

Genus	Brassica
Family	Brassicaceae [Cruciferae]
Species	B. oleracea
Accession name	Ragged Jack Kale
Date planted	16.5.2011
Status of sample	Heirloom: Maureen Harrison [Roscommon]
Collected sample	Cluainin Garden [Leitrim]

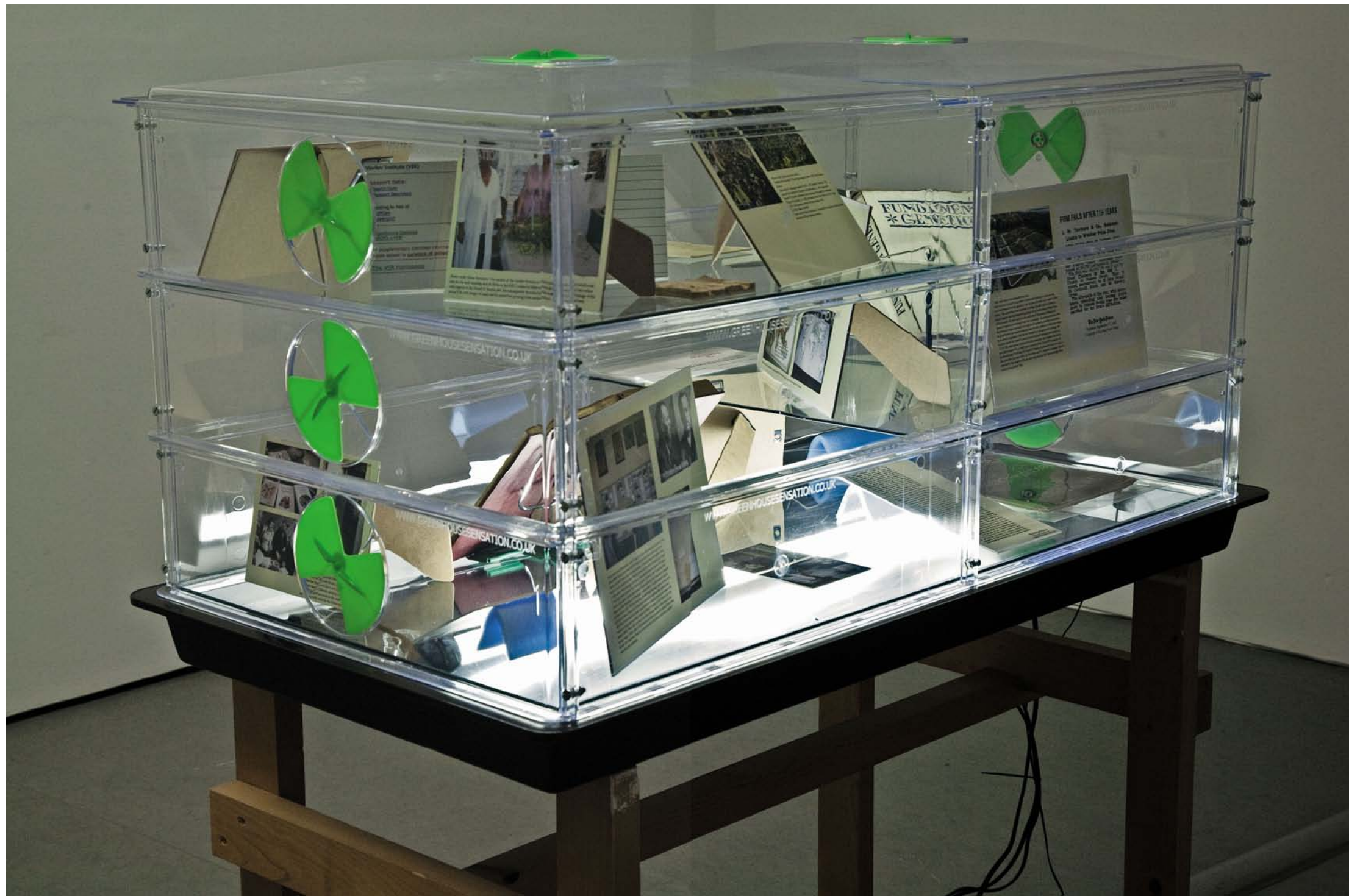
Seed saving All of the brassicas throw up tall flower stalks covered in lots of small yellow flowers. These form slender seed pods. Once they start to dry, keep a close eye on them, as they tend to shatter and drop seed. Cut entire plants and then leave them to mature further on a sheet indoors. Once thoroughly dry, seeds will emerge from pods very easily. The seed will keep well for up to five years as long as it is stored somewhere cool and dry.

