

MOTEL
SPATIE

KUNSMMAKE

Hello artist!

How are you doing? Are you OK staying at home, or are you getting a getting a bit itchy to get out by now? Normally we have an art club called KUNSMMAKE* at Motel Spatie. Every Tuesday we come together to make art. Unfortunately this isn't possible because of this nasty virus.

We don't want to continue making art and accidentally cough and sneeze and make each other ill. So we have to stay at home. We don't know how long this will take, so we just have to wait and keep calm.

But don't be afraid: real artists never sit still. Nobody will stop us to make our own artworks and discover the art of other cool artists! As long as KUNSMMAKE is cancelled I will create a weekly lesson/assignment you can do at home. We will look at other artists, themes and art forms and create our own artworks.

It is totally up to you if and when you create your artwork. And the good news is: these works you create can never be good or bad. Because as an artist you can decide for yourself if your artwork is good or not! You can make the artworks alone or with your siblings or friends. These special home assignments are for everyone. Even if you've never been at KUNSMMAKE. Feel free to share this assignments and the results with your family and friends. But don't forget to wash your hands!

Good luck, have fun and hopefully we'll see each other soon.
Best wishes, Ide!

*KUNSMMAKE means 'making art' in Dutch. Kunsmake art lessons are part of Motel Spatie in Arnhem, The Netherlands, and created by Ide André. Because of the Covid-19 virus they are free to spread among friends and family. For questions, suggestions or sharing your own creations: info@motelspatie.nl
Motel Spatie. Hisveltplein 21-35, 6826 EM, Arnhem, The Netherlands.

KUNSMAKE

Home session 1: Land art

Pffff... all this sitting inside studying books or sitting behind the laptop will melt your brain. Luckily, spring has arrived and so long as you keep social distance, it's nice to get outside sometimes if we are not in quarantine. Throughout the years there have been quite a lot of artist who made art outside, using nature itself as their material. They call this 'Land Art.' Before we start creating our own Land Art, we will have a closer look at a few examples of other artworks. I will tell you a little bit about the artworks, but you can find more information about these artists on the internet.



Robert Smithson with 'Spiral Jetty.'

Exactly 50 years ago, in 1970, the American artist Robert Smithson made this big artwork in the water, somewhere in a huge lake in America. This work, called Spiral Jetty, is still seen as one of the first and most important pieces of Land Art. Robert Smithson made a 1,500-foot-long and 15-foot-wide spiral pier from mud, salt crystals and basalt rocks. It's quite crazy if you think about it, because a normal pier is always straight. Visitors would walk on this spiral pier and they would walk on water. Because the shape is a spiral, the view changes while you walk. And this work consists of 7000 tons of rocks. You can imagine it is a lot of work to create Spiral Jetty!



Christo and Jeanne-Claude with 'Surrounded Islands.'

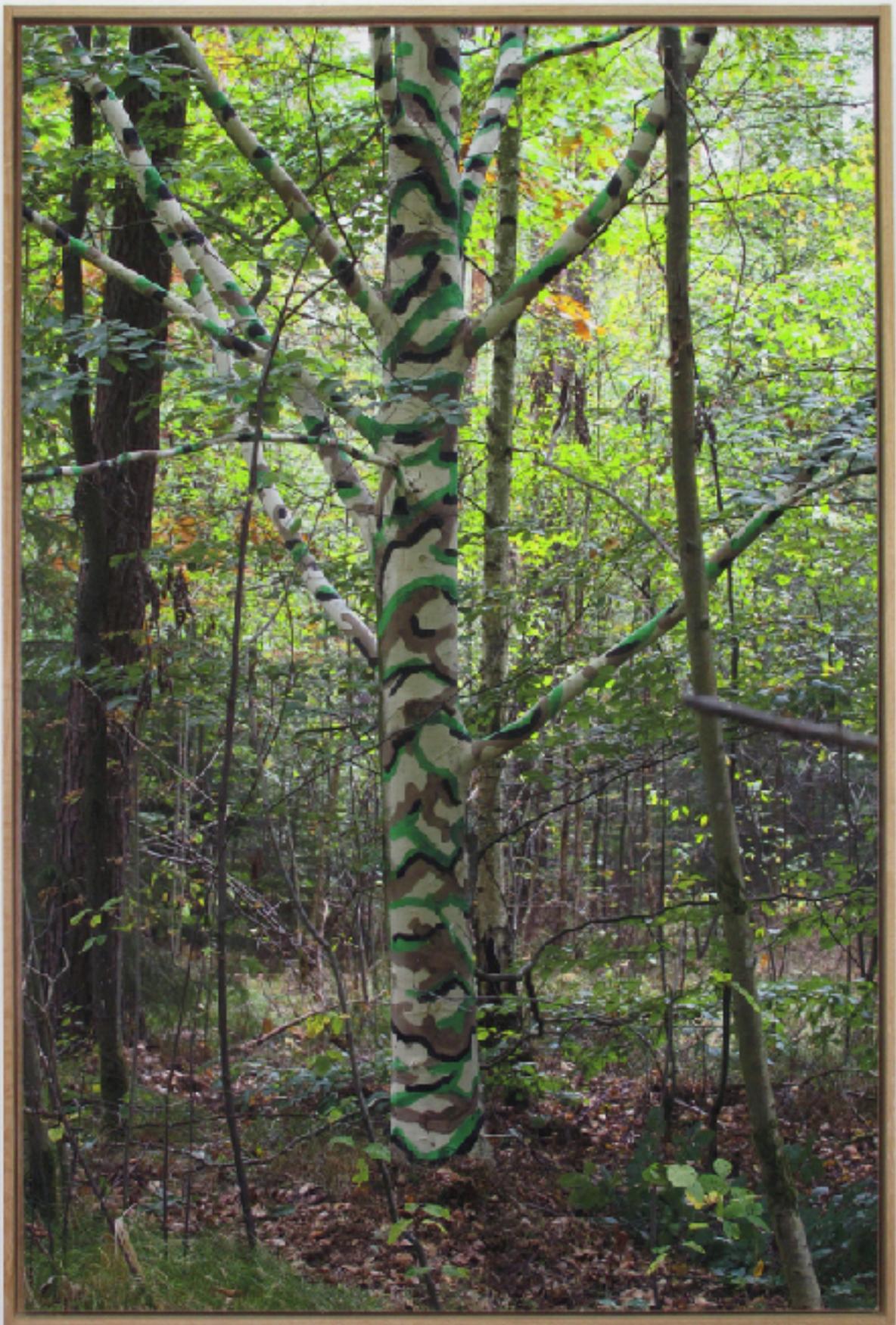
Another example of a big artwork that was made with nature is the work 'Surrounded Islands.' This was made by the artist duo Christo and Jean-Claude. Christo is Bulgarian and Jean-Claude was Moroccan. Many of their artworks consist of wrapping famous big buildings and objects. Once they even wrapped the Reichstag - a famous building in Berlin. In 1983 they did something really special! They've surrounded 11 small islands near the coast of Miami with enormous pink floating sails. This was quite a strange and beautiful sight. These Islands were often overlooked, but suddenly they stood out. But of course they were always there. On this website you can find more pictures:

