

Wapke Feenstra lives and works in Rotterdam NL.

www.wapke.nl & www.myvillages.org

Wapke Feenstra finished in 1991 a post-graduate in Visual Arts at the Jan van Eyck Academy, Maastricht NL and was in 1993 a winner of the Prix de Rome at the Rijksacademie in Amsterdam. During Manifesta 1 (Rotterdam 1996) she was one of the initiators of the platform NESTWORK and from 1998 she started up the first digital story collection called Verhalen van Dordrecht, which was run by citizens till 2011.

Wapke Feenstra's work is spatial and can pop up as e.g. a travelbook (The Best Place 2007), a digital tree collection (see the webxylotheek) or as a series of prints in a museum collection (SPOT 2001-2002, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam NL). Or a dinner table at Lawson Park, Grizedale Arts UK.

With Antje Schiffers and Kathrin Böhm, Feenstra founded Myvillages in 2003, with the aim to make space for rural production, village community items and images of farming in the contemporary conceptual art.

Since 2007 Myvillages cooperates in International Village Shop, a rural trade network. Their Shop was set up in rural villages and in exhibitions in e.g. Royal Academy & Tate Britain, London (2008, 2010); Kunstverein Springhornhof in Germany (2010); and the Swiss Kunstmuseum Thurgau in Ittingen (2012 & 2013). The Shop brings rural places and their narratives to the public.

Landscape as an always fluctuating art-genre, is a focus in Feenstra's work. She tends to intervene in an existing visual experiential ecology and existing landscape in order to coax out new or current readings.

In the project Former Farmland (at Ars Electronica, Linz 2008 and Edith Russ Haus, Oldenburg 2009) visitors walk a route and explore how memories on a two-dimensional photographic screen can redefine and question the urban sites that people encounter. Moving Landscape is a project in the north-east of Belgium; it is a visual roam of landuse and primary industries. Beside photography Feenstra's animated drawings show the geological history of soil or mining resources in the moving landscape. (FLACC, Genk 2010 and Z33, Hasselt, 2011). Recent projects include the Russian self-made-village-portrait Made in Zvizzchi as part of the Archstoyanie Festival and 5th Moscow Biennale (2013). From 2012 Feenstra works with young Farmers & Ranchers (a coproduction of M12, Byers CO, USA and Myvillages), this long term project includes screenings and shows in e.g. the Fries Museum in the Netherlands (2014-15) and at NPO2 (2015).

Under the umbrella of Myvillages, Feenstra co-initiated several long-term collaborative projects such as the Bibliobox (from 2005) and Images of Farming (from 2007). And in 2010 they started to fill a year-long a pantry with food, drinks and local knowledge to host 8000 guests in Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin (2011). The Vorratskammer (Pantry) book was launched in 2012. In 2014 Myvillages won the Create Art in London with their project Compagny: Movements, Deals and Drinks (2014-15). In the International Village Show in the Museum of Contemporary Art (gfzk) in Leipzig, Germany, they will research, represent and bring together their recent works in villages and changing landscapes (2014-2016).

Books by Feenstra and/or Myvillages are available over www.japsambooks.nl