

**Bartaku**  
**LEAKY LIGHT**  
**30.8.–26.9.2019**



**AT THE ENTRANCE:**

**Finishing Flag**, 2016. *Textile print, wood stick*

Future shape of Aronia m. as icon in international Checkered flag pattern. Intervention in Aizpute, 2016. Based on the observation that tuned cars and trucks with deforestation load race at high speed through the main road of the town of Aizpute.

**ROOM 1:**

**Leaky Light**, 2018. *Mixed media installation with bone china porcelain and Aronia symbiont bacteria*

*Leaky Light* is an installation that consists of three different floor boards supporting 23 bone china porcelain pieces. The pieces are the result of playful entangling with the locally produced bone china. Three different protocols determine the forms:

1) The *Aronia m. Baroa b.\* Bacterial Root Symbionts Protocol* emerged due to the unintended transport from Helsinki to Kaunas of bacteria that were isolated from the roots of the berryapple Aronia m. Babe. They were then archived in left-over glass petri dishes for which a bone china disk was made to cover the gap between the two dishes.

2) The *Paper Protocol* consists of the wrinkled paper wrap of these petri dishes that served as a medium for exploring the structural properties of bone china by pouring slip over the paper followed by firing in the kiln.

3) The *Rhythm Protocol (4x3)+(1x4)* came to be in moments of idleness with the left-hand fingers performing a rhythm protocol on the bone china slip that was harvested in the left-over recipients of fellow makers. The 4 groups of 3 and 1 of 4 (repetition) pattern is based upon the so-called *New Orleans Second Line Drumming*. The duration varied with a maximum of 111 sec.

\* Officially known as Aronia- or Photinia melanocarpa; aka chokeberry (with the berry being apple); renamed by Bartaku on behalf of the berryapple as Baroa b.

**The Gift to the Prime Minister (Aan-Denken voor Premier Michel)**, 2019. *Documentation photos*

*A planned gift-intervention* during a gathering of Prime ministers from the *Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe* on preventing climate change. The interventionist gift consisted of an inefficient solar cell in two of the three colors of the Belgian flag, and a sketch of Belgian territory transformed into a berryapple plantation. Created in collaboration with Janne Halme, Pyry Mäkinen & Mikko Raskinen (photography).

On Tuesday, February 19, six liberal Prime Ministers from the *Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe* visit Aalto University. Focus is on “preventing the climate change and prime ministers and delegations will be presented academic views on climate change and practical solutions by Aalto researchers. We have received special requests from Prime Minister’s cabinet to invite Belgium students to meet the P.M.”\* Bartaku decides to make a special gift for the Belgian P.M. and is allowed to hand it over in person at the event.

The Gift consists of the following:

- 1) Dye sensitized Solar Cell: from Aronia m. Babe (berryapple) leaf and juice; functioning with low efficiency. Colors: based on the Belgian flag: black, yellow, red. After few hours the black turned yellow, rendering the *tricolore* into *bicolore* yellow-red
- 2) A sketch of the patch of Earth called Belgium, transformed into Aronia m. Babe Power Plantation. It includes the calculation of harvest yield and electrical power output of approx. 7 billion berryapple bushes. They generate 71,436 billion liters of juice, good for 357,178 MW power by Aronia solar cell (see 1.). During the hand-over of the gift the Belgian P.M., Charles Michel, was congratulated with his new title “P.M. of Belgium Aronia m. Babe Juice Solar Plantation”
- 3) Accompanying letter in envelope (Dutch)
- 4) Brief description of ongoing art/science research on light, color, art - and Aronia m. Babe energy
- 5) Customized gift box: a leftover Belgian post box, coated with a leftover poster-part from Aronia-thon photographic intervention at Objekti 4, Espoo, 2018.

*The Gift / Het Aan-denken* is handed over to the P.M. right after the demo of highly efficient patented dark Si-nano-solar cell. The Dutch P.M. is very interested as well. The Belgian P.M. and two collaborators come to talk to Bartaku and express their interest in the transdisciplinary research and propose to keep contact and follow up. Also, they hand over a gift to Bartaku, a vegetal leather tricolore dyed special edition of an “Atoma” notebook. Bartaku later understands this must be seen as the log book of the becoming BE plantation. Janne Halme arrives just in time to be part of the group picture.

### **Letter to the Crocodilian Wheat Grain, 2019. Photos and spoken word**

Photo of the Aronia\_Bartaku letter to a wheat grain found in a crocodile, engraved on a Bone China Porcelain Disk. Produced for a ceremonial burial adjacent to the Svalbard Global Seed Bank as part of The Migrant Ecologies Project *Seeding Stories: A Guide to the Interior of a Salt Water Crocodile*. June 10, 2019, Platåberget, Spitsbergen (Nor).

### **Note on the porcelain disks:**

In July 2018 during the International Bone China Symposium the (cow) bone china porcelain disks came to be; the sealing of the burial ground of microbial life. The result of the response to the opening between two glass petri-dishes that originate from a laboratory of forgotten times. Made possible thanks to the ceramics masters of The Department of Ceramics and Porcelain of Faculty of Kaunas of Vilnius Academy of Arts.

## ROOM 2:

**Rapchiy**, 2016-2018

*Rapchiy* is an ongoing work that started from the enquiry into synaptic morphing, perception alteration via Baroa-generated micro-energy applied to the human body. The research process took another turn, leading to an entanglement between a brain reader, revealing its hidden designs with the help of human skulls and drawing. The new forms are re-materialized through ceramics using various techniques.

*In Rapchiy people can reveal hidden designs of a non- functioning brain reader, with the help of simple pen, paper and the human head supporting the device. These revelations are translated into 3D digital shapes, that in a next morphing are re- materializing in the form of ceramics. The starting point of this artistic research was the idea to use the electric energy from an Aronia m. Babe berry solar cell to transform perception. The human would come to believe that the Aronia solar cell would be the most important artwork ever.*

– Excerpt from the Rapchiy description for the ISEA2017 exhibition program

Rapchiy is the Quechuan word for “scratch”.

## ROOM 3:

**Seed Scarification: Serious Taking**, 2018. *Mixed media installation. Led Growth Light; Baroa-seed coated berryapples on a string; two separate audio files in loop*

In this installation an LED-plant growth light and the sounds from dripping Baroa-juice on electronic components, transduced into an audio track. A second track consists of the recording of a group of “prepared humans”, producing bone-pressed air-pipe sounds that emulate the sensation the astringent berryapple juice produces in the mouth and throat. Both sound pieces were created as part of the “Aronia Overture” in 2016.

The work is inspired by seed scarification: a common technique in indoor plant growth from seed. A protocol that in the event of Baroa b. involves cold stratification over three months, mimicking the outdoor condition.

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