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Abstract

The output is a series of fifty-one artworks exhibited as “feral artist interventions”. The documentation of these interventions was collated and presented alongside text as an artist book.

Research process: A collection of objects were sourced from flea markets and second-hand shops across Europe, which were then taken on a “nomadic” journey. Each of the artworks that make up *Material Nomads* was one iteration of a transformative process beginning with seventeen objects. The objects were first taken to England where they were transformed into a series of artworks. The objects were photographed “loitering” in suburban sites and printed as A4 cards; selected images of the objects were printed onto pink chiffon squares, similar to women’s head scarves; Three-dimensional casts were taken of the objects in paper mâché and copper foil. The artworks were then taken to Moss (Norway) and to Lisbon (Portugal) where they were exhibited as “feral artist interventions”.

Research insights: Nomadism is not aimless wandering, but is rather a methodical rotation of settlements to ensure maximum use of obtainable resources. Nomadism is a spatialised condition of flux where movement is triggered and sustained by various key material actants. Through the strategy of travelling with art works in a suitcase to install in and around cultural sites as temporary feral interventions, this research provides insights into means of exhibition making which allow for greater accessibility and engagement with audiences across borders.

Dissemination: The interventions were exhibited at Momentum 12 at the Nordic Biennale, Moss, Norway 6 – 7 December 2023. The documentation was collated as an artist book, which was disseminated in the UK and Norway. The project was presented as at the Lost and Found symposium in Lisbon, December 2023 alongside a feral display of the art works at Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea.

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Paula Chambers

*Material Nomads: A feral
artist intervention*

As part of Momentum 12, the
Nordic Biennale which took place
in Moss, near Oslo, Norway
(June 2023)



Digital version of the book I produced as an outcome of *Material Nomads* for Momentum 12

<https://heyzine.com/flipbook/02a8d62a8a.html>

In June 2023 I travelled to Norway to undertake a feral artist intervention as part of Momentum 12, the Nordic biennale held in Moss, a town an hour's drive south from Oslo. I took with me fifty-one artworks made from copper and chiffon packed in a standard suitcase and over the five days of my stay installed and documented these artworks in locations urban and rural, indoors and out, in and around Moss and Galleri 15 where the biennale was primarily being hosted. Considering Angela Dimitrakaki's (2014) proposition of nomadic feminist art making as a practice of refusal that operates in the grey zone between work and non-work, my own feral artist intervention similarly occupies the conceptual and physical space between private and public, domesticated and wild. These Material Nomads occupied spaces and places beyond the parameters of the cultural institution, this was a feral artist intervention that took material form not entirely independent from, but was rather as, an intentional process of scavenging on the peripheries of the art world.

Copper



Material Nomads, a feral artist intervention for Momentum 12, Norway (2023) copper, chiffon, paper mâché



Material Nomads, a feral artist intervention for Momentum 12, Norway (2023) copper, chiffon, paper mâché



Material Nomads, a feral artist intervention for Momentum 12, Norway (2023) copper, chiffon, paper mâché

Chiffon



Material Nomads, a feral artist intervention for Momentum 12, Norway (2023) copper, chiffon, paper mâché



Material Nomads, a feral artist intervention for Momentum 12, Norway (2023) copper, chiffon, paper mâché



Material Nomads, a feral artist intervention for Momentum 12, Norway (2023) copper, chiffon, paper mâché

Exhibition



Material Nomads, a feral artist intervention for Momentum 12, Norway (2023) copper, chiffon, paper mâché



Material Nomads, a feral artist intervention for Momentum 12, Norway (2023) copper, chiffon, paper mâché



Material Nomads, a feral artist intervention for Momentum 12, Norway (2023) copper, chiffon, paper mâché



Material Nomads at Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea, Lisbon where I presented the text written for the artist book as a paper for The Lost and Found symposium. I also undertook a feral artist intervention and installation as election of the works in and around the symposium venue.

