

Bookshelf

2014-2015

act / installation

(image [inkjet on non-archival paper], text

[inkjet on papers from the books], shelf)

photo: 218x326cm, text: ca.20x10cm each

shelf: 24x45x1.8cm

Pola Museum Annex, Tokyo; Arts

Maebashi Museum, Gumma; ISSP, Riga

(International Literature Festival)

A work with a short essay and an image, reflecting the distances created by age, nationality and values, where I projected life paths on the layers of books. There collection of small things create a bigger entity, and it is made to “age” as we all do.



(above) installation view of the text and the image

(below) installation view of the image part with an audience walking by



It is a work of art consisting of a short essay and an image, which reflects the distances created by age, nationality and values. I projected life paths on the layers of the books, and observed the meeting points of the seemingly distant things.

WEIGHT, LAYERS, AND LIFE PATHS

The image shows the intervention: On the bookshelf of my old friend Maivor, a Swedish lady who is 50 years senior to me, I placed my book with pressed flowers and plants that I picked during my wanderings in the Swiss Alps. I chose the books from Maivor's bookshelves that reflect my own life and my friendship with her, and piled them up on top of my own book to fill the gap between two shelves, as I did when I originally pressed the flowers and plants in the Alps.

At the installation, the image was divided into 121 pieces and each nailed, and the height of the book pile is the height of Maivor as well as mine.

MEETING ON A PAGE

The text narrates my paths and threads that led to my friendship with Mavior, with juxtapositions of different values and lives. It tells about the ephemeral and private installation I made on Maivor's bookshelves as a physical and poetic manifestation of the subject of my essay.

I printed it on the blank side of two pages of the books in the pile that I took out: one is the first page of the book on the top of the pile, and the other is the last page of the book on the bottom.

WORK THAT GROWS FURTHER

The images are printed on ordinary matt papers with ordinary ink that are not of archival quality; in order to make this work itself to age through time. The books have the leads to widely-shared concerns, such as global mobility (migration, tourism), colonial history, aging society, LGBT, and feminism.

« the books piled on the shelf »

Oscar Wilde, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*

Marcel Proust, *In Search of Lost Time*

Vilhelm Moberg, *Unto a Good Land*

Vilhelm Moberg, *The Emigrants*

Albert Camus, *Exile and the Kingdom*

Björn Ursing, *Field flora*

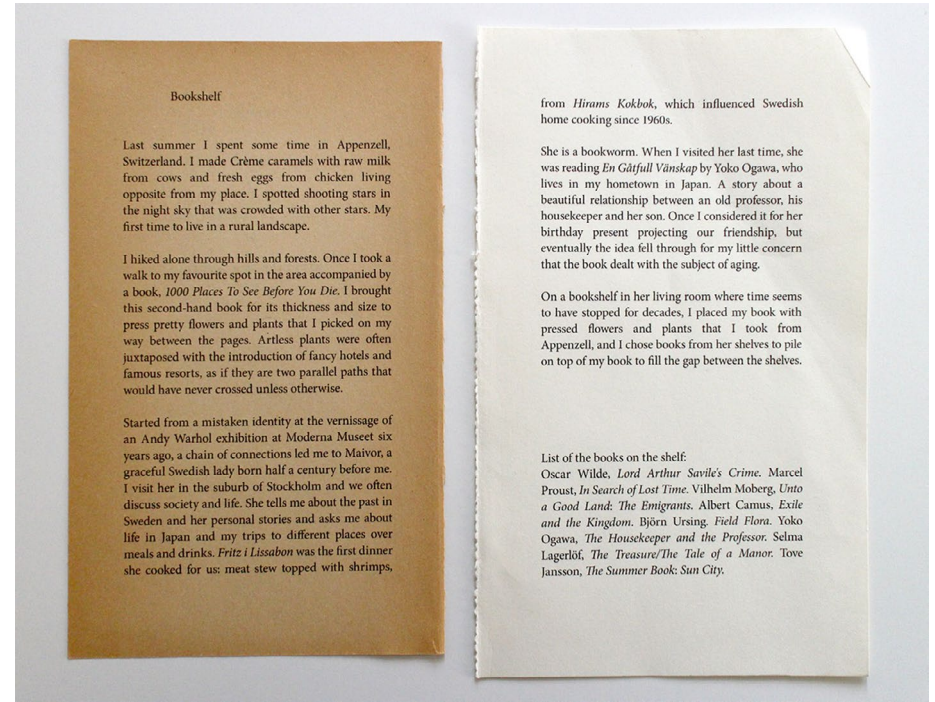
Yoko Ogawa, *The Housekeeper and the Professor*

Selma Lagerlöf, *The Treasure/The Tale of a Manor*

Tove Jansson, *The Summer Book*

Tove Jansson, *Sun City*

Patricia Schults, *1000 Places to See before You Die*



- (top left) the original photo used for the image part of the work
- (top right) the text printed on two sheets of paper taken out of the books
- the first page of the book on the top of the pile, and the last page of the book on the bottom
- (bottom left) the detail of the image part, consisting of 121 separate pieces put together