

Stéphanie Nava > *Considering A Plot (Dig For Vicory)*

Considering a Plot (Dig for Victory) is a work in progress currently comprising sixty drawings: varying in size from 20 x 25 centimetres to 150 x 500 centimetres, the drawings are mostly made out of pencil and paper, the paper used by the artist being exclusively Fabriano Accademia.

The installation also make use of cut-out paper, repoussé aluminium and gardening felt. The drawings are complemented by structures made of wood, felt, canvas, brick and metal, together with lamps, an incinerator, a wheelbarrow, a greenhouse, a tennis umpire's chair and mole traps. Modular and of variable dimensions, the installation can potentially cover an area of some 200 square metres.

The project has been shown at the Contemporary Art Center of la Ferme du Buisson in Marne-la-Vallée (Paris) in June-July 2008. It will tour to Viafarini, Milano in November - December 2008, then to the contemporary Art Centre Passerelle in Brest (France) and finally to the Wavehill Art Centre in New York in June 2009.

Stéphanie Nava's garden, *Considering A Plot (Dig For Victory)*, draws on a number of ideas generated during a French Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded *Villa Médicis Hors Les Murs* residency spent in London during 2005. The English allotment is simultaneously a private, social and military space of cultivation, borne as much from the intensely functional needs of war, the *dig for victory*, as from the social necessity of the working class to *grow your own*.

Nava's own hybrid, drawn garden, a work in progress, emerges almost entirely from industrial sized rolls of paper, hinged, folded and arranged into book-like configurations, influenced and framed by the rows, beds and rotation imposed by planting in the real space of an allotment. Her's is a hand rendered, model garden, produced entirely through the emergent labour of drawing.

Rows of vegetables concertina - creased, stretched and charting distance between taughtly measured cables. A sleeping gardener lies in a contemplative stupor, immersed within a fluorescent, foil-clad narcotic zone. Insects burst with urgent vitality, merging, disguised within the foliage surrounding them. Sandbags and passages, reminiscent of *digging in* stirs echoes of trench warfare and the search for cover.

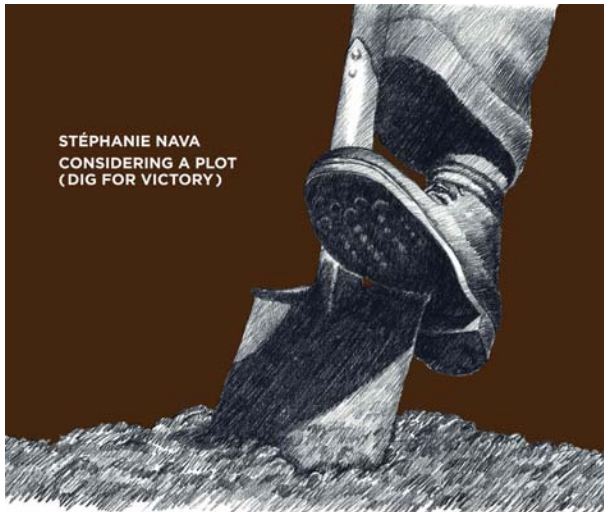
In total, an investigative garden, one of curiosity: part archival, part generative and part imaginary, seen *in absentia* - the make-shift transformation of fabricated industrial materials (paper sheet into patch of land) rolled into an experiential, cultivated organic realm. A containment of histories, details, cuts, fold & spatial organisation.



exhibition views at the Centre d'Art la Ferme du Buisson, Marne-la-Vallée, (Paris), june-july 2008

Stephanie Nava - Considering a Plot (Dig for Victory) - exhibition at VIAFARINI, Milano
Proposal #1 for an edition > booklet

- A 16 pages booklet that would accompany the book previously printed about the project and that could be inserted in its cover flaps.
- content of the booklet: colour photographs of the piece installed at VIAFARINI, Milano, with a text by curatrice Gabi Scardi.
- graphic designers: Claire Moreux et Olivier Huz, Lyon, Francia



The book previously printed about the project “Considering a Plot” documents the projects itself, its cultural, historic and theoretical background.

It encloses reproductions of the drawings that compose the installation and various sketches and plans of a possible setting. The book does not include photographs of the work installed at a finished stage in an exhibition space. It just encloses reproductions of the drawings as plates, and studio photographs of the work in progress, hence the idea of a separate booklet that could document that aspect of the work.

This booklet could be presented either in complete autonomy from the book, or as a supplement to it.

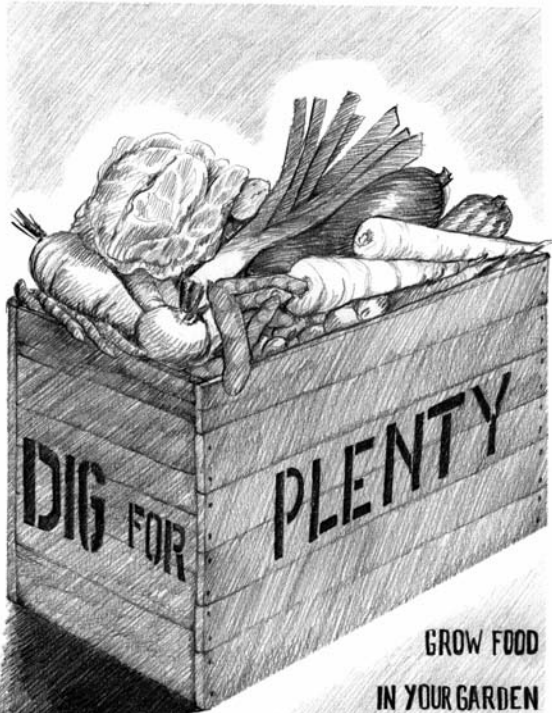


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Stephanie Nava - Considering a Plot (Dig for Victory) - exhibition at VIAFARINI, Milano
Proposal #2 for an edition > portfolio

- a portfolio of facsimile drawings representing leaflets from the Dig For Victory campaign. This portfolio could take the form of a concertina.
- During the WWII, in order to fight the shortage of food supply, the British Government set up a programme called Dig For Victory. This programme encouraged people to turn every available bit of land into a cultivated crop. Growing vegetables became an effort of war and an intensive visual campaign was set. For *Considering a Plot (Dig for Victory)*, these leaflets have been redrawn by the artist and would be reproduced as facsimile for this limited edition portfolio.





GROW FOOD
IN YOUR GARDEN
OR GET AN ALLOTMENT



DIG FOR VICTORY

