

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

SUMMER CAMP FOR

# RADICAL HOPE:

RESTING, RESISTING,  
RE-BUILDING

BALTAN LABORATORIES & OPEN SET

3-14 JULY 2023

“The Summer Camp for Radical Hope” (SCforRH), launched by Open Set and Baltan Laboratories, is a call for designers, artists, cultural and social practitioners, and educators to enrich their creative practices and ongoing research in a collaborative, transdisciplinary manner. The 12-day research camp will take place on a farm –a site where theory and practice align–to allow participants to move through their own practices and rehearse new forms of relating, co-operating, working and living together within an ecological, political and sociological context.

The Summer Camp offers a support structure for thinkers and makers, who strive for meaningful and just practices that are adequate in responding to local and global crises. Regardless of whether they have art or design degrees, we connect participants to mentors, discourses and professional networks. The selected participants will have the opportunity to engage with theory but most importantly, embody language through practice in the act of living and working together as a collective towards an open form project that will be incorporated in 2023’s Dutch Design Week (DDW).

The Summer Camp is hosted on the agricultural space (2.5 hectares) of Sengersbroek, a small-scale ecological pig farm in Asten-Heusden, the Netherlands. The farm, which contains a landscape of vegetable produce, animals and uncultivated land (0.5 hectares), is a residence for both humans and more-than-humans where rest and activity are in communion.



## 2 STRUCTURE & APPROACH OF THE CAMP

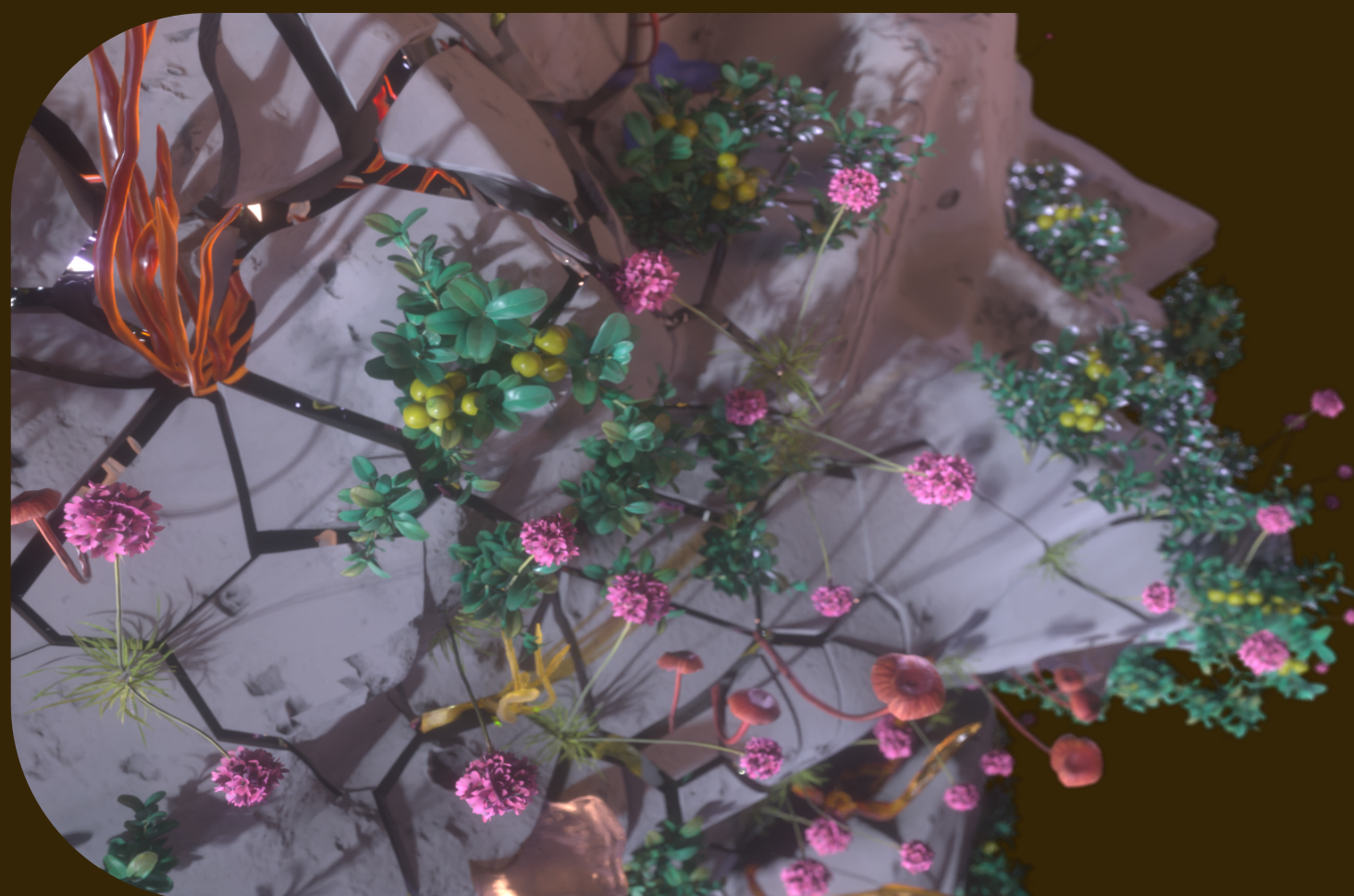
For 12 days participants will gather and live together on the Sengersbroek farm, engaging in the daily activities of farm work as well as group workshops, talks, readings, and practices of creating together leading up to the collective project for Dutch Design Week. There will be time in the fall between the camp's end date and DDW to work on the final stages of the project in tandem with Baltan and Open Set mentors.

