Svampen och Tåget

Svampen och Tåget / The Mushroom and the Train
MASU at Bästa Biennalen, Järnvägmuseet in Ängelholm. A workshop set up for younger participants 1-3 November 2019, in the end of November school break, as part of the Bästa Biennalen (an Art Biennial in Skåne where cultural institutions participate to reach out with art and cultural activities to a younger audience). The space is an old train garage at Järnvägmuseet with high ceilings, white walls and grey floors.

We drew from our Land Art work in Kronoskogen, where we have the wooden mycelic structures that move thru the landscape and connected it to the idea of the railroad as a similar rhizomatic structure in the landscape. The Svampen och Tåget / The Mushroom and the Train workshop consisted of three stations in the museum gallery space: One station where participants could write on (light green) paper strips about what is their best place (drawing from our work with the wooden laths where we let participants write this on the the wood making the sculpture both a spatial and textual work - Art Inside Out in Halmstad 2018). The paper strips where then put on the wall forming a railroad type network of best places. Second station was for drawing (only with different green pens) on 20x10cm papers (cardboard, white) with the theme of Mushrooms and Trains, these were put together on another wall to form a large collaborative drawing. The last station was a free play setup with 300 screen printed railroad pieces on 20x10cm boards, where railroad could be build in the space.

In the space we had three large prints from the sculpture project in the forest and our latest issue of MASUworks (10) for reading. We produced 60 A6 notebooks with screen printed cover for participants to take home to continue the drawing and thinking on best place.

There was around 40 participating children in ages between 3 and 13, with parents / grandparents a day in the space and quite a few drawings being drawn and best-places told.
As teachers at the Academy of Design and Crafts, the workshop with creative / artistic content is a known format for us since this is a big part of our teaching practice. The main differences in this particular project are both the audience (children) and that we created the setup in relation to an ongoing art project that we have, instead of in relation to a course syllabus.
The possibility to develop projects that can discuss content in different ways, with different people is intriguing and we believe we will continue this may it be through workshops, seminars, writing or lectures. The combination of artistic practice and academic work and letting the different spaces feels like a sustainable way of working that will benefit both practices and us.

www.masu-projects.se
www.artinsideout.se
bastabiennalen.se