

Elsa Rambaud's work is at the crossroads of art and anthropology. In 2020 she set up the creative laboratory (En)Quête, which enables her to explore objects such as the eye, the forest and footprints through a range of enquiries. These investigations, which are both conceptual and situated, reveal themselves in a variety of formats that attempt to transcend the art/science dichotomy: plays, sculptures, installations, paintings, photographs, anthropological research and academic writing. She has explored the proliferation of bark beetles in eastern France with "What Wood You Do?", a science fiction project that loosely links two stories: the current epidemic of bark beetles in France and the discovery of the Ishango bones in the Congo in the 1950s. Drawing on the iconography and cosmologies of NASA and escapism - where pop culture meets antique and Christian divinities - the works produced aim to reveal how cultural production, through the fusion of fictional and factual material, helps to shape our relationship with the living and with the end of the world. In "I can't sea" (2022 - ongoing), anthropology takes the lead in exploring ways of appropriating the coastline and forms of local resistance. These issues prompted her to launch an ethnographic investigation in the Mediterranean, focusing in particular on the resistance practices of the prud'homies, centuries-old institutions that manage the lagoon and marine areas in common. This rare form of legal pluralism - the prud'homies have legislative, judicial and disciplinary prerogatives - allows us to question our vision of these environments and really put the sea up for debate.