Notes An ancient vegetable descended from the 'wild cabbage' native to the Mediterranean region. Russian kale was introduced into Canada (and then into the U.S) by traders in the 19th century. During World War 11, the cultivation of kale in the U.K was encouraged by 'Dig for Victory' campaign. We're now being encouraged to dig for a very different sort of victory - growing some of your own food reduces your environmental footprint and saves you money. Mrs. Sanaa Abdul Wahab Al-Sheikh joined the Iraqi National Gene Bank in Abu Ghraib [now globally associated for its prison] in 1988. Working in a fractured country she continues to scour farmer's fields around the country collecting hundreds of accessions to rebuild the collection. In 2003, the gene bank had been looted and destroyed. Since 2011, I have been in contact with Sanaa. I had heard rumours of a precious collection of more than 1000 rare seed varieties - from ancient wheats to chickpeas and lentils stored in cardboard boxes, buried underground and with some possibly moved to Syria during the war. William Erskine of the International Centre for Agricultural Research illustrates the value of the Iraqi seed collection as "the genetic time capsule containing Iraq's agricultural heritage." Following the Iran-Iraq war, two Gulf wars and the brutal UN sanctions, including the legacy of Paul Bremers 100 Orders and Order 81, the diversity of Iraq's agricultural heritage is increasingly at risk. Denis Halliday stated that the attacks on Iraq's sovereignty and ability to feed themselves "should constitute a war crime."

