



Big Botany

Catalogue 64–68

Laurence Aëgerter
born 1972, Marseille, France

four selections from the series
Healing Plants for Hurt Landscapes, 2015

Taraxacum officinale i.a.

–Gaza, Palestina

Althaea officinalis i.a.

–Al Ahmadi, Kuwait

Ruta graveolens i.a.

–Barrington crater, Arizona, USA

Cannabis sativa i.a.

–Coastal Japan

ultrachrome prints

71.12 × 109.22 cm

Museum purchase: R. Charles

and Mary Margaret Clevenger

Art Acquisition Fund,

2017.0108–.0111

*Healing Plants for
Hurt Landscapes*

artist's book

offset lithography

36 cm × 19.5 cm each

Anonymous gift, 2017.0052

Healing Plants for Hurt Landscapes is an extension of Aëgerter's previous project, *Herbarium Cataplasma*, created in the neighborhood of Oldegaleen-Bloemenbuurt in Leeuwarden, Netherlands. As explained on the artist's website,

Aëgerter led a careful reconstruction of the plan of the medicinal garden of the medieval Abbey of Saint Gall on an unused plot of land in Leeuwarden, which was once part of a convent. This project was realized in collaboration with the local residents who Aëgerter then invited to partake in a symbolic healing ritual. Photographs of ruined landscapes from the previous century were treated with the medicinal plants, each one with the appropriate antidote found in the library or through the residents' own experience (e.g. ginger against pain in burns). The 100 photographs were selected by searching Google for news photographs of a diversity of disasters in different parts of the world. Aëgerter took photographs of these landscapes to then be healed. Through this process, plants and landscapes merged into a new image. The photographs appear in the form of a newspaper, as well as a series of large photographs, *Healing Plants for Hurt Landscapes*.¹

***Taraxacum officinale i.a.*–Gaza, Palestina**

The healing plant *Taraxacum officinale*, also known as dandelion, is used to treat infections, bile and liver problems, and as a diuretic. It is also used as a way to promote digestion. The catastrophic background image shows a devastated building in the Gaza Strip, caused by bombings amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

***Althaea officinalis i.a.*–Al Ahmadi, Kuwait**

The healing plant *Althaea officinalis*, also known as mallow and marsh, is used for inflammation and irritation of the alimentary canal, for urinary issues, and respiratory issues including bronchitis and excessive coughing. The catastrophic background image shows fires caused by the Iraqi Military bombing of roughly 700 oil wells in Kuwait between January and November of 1991.

***Ruta graveolens i.a.*–Barrington crater, Arizona, USA**

The healing plant *Ruta graveolens*, also known as rue and herb of grace, is used as a stimulant and antispasmodic. It is also used to treat hysteria, excessive coughing, digestive issues, and headaches. The catastrophic background image shows the crater that was caused by a nickel-iron meteor in the Arizona desert more than 50,000 years ago.

***Cannabis sativa i.a.*–Coastal Japan**

The healing plant *Cannabis sativa*, also known as marijuana, is used to treat cancer, glaucoma, HIV, seizures, pain, and nausea. The catastrophic background image shows a burning home in Sendai caused by the tsunami and earthquakes associated with the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

PC & SG

¹ Laurence Aëgerter, "Herbarium Cataplasma," accessed July 2, 2017, <http://laurenceaegerter.com/portfolio-item/herbarium-cataplasma/>.

2017.0108



2017.0109





2017/0110



2017/0111

2017/0052

Laurence Dégertter

HEALING PLANTS FOR HURT LANDSCAPES