

“Flying Seed”

By Katharina Meister

Currently I am working on a series titled “Winged Seeds”. This piece especially is called “Flying Seed”. In this, I try to compare nature’s way of life and reproduction with the principals of human life and population growth. As the title of the series already lets you know, I am not looking at all of nature, but particularly on how seeded plants reproduce and disperse themselves. As plants are sessile, they need help from the environmental to disperse their pollen and seeds. Some rely on animals such as insects or birds, other rely on wind or water currents. I found very fascinating, how within the plant many plans rely on wind for seed dispersal; pollen is transported by the wind and there is a great variety of plants who have so called winged seeds, who then can be picked up by the wind and land far away from the mother plant. However, it is not guaranteed that there will be a new plant growing where the seed landed, because it is not only the seed that is needed for that new plant to grow but also the environment needs to be suitable. Their needs to be fertile soil, enough sun, enough water, and the right temperature of the atmosphere. If these conditions are not correct, no plant will grow. If we compare this way of reproduction with the way the human species growth, we can see quite some differences. We humans are not relying on the environmental conditions at the place of our choice for reproduction. We go anywhere and spread out and grow without any relation or connection to the resources available. If a species flourishes at any particular place in nature mostly balances itself out regarding the conditions in the environment of dispersal. This seems to be not the case for human population growth. Human population is growing exponentially and every one of us in their own lifetime uses up way more than one earth can sustainably supply. Online you can find webpages that can calculate your personal ecological footprint and it tells you how many earths you are personally using up with your way of living. I don’t want to blame any individual here. This is more a societal thing. We grew up in a world where we are so detached from everything, that we have never learned or gained a feel of, how much is too much. There is very little direct feedback for an individual to be able to gain a sort of feeling for how much would be the right amount to use. I mean, again, if you compare yourself with a seed that falls on infertile ground, there is direct feedback... these where some of the thoughts I had when I made that image...Kathi