



Where my Wild Strawberries Grow (no absolute)

2013/2016

act / installation (a book with pressed flowers and plants inside, selected found books)
Appenzell, Switzerland (2013); Maebashi, Japan, and Echigo-Tsumari, Japan (2016)

I made many small hikes in Appenzell in 2013. I repeated some paths that became my favourite, and often came back with small trophies from nature, such as flowers and fruits.

ACT OF WALKING AND COLLECTING I decided to make a walk to the place where I found many wild strawberries, to pick the plants and flowers that charmed me on the way, and to press them in-between the pages of a thick book. Each time I found a flower/plant, I inserted them every 10 pages of the book, and the leaves from the wild strawberries were placed on page 560, where my action ended.

LIFE OF OTHERS & THEIR VALUE I chose a German edition of *1000 places to see before you die* for pressing flowers and plants not only because of its thickness and compactness, but also to relate to my recent reflection on differing values in society and in our lives. The title of the piece refers to *Smultronstället* (literally means “the place where wild strawberries are”), a Swedish word that idiomatically signifies an underrated gem of a place, often with personal or sentimental value.

LAYERS OF BOOKS & LIFE PATHS The work is to be presented on the bookshelves, placing the book with pressed flowers on a shelf, and piling up the books that are found at the location of presentation in order to fill the gap between the two shelf boards. I selected the books that are somehow resonates with myself, finding the crossing point of our lives.

The first installation of the work in Appenzell consists of the books found at the residency, which were also originally used to press the flowers and plants as a weight. The books that were used at Arts Maebashi were found at their archive. The books that were used in Echigo-Tsumari were found from the personal library of Fram Kitagawa and Yoshitoki Irisawa as well as from the local elementary school.



(left) installation as an intervention at the archive of Arts Maebashi museum, Japan (above) installation view at Echigo-Tsumari, Japan. (below) installation view in Appenzell, Switzerland with a pile of books that were used to press the flowers originally

