



TRAVELLING EXHIBITION
for young audiences

THE PLASTIC GARDEN

BY CHRISTOPHE DALECKI, ARTIST

**Centre
Pompidou**

Centre Pompidou

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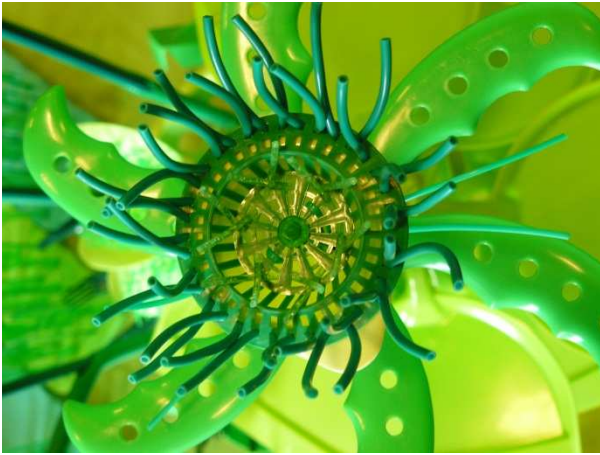
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1 – GENERAL PRESENTATION

Designed to be fun and hands-on above all, this installation/workshop invites viewers to enter the world of artist Christophe Dalecki by becoming co-creators of an imaginary garden with him.

As in nature, time is a fundamental aspect of this proposal, which involves seeing the garden grow and change as the weeks go by.

In the first place, the artist, like a gardener, takes over the space hosting the installation by introducing a number of plants that serve as a starting point for the huge collective garden created by the visitors. Various structures set up in the area enable future plants to germinate and grow tall on the walls and ground...



At their own pace, under the hands of the children-gardeners, the plants grow, flower and fade, making way for ever more extraordinary new shoots. Born of the imagination of these budding horticulturists, new "cuttings" in the shape of green plastic objects give rise to a multitude of plants, which form a unique, ephemeral garden.



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2 — PROFILE OF CHRISTOPHE DALECKI

Christophe Dalecki is a visual artist who encourages us to ponder the essential question of the border between nature and culture, through the artificial plant constructions that make up his installations, sculptures and drawings.

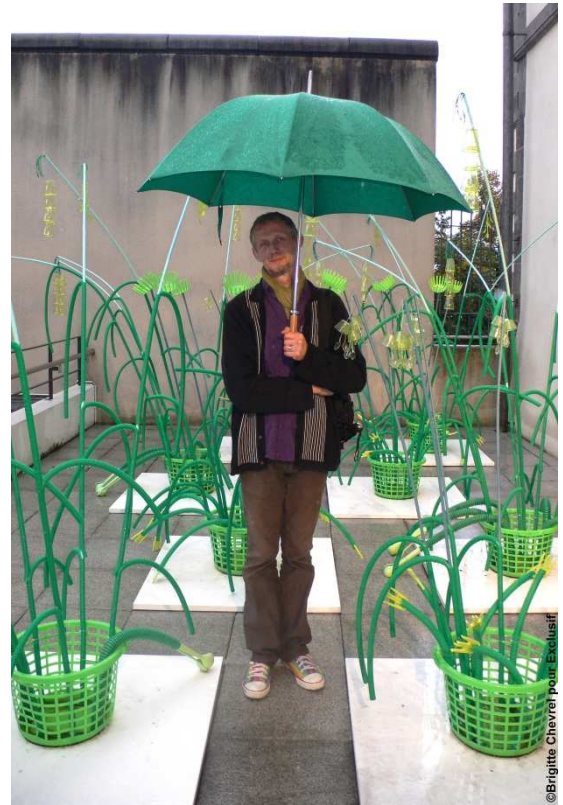
Using a single colour, green, he pushes the metaphor of nature to its limits.

With a selection of everyday plastic objects made using fossil resources, taken from their functional environment and re-used to mimic nature, he questions our relationship with the world and nature.

In his installations, he seeks links, breaks, disharmonies and similarities between nature and the industrial world through the image he conveys.

In transforming these plastic objects, he creates parallels, confrontations and bridges that stimulate us in a poetic, amusing way.

So garden hoses become jungle creepers, sieves become flowering cactuses and funnels bloom: all "plantastics" that grow in this incredible garden.





