

## Hunnie



### Description

Project Hunnie researches new forms of nature recreation and landscape maintenance in De Bovenlanden, a 470-hectare peat meadow landscape in the Province of Utrecht, the Netherlands. To disclose and convey the mental and physical qualities of the area, a programme of adventures - hybrid forms of nature and culture - is put together with local and international experts.

What are the key ingredients of our desires for nature? To which form of nature do we want to contribute, now that cows and greenhouses are disappearing from the landscape?

In the course of a one-year field research, Hunnie ('them' in local slang) designed and tested new forms of recreation and maintenance in De Bovenlanden in the Dutch Province of Utrecht. The polder is destined to exchange its agricultural function for a nature reserve in the context of a European wide plan to link ecological zones and allow flora and fauna to migrate and diversify. Hunnie's focus is the role of humans in relation to this man-made 'new nature'.

Initiators and designers Henriëtte Waal and Sophie Krier invested time into acquainting themselves with inhabitants and local clubs with very specific knowledge of the area. Fishermen, hunters, historians, geologists, biologists, dieticians, artists, water engineers were given the role of guides, while scientists and thinkers were asked to provide a reflective framework. New nature lovers from the surrounding cities were attracted through a series of seasonal Adventures, products and a field workshop related to water, clay, grass, fauna, wilderness and willow. Hence, Hunnie links 'them' from De Bovenlanden to

'them' who are about to discover it.

Project Hunnie (2012 - 2013) ran ahead of the Provincial realization plans for new nature. This has made it possible to implement insights from the fieldwork into the decision-making process. Waal and Krier will advise on the detailing and routing of paths and the role of recreational users in the area in the course of 2014. To ensure the durability of their ideas, the designers are currently looking into setting up a Hunnie Foundation with local and external experts as board members.

### **Goals**

1. Explore, appoint and visualize the current natural and cultural potential of De Bovenlanden.
2. Design and test new forms of nature experience and nature maintenance.
3. Through the lens of our desire for nature, enable exchange between people/groups who don't meet in everyday life.
4. Address the urgency of new exploitation models for 'nature' in the Netherlands with policy makers
5. Start a mentality change, particularly regarding the given ideas around paths / routes, the role of users, and maintenance issues.
6. Stimulate empowerment of users (hunnie, locals, farmers, city people etcetera) towards policy makers (Province, municipality, Staatsbosbeheer) by making local entrepreneurs and nature volunteers more visible in the transformation process of De Bovenlanden from a rural area into a new nature resort.
7. Promote expertise through experience by equipping participants with skills and knowledge of their surroundings.
8. Give another reading of the area (i.e. activate its hidden potential) through the knowledge and the products that resulted from the programme of adventures.

### **Outcomes**

#### **Routes**

Characteristic guided walks to explore and imagine today's potential of De Bovenlanden: Fly Fishing, Hunting, Surviving, Clay Pits, Grass Watching, Willow Weaving, The Hatch, Whistling. In orchestrating these adventures, Waal and Krier linked the wisdom inherent in local activities to expertise in art and science. The knowledge that is released is then processed in custom-made attributes for the future visitors of the area.

#### **Attributes**

Specially designed outdoor equipment: Double-Barreled (fictitious) shotgun made of native walnut, Clay Pit Tableware (mugs of glazed clay from De Bovenlanden with GPS coordinates), Lakenvelder (cow-friendly earmarked cowskin poncho), Gut Parka (ultra light parka made by combining a rescue blanket and a jersey), Parcel Map (field map of De Bovenlanden, scale 1:100), Hide Boat (boat of wicker, wind dried native oak, raw cowhide and hemp rope), Field Coat Rack and Field Fitting Room.

#### **Attributes Glasshouse**

Custom made outdoor showcase in a farmyard where Hunnie products can be bought or borrowed by visitors and are permanently displayed.

#### **Field Classroom**

Field Classroom is a thought experiment: can we learn to read and experience the landscape

differently? And what do we need for this? The Field Classroom provides Hunnie with its own base where we can experience the openness and strength of this stream land: a free zone in which desires of nature can be shared and lived. Parts: field classroom with Bovenlanden benches and meditation piece in form of a 2400 year old fossil black oak, a cross section table, a hunting fence and jetties.

### **Membership and language**

The word Hunnie relates to 'they, the people from De Bovenlanden', and they who are going to explore the area in the future. In the Hunnie project Waal and Krier refer to visitors as enthusiasts, not recreationists. Administrators are called caretakers. A Hunnie membership provokes adventure, deepening and for a different view on nature.

### **7 Adventures:**

#### **- Hunnie Clay Pits**

For the first time in more than a hundred years clay was extracted from the historic clay pits in the landscape. The walk alternated with field lectures by ceramic designer Mara Skujeniece, public space adviser Hans van de Markt, fly fisher Kees de Vries and geologist Jan van 't Riet; it ended with a workshop led by local potter Hanneke Oort with whom inch pots (an ancient tableware form) were made of the clay.

