

Sustainability is a creative challenge. Thus we need the resource of culture and the knowledge of art to develop a humane and ecologically viable world.

The seminar *From Deep Down* is informed by cultural research and the idea of social sculpture. Social sculpture contains an expanded concept of art in the sense that 'every human being is an artist' (Joseph Beuys). This means that we are all able and called upon to contribute creatively to the reshaping of our society into forms that can be experienced as desirable and humane.

From Deep Down is designed to welcome persons from all disciplines, backgrounds and professions. It offers ideas and a creative approach that can be integrated into various fields of work.

This seminar invites individuals and groups:
to develop a relationship and awareness to soil issues;
to find one's own agenda around soil issues;
to explore the relationship between inner activity and outer work;
to connect with one's creativity;
to gain new insight and motivation through different forms of dialogue.

The duration of the seminar and how it unfolds depends on the local conditions and on the needs of those who participate.



What are properties and behaviours of fertile soil? How would we think and act, if we purposefully wanted to generate the effects that fertile soil generates?



One of the key issues discussed in soil science is the conditions that either degrade or increase soil fertility. Comparably, which processes or substances today undermine or enhance our capacity to overcome exploitative ways of living and producing? What would be enlivened modes of knowing, understanding and communicating that help to reconnect with soil, and, learning from the soil become ourselves the 'humus' of a sustainable world?

Voices from participants at Global Soil Week, Berlin, 2012:

'In today's urban societies, the contact with soil is absent in our ways of living - as often is the contact to oneself. For the Global Soil Week the approach of this seminar, very new to me, is essential.'
Photographer, France

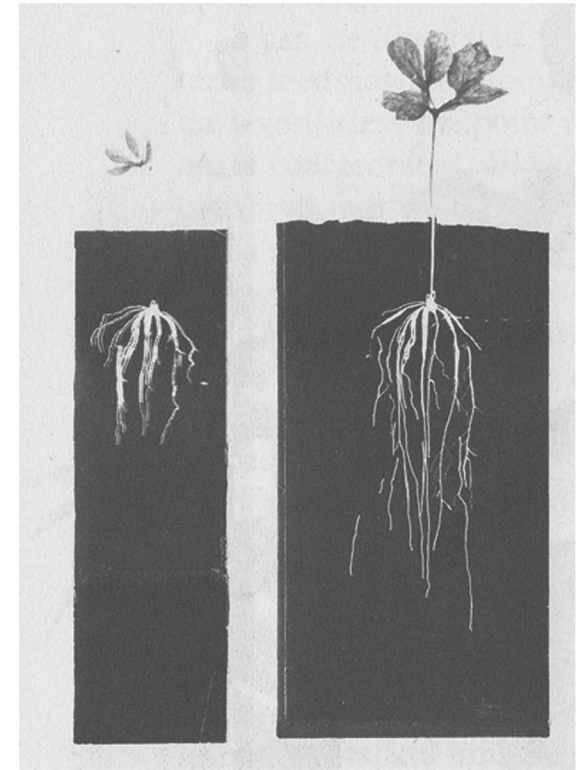
'Soil is there but our awareness isn't always.'
Soil scientist, Qatar

'We experienced what it can mean to work from within the humus in ourself.'
Lawyer, Austria

From Deep Down builds on cultural research as well as on ideas and creative practices that have been developed to a large extent at the Social Sculpture Research Unit at Oxford Brookes University, www.social-sculpture.org
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FROM DEEP DOWN

A Social Sculpture Soil Seminar



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From Deep Down invites participants to develop a new awareness of soil through connecting the cultivation of soil with what economist Ernst F. Schumacher called the 'culture of the inner human being'. What are the practical - including economic and political - implications of the fact that humus and humane stem from the same etymological root?