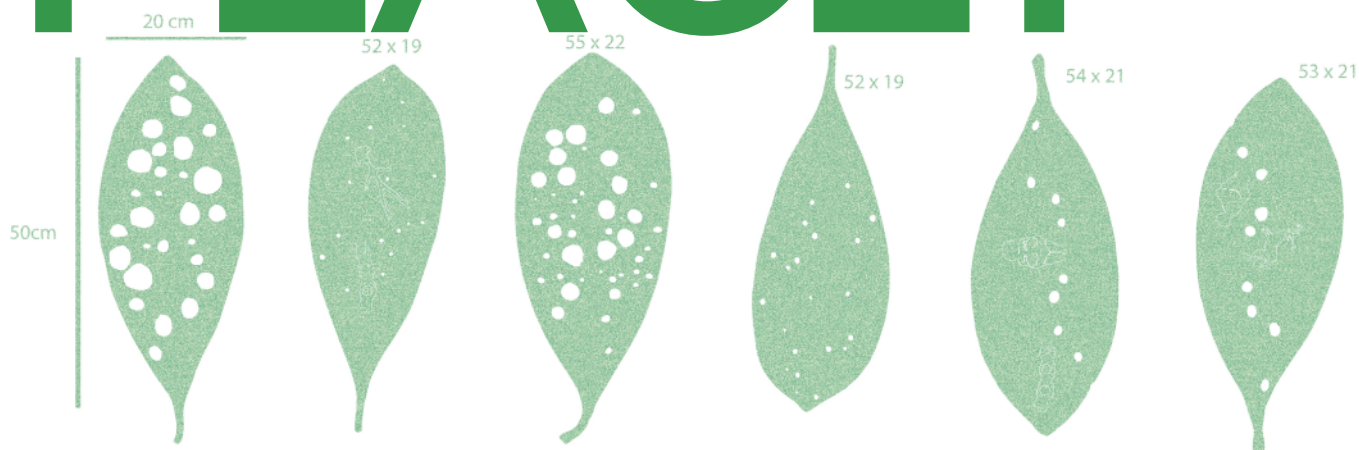


# WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF A NATURAL PLACE?

BEING THERE  
\_OLTRE IL GIARDINO

A PROJECT  
BY CLAUDIA LOSI

CALL FOR  
PARTECIPATION



**Being There\_Oltre il giardino  
or Life Is a State of Mind  
a project by Claudia Losi**

*What is your idea of a natural place?  
How do you picture it?  
How would you describe it?*

Please describe, as accurately as possible, by words and/or drawings a natural place – a real or imaginary one. Your description can concern a natural place related to a positive or negative experience, to a childhood memory or to a recent one. It can also concern a natural place that exists only in your imagination because you have never been there.

What do we consider a natural place? What kind of descriptions are triggered by direct experience of a place and what kind of descriptions arise solely from imagination? How does memory shape our perception of the world? The answers to these questions will be re-interpreted and re-arranged into a “continuous collective landscape” which will be the subject of an artist’s book.

*Being There\_Oltre il giardino (Beyond the garden)* is part of an ongoing research project begun by Italian artist Claudia Losi in 2012, which revolves around our physical, sensory, and cognitive relation to places \*. “Being there” is considered as the act of encountering a place through multiple narratives based on embodied experience, personal memory, remote imagination, or abstract knowledge. Since its beginning Being There has taken on many different forms and characterizations: data collection, large collective embroideries and choral singing performances. In this specific phase the collected descriptions, the images, the videos will converge in a large woven mapping, drawn by the artist and then will be included in the final publication, in which all of its multiple phases will be collected.

**Being There\_oltre il giardino won the Italian Council, XI Edition,  
New Production Grant, Direzione Generale Creatività Contemporanea del  
Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali e per il Turismo.**

Please send your answer to **beingthere.oltreilgiardino@gmail.com**,  
adding some info as age, nationality and your job/ position if you like.

\* The project draws its title (in its Italian version)  
from a 1979 film by Hal Ashby, *Being There*,  
featuring Peter Sellers

**CV\_** The artistic practice of **Claudia Losi** (b.1971, Italy) explores social interactions, the entanglements of human sensibilities, and the complexities of natural phenomena through scientific, ethnographic, and anthropological methodologies. Spanning participatory projects, performances as well as drawings, photography, and sculpture, her work has recently been presented in the solo exhibition *Being There*, performance at IKON Gallery, Birmingham, UK (2019); *How do I imagine being there?*, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2016) and in numerous international group shows including the Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art, China (2016); MAGASIN, Grenoble, France (2010); Sharjah Biennale 8, United Arab Emirates (2007).

She co-curated and organised the first edition of a cultural festival - SETTE GIORNI PER PAESAGGI (a philosophical, anthropological, artistic and practical approach to landscape and to the relationship between humans and the earth they live on/in) - with the association she co-founded, EN Laboratorio Collettivo, in Piacenza, Italy (live in 2019; podcast in 2020/21 )

[www.enlaboratoriocollettivo.com/sette-giorni-per-paesaggi-2020](http://www.enlaboratoriocollettivo.com/sette-giorni-per-paesaggi-2020)

Project supported by:

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