



green  
**graffiti**  
**flower**  
**bombs**



### Green graffiti flower bombs

Helium filled balloons made from fully bio degradable PLA film, painted with gnome shapes and filled with flower seeds was the entry in the Temporäre Gärten three weeks landscape art manifestation in Aachen, Germany in 2008.

The balloons were given to the public using a patch of grass as counterweight and flax handles for carrying. Once on the spot of their choosing the balloon is either left or released. Thus the gnome balloons slowly inhabit the landscape. The helium remains in the balloon for about one day and while staying in its place or upon landing it will decompose within approximately 4 - 6 months releasing a high local concentration of flower seeds; a little surprise garden for the next year holding the promise of an explosion of color.






The original entry selected by competition for this art project was a traditional mylar reflective foil proposal. We became concerned in the final making by a delightfully critical Wikipedia article on harm mylar causes to wildlife and environment in general and radically changed our proposal into a fully fledged ecological project.

With the help of Moonen Packaging, a leading Dutch distributor and promoter of compostable packaging, it lead us to the use of NatureWorks LLC's Polylactide(PLA) 25 mu film; a biodegradable, thermoplastic fully heat sealable polyester derived from polymerization of renewable resources such as corn starch or sugarcane. The paint used is a 100% water based chalk which holds excellently on PLA film and is applied and sealed on the inside for water resistance. The graphics were drawn by hand using a template. The easy to make helium gas inlet is simply one extra weld line in the sheet leaving a self closing opening at the bottom. Naturally this is reversible and unlike traditional helium balloons, it also can also be deflated and re-used if needed.





To spread this concept we would like to develop together with the industry a kit with precut sheets and pre-printed PLA film for serial production and possibly a fully customizable art kit, where the shape of the balloons can be varied.

Parties, promo trade fairs and other events could then in the future be provided with balloons that enhance instead of damage our environment.

**cc-studio & x!mage**

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