<https://christojeanneclaude.net/mobile/projects?p=surrounded-islands>

Maarten Bel with 'Camouflage Tree'

In the Netherlands they also make Land Art. The picture on the next page is from the Dutch artist Maarten Bel. Last year, he painted a tree with camouflage patterns. You can barely see it on the picture. This is a bit weird, because a tree is always camouflaged, isn't it? And because of this camouflage painting, it actually stands out more than the other trees. Is it still camouflaged, then? On the website of the artist you can find a picture of him painting the tree. Luckily it is done with nature friendly paint. Otherwise it wouldn't be good for the tree.

<https://www.maartenbel.nl/portfolio/camouflage-tree/#>



Suzie van Staaveren with 'The Compromise.'

Suzie is a Dutch artist, just like Maarten. Last year she worked together with a tree doctor - yes, that's a real job. Cool isn't it? Together with this tree doctor she created artworks. Part of the art project was giving some trees necklaces with the name of the tree on them. You might know these necklaces. Mostly they have the name of the person wearing it on them. Like 'Jessica' or 'Carrie.' In this art project, the necklace is worn by a tree, with the scientific name of the tree on it. These are difficult names like 'Sequoiadendron Giganteum', as seen on the picture underneath this text. It makes us look at the tree in a new way. Like it is a person, just like you and me. Don't you think?



Assignment:

We have seen a few examples of art in nature called: Land Art. But, we want to create something ourselves! A real artist decides what he or she makes by him or herself. So you won't get a very clear and specific assignment of what to make. Maybe it is fun to see if you can make something outside, just like these artists from my examples did. Maybe you have a nice grass lawn or a little balcony or garden where you can make your own exhibition with beautiful things you have found in nature. Or maybe you can gather stones, just like Robert Smithson, and put them in a nice pattern. But I think you can come up with the best ideas yourself!

Do keep in mind that if you do something outside with materials or stuff from your own home, you clean it up afterwards or you work with nature/environmentally friendly materials. We don't want little birds getting trapped inside your artwork. And if you have made something nice, you can make a nice picture of it, just like the artists from the examples did. You can print out this picture and hang it on your wall, or share it on social media or send one to me, Ide

(ideandre@hotmail.com). Or you don't do anything with it. That's OK too, because you are the artist!

I am very curious. Good luck with

A rectangular box containing the word "KUNSMAKE" written in a bold, black, hand-drawn, slightly irregular font. The letters are thick and the overall style is reminiscent of a stencil or a marker drawing.

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Motel Spatie

Motel Spatie is an art- and project-space in the middle of the neighborhood Presikhaaf, in Arnhem, The Netherlands. Since 2010 Motel Spatie invites artists from all over the globe to create a dialogue with the neighborhood. Motel Spatie wants to stimulate the exchange between people from the neighborhood, not-artists, starting artists and artists.

In the coming weeks, Motel Spatie will look for digital ways to sustain these connections, and possibly create new ones. This assignment of Kunsmake is part of this. www.motelspatie.nl. Motel Spatie. Hisveltplein 21-35, 6826 EM Arnhem, The Netherlands.