

TreeEast

By wooden bicycle on a tree trail

Planting a chain of tree circles

Shahin Tivay Sadatolhosseini & Dr. Anke Scharrahs

We – a well-travelled artist and a wood restorer and conservator – will set off on a long-term journey in 2027/28 on wooden bicycles, during which we will plant trees along the way. This project, TreeEast, is an art project with many layers of meaning and an ecological dimension, during which an artistic documentary film will also be made.

We will travel south-eastwards from Germany through Europe, and along the Silk Roads in Asia. Our aim is to plant as many groups of trees as possible along our route, with each group containing between 1 and 1001 trees. The first stretch of the journey will take us from Aachen (Germany) to Varna (Bulgaria).



We are looking for people to donate the cost of tree seedlings for our project, and we are looking for individuals or organisations willing to allow the donated trees to be planted on their public or private land. We also intend to find tree guardians who will look after the saplings during their first few years of life, to support them through this initial phase.

Throughout our project, a growing network of tree donors, tree owners and tree guardians will emerge, all of whom will be visible and connected via our website. The trees will be selected and planted to suit the specific soil conditions, climate zone and the expected changes in conditions over the coming decades.

Through this multifaceted project, we would like to draw further attention to the issues of climate change, ecology and sustainability, and build bridges between countries, people and cultures. It is important to us not just to plant trees, but also to plant ideas and develop proactive networks that are both local and global. We mark the route we have covered in street art style with stickers featuring our logo.

The entire travel and art project will be filmed using professional camera technology. The result will be an extraordinary road movie with special vehicles, protagonists and encounters.



Who we are:

[Shahin](#) – photographer, designer, choreographer, film maker and gym wheel acrobat – walked 5,826 km from his hometown of Aachen to his native city of Tehran in 2015 to 2017 with his project [RollEast](#), rolling a 2-meter-high gym wheel in front of him. 19,800 followers followed the tour on his blog, and numerous media in more than ten countries reported on his project. In 2021/22, Shahin completed his art project [YavashYavash](#), in which he walked 2,384 km this time from Aachen to Washington DC with his Rosinante, the Rhönnrad. The large and eye-catching wheel led to many local encounters and conversations along the way, which Shahin deliberately used to draw attention to the urgent issues of our time: climate change, sustainability, and the need to break down prejudice. His Rosinante was also his pack mule, camera crane, powerhouse and sleeping place. He is currently working on the release of his film [The Roll – Building Bridges to Connect](#), an artistic documentary of his travels and art projects. Shahin brings the knowhow and experience with social media and CrowdFunding from his previous projects. Social media activities will start before the trip: including building the bicycles, finding tree sponsors, documenting the trees, CrowdFunding for the trees, etc.

[Anke](#) – restorer/conservator of wood interiors, book author, PhD expert in historic Syrian design interiors – has worked [for 30 years](#) as a freelance conservator in museums worldwide where ornate wood-panelled rooms from Syria are on display, e.g. the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, the Pergamon Museum Berlin, the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, and the Louvre Museum. During her field research in Syria from 1998 to 2012 and her restoration projects worldwide, she has become the leading specialist in this field today. Building bridges between East and West and breaking down prejudices has been a major concern of hers for years. From 2005 to 2020, she lived in an eco-wood house manufactured by an Austrian company that she had built near Dresden. Ecology, sustainability and anti-consumerism have long been her maxims in life. She has been cycling since the age of five and has also undertaken cycling and long-distance hiking tours.

We have already found some partners who are making their products available free of charge for our project:

[Veolo](#) from Leipzig is providing us with an innovative trailer for our long journey.

[Velo](#) from Aachen supports us with the bicycle components (wheels, forks, handlebars, gears etc.)

Website:

[TreeEast](#) – trees and their places/patrons

Contact:

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Links:

[The Roll – Building Bridges to Connect Teaser](#)

[The New Yorker](#)

[RollEast Teaser](#)

password: radtour

[YavashYavash](#)

[RollEast](#)

[RollWest Teaser](#)

password: RollWest2021