

Carbon footprint and growth rate

Joël Bartoloméo, cluelesS, Bastien Cosson, Marcelle Delpastre, Josquin Gouilly-Frossard, Laurent Grappe & Noémi Lefebvre, Bruno Jakob, Fernanda Laguna, Anouchka Oler-Nussbaum

It's morning and I'm looking out of the window. Light rain, a field, a forest. My neighbour in boots running behind his cows.

I don't know what time his day started, and I don't know when mine will end.

Work invades our lives, giving it meaning and its share of anxieties.

We work a lot, just like everyone else.

The difference is that we work for nothing.

A farmer earns an average of 910 euros a month.

The average artist earns €892.

NO PAIN NO GAIN

'What do you do for a living?

- I'm an artist.

- Oh great, what do you do?

- I paint.

- And do you sell?

- ... '

And while artists are always asked if they make a living from their work, no one would ever think of asking a farmer.

'Sometimes I dream of doing what you do, of giving up everything and taking up painting.

My neighbour and I feel as if we should be happy to live in a world that is the envy of everyone else.

One of the demands made at the latest farmers' demonstrations was for a minimum income equivalent to the minimum wage, based on prices rather than subsidies (1).

The CAP for some, DRAC, CNAP, FMAC and FRAC subsidies for others.

Filling in files and forms is an infantilizing, mind-numbing exercise that often proves to be pointless.

Everyone has heard of the farmers' demonstrations, but who has heard of the mobilisation of artists for the adoption of a law in favour of continuity of income (2)?

A law that would enable us to take advantage of the 'French cultural wealth' in which we actually participate.

And as poor as farmers are, we all agree that they work from morning to night.

The poorer the artist, the more invisible his or her work - unless it is exhibited.

That's why we wanted to build this first exhibition-manifesto, bringing together poets-farmers, writers, designers and visual artists. A dozen artists who have in common that they tame precariousness to make it an object of their work, seeking more to live alongside it than to emancipate themselves from it: sculptures by Josquin Gouilly-Frossard, poems by Marcelle Delpastre written between two jobs on the farm, painted objects by Fernanda Laguna, furniture-sculptures by the duo cluelesS that tend to shift our experience of everyday life, a painting by Anouchka Oler-Nussbaum from her years of study, a drawing by Bruno Jakob that speaks of the invisible and the temporary, films by Joel Bartolomé - a family anthropologist -, incisive texts by Noémi Lefebvre accompanied by videos made with her partner Laurent Grappe, and some of my paintings.

(1) 'A minimum wage equivalent to the minimum wage for all farmers, based on prices and not subsidies' La Confédération Paysanne
https://www.confederationpaysanne.fr/mc_nos_positions.php?mc=36

(2) <http://continuite-revenus.fr/texte.html> & https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/15/textes/l15b5093_proposition-loi#

Bastien Cosson

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