3 — SET-UP PRINCIPLES

Christophe Dalecki lays down the basic elements of his garden just as you would with a fallow area.

He divides, delimits, dreams up and designs his space. His future garden will contain climbing plants, creeping plants, creepers that hang to the ground or mingle with each other, copses and dense areas of undergrowth.

Nine wooden bases painted green are set out around the garden space.

These contain metal rods, into which are fitted various green plastic tubes that create large vertical lines and curves. A network can then be linked up with them to create horizontal structures.

One or more walls can be transformed into a screen of vegetation.

A dozen grey baskets contain objects, from which children can choose the ones that take their fancy (forks, funnels, sieves, etc.) The equipment needed by the children for cutting, making holes, tying and taping is also provided.

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4 – ACTIVITIES

To create plants and make the garden grow, raw materials are provided by a whole range of green plastic objects like straws, sieves, garden hoses, spoons, cups and lemon squeezers – all everyday objects that are diverted from their original functions and transformed through creative gestures.

These objects all have one point in common: the colour green, which creates unity between the plants and the garden.

1. Nature

Organising and exploring

During the activities, the garden reveals numerous facets through its continuous metamorphoses.

Children will think about the garden in terms of its overall spatial organisation and the particular elements that characterise it, by looking at various types of garden linked with specific places and purposes.

Kitchen gardens, herb gardens, water garden; cactus, alpine and Zen gardens; private or public gardens; the principles of division and distribution: pathways, plots, climbing plants, the vertical aspect of a plant wall, what happens at ground level, the relationship between constructed and vegetal elements, prohibited zones, and so on.

Children are encouraged to think about, construct and take action on the state of the garden, which gradually turns into a weird and wonderful garden where it is pleasant to wander around.

Children can dream up and reproduce the sounds you hear in a garden, like the wind sighing in the leaves and the sounds of animals and birds.

Other ideas they can integrate are the passing of time, growth, maturity, plants that fade and decompose, the cycle of day and night and the changing seasons.

2. Diverting the use of everyday plastic objects

Diverting and metamorphosing

Taking one of the objects found in the baskets, the children firstly observe its characteristics, its form inside and out, the condition of the surface, its hardness, transparency, colour, etc.

They play with the material with their hands, observing how it leaves marks on their skin, and how the hand wants to interact with the object. Children assemble, cut out and tie objects together, just as gardeners do when they take cuttings, graft or trim, and create imaginary plants by transforming these objects.



3. The single colour

Observing and classifying

All greens look alike, but in fact they are very different.

Children are shown how to look at the different shades of green – which depend on the quality of the plastic, its transparency, shininess or opacity – and thus sharpen their perception.

Before transforming their objects, the children classify the greens and try to name them, in order to factor all these parameters into the creation of their artificial plants.



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5 — TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Insurance: covered by the Centre Pompidou
Exhibition area required: around 150 m²
Volume: 20 m³
Weight: 500 kg
Exhibition components: 4 cases
Storage surface: 15 m²

FURTHER EXPENSES TO BE COVERED BY THE PARTNER INSTITUTION:

- ✓ Rental charge: on request
- ✓ Artist's fee – €2,000
- ✓ Transport there and back (to be calculated)
- ✓ Installation of grids on the ceiling and metal cables on the walls for fixing the set-up components
- ✓ Creation of signage (title, generic panel, presentation of the exhibition)
- ✓ Equipment to be provided:
 - Teaching equipment: consumables
 - ✓ Staff to be provided (assembly and dismantling)
 - ✓ Coordinators to be provided (1 coordinator per 15 children)



International

- Interpreter for the Centre Pompidou teams (assembly and dismantling)

✓ Missions (4 missions)

-1 mission all expenses paid (travel, accommodation, daily meal allowance) for the curator of the Centre Pompidou exhibition to oversee the assembly process, train the coordinators and attend the exhibition preview.

- 1 mission all expenses paid for the artist Christophe Dalecki to set up the installation

- 1 mission all expenses paid for a person in charge from the travelling exhibition unit to carry out an inspection and help dismantle the exhibition.

- 1 mission all expenses paid for the Centre Pompidou floor manager to oversee the dismantling process.