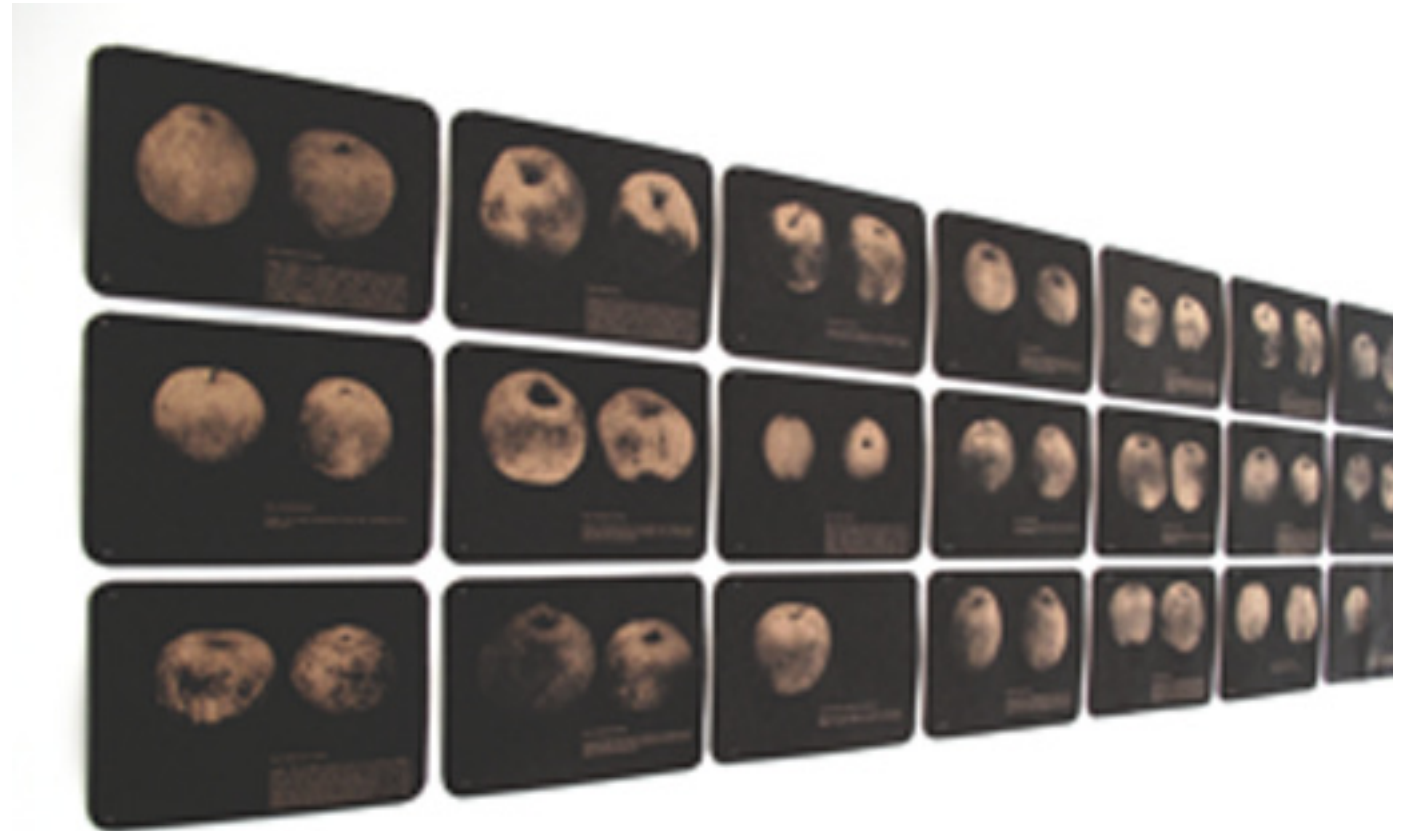


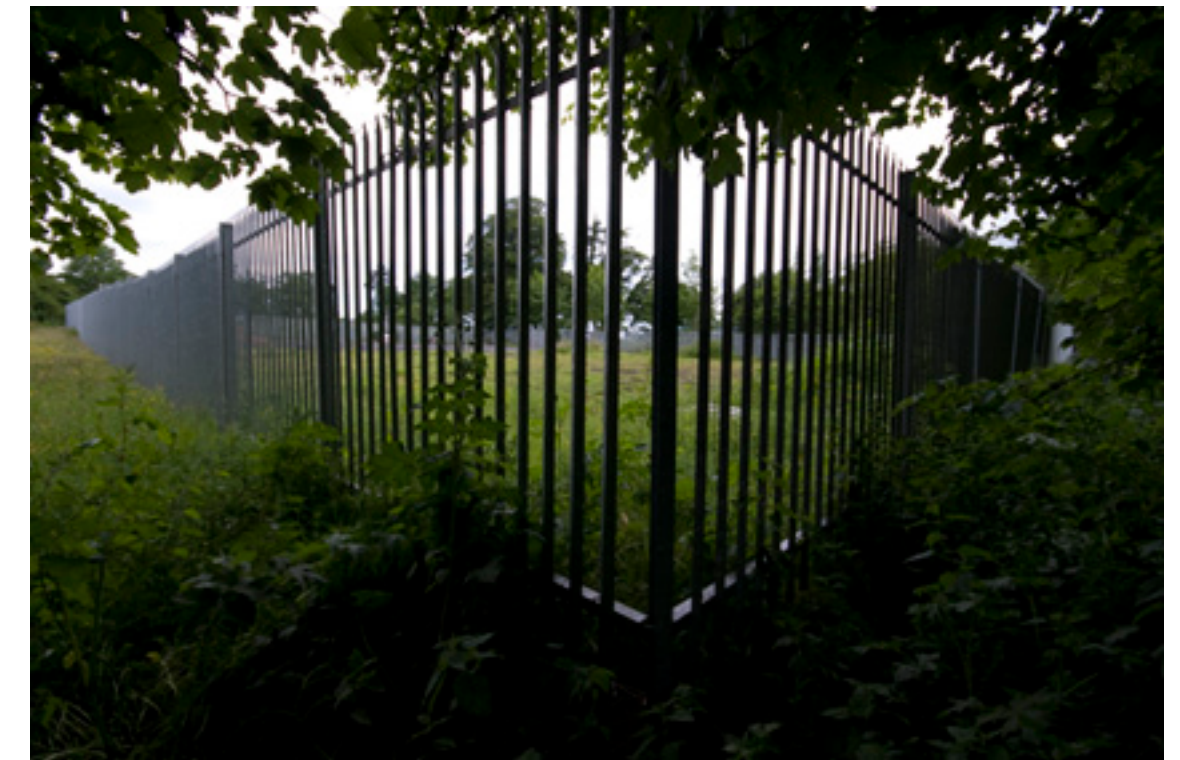


Seed Matter Exhibition Works: Transitional Crossings [2010/11]
<http://www.christinemackey.com/news>



Seed Matter Exhibition Works: An Enduring Monument [2010/11]
<http://www.christinemackey.com/news>





