



# CARAVANE

*Climate Art Fusion*



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## International Symposium

### Creative Echoes: Climate, Art & Society in Dialogue

Engaging Society in an Open Dialogue on  
Art and Climate Change

#### ORGANIZER



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CENTAR  
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**Social Climate**  
Social Innovation for Climate Action

#### HOSTS



**KIT** Royal  
Tropical  
Institute

**zone2source**

7-9 April 2025  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands



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## ***Creative Echoes: Climate, Art & Society in Dialogue:***

*Engaging Society in an Open Dialogue on  
Art and Climate Change*

International Symposium  
7-9 April 2025  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Academic and Organizing Committee:  
[Konstantinos Karatzas](#) - [Olga Akroyd](#)  
[George Conyne](#) - [Sozita Goudouna](#)  
[Despina Batziou](#) - [Aikaterini Kourioti](#)

<b>Dates</b>	7-8-9 April 2025
<b>Venues</b>	<a href="#"><u>KIT, Tropical Royal Institute</u></a> (7-8 April)-9.00-18.00  <a href="#"><u>Zone2Source, Testing Ground for Art &amp; Ecology</u></a> (9 April)

\*The underlined texts are active links



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# SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM



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# Sessions

**DAY 1**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8**

**(KIT)**

**9:00 – 9:30** Registration

**9:30 – 9:40** Welcome and Opening Remarks

A brief overview, by Konstantinos Karatzas, of the CARAVANE initiative, introducing the day's objectives and collaborative spirit behind the event.

**9:40 – 9:50** KIT Opening Address

A welcome from Lisanne Gerstel, highlighting KIT's mission and its collaboration for this symposium.

## **Panel A**

**9:50 – 10:10** Climate Transitions: A Historical Lens on Society's Future

Konstantinos Karatzas (GIREs, The Netherlands)

**10:10 – 10:30** Cities on the Frontline: Climate Challenges and Research Agendas in Europe

Pablo Cozano Pérez (University of Malaga, Spain)

**10:30 – 10:50** Discussion on Climate-Change-Induced Challenges and Best Practices from Nepal

Neha Basnet (GIREs, The Netherlands)

**10:50 – 11:10** Discussion (Q&A)

**11:10 – 11:30** Coffee Break (20 minutes)



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## Keynote Speech I

11:30 – 12:00 [When It Rains, It Pours: The Relationship Between Conflict, Disasters, and Health in the Era of Climate Change](#)

Nima Yaghmaei (KIT, The Netherlands)

12:00 – 12:10 [Discussion \(Q&A\)](#)

12:10 – 13:00 Lunch Break (50 minutes)

## Panel B

13:00 – 13:20 [Art & Sustainability: Artistic Responses to Climate Change](#)

Natascha Wahlberg Macías (Social Climate, Spain)

13:20 – 13:40 [Zone2Source: Where Art, Nature, and Technology Converge in Amstelpark](#)

Alice Smits (Zone2Source, The Netherlands)

13:40 – 13:50 [Discussion \(Q&A\)](#)

13:50 – 14:00 Break (10 minutes)

## Keynote Speech II

14:00 – 14:30 [Climate Change Impacts on Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups: Integrating Social Inclusion and Justice in Sustainable Development](#)

Maria Kottari (Principal Consultant at Technopolis Group)

14:30 – 14:40 [Discussion \(Q&A\)](#)

14:40 – 15:00 Coffee Break (20 minutes)



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## Panel C

15:00 – 15:30

Climate Justice Beyond Words: Exploring the Emancipatory Power of Theater of the Oppressed

Andreja Potočnik & Metka Bahlen Okoli (Zavod BOB, Slovenia)

15:30 – 15:40 Discussion (Q&A)

15:40 – 15:50 Break (10 minutes)

## Panel D

15:50 – 16:05 Sustainability Practices in the Filmmaking Industry: Necessity or Greenwashing?

