

SUR. REFUGE

VALDELARTE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE
VALDELARCO-SIERRA DE ARACENA-HUELVA



Aline Part work's

Summary



Valdelarte is an environmental restoration project that aims to revitalize a land that was abandoned for 60 years using artistic and cultural practices in the natural and rural environment. Their website is www.valdelarte.eu. The project focuses on reconnecting with nature promoting sustainability and bridging the gap between urban and rural areas. They collaborate with contemporary artists who contribute their perspectives on environmental consciousness. Our objectives include protecting, preserving and creating.

They aim to raise awareness about the threats to natural resources such as pollution, plastics, and pesticides. The project values the importance of soil, water and air protection and proposes a sustainable model of development with 14 years of experience.

Valdelarte operates within the Sierra de Huelva Natural Park in Spain. They emphasize the country's rich natural heritage, including 45 biosphere reserves and 5 UNESCO World Heritage sites. They highlight the urgent need to address climate change and its impact on biodiversity. Our space advocates for a transition to renewable energy, local consumption and community engagement. We work for and with the community.

We focus on working in five areas: resident artists, specific workshops focusing on the relationship between art and nature, environmental art projects and exhibitions, projects for rural or peripheral communities and specialized annual meetings.

For instance, we organize the "Art, Women, and Nature" encounter contest. This year will mark the eighth edition of this pioneering and unique event in Spain. It embraces ecofeminist activism, recognizing that feminism and environmentalism are two interconnected philosophies, two ethical frameworks, and two critical theories of society that can be understood and explored through art.

Women throughout history have had a respectful and conscious relationship with natural resources, making gender equality essential for the sustainability of our planet, given that women are often responsible for managing these resources.

As a result, international agencies, including the United Nations and the FAO, have been working towards merging both the environmental and feminist agendas. The feminist movement is global, striving for social and environmental harmony. Contemporary artists reflect and share these concerns through their artwork and actions, acting as perfect candidates to communicate and integrate these ideas into society.

The goal of the "Female Ecologies" project as an artistic experience is to transmit feminist and ecological knowledge through artistic action and experimentation. It explores different theories related to environmental, social, and gender issues, generating artistic discourses based on the materiality of the present moment, involving both artists and participants in the workshops within urban and rural environments.

This project was awarded by MAV (Women in Visual Arts) Spain in 2018 and presented in London. This institution works with women in arts on a national and international level.

"Defending the environment, our natural surroundings, and the land we tread upon is to care for ourselves and for future generations; it is our duty as human beings. Personally, I have been passionate about and actively involved in environmental activism for over 40 years." - V. Alvarez. As naturalists, we go against the current of the system, striving to protect the biodiversity of our territory, which serves as our network and support.

Through art, we aim to create a central axis around the defense of nature, emphasizing the value of our natural resources as a source of both cultural and economic wealth. It is vital to work from a multidisciplinary approach, as every discipline has a role and responsibility towards Mother Earth, with an ancestral connection to her. We must share our natural spaces, make them our own and care for them.

We are an ecosystem, it is the return to nature, to slow life, to building bridges between the urban and the rural, a forest worked with our hands, restoring it and at the service of art. We work on environmental awareness through artistic work, the insights of contemporary artists, who generously give us their vision on this passion. Uniting art and nature is a gift from the goddesses. nature is poetry and we do not know how to read it. Stop the destruction of the environment in which we live propose a development model that allows us to be, in the extension of the word, more human. –We follow the flow of Murray Bookchin's social ecology.

Naturalists go against the current of the system, we try to protect the biodiversity of our territory which is our network and support. We want to act through art, create a main axis around the defense of nature, value what we have, which is a source of both cultural and economic wealth. We must begin to work from transversality, all disciplines contribute and have their duty to and for mother earth, there is an ancestral connection with her. We must share our natural spaces, make them ours and take care of them.

Signed: Verónica Álvarez – Valdelarte's Director, cultural manager, researcher and curator.

Ask me anything... www.valdelarte.eu

