

ACEQUIAS



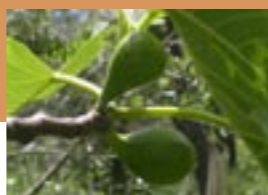
ACEQUIAS

In the Alpujarras in southern Spain, the acequia irrigation system is still in use. The acequias exist in all sorts of shapes, materials and measurements. Through branches and gates (or locks), the water is directed to its destination. The acequias cut right through cities and villages, and there are kilometers of footpaths near or along the waterways.



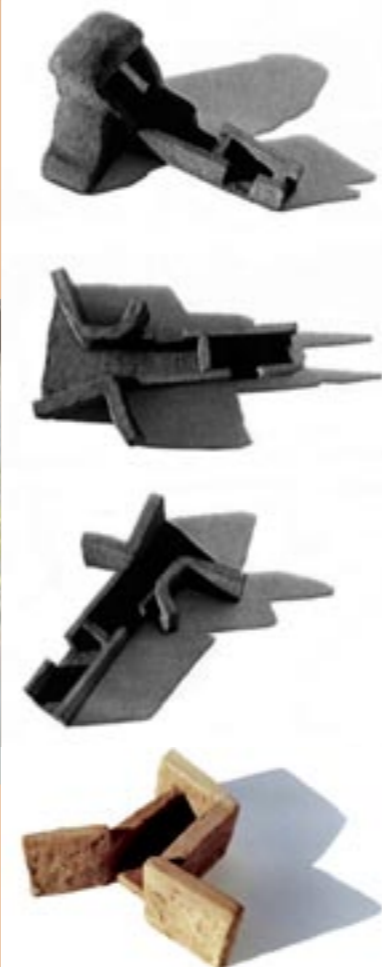
OASIS

Orchards crowded with trees bearing lemons, oranges, herbs, olives, figs and pomegranates – all have been developed thanks to the acequias. The famous gardens and reservoirs of the Alhambra in the Moorish city Granada also are nourished by the acequias.



IDA KLEITERP

A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION



ACEQUIAS TRAIL

The acequias are autonomous forms, but combined together they also form a sculptural landscape which can always be modified, resulting in continuously changing installations.

SCULPTURES

Ida Kleiterp's first clay models were an interpretation of the nodes, water reservoirs, channels and gates of the original acequias system. Eventually four basic forms emerged which have been reproduced repeatedly in materials such as bronze, glass, iron, plaster, paper and clay.



For more information WWW.ACEQUIAS.EU

IDA KLEITERP

A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

ACEQUIAS

During her 2001 visit to Spain, Dutch sculptress Ida Kleiterp was struck by the extraordinary architectural forms which she observed in the landscape. They were the acequias, water channels which combine to create an elaborate irrigation network consisting of major and minor water ducts. Through these channels, water from melting snowfields combined with rainwater flowed down from the mountain tops to the agricultural terraces below. Guided through a series of branches controlled by gates, the water arrived exactly where it was needed. Irrigation systems similar to the acequias have existed for at least 5000 years and have been used by many cultures. As working systems or as archeological remnants they can still be found today all over the world. The Moors, Arabic-Islamic immigrants, brought this irrigation system to Spain in the 8th century. The system was used in Babylon along the Euphrates in the 2nd century BC. The Moors also introduced figs, dates, pomegranates, lemons, aromatic plants and herbs into their new home-land, all made possible because of the water flowing through the acequias.

The narrow gutters and broad ditches of the acequias are made from a stoney material. In Valencia there is still a weekly water tribunal where water distribution and water rights are appealed and decided in public.

In the Year 2007 working 'acequias-like' water channels are rare, and only occasionally form part of the landscape. More often, acequias are barely recognizable remnants. Nevertheless, throughout history, they have made entire regions inhabitable and therefore are responsible for the development of entire cultures. In this day and age, as we are increasingly conscious of the importance of (clean) water for everyone, the 'Acequias' project underscores the historic, cultural and ecological importance of the old water transport system. These connections are forcefully illuminated by Kleiterp's artistic approach. Five thousand years of solving water problems, condensed into one inspiring exposition. The art of transporting water.

THE INSTALLATION

On the ground lie many three-dimensional forms. Visitors look down from above, allowing their eyes to wander over this landscape, discovering tracks in the playful lines. This continues onto the wall where two dimensional lead forms are displayed. Here the shapes appear to be symbols or letters of an unknown language. In this poetic landscape, the visitor can let his or her imagination wander freely. The sound of water and the smell of lemons intensifies the experience. These abstract forms are an interpretation of the organic forms of the acequias, represented in many different materials. There are four basic shapes which appear repeatedly in materials such as bronze, glass, iron, plaster, paper and clay. In each of these materials, the forms look and feel entirely different, and stimulate very different responses. The measurements are approximately 20x12x5cm.

THE SCULPTURES

The sculptures are autonomous objects but together they make another sculpture. The visitor is tempted to pick up the forms, examine them from all sides, and re-position them, making a new path or a new construction. This is encouraged on a table, where some of the forms can be examined and moved, allowing visitors to express their own responses and emotions. There is also a hand-made book, an illustrated history of the acequias which tells the story through photographs and sketches, and images of an acequias-path in the Alpujarras are projected on the wall.



THE ART OF BRINGING

ACEQUIAS

ING WATER