Participants and young professionals in art, design, architecture, academia, science, research and sustainable development are welcome to apply to the summer camp where we will gather together despite our multiple differences to exercise the possibilities of world-making through ecology, embodiment and economy. Workshops and talks will have invited guests and experts as well as have a self-initiated format where the participants share their practices, rituals and thoughts that engage with the theme.

A regular summer camp day includes: workshops with participants and external guests, reading circle, discussion time, farm work, being time (rest), rituals / practices / time to work on collective project.

## 3 GUESTS AND NETWORK TO CONNECT

During the summer camp, several guests are invited to spend some time at the farm and share their perspectives on ecology, embodiment and economy. They will give lectures, host workshops and join the participants in their activities on the farm. This will give participants the opportunity to engage in more informal conversations and talk with them about their practice and projects.



## FIRST CONFIRMED GUESTS

SUSAN SHUPPLI is an artist-researcher based in London whose work examines material evidence from war and conflict to environmental disasters and climate change. She is Director of the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths as well as affiliate artist-researcher and Board Chair of Forensic Architecture. ([link](#))

SANDI HILAL is an artist, architect and researcher. She is currently Co-Director of DAAR, Decolonizing Architecture Art Research in Beit Sahour, Palestine. In 2012, she co-founded Campus in Camps: an experimental educational program hosted in the Dheisheh Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. ([link](#))

AMENTI is a community-based organization which focuses on building self-awareness through movement, dance, and knowledge. Ran and founded by artistic leader Gil Gomes Leal and creative producer Elia Vitadamo, Amenti strives to embody the spirit instead of spiritualizing the body. ([link](#))

KLAAS KUITENBROUWER is senior researcher at Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam and teaches theory at the Gerrit Rietveld and other academies. A consistent element in his work is the intersection of different knowledge practices: technological, artistic, legal, organisational, scientific, and more-than-human. In 2019, he initiated the Zoöp project - developing and implementing an organisation model for collaboration between human and other-than-human life. ([link](#))

VICTORIA MCKENZIE's practice brings together architectural analysis, site-investigation and ecological theory that interrogates the ways in which building, being and communing are aligned in mitigating climate change and creating new worlds. As the founder of the architectural research agency RRA (Radical Research & Re-storying Agency), Victoria works towards decolonizing architecture in her practice. Alongside RRA, Victoria is a writer, theorist and academic-activist currently teaching two Dutch Masters programs at the Sandberg Instituut's Ecologies of Transformation and Avans University's Ecology Futures. ([link](#))

IRINA SHAPIRO'S practice combines investigative artistic projects with educational events and research programmes often developed in collaboration with communities and organisations. Shapiro's research themes focus on pedagogical, artistic and storytelling approaches that act within multiscale, multi-species environments and open up interrelational forms of knowing. Shapiro is a co-initiator of Open Set, and affiliated with the Master Education in Arts (the Piet Zwart Institute); the New Earth course, Social Practices at the Willem de Kooning Academy; and the RASL (Rotterdam Arts & Sciences Lab). [\(link\)](#)

