

Nicole Dextras

The Traveling SeedBomb Dress

The Traveling Seedbomb Dress is the third piece in the Urban Foragers {house of eco-drifters} series. Like its predecessors, the Mobile Garden Dress and the Nomadik Harvest Dress, it functions as a garment, a shelter and a food source. The Traveling SeedBomb Dress is an eco agent provocateur with good humour and style, advocating for self-sufficiency through food independence and sustainable practices.

The dress houses fifty glass vials filled with enough seed to plant over an acre of vegetables, grains and herbs to feed a family for one year. In this role, Agent SeedBomb aims to inform viewers on the identification and preservation of seeds while also engaging the community in activities such as seed bomb making and sidewalk stenciling with grains. As food sharing is germane to the Urban Foragers concept, the dress is equipped for making sprouts and the preparation of delicious protein snacks from recipes using mostly seeds and nuts.

The architectural and botanical references for the Traveling Seedbomb Dress are a teepee hybrid equipped for the storing and sharing of seeds. The design is inspired by the Pine Cone, where the conical shape is evident in the teepee silhouette and also in the skirts ring of inverted cone pockets filled with native plant seedbombs. The design further echoes the complex propagation mechanisms found in nature with hinged struts that expand to a central axis.

The skirt is covered in heavy duct canvas hand painted with a dandelion motif, a symbol of highly effective plant survival and endurance. Our agent of propagation also wears a secondhand vest adorned with épaulettes of fresh Wheat Grass and a hat formed from a bamboo birdcage with birdseed.

This piece was developed for the Ego Eco exhibition at Cal State University in Fullerton California during the month of August 2013 and it was joined by its sister pieces for the first Urban Forager communal meal. The Foragers set up camp beside Richard Turner's "Wall Gazing Gallery", an environmental sculpture reminiscent of Asian shrines found along country roads where they prepared dishes with produce supplied by the adjacent Fullerton Arboretum.

The aim in all my work is to fabricate sculptures that are highly functional with natural materials without the use of plastics or specialized tools. By bringing green design into the realm of art as opposed to commerce, it allows the public to examine environmental issues through imagination and creative thinking. I look forward to the further adventures of The Traveling Seedbomb Dress, the guerilla gardener human-powered-seed-propagation machine on wheels, fueled by the power of the flower.