



Laurence Aëgerter

Healing Plants for Hurt Landscapes

In her series Healing Plants for Hurt Landscapes, **Laurence Aëgerter** (1972, France) looks to photography as a means of recovery. Rather than looking head-on at victims or dealing directly with those who have been harmed, Aëgerter's project is the result of a community art project based on the recreation of a medicinal garden. The garden, originally located at the Abbey of Saint Gall, a medieval monastery in Switzerland, was reconstructed on an unused plot of land in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands.

Aëgerter selected 100 images of disasters found on the internet with Google searches, representing a diversity of events and geographies. She took photographs of these wounded landscapes, which were then to be 'healed'. Inviting local residents to participate in this process, the artist asked that the community treat these landscapes with medicinal plants from the garden, using the appropriate antidote, for example the use of ginger against pain caused by burns. The completed works are vividly alive landscapes, linking life with photographs of life, and connecting victims with viewers. At once performative and restorative, the series is a reminder that the goal of photography need not be limited exclusively to the finished object.

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