Anita Juka (Centre for Cultural Activities – CKD, Croatia)

16:05 – 16:15 Participative Decision-Making for Climate Justice and Sustainability in Teams of Young Professionals

Martina Belić (Centre for Cultural Activities – CKD, Croatia)

16:15 – 16:30 Sustainable Tourism Video Marketing Industry Guidelines

Natia Stuart-Fox (Black Sea Global Art League, Georgia)

16:30 – 16:40 Discussion (Q&A)

16:40 – 16:50 Break (10 minutes)

## Keynote Speech III

16:50 – 17:20 The World Is Breathing Us: About Artful Practices and Being Fundamentally Entangled

Jan van Boeckel (Hanze University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands)

17:20 – 17:30 Discussion (Q&A)

17:30 – 17:40 Closing Remarks-End of Symposium

End of DAY 1



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# OPEAN GARDEN TALKS

**DAY 2**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**

**(ZONE2SOURCE, AMSTELPARK)**

**10:00 – 10:30** [Alice Smits](#)

Introduction by Alice Smits (Director of Zone2Source ,testing ground for art and ecology) and view of the exhibition Material Flows: the hidden afterlives of plastic waste (<https://zone2source.net/en/tentoonstelling/material-flows/>)

**10:30 – 11:00** [Zack Denfeld](#)

Genomic Gastronomy Garden artist talk by Zack Denfeld.

An artist-led think tank launched in 2010 by Cathrine Kramer and Zack Denfeld, Genomic Gastronomy examines the biotechnologies and biodiversity of human food systems.

**11:00 – 11:30** [Theun Karelse](#)

Theun Karelse talk on Otterdam on the Amstelparks pond.

Dutch artist whose experimental work bridges art, ecology, and technology. His project Otterdamreimagines Dutch water management by drawing inspiration from the otter and promoting water-rich ecologies.

**11:30 – 12:00** [Jonmar van Vlijmen](#)

Jonmar van Vlijmen in the Shadow Garden on Future Gardening.

The artist collective The Onkruidenier explores future gardening in the Shadow Garden at Amstelpark, experimenting with regenerative, heat-tolerant biotopes in response to climate change.

**Final Remarks**

**End of Symposium**



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# ABSTRACTS & BIOS



## DAY 1 Panel A

### Climate Transitions: A Historical Lens on Society's Future

#### Abstract

This presentation explores the evolution of climate change awareness from the early 20th century to today. It begins with industrialization and the rise of fossil fuel use, when early scientists like Eunice Foote and Charles Keeling first identified human influence on the atmosphere.

Through the 20th century, climate remained a secondary concern behind more immediate environmental issues, but by the late 1900s, mounting data and computer modeling confirmed the risks of global warming. The 21st century has seen climate change become a central issue—fueled by extreme weather, youth activism, and a growing focus on climate justice.

Despite international efforts like the Paris Agreement and advances in renewable energy, emissions remain high. This talk reflects on what history teaches us: the urgency of acting now, the power of collective will, and the importance of pairing innovation with bold cultural and policy shifts to protect our future.

#### Bio

**Dr. Konstantinos D. Karatzas**, director of GIRES, is a historian specializing in 20th-century international political history, with a focus on African American history and political violence. He earned his BA from Democritus University of Thrace, his MA from Leiden University, and his PhD from the University of Zaragoza in collaboration with the University of Atlanta. He has worked with numerous universities across Europe, Latin America, and the U.S., including Harvard, Cambridge, and Morehouse.

A committed advocate of oral history, he has conducted over 3,000 interviews related to African American experiences and survivors of dictatorships in Argentina, Spain, and Greece. His work explores the intersections of memory, identity, and historical justice, and he actively promotes academic collaboration across disciplines and borders.



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## Cities on the Frontline: Climate Challenges and Research Agendas in Europe

### Abstract

Studying climate change is vital to understanding and addressing its intensified impacts in urban areas. Cities face rising temperatures, reduced habitability, and the urban heat island effect due to dense infrastructure, reduced green spaces, and poor planning. These conditions not only increase health risks and energy consumption but also create a cycle that further accelerates climate change.

To counter these effects, nature-based and bioclimatic design solutions are essential. Urban vegetation—like parks, green roofs, and vertical gardens—can cool cities, improve air quality, and boost comfort. Sustainable materials and passive ventilation designs also reduce energy use and emissions.

