

ENG

Fruit Belt

Martin Llavaneras
From 14.07.17 to 11.09.17

“Fruit belt” is the term used to refer to areas that provide an ideal microclimate for fruit growing. They are places with vast tracts of agricultural land, industrial cold storage warehouses, and networks of paths connecting to major distribution roads. They are also the point of departure for this research project in which Martin Llavaneras explores food processing and investigates the life cycle of raw materials. *Fruit Belt* focuses on the long process of fruit production, which involves a series of energy transfers and logistical processes that end up making their way into our bodies.

Taking the natural respiration process of apples as a point of reference, this project by Martin Llavaneras revolves around a series of “post-harvest” technologies used to store and transport the fruit, designed to control the ripening status and delay deterioration. Through these artificial stabilisation measures, the apples – no longer anywhere near the tree – enter a state of hibernation that extends their lives for months. This is possible by modifying the atmosphere around the fruit, increasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels on one hand, while decreasing oxygen (O₂) levels on the other. As well as protecting the fruit from possible decay through contact with fungi and bacteria, this system also allows it to be exported further afield.

The exhibition is organised around two main interconnected pieces. On entering the space, we see a structure that cuts through the room, covered with plastic sheeting that isolates the air inside from the usual atmospheric conditions of Espai 13. Inside, various moisture devices, which are automatically switched on at regular intervals, share the space with a series of objects (wrought-iron plant supports, fruit boxes and controlled atmosphere fruit growing bags). Different sediments (clay, caramelised sugar, and plastic) marked with tyre tracks are spread on the ground around these elements.

The second piece consists of a series of tanks filled with protective fluids used to coat apples. These liquids are carried through the exhibition space by means of a system of hoses, water pumps, and timers that periodically turn on and off. Various smaller recipients are arranged around these devices, containing extracts of fermented plants. These are plant chemicals used to stimulate the diversity of micro-organisms and bacteria that inhabit soils, made out of “weeds” that Llavaneras himself grew and fermented.

Through these elements, *Fruit Belt* presents a kind of conceptual, sculptural essay on the interactions between human culture as an atmosphere-modifying agent and

the contexts that live on its margins, in this case the tiny ecosystems that are generated through oxidation processes. Halfway between the biological and the technological, Martin Llavaneras connects two imaginaries of production: the agrochemical industry on one hand, and small-scale practices like horticulture on the other.

The exhibition as a whole invites visitors to rethink the divisions between human beings and our surroundings. It is a way of comparing and bringing things that are unfamiliar to us – like the sun's light energy ripening an apple – closer to something as commonplace as biting into it and absorbing its sugars. When applied as a global logistic process, this small-scale gesture of atmospheric modification implies atmospheric change on a planetary scale. Because, as it happens, the gases released by fossil fuels during the transportation of raw materials create the very same conditions as the breeding ground in which fermentation and oxidation processes prevailed millions of years ago.

Acknowledgements:

Carles Garcia Guilló (Agrofruto)
Mariona Martín Llavaneras
Xavier Minguet (Agroborges)
Marc Ribert (Cadena del Frio)
IRTA (Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries)
Fundació Sorigué
Santi Soto (El Vergel de las Hadas)

One Foot Out exhibitions curated by Jordi Antas

#Peuafora

Fundació Joan Miró

 Barcelona

Fundació Joan Miró
Parc de Montjuïc
08038 Barcelona
T +34 934 439 470
info@fmirobcn.org

With the collaboration of:

 Sabadell
Fundació

www.fmirobcn.org

