

HORTIRECYCLING

1997 - present

An ongoing series of actions and interventions and the integral associated equipment, some of which is on view here, deal with alternative systems for a just distribution of food. The fact that farmers in EU countries still have to destroy millions of tons of fresh agricultural products each year because of cheap imports from industrial farming countries, despite worldwide hunger, inspired the artists to create this project. The precipitating action was the collection of fruits and vegetables that had been discarded at markets. They were carefully washed and celebrity chefs created meals and put up preserves from these rescued foodstuffs. The produce was transported to the exhibition site on movable-processing units equipped with sinks, cutting surfaces and hot plates. Now sculptural objects, their life as working kitchens is complete.

WATER

ORTAWATER

2005 - present

This body of work focuses on the scarcity of water and issues surrounding the privatization and corporate control that affects access to clean water. The aim of this work is to contribute proactively to the broadening of our understanding and development of sustainable solutions for the dilemmas surrounding water — its purification, transport, and distribution. Through combining functional objects, photography and sound, the Ortas create and communicate the reach of the issue through means of ameliorating it, through contraptions that are both playful and provocative. Of particular significance is their research into low-cost purification and distribution devices, to provoke a wider understanding of the current technologies available. Fully functioning machines and bottling stations distributing purified OrtaWater are incorporated into these artworks, enabling filthy water to be pumped and filtered directly from neighboring polluted water sources. The pump-station was first tested during the Venice Biennale in 2005, pumping water from the Grand Canal that was then purified and offered in sample bottles to visitors.

LIFE

ANTARCTICA

1990 - present

Their most ambitious project to date, Lucy + Jorge Orta produced an expedition and installation Antarctic Village — No Borders, which took place in Antarctica in 2007 thanks to a commission by The End of the World Biennale. This multi-part project addresses issues of the environment, politics, autonomy, habitat, mobility, and relationships among peoples. There are five inter-related groupings of work in this project: the DROP PARACHUTES, each focusing on critical human needs for food, water, and comfort; LIFE LINE SURVIVAL KITS, wall-mounted assemblages with similar purposes; the monumental film that poetically transmutes us into fellow expedition participants; and the utopian passport that would insure free movement across all borders, available to visitors who voluntarily add their names to the petition to amend the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a new Article 13.3, a reminder that we are all part of one precarious and fragile planet.