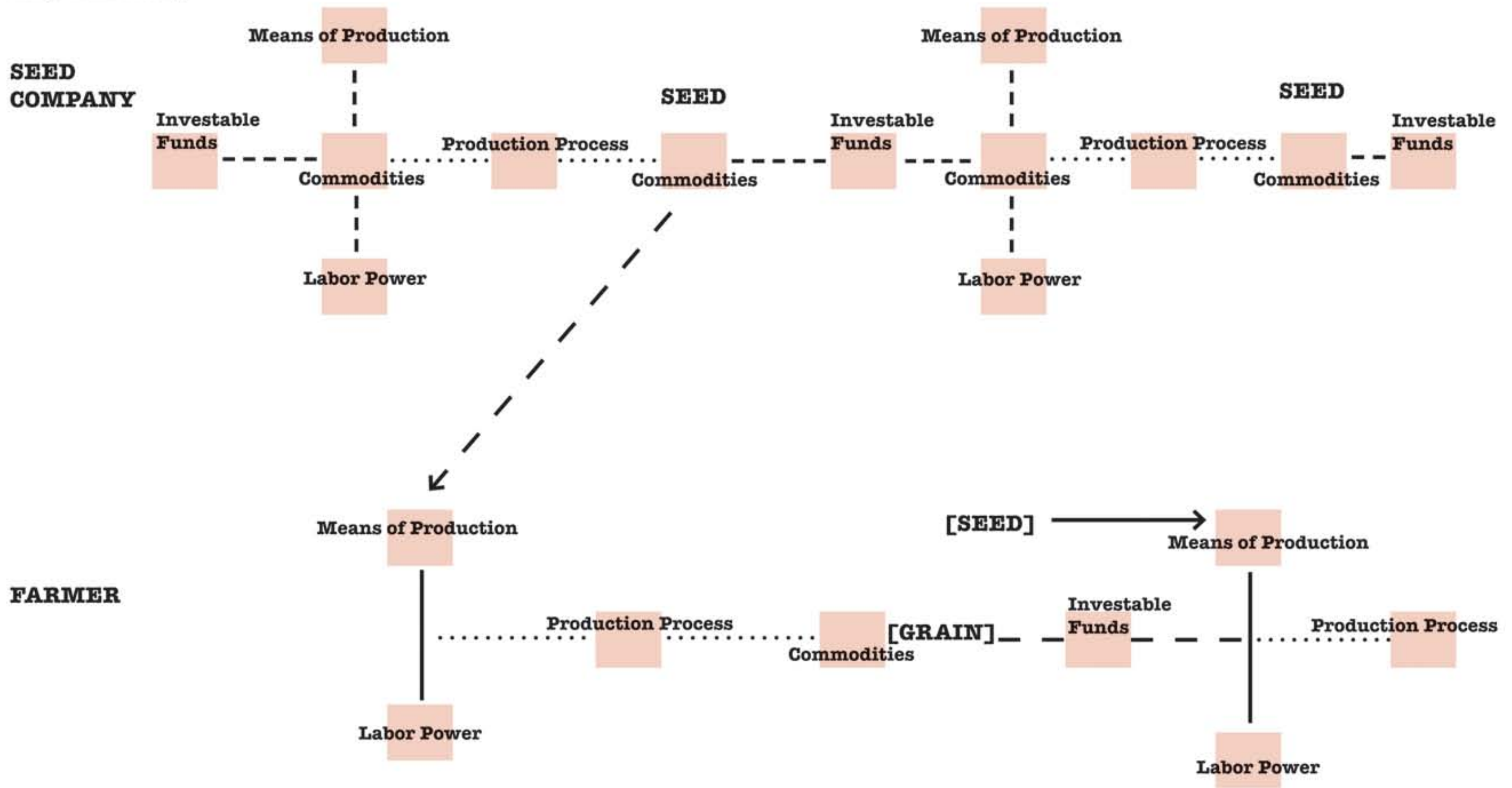
Re-visiting the archive. RIVERwork(s) (2006-08) was a public art project commissioned by Sligo Local Authorities. This work involved a series of historical and topographical studies undertaken at Doorly Park, sited on the grounds of Cleaveragh Demesne. This was once an expansive wetland area planted by Colonel William Gregory Wood-Martin (1847-1917) who was a keen antiquarian, conducted studies of ancient dwellings and customs throughout Ireland and Europe. In 1948 Cleaveragh Demesne was sold to Sligo Borough for a nominal sum and in June 2007, I undertook my first walk with Richard Wood-Martin (grandson of William Wood-Martin). I discovered an orchard on site and with the help of land surveyor Malcolm Gerry we mapped the orchard finding over forty apple trees and a number of pear trees. I returned to this site in 2012, to discover that the orchard had been eradicated and in its place a steel fence was erected, which spanned the original site of the orchard. This space now operates as a storage depot.





