

THE AXIL OF THE MOUNTAIN

A man and his wife are planting a forest at a remote place in Auvergne in France. The trees will grow slowly. A hundred years will pass before the forest will be mature. In the distant future, when the man who planted the trees will have long gone, other people will be picking the medlars and chestnuts while enjoying the peace and the shadow of the forest.

For a week Bollansée lived closely together with the tree planters. As a silent observer she videotaped their activities and habitat. From the footage she collected she compiled a space-filling video and sound installation: THE AXIL OF THE MOUNTAIN. Ten video sequences interact with each other. Five plasma screens, centred in a pentagon on the floor, show the people planting trees. The dry rhythmic sound of a pickaxe cutting holes in the rocky mountain flank that accompanies the pictures is especially striking. Five video projections in the space around this centre offer a view of the tree planters' habitat : the surrounding woods and the old solitary trees, the swamp, the lake and the house in *the axil of the mountain*.

MARIE JULIA BOLLANSÉE's new video installation was presented in Antwerp, in Jo and Bea Crepain's loft in the night the new springtime began (20-21 March 2010).