

Artistic research in Situ:

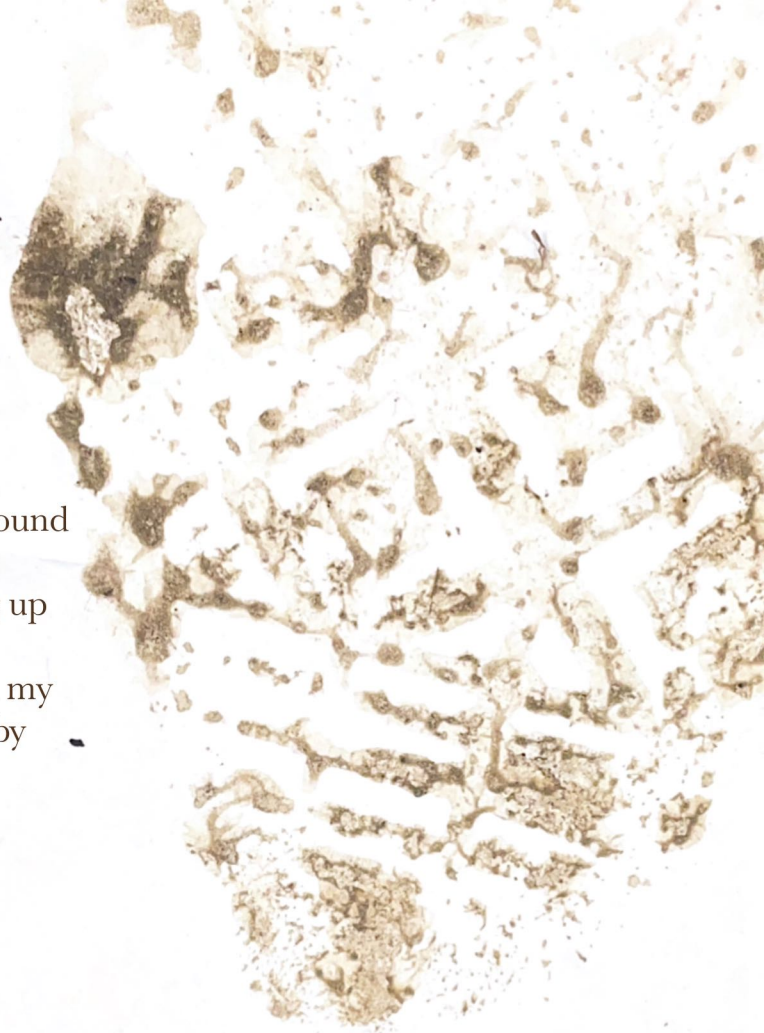
ENCI quarry and surroundings



By Bente Scheffer
Februari-April 2024

Step by step

My research within the ENCI area began by walking through it and documenting what I noticed. It was a rainy day and therefore the ground had turned slippery. As usual I was wearing the wrong shoes for the occasion and while walking up I kept slipping away. At some point I was more frustrated with my shoes than actually taking in my surroundings. So I got the urge to just take my by this point muddy soaked sneakers off.



Now with my barefeet touching the cold February ground, I prepared myself for it's harsh conditions. Expecting the sting of tiny pieces of flint, But when the stones formed around my feed, accommodating them, I was surprised. I found myself naturally knowing how to walk and realised how many of the signals from my surrounding I was blocking out on a daily basis. It made me think of how non verbal anteties also give of consent signals.



a fENCI walk



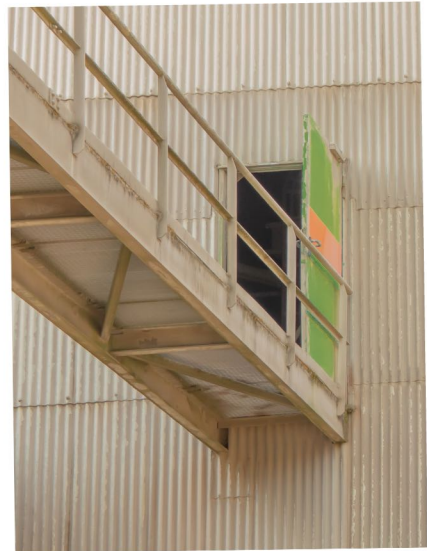
During the three day workshop with Esther polak and Ivar van Bekkum I dove more in to the idea of non verbal communication coming from the ENCI area.

With as result a short movie called a fENCI walk.

Coming in to this area I really liked the raw aspects of the quarry, but got distracted by all the curated park like elements and fences. I started wondering what would happen if you would ignore these raw aspects when going on a walk and what impact this would have?

In my high red heels I walked on the different types of soil within the ENCI quarry. The ones of flint where the hardest for me to walk on without hurting myself, although the softer ground felt more violating.

At the start of my walk it seemed like I was super disconnected from my surrounding, but the harder I tried to ignore it the harder the surface tried to have contact, by bringing me down or letting me sink in.



Door

Noun

A hinged, sliding or revolving barrier by which an entry is closed and opened.

A door not to be touched.
Can we still call this a door
or is it merely the reminder
of it. A reminder of
another perspective.



Alchemy

Although my interest within the quarry started with its natural aspects, when learning more about the industrial heritage this made me fascinated as well.

The process of cement making reminded me of the process of ceramics. Then when I discovered that I could find all the materials needed for glaze in the quarry, the idea of making pottery pieces inspired by the ENCI factory was born.

In this collaboration Júlia Galarza Arévalo and Bente Scheffer play with their urge to transform and reshape elements in order to understand and explore the stories they tell. These pottery pieces are inspired by the shapes and movements of the ENCI quarry from the present layers of the earth to empty snail shells.

Through cleansing, heating and crushing the duo transformed raw materials from the quarry like limestone and flint but also snail shells and undetermined factory dust in to glaze, giving the otherwise sensitive pottery a protective layer ready to be used.



Are we any better?

We take, with who's permission?

They shaped the landscape, we shape the clay

Their machines turned around, our throwing wheel does the same

They fired stone, so do we

This all to bring food on the table

To share, dance and celebrate

Are we any better?

