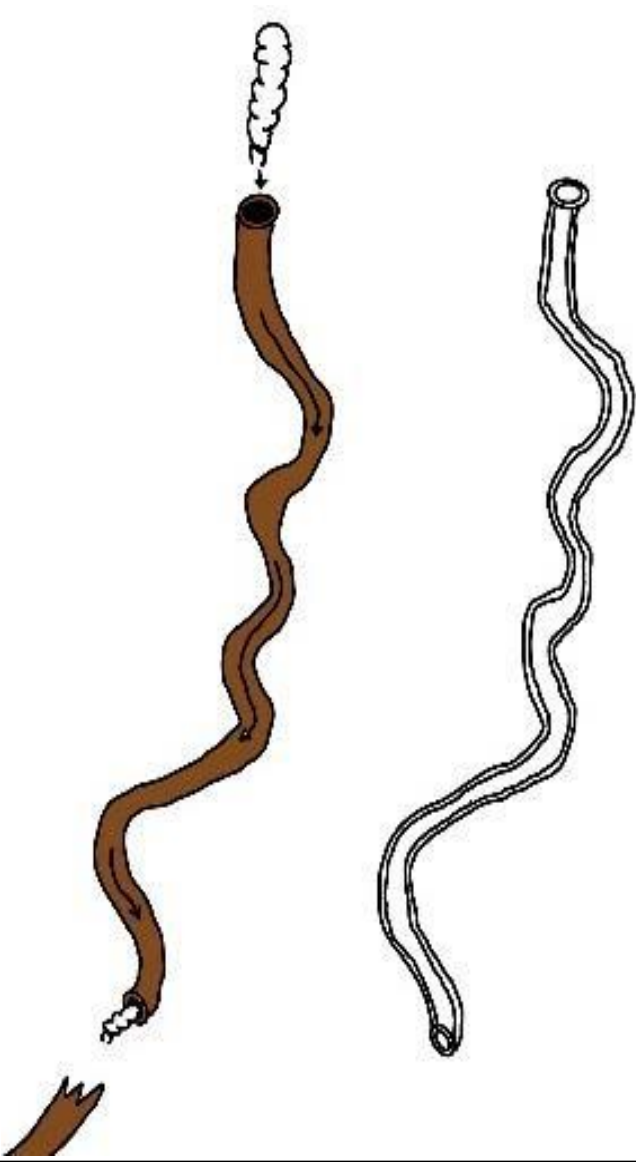


General idea of Incorporating H. Bajulus larvae into wood using attraction or detraction techniques to guide their path

Woodwormdesign
2021 - ongoing



experiment (20/02/2022)



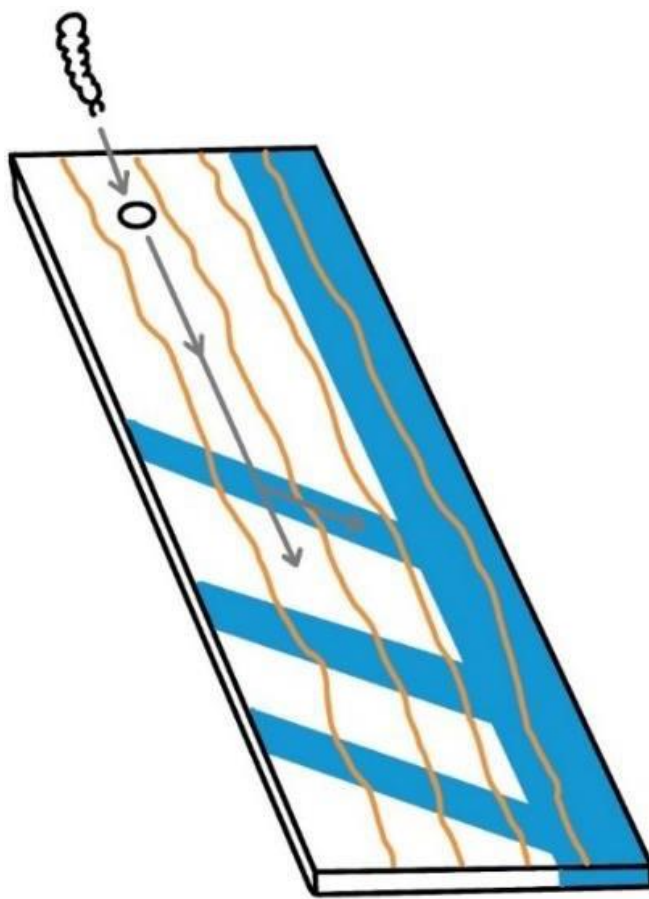
Result 1: Remarkably, woodworms can do what machines can't—hollow out a bent wooden rod in one seamless process. Where conventional tools would require cutting the rod into sections first, woodworms carve it naturally from the inside, no disassembly needed.



experiment (19/03/2022)

Result 2: Hylotrampus Bajulus larvae have the ability to digest chipboard material, with the help of human intervention





More research and experiments

@woodwormdesigner

Jaron Vandevelde



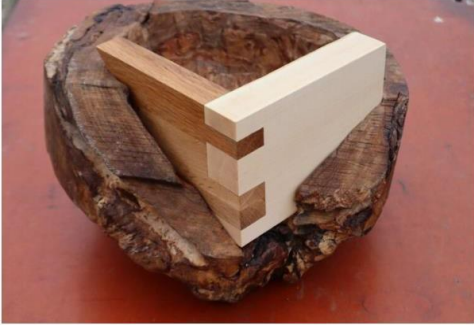
experiment (28/09/2023)

workshops

KKV KONSTNÄRERNAS
KOLLEKTIVVERKSTAD
GÖTEBORG

Om KKV GBG ▾ Verkstäder ▾ Medlen

Introduction in wood joinery (ENG) - FULLSATT



När: 4 november
Var: KKV GBG, Sockerbruket 44, Snickeriet, våning 5
Tid: kl 09:00-16:30
Antal deltagare: 8
Kursledare: Jaron Vandevelde, epost: jaron.vandevelde@telenet.be

Sista anmälningdag: 18 oktober kl 12:00 - KURSEN ÄR FULLSATT! Anmäl dig till reservlistan genom att fylla i formuläret nedan.
Kursinnehåll: I am offering a one-day wood joinery course that equips participants with essential skills and techniques for creating strong and beautifully crafted wood joints, enabling them to master this art of woodworking with confidence and precision.

Vad ingår? Tools and material to practice will be provided.

Förhandskrav: The course is open to everyone, with no requirement for prior knowledge. Member and non-members are welcome.

Kursen hålls på engelska.

references

**Wood joinery workshop, 2023 + 2024,
KKV, Gothenburg, Sweden**



**Voluntary Woodcarving workshop, 2022,
Gemenskapen Nabo, Gothenburg, Sweden**



**Voluntary Woodcarving workshop,
2024, Het Koetshuis
Kortrijk Creativity Festival, Belgium**

Artist talks

The Wonders of Decay, 2022,
KKV Gothenburg, Sweden



Artist talk, The wonders of Decay,
2024, Röhsska Museum in Göteborg,
Sweden