

INVITE: RESEARCH ECOLOGIES LAB | AN AFTERNOON ON ARTISTIC RESEARCH

January 19th 13:00-17:00 + drinks & snacks

With: Nick Shepherd, Marlies Vermeulen & Aymeric Mansoux



RESEARCH ECOLOGIES, the first LAB of the Local School on doing artistic research - by and for researchers who are working in performing- and other fields of the arts.

Our proposal for this first encounter is to focus on questions concerning the 'ecologies' of research, or in other words: the different sorts of context that we meet or initiate.

We invited you to join the LAB in one of three parallel work-sessions, led by these inspiring guest: Nick Shepherd (professor in Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Aarhus University), Marlies Vermeulen/Dear Hunter (spatio-architect from Belgium) and Aymeric Mansoux (head of PUBX experimental publishing MA at Piet Zwart Rotterdam). We are very excited that they will be sharing with us their rich artistic practices and modes of research in very different fields; archaeology/history, architecture/cartography, and multi media/publishing.

Find the three LAB descriptions below.

Register by sending an email to: dasgraduateschool@ahk.nl

Please mention your name, background and the work session you want to attend.

There is a limited capacity of 45 people in total, full = full.

It would be a great pleasure to have you join!

Looking forward to seeing you next week Friday,

Liesbeth Koot and Nienke Scholts - Researchers Local School
& Marijke Hoogenboom – Lector Das Research

Research Ecologies LAB | work-sessions

1. A History of Fragments | Nick Shepherd (SA)

How do we work through and beyond the conventional binaries that structure scholarly and artistic practices: body/ mind, reason/ emotion, science/ art, knowledge/ imagination?

How do we respond to the imminent challenges of global social injustice and anthropogenic environmental change? What does it mean to work in a time of emergency? How do we evolve some kind of personal ethics or politics when the scale of the challenges seems overwhelming, monstrous?

In this workshop, Nick Shepherd will circulate a set of ten real and virtual objects, as an invitation to participants to evolve creative and critical responses. Using methods drawn from story telling, empirical research, close reading, imagination, empathetic connection, playfulness and undisciplined responses, participants will be invited to think about questions of history and representation in a time of emergency.

Nick Shepherd is an archaeologist and researcher, and is currently Artist-in-Residence at the AHK's Reinwardt Academy. Taking points of orientation from decolonial thinking, and from contemporary debates around the Anthropocene, his work explores notions of deep time, materiality, embodiment, and the coloniality of being and knowing.

Nick's recent projects include the collection *The Mirror in the Ground*, the recent AHK Winter School at the ARTIS Zoo on "The Zoo in the Anthropocene", and the Cape Town Walking Seminar on "Nature-cultures of Table Mountain". <https://mirrorintheground.com/>

2. Cartopology, or: In Search for Sea Monsters and the Unspeakable | Marlies Vermeulen (BE)

Marlies Vermeulen and her partner Remy Kroese form *Dear Hunter*: a spatial-anthropological research practice. Referring to the behaviour and methods of hunters, they produce alternative maps and atlases through qualitative fieldwork which incorporates relatively long periods of living and working on-site.

Currently, Marlies is embarking on an artistic Phd. From her practice she takes both cartography – the making of maps - and anthropology – relating to environment - and merges them playfully into a new kind of field 'cartopology'.

For this work session you are invited to reflect and exchange on the doing of artistic research itself in relation to the specific environment you work in. Through sharing *Dear Hunters* dense maps and other works, several questions will be addressed. From how to 'excavate' invisible knowledge from a certain site, to the challenges you might face within your practice, and how difficult the actual doing of artistic research is, especially when it meets academic contexts.

3. Weaving and Sharing Research Material | Aymeric Mansoux (FR)

How does one start a research practice? What objects, things, and other bits and bytes constitute a ground for developing a research practice? And ultimately, if research is about nurturing a specific field, how does one share and give access to others to such a web of research material?

Aymeric Mansoux is an artist, writer and hacker. He runs the Experimental Publishing Media Design Master course (XPUB) at the Piet Zwart Institute (Rotterdam). In this small worksession, we will start from an example of a project developed at XPUB, and then share and discuss how we practically develop a fertile environment for a research practice to happen. Particular attention will be given to: 1. Defining the things that shape and constitute our research; 2. How do we draw the line between what can be made public and what should remain private; and 3. What licenses (open access or not) can be used or abused to share our research within the current framework of intellectual property laws.