SALOMÉ VOEGELIN is a writer, researcher, and practitioner who works from the relational logic of sound to focus on the in-between and the liminal, where different disciplines meet in the contemporary crises of climate and public health, and where feminist, decolonial, and post-anthropocentric demands can engender different and plural knowledge possibilities. She is the author of *Listening to Noise and Silence* (2010), *Sonic Possible Worlds* (2014/21), and *The Political Possibility of Sound* (2018). Voegelin is a Professor of Sound at the London College of Communication, University of the Arts London. [\(link\)](#)



## NETWORK

The Baltan and Open Set teams will be present during the summer camp. You will have the opportunity to connect with them and through Baltan and Open Set with their network.

### BALTAN LABORATORIES

Baltan Laboratories operates on a local, national and international level. They are strongly rooted in the Dutch cultural field through partnerships and collaborations with fellow institutions (such as Make Eindhoven, de Fabriek, United Cowboys, AiR Brabant network, Fossil Free Culture) and have a close connection to the art and design students and academies in the Netherlands (Design Academy Eindhoven, AKV st. Joost, Piet Zwart Institute a.o.). On a European level, they are active in multiple European projects, working together with academia (University of Bologna, LUCA school of Arts Brussels, University of Dublin, KU Leuven, Aalto University, Porto Polytechnic, University of Lapland a.o.) and cultural organisations (MEET, ETOPIA, Sineglossa, Pro Progressione, RIXC, Ohme a.o.). In all these activities, relations, and programs, Baltan aims to support art and design as agents of change - focussing on their ability to rethink and practise ways of 'living otherwise'.

### OPEN SET

Open Set community is highly international, with more than 350 former participants who grew their practices in leading positions while keeping the connections that emerged from Open Set endeavours. Apart from connections with international educational, professional, and media organisations and institutions, their Dutch-based collaborators' network includes a range of nation-to-local cultural centres, organisations and research institutions. To name a few: CBK Zuidoost, Ala Kondre, No Limit and Imagine IC; Showroom MAMA, (former Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art), TENT, WORM, V2\_Institute, Print Room, Zone2Source; and larger organisations, such as the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, Het Nieuwe Instituut, and City of Amsterdam; and research/educational bodies, such as University of Amsterdam, The Institute of Network Cultures, TUDelft, Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions, Dutch Design Academy, KABK, The Willem de Kooning Academy, and others.

# WHY RADICAL HOPE?



**DATE:**  
3-14 JULY 2023

**LOCATION:**  
SENGERSBROEK FARM  
ASTEN-HEUSDEN,  
NOORD-BRABANT,  
THE NETHERLANDS

**ORGANISED BY**  
BAL TAN LABORATORIES  
& OPEN SET

**EXTENDED DEADLINE:**  
8 MAY 2023

**OPEN CALL, SUMMER CAMP FOR RADICAL HOPE:  
RESTING, RESISTING, RE-BUILDING**

## 4 WHY RADICAL HOPE?

We will begin with and on the Sengersbroek farm. At every moment of crisis is a pocket of revolution, and the farm demonstrates a space in which the body meets the earth, as well as the relationalities of life. We see the farm as a crack in the infrastructure – a space in which large dominant forces have exerted their power but also a space in which transformation is possible – in which **hope** exists. A radical hope, in which radical has both a political and botanical meaning (from the Latin etymology of the word, deriving from **radix**, root): it describes both the longing for drastic change and its profound and rooted connection with the earth.

How does body meet Earth, differently? How do we meet our bodies, differently? How do the human and more-than-human entanglements inform systems? How does Earth's seasons from summer to winter mirror our practice of rhythms—from activity to rest? The summer camp is meant to exercise and rehearse acts of resistance and creation as a collective, regardless of how small or large the scale is. Whether you're an educator, artist or designer, you are in the world and to be in the world is to be with others. Or rather, there is no being outside of **being-with**, which means that to **be** (embodiment) and to **be with** (ecology) are central to the tactics of an anti-capitalist fight.

