

# AMAL أمل

Let me tell you something about BEEs. You can look at bees from the point of single individuals and you find in a populated bee hive about 20.000 to 60.000 bees.

The life of an ordinary bee is short (45 days). After leaving its cell the bee start for the first 3 days of her life to clean and prepare cells for new eggs of the queen. Day 4 and 5 she prepare the food for new larvae. After day 5 she developed the capacity to deliver special food for queens and very young larvae. After this she worked in construction to build new cells. The next job is to protect the hive in the entrance and the rest of the life (after day 21) she is busy with collecting pollen, nectar and water. To understand the capacity of the whole population we have to step back and we have to look at the „behavior of the population”. We call it super organism (=BEE). And the life of a super organism is quiet different.

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I mount bee hives in silent gardens and abandoned plots in Castellon. The aim is to “create a social space for the super organism BEE”.

If a BEE is looking for a new home, it send scouts to look for new homes. When they arrive they started to advertise and promote their favorites.

If a BEE moves to a new home, mostly between late march and early may, there are about 10.000 to 20.000 bees protecting their queen in a cloud and flying in an kind of dance to the new location.

Sometimes they need to rest for a night in a tree or bush.

The natural location for bees are holes in trees. As much as the new location looks like this, they like it. But also other factors are important: how far is water, the orientation, the available food...

If I mount my hives in different locations, I learn from the BEE, where it will relocate. Because I dont know the best locations, I can try over the years

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only one by one, step by step. Interesting is, that different populations (= different BEES) are selecting their favorite places in the same way. So if I find a place in one year, it makes a lot of sense to offer more free space in the next.

BEES are treated by industrial chemical products and by infrastructure (wind mills). But this is only half of the story.

The BEE collect its honey for new generations of bees, because a chain of new generations of bees makes the BEE immortal.

If we take the honey we increase the risk that the BEE can not collect enough in the year to survive in winter. Nearly 30% of the honey is used to heat, cool and control humidity and air flow inside of the hive.

For this it is recommended to take as less honey as possible per hive. I solved this in my art project in that way, that I didn't apply for selling honey on a

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market. Therefore I don't need so many equipment and – more important – I don't need to follow so many rules.

The BEE is highly interested in making a good investment to find the right location. But for several reasons this location is not the best forever. After some years the BEE decides its time to search a new home.

For classical beekeeper this is the worst case, if the workers want to leave the factory. They cut out the drones (masculines) and the split populations and they limit honey resources.

They do not want traveling swarms.

Abejas de amor is a social art project. We like to create social space to enter, to stay and to leave.

You can apply here and now for supporting me with this project.

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You can offer a space to mount bee hives.

You could join us to create more bee hives or renew old ones (beginning of September).

You could donate some money (we need 50 euros per bee hive (to buy, to renew, to mount)).

You could talk about this exhibition and project and invite others to come, to understand and to think about their contribution to the BEE.

Again, Abejas de amor is a social art project. And sometimes I am asked, where is the "human" social aspect in it.

If I mount a new hive, most of the times the landlords of the new location are highly interested in helping the BEE and they invited friends and neighbors when we bring the hives. Mounting a hive turns out to a social event between people. And that's social art works best practice.

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If you come back to the beginning of this text. You have read “BEEs” and you was thinking about “bees”.

Now you know the big difference. The bee is the individual animal with very limited life. The BEE is – under good circumstances – the immortal super organism.

This BEE generates every time new generations and give social space for the short life of its bees.

In contemporary times of confusion you might think about your own reality, between “you” and “your society”. If you act in a way, that you create an advantage for your own super organism, you create social space for new generations of “you”, maybe your own children.