

Geneva, April 15, 2014

INVITATION LETTER

To whom it may concern,

We are writing this letter to confirm that Julian Castle & Gordon Brent Ingram have been invited to an artistic residency at Utopiana in Geneva, Switzerland for a period of three months, from June to September 2015. During their residency they will develop the project *A la recherche de certaines récoltes presque perdues: Decolonizing permaculture: The greatest adversity comes from forgetting.* The possibility of its realisation and socialisation will enrich our understanding of the interventions artistic practice can have within the ecological and anthropocene discourses.

Utopiana will provide accomodation and a working space as well as the resources of the garden and a small grant. We also offer a curatorial presence during the residency, the access to the network of cultural institutions in Geneva, and the mediation and publicity for any public events (workshops, artists talks, screenings, presentations...) programmed during the artist's stay. The research collective "Plantopic" will accompany Julian Castle & Gordon Brent Ingram during their residency in the hope of developping a mutually enriching dialog.

Utopiana is a transnational platform for artistic cooperation. A web of mutating sensitive experiences in which artists from here and elsewhere are hosted, in order to develop and produce their works. In 2013 an urban garden, created by artists and neighbors of the residency, integrated itself into Utopiana's universe. The garden functions as a microcosm that allows us to question the old couple of nature and culture. The research group Plantopic constructs its reflections around permaculture seen as an attitude and an alternative form of social construction. In the same direction, Plantopic's research is concerned with understanding art mediation as the creation of a milieu, an intermediary, but also an environment, a context. We wish to host the various stages and forms of the creative process, from the first preparatory reflections to the exploration of the possibilities of production; organizing encounters between the artists in residence and the public, the local artists and institutions. Encounters, events and publications will help and sculpt artistic and cultural practices, combining them with other spheres of experience, interacting with social and political processes.

Utopiana is supported by the City and the Canton of Geneva and collaborates with numerous local and international cultural institutions.

Anna Barseghian, Director