Ultimately, tackling climate change in cities requires integrated strategies, including green infrastructure, energy-efficient design, and climate-conscious urban policies, to build more resilient, livable, and sustainable urban environments.

### Bios

**Pablo Cozano Pérez** is a PhD candidate in Biological Diversity and Environment at the University of Málaga, where he also earned his degree in Environmental Sciences and a Master's in Environmental Analysis and Management. He has participated in research focused on agroecology, urban development, and climate change through projects such as HORT-SOST II and the Climate Change Chair at the University of Málaga. Currently, he works as technical staff in the Department of Botany and Plant Physiology and is a member of the RNM 262 Research Group.

Pablo has presented his work on arboriculture, urban vegetation, and sustainability at national and international conferences and is a contributing author to *El Jardín del Recuerdo: Árboles para la eternidad*.



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## Discussion on Climate change induced challenges and best practices from Nepal

### Abstract

Drawing on her extensive experience in South Asia and beyond, Dr. Neha Basnet will explore the localized impacts of climate change in Nepal, with a focus on vulnerable communities, especially women and youth. Her talk will highlight grassroots challenges faced in agriculture, education, and rural livelihoods, while also showcasing innovative, community-led responses and policy interventions. Grounded in her work with international development projects and local organizations, this discussion will offer insight into the broader implications of climate resilience, equity, and sustainable development in the Global South.

### Bio

**Dr. Neha Basnet** is a consultant with an extensive background in youth, labour and education in the context of South Asia. She holds her Ph.D. degree from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

She has worked as a consultant for many projects across Asia, Africa, and Europe. She worked as a researcher with Global Human Rights in the Hague. Recently she has been supporting organisations in Nepal and in other countries such as Bangladesh, Nigeria and Ghana to write grant proposals. In Nepal, she supported an Agri-based company on two proposals for USAID to provide access to loans to female farmers using the model developed by the company. In Ghana, she worked together with a community based organisation to submit a proposal IUCN project on climate change induced violence against women in fishing farming areas in Ghana.

A few projects that she worked on: program evaluation of the Norwegian Refugee Council's Better Learning Programme (BLP) designed in response to 'Protect and Education Response to Armed Conflict and Displacement in Afghanistan, as an International Education Specialist. This evaluation aims to understand the impact of the BLP program implemented on children's psychological, emotional and overall mental well-being. In



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In addition, she led the evaluation of the International Organization of Migration (Vietnam and Malaysia Office) project on Enhancing Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking in Asia (CREST) project. She also conducted a baseline study Influencing Inclusive Access to Girls Education in East Africa, a project funded by ECHIDNA GIVING Foundation, the project focuses on raising the voices of young women and girls in ensuring inclusivity in the TVET sector.

Neha has extensive knowledge in gender and young participation, mixed-method, visual methods, and report writing.

## Keynote Speech I

### When It Rains, It Pours: The Relationship Between Conflict, Disasters, and Health in the Era of Climate Change

#### Abstract

When It Rains, It Pours: The relationship conflict, disasters, and health in the era of climate change

Disasters and conflict have long been intertwined, shaping the vulnerabilities of affected populations and the challenges of delivering health services. This keynote explores historical and current relationship between disaster events and conflict. Building on these themes, the keynote will explore the challenges in addressing disaster preparedness and health system resiliency in the era of climate change. Finally, KIT Institute's projects in Afghanistan to strengthen resilience to potential climate events will be discussed.

#### Bio

**Nima Yaghmaei** is an epidemiologist at KIT Institute, where he works across multiple topics including nutrition, health system resilience, and monitoring and evaluation. Much of his efforts are focused on operational research to strengthen health information systems in international projects, with a strong focus on fragile and conflict-affected settings, such South Sudan and Afghanistan. He also plays a key role in expanding KIT's



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expertise in disaster epidemiology and preparedness for climate-related and humanitarian emergencies.

Prior to joining KIT, Nima worked on a nutrition program in eastern Ethiopia and in a Belgian disaster epidemiology research centre. Concurrently, he is pursuing a PhD at UMC Utrecht, where his research delves into health information systems and data-driven decision-making in humanitarian crises. Overall, Nima's passion extends beyond epidemiology— as he is driven by an interest in how history, geography, climate, and economics shape health outcomes.

