

# DIE AXT IM WALDE

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(Work Proposal)

*Die Axt im Walde* is a project of online sourced video footages which showcase trees while falling. When they are put together they expose the polarity of our culture; that inner feeling of fragility when encountered with sharpness.

The planetary environmental issue is one very relevant to all aspects of life and art in particular. When one decides to look at the art production, studios, accumulation of materials, trial and error processes until the final work is satisfactory, the plastic, canvas, oil paints, paper, proof prints, mechanical devices, transportation, electricity and finally the NFT culture, one reaches to the conclusion that art among other functions is also a consumer and waste production mechanism.

More than any other time, Douglas Huebler's statement gains even more significance today:

*'The world is full of objects, more or less interesting; I do not wish to add any more. I prefer, simply, to state the existence of things in terms of time and/or place.'*

The core of my proposal under the title *Die Axt Im Walde* reflects this principle. Based on a selection of found videos of low visibility the acquiring process of the works produced turns toward a platform of high participation and popularity: YouTube. Many of them made for practical reasons, engage to the readymade taking the form of video. These videos have no particular aesthetic direction and reside the platform servers for an audience of very specific interests. In a way the situation reflects the taste, occupations or hobbies of the viewers coming in an interesting juxtaposition to the views counted by music, entertainment and

lifestyle industry broadcasted by the same platform. These videos of medium to limited public appeal showcase everyday matters and issues represented outside mystification and phantasmagoria.

Using *'objects less or more interesting'* I revisit elements fallen -in a way- on the dark side of the spectacle. I attempt to reactivate them while organising them in groups of conceptual umbrellas (some examples are DUST, MILK, SAND) and relate them again with their surroundings.

Thereafter, elements of overlooked or invisible components become a metaphor for global issues such as translocation, purity, diversity and gradually evolve to layers of biology (biodiversity, immunity, integration) philosophy (the notion of existence, interdependence, infinity, re-production, idealism, perfection etc).

The particularly selected YouTube videos for the project *Die Axt Im Walde* showcase trees while falling. Although particularly harsh during the first viewing, I feel that when they are put together they expose the polarity of our culture: that inner feeling of fragility when encountered with sharpness and the results of carelessness. On another reading, the outlined theme offers the context to approach the trees again and -although fallen- gain the chance to contemplate once more under their shadow with the hope that, after all, the forest spirit will remain when materiality collapses.



*The Ñuñork Times, Tala de Araucaria, 0:40', 16 Oct 2017 (442 views)*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkFZUvCQR\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkFZUvCQR_c)

*STIHL USA, How to Fell a Tree with a Chainsaw, 5:44', 7 Dec 2015 (2,950,056 views)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIbEL-3RB1U>

*Acrolife Tree Service, Tree Climbing abbattimento Araucaria araucana. Monkey puzzle tree dismantle, 3:25', 8 Jul 2017, (871 views)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqXgcXRXovo>

*Guilty of Treason @ Eastside Tree Works, WORLD'S BEST TREE FELLING TUTORIAL! Way more information than you ever wanted on how to fell a tree!, 45:24', 3 Apr 2020, (5,173,167 views)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLIEYvHMS8U>

*Marty Bumgarner, Falling tree 11 21, 1:36', 24 Nov 2021, (2 views)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgASqxAe5pQ>

*Same day marine, todays tree falling, 9:56', 24 Nov 2021, (1 view)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzfMi-nsgtw>