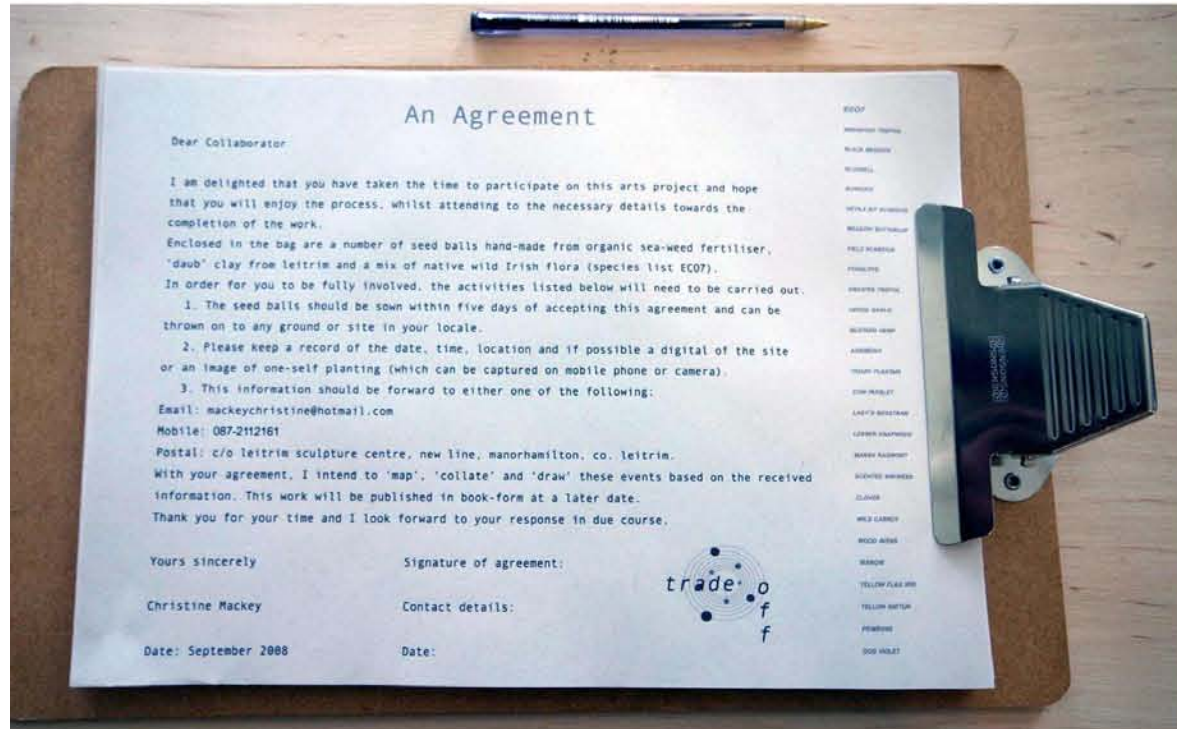
SEED MATTER: Living Fields [2012]
<http://www.christinemackey.com/living-fields.html>

Seeds and circuits of capital [defined not as a thing, but a set of social relations that, in their totality must be continually reproduced if capital is to survive and grow in a particular sector].



— — — = exchange relations
 = production relations

Traditionally, the seed was the beginning and end of crop production for the farmer - now in commodity form it has been taken control by capitalist agriculture, however, the main obstacle seed companies face is a biological fact - seed reproduces manifold; how to control this - GMO (patent crops) and the development of terminator seeds (sterile). Sources: Re-drawn from Kloppenburg, (2004).



An Agreement

Dear Collaborator

I am delighted that you have taken the time to participate on this arts project and hope that you will enjoy the process, whilst attending to the necessary details towards the completion of the work.

Enclosed in the bag are a number of seed balls hand-made from organic sea-weed fertiliser, 'daub' clay from leitrim and a mix of native wild Irish flora (species list EC07).

In order for you to be fully involved, the activities listed below will need to be carried out.

1. The seed balls should be sown within five days of accepting this agreement and can be thrown on to any ground or site in your locale.
2. Please keep a record of the date, time, location and if possible a digital of the site or an image of one-self planting (which can be captured on mobile phone or camera).
3. This information should be forward to either one of the following:

Email: mackeychristine@hotmail.com

Mobile: 087-2112161

Postal: c/o leitrim sculpture centre, new line, manorhamilton, co. leitrim.