#### **- Hunnie Hunting**

Introduction of a new type of polder hunting. Participants discovered the secret world of hunting in the form of a crash course. Through a language test and field training they experienced the Bovenlanden from the perspective of wildlife management, but also through the eyes of the animals that live there. Hunnie Hunting ended by making a imagined hunting trophy and a warm lunch with super local venison prepared by local host and chef Raymond Richard.

#### **- Hunnie Willow Weaving**

Traditions connected to life in stream lands, such as boating and the craft of willow weaving were combined in a workshop led by willow expert Sven Hoogerhoud. Finished products are some cowhide boats of wicker, wind dried native oak, raw cow skin and hemp rope which is based on a special 'coracle' technique.

#### **- Hunnie Whistle**

Spring adventure in which Hunnie was taught to make various types of whistles of local plants by Jan the Wilgenman. Willow whistles are purposefully made during spring, because the sap stream gives more space between the bark and the wood. Musician Thomas Triesschijn introduced Hunnie in the art of flute music composing and instrument making.

#### **- Hunnie Surviving**

Surviving 24 hours in the polder led by local and exotic guides and food from the area. Adventures : Grass Watching, Polder Wading, Fly Tying , Bird Watching, Fly Fishing, Technical Paddling, Hunting, Clay Pits and Survival. On a summer night, diehards crossed right through the De Bovenlanden in the Surviving Hunnie adventure, led by philosopher and wilderness guide Arjen Damen, while seeking their own inner landscape. Is there an immediate form of nature imaginable: how do you learn to be self-sufficient?

#### **- Hunnie Greenhouse Symposium: Polder looks for caretaker**

Hunnie reflected on the meaning of nature and recreation by curating a symposium about the role of man in the landscape. A greenhouse listed for demolition – the consequence of another production landscape destined to become new nature – formed a scenic night-time setting.

How can today's computer generation reconnect with nature? With which new-fangled stories, actions, and habits can we tap into our natural desires? Our collective imagination and (mis) perception of nature was addressed through a double lecture and a practice analysis that addressed the mystic potential of nature, its technological narratives and the ethos of cattle breeding.

Led by Andrea Pol (former presenter of a radio and TV show about nature) a closing debate with local entrepreneurs, designers, policy makers and scientists addressed the questions: What is nature? What is recreation? What can a path add to the experience of a landscape? And what could today's natural man (*natuurmens*) consist of?

With contributions by Carla Bisseling (Programmabureau Utrecht-West), Dr Erik de Jong (Artis Professor), Jan Boelen (Z33 House for Contemporary Art), Marleen van den Ham (Innovation Network), Clemens Driessen (PhD related to WUR University), Brynjar Sigurdarson (designers), Arjen Damen (philosopher and wilderness guide) and local entrepreneurs and nature lovers.

#### **- Hunnie Winterizing**

Festive finale of one year Hunnie on National Nature Work Day (*nationaal natuurwerkdag*): Maintenance of willows by pollarding the local pollard group, first nature lessons by local naturalists in the Field Classroom, making paracetamol of willow bark, brewing beer from water in the field watercourse and work by Master students Social Design of the Design Academy Eindhoven (8 tools to have a conversation with nature). Also, Winterizing was the official transfer of maintenance and management of the physical designs (Field Classroom and Attributes Glasshouse) to local parties.

#### **Initiators / designers**

Sophie Krier en Henriëtte Waal

#### **Location**

De Bovenlanden (470 hectare landscape of peat meadows), Province of Utrecht, The Netherlands

#### **Duration**

Preliminary Research 2010

Fieldwork 2012-2013

2014: Hunnie reflection and implementation in nature policyn and maintenance; pilot education programme.

#### **Maintained by**

Staatsbosbeheer / Stichting Reinaerde icw Hunnie

#### **Category**

Environment, Social, Political, Scientific, Pedagogical

#### **Users**

Hunnie: nature volunteers, local entrepreneurs and inhabitants, nature lovers from the city, policy makers, scientists, farmers, hunters, fishermen, maintainers and so on.

## **Links**

[www.hunnie.nu](http://www.hunnie.nu)

[www.facebook.com/projecthunnie](https://www.facebook.com/projecthunnie)

## **Agenda 2014**

Archive Museum of Arte Util

<http://museumarteutil.net/projects/hunnie/>

Group Exhibition Mansholt in Perspectief, Bureau Europa

[http://www.bureau-europa.nl/nl/manifestations/mansholt\\_landscape\\_in\\_perspective/](http://www.bureau-europa.nl/nl/manifestations/mansholt_landscape_in_perspective/)

Lecture Museumjeugduniversiteit

<http://www.museumjeugduniversiteit.nl/overzichtspagina/view/museum/319>

## **Certification**

Hunnie was commissioned by Centrum Beeldende Kunst Utrecht (Ella Derksen) and made possible by Programmabureau Utrecht-West / Provincie Utrecht, Stichting DOEN, Fonds voor Cultuurparticipatie, Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds. As of 1-1-2013 CBKU & Hunnie was brought under the administration of Landschap Erfgoed Utrecht. With special thanks to Bertus Ruitenbeek (Zorgboerderij Amstelkade), all the fans, guides, guest speakers and the landowners.