

NATIVE PRODUCTS: NORDES 2015 EDITION

COSTAS BISSAS

INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER
PAPAIRLINES

INFO@PAPAIRLINES.ORG

VASSO ASFI

INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER
PAPAIRLINES

INFO@PAPAIRLINES.ORG

LOUKAS ANGELOU

INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER
PAPAIRLINES

INFO@PAPAIRLINES.ORG

ABSTRACT

Native Products is an initiative that could act as a stepping point towards the exploration of alternative mediums and processes of the production cycle. Papairlines have developed a workshop sequence through which flora is transformed into a paste that can be later used as a raw material to cast objects. The process uses household tools and herbs.

During this workshop participants will be part of the different stages of processing the raw materials and create small utilitarian objects, while contributing to a debate on how production takes place today and what alternatives can be developed in the current socioeconomic status.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years there has been a rising interest of the public to access products and services made of local materials, created in an ethical manner. The results of such demand points towards products sensitive to their environment and respectful to the available resources and social groups involved in their production. Maintaining a balance between the rhythms of production and consumption could lead to a lifestyle promising a prosperous sustainable future for the generations to come, based on the ideas of community, collaboration and sharing.

Native Products is an initiative that could act as a stepping point towards the exploration of alternative mediums and processes of the production cycle. The project focuses on promoting the role of design in supporting a future lifestyle in balance with nature's rhythms, while raising awareness on the subject of production and consumption.

A first edition of Native Products was realised at The Barbican Centre in London as part of Hack the Barbican initiative, in August 2013. For this edition papairlines, explored notions of local production, product development and manufacture. Hacking parts of the

Lakeside & Barbican Gardens new crops were cultivated, that were later used as raw materials along with existing garden flora, for the production of utilitarian products.

From growing the raw materials to manufacturing the final product, the project aims to immerse participants in the narrative of product lifecycle, design, ecology and ethical production.

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WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Due to the work involved, only a maximum of 10 participants can be part of the workshop. Each participant is required to contribute a medium sized herb or soft flora.

During this workshop, you will go through the process of making your own Native Product following the instructions of papairlines' team, and leave with a product in its final state of production.

You will have the chance to debate issues around the themes of product lifecycle, rhythms of production, consumption and waste creation as well as reflect on the workshop process by making remarks, contributing thoughts and suggestions for future processes.

On the completion of the workshop, you will be given a handout to further continue your experimentation with Native Products outside the workshop, sharing your findings with papairlines' team and other workshop participants online.

HERB PASTE PREPARATION PROCESS

You will be using household tools, available by the organisers, to cut and chop your herbs, muddle & mix, blend, boil and strain your herbs. This will lead to a paste which you will then apply on molds. Once the mold has dried, your native products will be ready.

REQUIREMENTS

As a participant you are required to bring with you a medium sized herb plant.

SET UP & TOOLS

Table / Worktop, 4 plastic bowls, 10 pairs of Scissors, 2 Muddlers, 2 Strainers, 2 Wooden Spoons, 1 Blender, 1 Pot, Gas fire or kitchen facilities to boil the mixture. Access to power outlets, water and drain.

WORKSHOP OUTPUT

- In-situ collective creation of a small Native Product collection
- Share knowledge on the development of Native Products
- Giveaway handbook with guidelines on how-to apply this created knowledge
- Engage participants to grow their own native products and share their process & outcomes



Figure 1: Making Native Products

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