With your agreement, I intend to 'map', 'collate' and 'draw' these events based on the received information. This work will be published in book-form at a later date.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response in due course.

Yours sincerely

Christine Mackey

Date: September 2008

Signature of agreement:

Contact details:

Date:



EC07

BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL

BLACK MEDDICK

BLUEBELL

BURDOCK

DEVILS BIT SCABIOUS

MEADOW BUTTERCUP

FIELD SCABIOUS

FOXGLOVE

GREATER TREFOIL

HEDGE GARLIC

MUSTARD HEMP

AGRIMONY

HOARY PLANTAIN

COW PARSLEY

LADY'S BEDSTRAW

LESSER KNAPWEED

MARSH RAGWORT

SCENTED MAYWEED

CLOVER

WILD CARROT

WOOD AVENS

YARROW

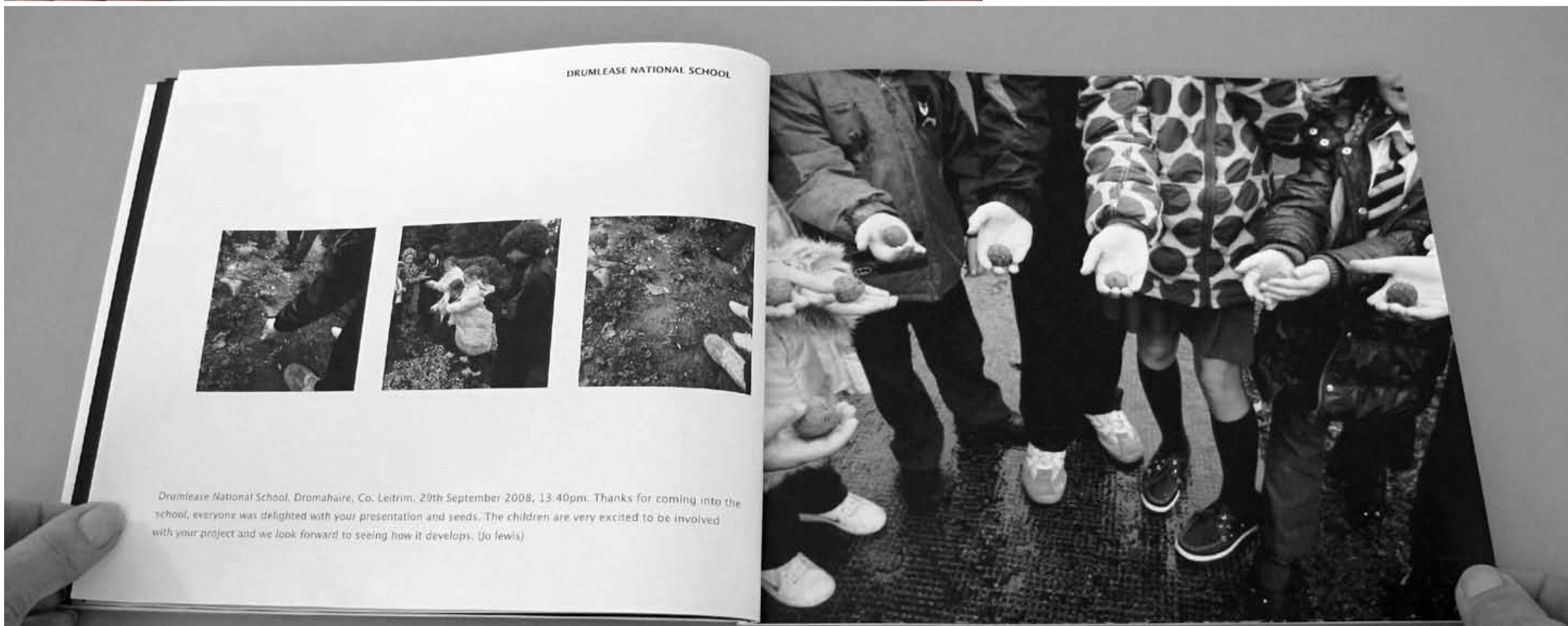
YELLOW FLAG IRIS

YELLOW RATTLEW

PRIMROSE

DOG VIOLET





Drumlease National School, Dromahaire, Co. Leitrim, 29th September 2008, 13:40pm. Thanks for coming into the school, everyone was delighted with your presentation and seeds. The children are very excited to be involved with your project and we look forward to seeing how it develops. (Jo Lewis)