## PANEL B

### Art & Sustainability: Artistic Responses to Climate Change

#### Abstract

This presentation explores the dynamic connection between art and nature, highlighting how artists have contributed to biodiversity research and conservation by offering new perspectives, emotional depth, and public engagement. Art has not only helped visualize ecological issues but has also become an active tool in protecting and understanding the natural world.

It will also examine the powerful bond between art and social movements, showing how artistic expression fuels climate and social action. From installations to community-led projects, artists inspire awareness, mobilize audiences, and help shape public dialogue. The talk celebrates art's transformative role in fostering both ecological responsibility and collective change.

#### Bio

**Natascha Wahlberg Macías** is co-founder and CEO of Social Climate, a non for profit cooperative based in Andalusia where she coordinates projects on social innovation, gender equality, climate action, local economy and responsible tourism. She has 15 years of experience developing and managing R&D&I projects, funds, programmes and tenders at local, regional, national and European levels on topics such as climate change and sustainability, waste management and valorisation, agri-food, water resource management and social entrepreneurship. She



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has a degree in Environmental Sciences, with master's degrees in Water Resources and Environment, in Quality and Environmental Management and in Human Resources Management. She is a member of the board of directors of the Nature-Based Solutions Cluster of Malaga, and is an Ambassador for the European Climate Pact.

## [Zone2Source: Where Art, Nature, and Technology Converge in Amstelpark](#)

### **Abstract**

In this talk, Alice Smits will introduce the vision and work of Zone2Source, an international platform for art, nature, and technology based in Amsterdam's Amstelpark. As a testing ground for artistic practices that respond to ecological and social transformations, Zone2Source brings together artists, scientists, and citizens to reimagine our relationship with the natural world. Smits will share insights into how long-term transdisciplinary programs and site-specific exhibitions contribute to building a more inclusive, multispecies future—one where cities are not just for humans, but for all forms of life.

### **Bio**

**Alice Smits** is the initiator and artistic director of Zone2Source-testing ground for art and ecology, a platform for art and ecology located in the Amstelpark, Amsterdam. International artists are invited to participate in exhibitions, talks, workshops, and excursions that foster new imaginaries and practices around nature-culture relationships. Taking place in the park's pavilions and outdoor spaces, these programs explore ecological themes through artistic inquiry.

With Zone2Source, Smits focuses on organizing long-term artistic and transdisciplinary research programs in collaboration with educational and cultural partners, using the Amstelpark as a living lab for ecological exploration. Currently, Zone2Source is working with the City of Amsterdam to investigate the park as a testing ground for multispecies politics—shifting urban governance toward a city for billions of lives, not just one million humans. This work stems from a broader interest in the role of art in environmental transitions. Alice Smits holds a Master's degree in Art History from the University of Amsterdam. Before founding Zone2Source in 2013, she curated exhibitions in both New York and Amsterdam as a freelance curator and co-founded the Amakula Kampala International Film



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Festival in Uganda, which she co-directed from 2004 to 2012. She is also a researcher in the field of art, science, and ecology and regularly contributes to art publications such as Metropolis M. Additionally, she is a guitarist in the experimental improvisation band Oorbeek. More information: [www.zone2source.net](http://www.zone2source.net)

## Keynote Speech II

### Climate Change Impacts on Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups: Integrating Social Inclusion and Justice in Sustainable Development

#### Abstract

The keynote speech will delve into the profound and disproportionate effects that climate change has on vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as low-income communities, indigenous peoples, women, children, and other historically disadvantaged populations. These groups often bear the brunt of climate-related disasters—such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and droughts—while having the least capacity to adapt to and mitigate these challenges.

The speech will focus on how the socio-economic vulnerabilities of these communities are exacerbated by climate change, revealing a cycle of inequality that deepens with environmental stressors. For example, in many cases, marginalized groups already experience limited access to resources such as healthcare, education, clean water, and affordable housing. Climate change compounds these challenges, making it even harder for them to recover from natural disasters, access food or energy, or secure livelihoods.

