



Soil as a natural art object.

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Northern territories have always been interesting for explorers because of their distinctive nature, vegetation, climate and soils. Our scientific group called SoilART (Arctic Research Team) works in the northern part of West Siberia in the Yamal region. This is a geographically remoted area of difficult access, located in the permafrost zone as well as a quarter of the land surface. Permafrost-affected soils are one of the biggest reservoirs of carbon, what must be taken into account when addressing issues related to the climate change and the increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases. Natural cover in these territories, both vegetation, and especially soils are recovering very slowly. This also needs to be considered while investigating northern ecosystems. Since we are responsible to the nature for the consequences of human work. These soils carry a huge scientific and ecological value.

What's more, soil is not just an object of scientific research, it is also an aesthetically beautiful object. Every soil is unique and significantly differs from each other even within the one soil type. It has a chaotic position of horizons, what is the consequence of the influence of cryogenic processes. Every horizon is colored in different shades of brown, red, yellow, pink etc. But to enjoy this, you need to dig the soil pit and clean the surface. Nevertheless, we have found a way to violate the territory less. There is an old abandoned quarry, where it is possible to behold a cryoturbated Podzols by cleaning the quarry's walls.

For mankind the ethical importance of soil as a habitat, an object of protection, its internal components, is obvious. But few people think about the soil as an object of aesthetic pleasure. We have the opportunity to enjoy it live, and to show and emphasize the beauty of the soil we take photos and time to time expose our art for the public.

Unfortunately, just a small group of scientists can see these unbelievable soils in situ. We would like to share our impressions, knowledge and photos with colleagues and artists, who can use it as a basis for their creativity and inspiration. Besides that, we want to draw attention to the problems of the North.