



# Curriculum Vitae

## Alexandra Regan Toland

visual artist, environmental researcher

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### Education:

- \* September 2009 to present: PhD candidate at the Humboldt University of Berlin, "Perspectives on Urban Ecology III"
- \* 2009. Berlin University of Technology, Dipl. Ing. Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning
- \* 2002. Dutch Art Institute of the Netherlands, Master of Fine Arts
- \* 1998. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bachelor of Arts
- \* 1996 – 1997. foreign exchange, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn
- \* 1993. Boston Latin School

### Associations:

- \* DFG Graduate Research Training Group "Perspectives on Urban Ecology III" Humboldt University Berlin
- \* Institute for Ecology, Dept. of Soil Protection, Technical University of Berlin
- \* German Soil Science Society
- \* DGGL, German Society for Garden Culture and Landscape
- \* NGBK, Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst

### Publications:

TOLAND, A. (2009). The Beauty of Dirt – Aesthetic Arguments and Artistic Practice as Alternative Approaches to Soil Communication, Education and Protection. Diplomarbeit im Studiengang Landschaftsplanung an der TU-Berlin.

TOLAND, A. WESSOLEK, G. (2009). Merging Horizons - Soil Science and Soil Art. In: Landa and Feller (eds.), *Soil and Culture*. Heidelberg and New York: Springer Publishing 2009

TOLAND, A. WESSOLEK, G. (2009). Core Samples of the Sublime – On the Aesthetics of Dirt. In: Landa and Feller (eds.), *Soil and Culture*. Heidelberg and New York: Springer Publishing 2009

TOLAND, A. (2007). Art, Physiology, and the Soil-Body Interface. In: *Landscape & Arts Network Journal* No. 40.

### Residencies and Grants:

*Graduate Research Fellowship*, Graduate Research Programme 780/3 "Perspectives on Urban Ecology III - Optimizing urban nature development"

*MOTA Museum of Transitory Art*, (upcoming residency) Summer 2010:  
"Wish Garden" in Ljubljana – Fuzine, Slovenia

*Wriezener Bahnhof Freiraumlabor (Wriezener Park Open Space Lab)*, September 2006 – December 2009:  
Federal grant (ExWoSt) to develop a prototype for a solar-generated, wifi seating area, website and documentary as part of a community park project in Berlin-Friedrichshain; project conception and realization in cooperation with Ulf Kypke-Burchardi (feld11), freifunk.net and tx architects, Berlin, Germany.

*TARP - Taliesin Artist Residency Program*, February - March 2008:  
Residency scholarship at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture - Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.

*Maitres des Lieux Artist Residency Program*, April - May 2004:  
Funded Residency program as part of contemporary arts symposium in St. Lo, France.

## **Work:**

March 2008 through present:

Nature Photographer for the Software Company Lenné3D GmbH. Projects have included identifying and photographing 300 plant and tree species growing in the Berlin/Brandenburg area for the development of an E-Learning tool and other 3D visualization software and photographic series for a new 3D tree modulation project.

October 2006 through present:

Teaching Assistant in the Departments of Soil Science and Soil Protection, TU-Berlin.

May 2005 through present:

Freelance translator for Böhm Benfer and Zahiri, Landscape Architects; translation of project documents, lectures and website [www.bbzl.de](http://www.bbzl.de).

November 2006 through October 2007:

Assistant to the TU-Berlin Department of Landscape Planning and Environmental Compensation for the organization and official translations of the 2nd Scientific Conference on the Use of Offshore Wind Energy by the Federal Ministry of the Environment, TU-Berlin.

April 2005 – October 2005:

Assistant in the Department of Soil Protection, TU-Berlin. Tasks included the translation of scientific texts, web design and development ([www.kunstundboden.de](http://www.kunstundboden.de)), design of posters, brochures, etc.

December 2002 through April 2003:

Internship as translator and assistant to the curatorial project coordinator at Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany.

2002 through present:

Freelance artist (see below)

## **Solo:**

*Personal Distribution Mechanisms*, August 2009:

Artists in Dialog: an interactive urban exploration and installation on the Panke River  
Art Laboratory Berlin, Germany.

*Preferential Flow*, March 2008:

Exhibition of soil art, videos and installations at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture - Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.

*Gallery of Weeds (Galerie der Wildkräuter)*, June - November 2006 – 2008:

Nature trail and exhibition of framed signs informing the public about spontaneous vegetation growing on the former inner-city train depot "Gleisdreieck" in Berlin, Germany. Funded by the Stiftung Naturschutz Berlin and the TU-Berlin.

*Banality of Green (Banalität des Grüns)*, July 2006:

Installation work as part of exhibition series on art and natural science in the Galerie 35, Berlin, Germany.

*Entheovision Kongress*, August 2004:

Artwork & design concept for ethno-botanical conference in Berlin, Germany.

*Fertile Ground*, September 2002:

Exhibition of botanical sculptures and photographs in the Botanical Gardens Göttingen, Germany.

*Fertile Ground*, May 2002:

Masters degree exam exhibition of botanical sculptures and video installation at the Dutch Art Institute, Enschede, The Netherlands.

## **Exhibitions and Projects:**

*Land Schaf(f)t Kunst*, September 2006:

Exhibition of Berliner artists in Neuwerder, Brandenburg; curated by Ulrike Hogrebe and Art-Berlin.

*Break Festival "New Species"*, November 2005:

Installation of botanical sculptures at the Break Symposium of Contemporary Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

*Soil Arts (Kunst und Boden)*, May 2005:

Organisation of Soil Art exhibition in the Soil Science Department of the TU-Berlin.

*Soil Art in Urban Brownfields (Bodenkunst auf Brachflächen)*, May 2006:

Exhibition and project presentation at the "Lange Nacht der Wissenschaft", TU-Berlin.

*International Assemblage Artist Exhibition*, September 2004:

Exhibition of Landscape Models at the Gallery Oder24, Berlin, Germany.

*Camp Kleister*, September 2003 and September 2004:

Participation in public billboard action program in Berlin, German.

*Synthesis*, July 2004:

Exhibition of botanical sculptures at the Takt Kunstprojektraum, Berlin, Germany.

*Maitres des Lieux*, May 2004:

Exhibition of Landart "Word Gardens" at the *Maitres des Lieux* Symposium for Contemporary Arts in St. Lo, France.

*Querschnitt B*, October 2004:

Exhibition of botanical sculptures and digital prints at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany.

*Going, Going, Gone*, November 2003:

Curation of exhibition featuring women artists on the move at the Jewel-Box Project Space, Berlin, Germany.

*Surviving Berlin*, July 2003:

Exhibition and co-curation with artist Melissa Liang at the Jewel-Box Project Space, Berlin, Germany.

*Blick Box*, 2002 – 2003:

Curation of storefront exhibition space project with Melissa Liang, Jewel-Box Projects, Berlin, Germany.

*Einsichten Ausblicke*, 2001-2002:

Curation of store front exhibition space project with Melissa Liang, Berlin, Germany.

*Hide and Seek*, May 2001:

Masters degree show at the Villa Weiner in Ochtrup, Germany.

## **Artist's Statement:**

Research interests include environmental art, aesthetics of nature, urban ecosystems, soil conservation, plant population ecology, ethno-botany, landscape architecture and sustainable urban planning. I use a range of organic, found, recycled and traditional art materials in my installation work, sculptures, digital images, audio-sculptures and actions. I like to work in non-art exhibition spaces, public outdoor spaces and interdisciplinary contexts. I believe that art is an invaluable instrument for exploring and communicating environmental and social issues.

## **Contact:**

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