

What can the "white man's footprint" teach us about healing and reconciliation?



White man's footprint/plantago major: it arrived with the first settler-colonialists in the Americas and followed them everywhere they went, so much so, that some indigenous peoples began referring to it as "white man's footprint". Originally an invasive species, it became naturalized within local ecosystems. Its round leaves can be used for first aid on wounds, and are edible, too.

Constantly dismantling foundations of buildings, thriving through asphalt, thriving in ruins, weeds are finding cracks and crevices to blossom. Their wild stories have potential to un-think hegemonial, white scripts of classification and order.... Entering a relation with these chloroplast teachers, we might devise new strategies of resistance, or find hope in the *despite*. Thriving within areas scarred by human disturbance, what can weeds teach us about resilience and resistance?

WEEDS

(a tiny library)

more about the project:

tonikritzer.hotglue.me

how can we learn to embrace complexity?

The Dandelion: the unclassifiable plant - in the Netherlands alone, there are 250 lookalike, yet distinct species All parts of the dandelion can be used: in post-war Europe, people made coffee out of the roots. During the war, there were efforts to cultivate dandelion for its rubber in the roots, among others there was a research facility in the KZ Auschwitz. The roots of the dandelion are so strong that they can easily break through streets.



some prompts to atune to our more-than-human teachers:

try not to shy back of antropomorphic clumsiness.

think of the landscapes this plant remembers. Think of the other beings the plant is entangled with - fungi, microbes, other plants, animals...

use your whole sensorium to get to know the plant.

be conscious of the way the light feels on your skin.

think of commons you share with this plant.

how to use a feminist imagination towards better worlds?

Artemisia vulgaris/Mugwort: is considered a protector of women and forest creatures. Mugwort has traditionally been used for relieving menstrual cramps, as well as an abortion-inducing infusion. She is helping with activating the feminist imagination, and is said to make you stress-resilient on long journeys.



solidarity between species?

the ground ivy: they live in communality with many other species, such as nettles, elderberry, ants for pollination. Their edible, slightly fuzzy leaves stay green throughout the year. When they bloom, they rise up vertically from their rhizomatic patches, and after pollination, they return to horizontal growth again. They live only with and through tight symbiotic relationships.



the stinging nettle: usually the first plant to pop up on abandoned land. she makes toxic soil fertile again, creates a fence for other life to thrive where she prepared the soil. Despite her sting, she is very healthy... and there are many tricks how to pluck her leaves without getting stung.

how can we learn to protect each other?