

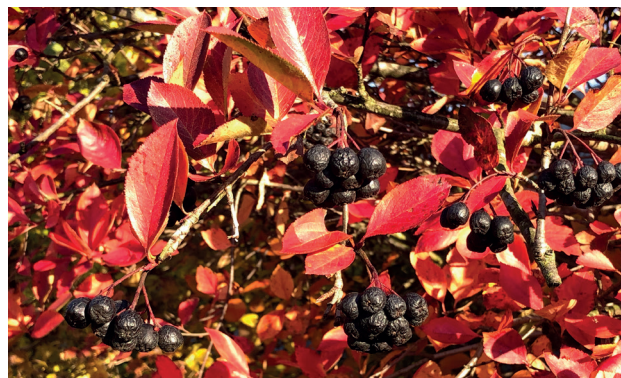
DETRITUS & ART / A personal point of view on Environment and Art

by Rainer Stegmann

The cycle of nature is always fascinating. After a sleeping period in winter nature of plants shows all its beauty in spring and summer: an endless variety of beautiful blossoms. It has all its meaning; the goal is reproduction, the preservation of life. But why are these blossoms so beautiful and smell so good? Probably to attract bees and other insects for pollination with subsequent fertilizing. But why are they so beautiful in a great variety, is there a competition for attracting insects? The most beautiful or best smelling is served first? I have no idea but I am happy that such a variety of beauty exists which in my view is probably not important for nature to exist, or?

What about the beauty of plants in autumn; all the colorful leaves often turning to yellow and red, the golden autumn or Indian Summer. What about the beauty of flowers have before they die as the hydrangea? Makes that any sense for maintaining the circles of life, to preserve biodiversity? For me, that is even more difficult to understand. In Autumn fruits are produced serving as food for all kinds of creatures. Fruits and leaves fall to the ground where they are degraded by microorganism and other soil organism to serve the soil with nutrients and produce humus where new life is born. It is a perfect cycle that we try to implement in Circular Economy of materials and especially in separate biowaste collection and composting. Compost is brought back to the soil to act as the "naturally" fermented plant residues do. But a minority of the composts are not suitable for land application due to their content of pollutant concentrations that exceed the limit values. Such pollutants are in most cases heavy metals as Copper, Lead, Zink but also organic compounds as PAHs, PCBs and others. In such cases, more efforts are necessary to control the quality of the separate collected biowaste.

With some imagination, I dare say that the separate collection and fermentation of biowaste also serve in most cases to allow beauty in nature.



In the next issue I will present a photo where you may guess its origine.

