

In the particular context of the *New Biennial for Art & Architecture*, I dealt with the rituals and traditions around building a new house and moving in, in relation to the existing environment and society.

MOVING WITH IDENTITY & RITUALS Being an immigrant, I have searched for the balance between keeping Japanese traditions to maintain my heritage and picking the local customs to integrate into the society. After moving numerous times, I developed a personal ritual, a combination of purifying the new space and asking the locals (incl. gods, spirits) to share the space, and also to plant something to start a new life with.

PURIFICATION & HARMONY At the biennial, a container was placed in Fittja, an area known as a multicultural suburb. It housed a communal kitchen and a prototype of eco-toilette by other participating creators. I composed a new ceremony inspired by the traditions from these artists/architects as well as from the residents. I conducted the ceremony, to create, clean and protect a new space, and to establish a connection with the neighbours and environment. The offerings used for the ceremony represented the background cultures of the people involved in the project, and were given away after the ceremony.

There was an interesting meeting point of the stories around the moving-in rituals from Sweden, Sri Lanka/US, and Japan: making and offering porridge. Fusing these three, rice porridge was cooked after the ceremony and shared with the public.

TREE PLANTING for ROOTED & SOCIAL LIFE I proposed to a local group of creative youth with diverse origins, to choose a tree that reflect their identities and plant it at the biennale site. Taking their suggestions and the advice from Swedish National Botanic Garden into account, a walnut tree is on the way to be planted, with our wish to get rooted and grow, offering a social place in the community.



(left page) I am making a prayer (right page, from top to bottom) I am purifying the space with the new composed ritual in front of the public; both the collaborators and the public were curious and documenting the ceremony; the offerings for the ritual, representing the locality as well as the background cultures of the creators involved in the project; making rice porridge is the fusion of the rituals from Amanda Eicher, Jelena Rundqvist and the artist



Convivial Ceremony

2014

project (ritual composition, sharing, tree planting)

incl. interaction with Amanda Eicher, Jelena Rundqvist (for ritual composition), and Dream Team (for tree planting)

New Biennale of Art and Architecture, Fittja, Sweden