

Press release

# PLANTIARCHY

4 July – 3 Sept. 2023

Marres, House for Contemporary Culture

During the exhibition *Plantiararchy*, the house of Marres will be transformed into a world where plants reign supreme. In the exhibition, the world is literally turned into complete disorder, with an enormous forest that grows upside down throughout all of the rooms. The two floors of the house reveal the double life that plants lead (above and below ground). In an imaginative way, it is made experienceable that plants are at least as active and defining earth dwellers as humans.

Also on view is the (pseudo) scientific documentary *The Plantiararchy*, which reveals the history, present and future of a fictional, invasive plant species.

*Plantiararchy* communicates in a concrete, tangible, and playful way, welcoming you into a world in which plants call the shots and define the space. *Plantiararchy* combines utopian activism with fairy-tale reality.

## **Sunflower Soup**

The exhibition is developed by the newly formed artist collective *Sunflower Soup*, which opposes the idea that humans dominate nature as independently functioning beings. The collective was born out of a shared activist interest and the need to explore what art practice can mean beyond the confines of the individual. *Sunflower Soup* connects activism and levity by working with imaginative reversals. What would happen if plants were in charge? What would the world look like? What new forms of cooperation and consciousness would occur? This imaginative exhibition visualizes a world in which plants are as active and impactful as humans.

Inspired by nature, the *Sunflower Soup* collective considers itself a biotope, in which behaviors, ideas and feelings are so intertwined that they are barely distinguishable.

*Sunflower Soup* consists of five members at its core, but the exhibition was created through the collaboration of a wide range of people: students, elders, climate activists, nature experts, people living in poverty, volunteers, hobbyists and refugees. More than 1,000 people collaborated on this newly created reality. Together they invite us to see the plant world in a different light. At the same time, they are a protest against the individualistic way the art world functions. In the *Plantiararchy*, everyone is a maker and no one is the boss.

### **Atelier room & workshops**

Due to the success of the pulp workshops, you can still join Plantiararchy. In a specially equipped studio room, anyone can use paper pulp to make their own leaf, flower or branch.

You can also still sign up for a workshop making plants out of paper pulp. These workshops are intended for all kinds of groups and all ages. The workshops will be held at Marres, but also at the community center, the allotment garden or at school. With an expert from Marres, plants around the site are viewed and it is explained how they work together, with each other, with other creatures and with their environment. Then leaves and plants are shaped with paper pulp. During that process, questions are asked about plant life, nature and climate to further shape the idea behind Plantiararchy.

Want to join? Sign up via [receptie@marres.org](mailto:receptie@marres.org). Please indicate whether you prefer a workshop on location or in Marres. We will contact you to arrange a date.

Cost: €50 per hour

Plantiararchy is made possible by [Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds](#), [Iona Stichting](#) and [Stichting Stokroos](#).

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