

***Wild Greens*** by pick nick

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*Wild Greens* started as a one-time event/activity in the city of Nicosia. Going for a casual 40-minute walk through a selected path of a gentrified part of Nicosia, and guided by a professional horticulturist/botanist, Charalambos Christodoulou, who addresses the planted flowers and plants, as well as those greens that are normally sidelined as they aren't considered part of the landscape's "planning", the aim of this project is to pause and pay attention to details of the city which are typically disregarded. A degree of serendipity is part of this tour's theme so 'stumbling' upon nature, rather than following the order of a park's path, liberates other experiences, otherwise neglected. Emphasis is placed on the social and cultural aspects of the life and history of plants/trees/flowers, etc, and on how the inhabitants in this tour respond to them, or not.

Interested in this kind of zooming into details while walking in the street, or, as a matter of fact, while driving, the idea was about reclaiming the street by presenting types of existing lives, which actively but silently take part in the natural, social and cultural history of the city. The tour walked amidst these different kinds of urban layers, encourages inhabitants to engage with the botanist in different ways.

In retrospect, *Wild Greens* triggered a process-driven experience. People were given significant freedom – to spend time, to situate themselves environmentally, to *achieve* a trajectory. Acts of negotiation happened in real time and the path of the walk was finally determined by the discontinuity produced by the multiple bodies operating as a team; a collaborative improvisation that moved itself through the city landscape. What started as a presentation (on behalf of the "guide") was quickly transformed to open conversations, which established a non-hierarchy of thoughts, movements and sensations, becoming a series of indications for a diverse spatial experience.

Practicing human awareness on an everyday level by way of the simple act of walking down the street, noticing and smelling flowers and plants, and learning about their history, can lead to other forms of becoming aware on the street, as for example, being inclusive of other people's backgrounds, especially when foreign to our own experiences.