A core element of the presentation will be the imperative to integrate social inclusion and justice principles within the frameworks of sustainable development. Sustainable development, traditionally focused on environmental and economic dimensions, must evolve to include a stronger emphasis on social equity. This requires acknowledging that social inequalities are inherently linked to environmental degradation and that a holistic approach to sustainability cannot succeed unless it ensures fairness, participation, and the protection of human rights, especially for the most vulnerable.



## Bio

**Dr. Maria Kottari** is a Principal Consultant at Technopolis Group (TG Netherlands) where she specialises among others in project management/ coordination, research and business development in the green transition and innovation domains (e.g. EU Green Deal). She is an experienced energy transition, climate change, and sustainability expert with 14 years of working experience and a solid network in subjects related to the EU and international politics and governance, energy and climate policies, sustainability, innovation, and socio-economic challenges.

Throughout her career in the public sector (European Commission's (EC) Joint Research Centre(JRC), academia (European University Institute, University of Amsterdam) and consultancy (collaboration among others with UN's Food & Agricultural organisation) she has been involved in various initiatives related to the policy and socio-economic aspects of the energy transition (including labour market reforms, circular economy principles) and climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular the green economy (e.g. sustainable finance, decarbonisation processes), technological and citizen-driven innovation.

She is also very active in gender equality topics in the same domains. She has a strong methodologic background in qualitative and quantitative research methods, such as interviews, surveys, case studies, policy analysis and strategic recommendations. She has also extensive experience as a trainer and facilitator of workshops (online and in person) with application of novel and traditional learning and development methods.



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## Panel C

### Climate Justice Beyond Words: Exploring the Emancipatory Power of Theater of the Oppressed

#### Abstract

In this interactive session, facilitators Andreja Potočnik and Metka Bahlen Okoli invite participants to explore the pressing issue of climate justice through the lens of Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed. Using techniques from Image Theatre and the Aesthetics of the Oppressed, the session will offer a powerful, embodied approach to understanding and confronting climate injustice. Participants will engage in creative exercises that move beyond dialogue, activating imagination, empathy, and collective reflection to visualize and rehearse pathways for transformation. This methodology empowers individuals and communities to recognize their agency and envision more just and sustainable futures—together.

#### Bios

**Metka Bahlen Okoli** is a Slovenian educator, youth worker, theater pedagogue, producer, and actress with over two decades of experience in non-formal education, youth work, and cultural activities. She holds a degree in pedagogy and andragogy from the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts. Believing in the emancipatory power that is held within the treasuries of knowledge and experience of the people, she is committed to supporting vulnerable target groups who do not have a public voice or whose voice is not heard. Metka is a keen promoter of theater as a tool for social change, co-authored several tools on Theatre of the Oppressed methodology and contributed to numerous projects emphasizing storytelling and empowerment, encouraging expression through voice and theater methods to nurture solidarity and collaboration.

**Andreja Potočnik**, university graduate in Social Work, is an experienced youth worker with over a decade of work in both state institutions and NGOs. Her roles have spanned psycho-social support, community coordination, and project management focused on social inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities,



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homeless, people with migrant background and youth. She has extensive experience in integration of cultural and performative practices into her work, using art to challenge existing systems, advocate for change, foster dialogue, and reduce stigma. She is passionate about addressing pressing social issues such as climate justice through community engagement, emphasizing dignity, autonomy, and social equity.

## Panel D

### Sustainability practices in the filmmaking industry: Necessity or greenwashing?

#### Abstract

In this talk, producer Anita Juka explores the growing emphasis on sustainability in the film industry. She will present commonly recommended practices for creating eco-conscious film sets and critically examine whether these measures are truly effective or serve more as a tool for greenwashing—designed to meet funding requirements and appeal to environmentally aware audiences. The session invites a candid discussion on the balance between meaningful change and superficial compliance in the pursuit of sustainability in media production.

