

## Artist Statement

My multidisciplinary work centers on the aesthetics and meaning of the *ruderal*: the systems and species adapted to disturbance. Ruderal is an ecological term that refers to species that are adapted to thrive in conditions of scarcity and disturbance. Ruderal species are often called pioneer species in that they hold territory in advance of more stable species. The ruderal suggests a means of practice that begins with the given, to work from the ground up, to work fast, iteratively and with minimal means.

I hold landscape—with its tangled field of social, historical and ecological threads—as a critical medium for interpreting humankind’s place and effects in ecosystems and culture. The work manifests as installations interpreting real and imagined landscapes; prose; landscape curatorial projects that interpret significant sites and regions, and visual works representing speculative landscape proposals. These works are site-specific, especially when the site itself is a fiction.

Recent material projects include *The Elusina Lazenby Experimental Forest*, an installation that draws attention to the lenses through which we interpret and represent landscapes, and *Kavtiskhevi: Quarry Rules*, a proposal for the rehabilitation of the landscape of former limestone mine near Kaspi, Republic of Georgia. Ongoing curatorial work includes *Borjomi: Typical Sections in Atypical Places*; a multidisciplinary ecological arts program interpreting the health landscapes of the southern Caucasus, and *Continuous Garden Altered Daily*, a meditation on the construction, maintenance and re-conceptualizing that is innate to gardening practice. My current written and visual research daylights the role of surplus materials and energy in the metamorphosis of meaning of gardens and landscapes.

Since 2008, I have led the Ruderal Academy, an international field school of landscape interpretation and production. Participants in Ruderal Academy programs address the particular place at the particular time and establish a temporary community of learning, exchange, and dwelling. Like the adaptive and improvisational ruderal species, the Ruderal Academy lands in sites of transition and disturbance, places with rich political, historical social, industrial and ecological contexts.