

DETRITUS & ART / A personal point of view on Environment and Art by Rainer Stegmann

An Afternoon in Varel, Germany

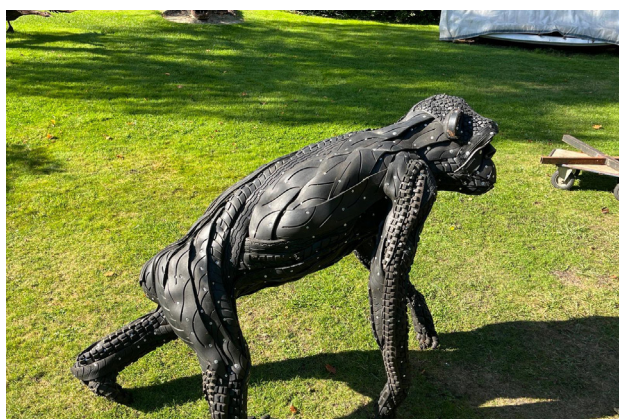
I reported on my DETRITUS Art Page in the edition March/2023 of the fantastic art that Sayaka Ganz creates using daily used plastic items. Sayaka was born in Japan and now lives in the USA. Last summer, she told me she would be staying with two other artists at the beautiful large garden property of Diedel Klöver in Varel, a small city northwest of Germany. Diedel Klöver – the fourth artist – hosted the group. They came together because each artist created an artwork and presented it in the final exhibition in this garden to the public. The exhibition theme was “The Guardians of Sustainability,” the guardians were not humans but – very meaningful – four different animals.

This was an interesting group with Luigi Stinga from Teneriffe, Spain, who used the wooden legs of discarded chairs to create a human body with a dog head holding a more extended branch. The other guardian is a monkey with fur made of rubber of larger rubber pieces from used tires. It was created by Ernest Nkwocha from Nigeria. Diedel Klöver created a big brown bear leaning on a tree. He used a large quantity of rusted iron nuts provided by a local company. The last guardian in this group was an American vulture created by Sayaka Ganz using plastic items like used plastic toys, hangars, plastic dishes and others. All sculptures show expression and movement; they look lively and showed determination to fight for sustainability.

The artists warmly welcomed me, and I had a great chance to gain insight into their work. I witnessed the kinds of materials they use and how they process them to create these incredible sculptures. They had breaks and meals together, and they had a lot of fun. They lived under straight-forward conditions and didn't do it for money. Maybe they had sponsors who financed their travel. This situation im-



Vulture created by Sayaka Ganz.



Gorilla by Ernest Nkwocha.



The Guardians of Sustainability.

pressed me a lot because they are devoted to their work. It made me pensive because, in our modern world, many people may have other preferences that are more materialistic. The artists delight us with their outstanding art, clear message of more sustainability, and their ability to make us think about whether our lives are always on the right track. I may return to these artists in more detail in future DETRITUS editions.



In the next edition I will present photos reflecting the art in the transience of nature: fleeting beauty during a perfect circular economy.