#### Bio

**Anita Juka** is a successful producer who started her own production company 4Film in 2003. In her 20 years career, she has produced over 30 films and 20 European co-productions of different genres, including feature fiction, creative feature documentaries, shorts and one mini TV series. To her professional background a large number of produced European social awareness media campaigns and film literacy campaigns can be added. She is an experienced film producer with several well acclaimed feature films that were part of the Cannes film festival official competition *Un certain regard* in 2023. She was a member of Board of European Film Academy and is quite aware of the sustainability issues in the filmmaking industry. She would like you to think about what is real and useful and what is just greenwashing practice in filmmaking practise. She is one of the mentors in the Caravane project.



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## Participative Decision-Making for Climate Justice and Sustainability in Teams of Young Professionals

### Abstract

This presentation will explore how participative decision-making processes have shaped the development of a climate justice documentary by a team of young filmmaking professionals. Drawing from the speaker's experience with grassroots activism and EU-funded initiatives, she will reflect on collaborative methods that foster inclusivity, sustainability, and shared responsibility in creative and advocacy projects addressing the climate crisis.

### Bio

**Martina Belić** is a feminist and human rights activist for the last thirty years. With extensive experience in running grass root initiatives and EU funded projects, she has knowledge on community organizing and working with different groups. She was a founder of several important Croatia CSOs dealing with women's human rights and protection against violence against women, as well as board member of the biggest Croatian environmental organization "Green Action". At the moment, she is a partner project manager in Caravane, and she would like to share the project experiences of participative decision making in the group of young filmmaking professionals dealing with climate justice and climate sustainability. The group is producing the 52 minutes long documentary on climate justice.

## Sustainable Tourism Video Marketing Industry Guidelines

### Abstract

The presentation will introduce practical guidelines for promoting sustainable tourism through video marketing. Drawing from the speakers' international experience in film and cultural production, she will explore how visual storytelling can support environmentally responsible travel while avoiding clichés and greenwashing. The session highlights best practices for creating impactful, ethical, and engaging tourism content.



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## Bio

**Natia Mikava** is a cultural entrepreneur, producer, and international consultant with a background in music, film, and event production. A graduate of Oxford MBA (2005), she currently serves as CEO of Reality Star Production Centre and consultant for international film funding. Natia is the founder of major cultural initiatives including the International Talent Contest “Black Sea Stars” and Arte Marbella Inter Art Batumi. She has led numerous diaspora and community events across Europe. In 2022, she launched Georgian Film Abroad and contributed to award-winning films such as *Bullet*. Natia has been active in Marbella’s film and cultural scene, organizing Ukrainian Cinema Day and other global initiatives.

## Keynote Speech III

### The World Is Breathing Us: About Artful Practices and Being Fundamentally Entangled

#### Abstract

“When I breathe, nature enters my lungs,” says environmental artist herman de vries. Sometimes he has the feeling, he adds, that he is not breathing, but that the outside world is breathing him. Because he is, as he puts it “obliged to breathe.” This statement expresses a sense of reciprocity, of being fundamentally and inescapably entangled with a world that is larger than just us, humans. And Ánde Somby, a Saami living in Northern Norway,

points to a similar sense of connection, but then from humans to the world around us. As he explains, the yoik, the traditional chant of the Saami, is one of the oldest forms of music in Europe. Once it was an important part of their religious practices. For Somby there is a big contrast between the western European notion of singing and yoiking: “One does not yoik about someone or something, but one simply yoiks someone or something.” There are yoiks for persons, animals, and land: “In the Saami tradition, it was very important for a person to have a yoik, just as important as being given a name. Yoiking a landscape or an animal probably had a similar ritual significance. Even for the trained ear, it is difficult to hear the difference between an animal's yoik and a person's yoik.”



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In his presentation, Jan van Boeckel will explore how such an orientation to a wider ecology, more common among indigenous peoples, can be of inspiration in building a more sustainable world and seeking ways to reconnect with nature. He believes that art can be a unique catalyst here.

## Bio

**Jan van Boeckel** is Senior Research Associate at the Research Centre Art & Society of the Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen, The Netherlands. Before, from 2020 until the beginning of 2025, he was Professor Art & Sustainability there, based at Art Academy Minerva.