On the farm, we are presented with a moment of bearing witness to the many forms of multispecies interactions and the ways in which this informs emergent strategies, which is “a framework for resistance that is rooted in the miracles of nature”<sup>1</sup>. On the farm, we are also introduced to circular rhythms of life that cannot be linear because what is pivotal to agriculture—a process of seeding, growing, harvesting and laying fallow—is rest and in rest, we find wisdom. Like the Earth that must lay rest for the upcoming seasons, our bodies and our practices need rest, where we encounter a moment of deep listening and guidance to move and mobilise us towards growth. In the words of Tricia Hersay, “resting is a love practice that is going to save our lives and save this world”<sup>2</sup>. But deep within these moments of rest-to-harvest, are a series of exchanges—of nutrients, minerals, labour and energy that define ‘value’ outside of commodity and instead as an equal exchange that doesn't entail surplus but dialogue. How the fungi will never give more carbon than the phosphorus it receives from tree roots, because equal exchanges are a language of nature alternative to the ‘burn out’ or ‘planetary burn out’ that has become an epidemic on the planet earth.

<sup>1</sup> Brown, Adrienne M., and Adrienne Maree Brown. *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*. AK Press, 2021.  
<sup>2</sup> Hersay, Tricia and Brontë Velez. “Resting on and for the Earth.” *Atmos*, 30 Apr. 2021,



#### 4 WHY RADICAL HOPE?

In the Summer camp for Radical Hope, we will inhabit and challenge these three facets of ecology, economy and embodiment as materials for making and designing a socially just future asking the questions: how does listening to the earth connect to the acts of listening to the body? What are the mirroring aspects or, perhaps, the bio-mimicking aspects of a decentralised organisation in ecology, and the potential for decentralised institutions within humanity? How do we come to re-evaluate value, where capitalism is constantly assigning values to things irrespective of how the things themselves work? How do 'rest' and restoration in the body resonate to the 'rest' and restoration of our soils? Together, we will rest, activate, language and move in embodied ways that connect us to the Earth, and new forms of arts practice and design. New worlds won't come from exhaustion but they will come from imagination, rest, and hope.

## 5 FEES

The fee for the program is €1,800, which includes registration, accommodation on the farm and Dutch Design Week participation. Travel and food are not included. One full stipend is available and should be communicated in the application if needed. We are happy to support applicants in applying for funding or support to finance their fees.

## 6 WHO AND HOW TO APPLY?

Approximately 20 participants will be selected based on their motivation, as well as their profiles and practices. The selection will be based on experience and intent within the themes of the program. The group diversity and coherence will be attempted in this process. It is advisable to have a medium level of English, oral and written.

Interested applicants must submit the following documentation via an email to [info@baltanlaboratories.org](mailto:info@baltanlaboratories.org).

- Motivation letter or a video which contains (max 2 A4 or a video of max 10 min):
  - Introduction of yourself and your practice (artistic, theoretical, scientific, pedagogical...)
  - How do you relate to the topics of the Summer Camp
  - A research question that connects your work to the theme of the Summer Camp
- Curriculum vitae.
- Research or artistic portfolio with a maximum of 5 projects.

Submissions will be accepted until **May 8th**, and selection will be announced on a rolling basis within five days of the deadline.

Should you wish to participate in the Camp, but do not have a possibility to pay the fee, please specify this in the motivation statement.

## 7 CREDITS

- Concept & Hosting:** Marlou van der Cruijzen (co-director at Baltan Laboratories),  
Lorenzo Gerbi (designer, art director, curator and co-director at Baltan Laboratories),  
Victoria McKenzie (architectural researcher at RRA, educator, artist, co-curator of Open Set 2023),  
Irina Shapiro (designer, educator, programme director Open Set, researcher at RASL).
- Production:** Sarie Hermens, Julia Kassyk
- Design:** Gabriela Baka, Aneta Sieniawska
- Organizers:** Baltan Laboratories is a cultural interdisciplinary lab based in Eindhoven (NL). They focus on societal issues through a relational approach, creating spaces to rehearse living otherwise.

Open Set, initiated in 2012, is situated in Rotterdam, but acts nomadically. Open Set is an alternative platform for art/design research & development outside and in-between institutional frameworks and disciplines, as well as in a dialogue with local communities and individuals. Open Set bridges with other traditions and disciplines to open up the framework of seeing and thinking. As a space for knowledge exchange, Open Set connects artists, designers and scholars in a temporary learning assembly, reducing the isolation within the creative process, and offers a non-competitive and peer-led environment.

## 8 REFERENCE LIST RADICAL HOPE IS THOUGHT WITH

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# APPLY

DEADLINE MAY 8th



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