Jan started his career as a cultural anthropologist. With the passing of time, he increasingly focused his attention on both his own developing artistic practice and on the teaching of art – two orientations that eventually converged into the quality of artist-educator. Jan conducted several research projects on the edge of art and sustainability.

Specializing himself in the new field of arts-based environmental education, he received his degree as Doctor of Arts in arts education at Aalto University, Helsinki, in 2013. In the past two decades he has worked in several Northern countries – among which Iceland, Sweden, Estonia, and Finland. Now, at Hanze UAS in Groningen, Jan's primary research interest is in how art can help us face the great challenges of our time, of which the ecological crisis arguably is the most pressing.

Jan believes that it is of critical importance that our view on what sustainability entails becomes more encompassing, through including its cultural, its inner, and ultimately also its existential dimensions. In this, he finds inspiration in the “new trinity for our time” that Satish Kumar introduced: a space where soil, soul, and society can meet and reinforce each other.

More information: <http://janvanboeckel.com> and <https://www.hanze.nl/nl/over-hanze/organisatie/medewerkers/lectoren/jan-van-boeckel>



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## DAY 2

### Abstract & Bio

**Alice Smits**, director of Zone2Source, will introduce the organization's mission at the intersection of art, ecology, and public space. The session includes a guided visit to the exhibition *Material Flows*, which investigates the invisible journeys and environmental impact of plastic waste. Through artistic perspectives, the exhibition challenges our perception of materials, consumption, and ecological responsibility.

### Abstract & Bios

**The Center for Genomic Gastronomy** is an artist-led think tank launched in 2010 by **Cathrine Kramer and Zack Denfeld** that examines the biotechnologies and biodiversity of human food systems. Their mission is to map food controversies, to prototype alternative culinary futures and to imagine a more just, biodiverse & beautiful food system. The Center presents its research on organisms and environments manipulated through human food cultures through public lectures, research publications, meals and exhibitions. They collaborate with scientists, chefs, hackers and farmers.

Since spring 2024 Genomic Gastronomy runs the Genomic Gastronomy Garden in the Amstelpark. Situated in the former seal enclosure in the Amstelpark, they use the garden as a site for working with others to test, interpret and contest existing agro-cultural practices. In their edible plant garden, Genomic Gastronomy studies the technologies and ecologies of human food systems while tasting and debating the history and future of food. The plants featured in the garden stretch the imagination towards outer space & deep time, while grounding visitors in the here and now through a series of public activities that include community plantings, seed saving workshops, harvest parties, collaborative tastings and interpretive tours. The Genomic Gastronomy Garden wants to connect (inter)planetary imaginaries with terrestrial environmental activities and action.



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## Abstract & Bio

Growing up, **Theun Karelse** was interested in drawing as a way of learning about the world—an approach closely aligned with natural sciences. He subsequently studied fine arts at the Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam before joining FoAM, a distributed group of transdisciplinary laboratories operating at the interstices of art, science, nature, and everyday life. His interests and experimental practice explore the edges between art, environment, and technology, taking the last 10,000 years as a frame of reference.

He practices and supports ecosystem and landscape regeneration in Europe, India, and Africa. His outdoor studio consists of several gardens that serve as testing grounds for urban biodiversity, climate adaptation, and ancient knowledge systems. He is an active member of the Embassy of the Earth, part of the Future of the Delta team at the Embassy of the North Sea, and Speaker for the Living at CCU, the world's fifth zoöp.

**Otterdam**, as an icon of wetlands returning to Amsterdam after 50 years of absence, represents the otter's call to reimagine our relationships to water, water-rich landscapes, and their vast biodiversity and kinship networks. Gardeners, landscape architects, and urban planners of Amsterdam may have started to think of bees, butterflies, and birds when designing and managing urban green spaces, but the return of the otter feels like a game-changer.

Otterdam is a floating garden with common and rare indigenous water and swamp plants, which is cyclical; its structure biodegrades over one or two years. However, more important than the structure is the practice: this project explores the gap between Dutch water management and our horticultural practices (gardens and parks). Unlike the Aztec chinampas or Indonesian shrimp gardens, the Dutch have never really developed a culture of water gardening. While some initiatives are beginning in seaweed farming, our freshwater ecosystems remain relatively unexplored horticulturally. The project aims to explore the animal wisdom of the otter as a guide to gardening and ecological practices, creating moments in our culture to celebrate our connections with other forms of life.



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## Abstract & Bios

Artist collective the **Onkruidenier** was founded in 2013 and consists of **Jonmar van Vlijmen**, Rosanne van Wijk and Ronald Boer. The collective investigates historical, cultural and potential transformations of nature and its potential to evolve humans. They do fieldwork – often in conjunction with audiences – collecting plans, the stories and histories associated with them. As ecosystem futurists, they speculate on aquatic culture to arrive at new interpretations of the relationship between humans and (urban) nature, both above and below sea level. An important role is played here by questioning systems that are usually taken for granted. In the development of their work, interactions with the public and experts such as farmers, residents and scientists create new stories.

The Shadow Garden in the walled Belgian Cloister garden in the Amtelpark was put in the care of the Onkruidenier and Zone2Source as an ongoing project by the municipality in the spring of 2022. Here, the Onkruidenier conducts research and artistic experiments using this walled garden as an experimental garden. Working on a speculative ecosystem as artwork, and imagining more relational systems of classification, they explore how alternative nature-culture stories can lead to different kind of practices of care.

At the Shadow Garden, the Onkruidenier has begun a search for the future of gardening in a changing climate that is getting drier and hotter. In the near future, we will increasingly experience relatively wet winters and dry hot summers due to the Mediterraneanization of our cities. What does a xerophilic (heat-loving) biotope for the city look like? How do we develop a regenerative system for a thriving heat-resistant urban nature? Currently, our climate zone is shifting 13 meters northeastward every day. What will our urban biotope look like in the future when we live in the current Paris climate zone 50 years from now? The urban area is dominated by asphalt, pavement and concrete, on a foundation of raised sand. The city is a large, walled heat island. What heat-loving plant communities do we embrace in the future? And how do we as humans learn to work with them to keep the city livable? And what is gardening as an intervention when we reconsider our own role in the ecosystem?



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## USEFUL INFORMATION

- At KIT the registration will take place at the reception desk at Mauritskade 64 1092 AD Amsterdam



- All participants must be registered through the [CARAVANE website](#) in order to receive an access key from the KIT staff, which must be returned at the end of the day.
- Only registered attendees will be granted access to the symposium.
- Please note that all interactions during CARAVANE events and activities, including those organized by GIRES – Global Institute for Research Education & Scholarship, are subject to the CARAVANE and GIRES Code of Conduct.  
We are committed to fostering a respectful, inclusive environment, free from any form of discrimination. Zero tolerance will be applied to any misconduct, and appropriate actions will be taken if necessary.
- We trust and hope that all our guests will uphold these values and contribute to a welcoming atmosphere for everyone.
- Please read them below:

<https://caravaneproject.eu/code-of-conduct/>

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### Recording Notice and Data Protection Compliance

Please note that the symposium and all associated activities will be recorded strictly for documentation purposes. These recordings are intended solely to archive the work and outcomes of the event and will not be used for commercial purposes.

Only presenters and speakers will be recorded during the sessions. If audience members appear in the recording, it will be incidental and not intentional.

In compliance with EU data protection regulations (GDPR) and our Code of Conduct, all registered participants are expected to adhere to our terms and conditions. We have sent a link via email where you can submit your consent. If you have not yet done so, we kindly ask you to complete it at your earliest convenience.

If you prefer not to appear in any recordings or have concerns regarding your personal data, please contact us in advance at [insert contact email].

- For any inquiries. Please contact us at: [caravaneprojecteu@gmail.com](mailto:caravaneprojecteu@gmail.com) and [info@gires.org](mailto:info@gires.org).

<b>Dates</b>	7-8-9 April 2025
<b>Venues</b>	<u>KIT, Tropical Royal Institute</u> (7-8 April)-9.00-18.00  <u>Zone2Source, Testing Ground for Art &amp; Ecology</u> (9 April)



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**We hope you enjoy the symposium!**





# CARAVANE

*Climate Art Fusion*



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## International Symposium

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Engaging Society in an Open Dialogue on  
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