

# ecologicART

PORTFOLIO





# *content*

5

The Center for Applied Ecological Thinking

8

Ecologic Art: a context

11

List of Participants

12

Our Speakers

14

Reflections from the workshop

27

Creative Activity

41

Final Thoughts

44

Info e suggested readings

On the 27th of April 2023, the workshop Ecologic Art took place at the University of Copenhagen, thanks to the close-knit collaboration with the Center for Applied Ecological Thinking, or CaPE. Two special guests and a group of artists worked together to explore the relationship between the environment, the arts and spiritualities.

4A.1.46

## 04A.1.46 Undervisning

09:00-16:30 TORS Center for Applied Ecological Thinking

	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00
Torsdag d. 27		■			
Fredag d. 28					
Lørdag d. 29					
Søndag d. 30					
Mandag d. 01					
Tirsdag d. 02		■			
Onsdag d. 03					

# Center for Applied Ecological thinking

or CApE

Center for Applied  
Ecological Thinking (CApE)  
is a research and knowledge  
center. The center was  
established in 2021 and is a  
part of the Department of  
Cross-Cultural and Regional  
Studies at the University of  
Copenhagen, Denmark.



CAPÉ's aim is to draw on the humanities' great reservoirs of knowledge of ethics, imagination, and cultural values to respond to the imminent crisis, to reconceptualise current ecological thinking, and to engage with stakeholders in the pursuit of new, applied routes towards sustainable transition. Many of the insights that characterise Scandinavian models of sustainability governance demonstrate that better ways of life on this planet are possible.



# EcologicArt: a context



*At the end of the 19th century, new spiritual and religious movements emerged despite secularization, and the arts came under their influence. Some of these movements integrated nature into their viewpoint. Moreover, the last century witnessed the rise of land art and artists' interest in ecological issues. Is the contemporary artistic practice infused with a secular spiritual approach to nature and life?*

*The concept of nature has affected the arts and many religions. This workshop aimed to explore the connection between artistic practices and spiritual beliefs related to nature; these last are, for example, eco-spirituality and religious naturalism.*



How is the  
experience of  
ecological concerns  
processed in art and  
literature?



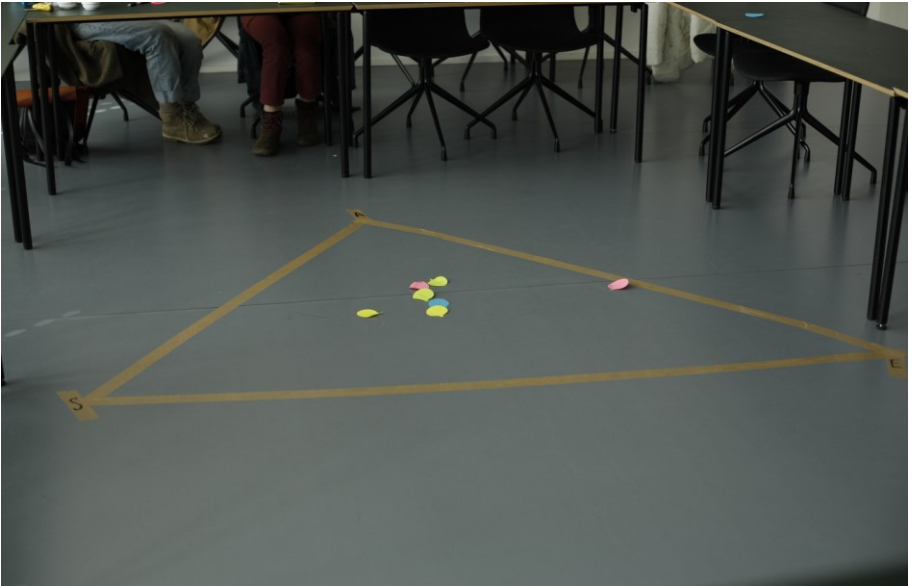
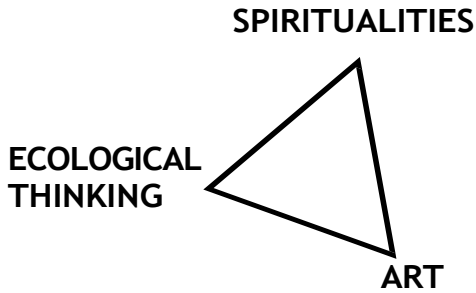
# Connecting Immaterialities

*Behind the tangible aspect of the environmental crisis, our present confronts us with more invisible factors. This workshop explored the connection between two immaterial cultural elements that nevertheless may impact the material world: aesthetics and spirituality.*

*Reflecting on this connection may unveil specific worldviews linked to ecological artistic practices, which may better support the communication of unexpressed anxieties and mobilise action.*



# THREE ASPECTS



The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several green leaves, likely from a plant like a raspberry or strawberry, showing their serrated edges and vein patterns. The lighting is soft, creating a natural, organic feel.

LIST OF  
PARTICIPANTS:

-ALEXANDRA  
MOLTKE  
JOHANSEN  
-ELIN  
SUNDSTRÖM  
-LEA PORSAGER  
-NANNA DEBOIS  
BUHL  
-SHËKUFÈ  
HEIBERG  
-URSULA  
ANDKJÆR OLSEN

# Our speakers



Photo credits: Thomas Rønn

## MICKEY GJERRIS

Mickey Gjerris (1969), M.Th., PhD, associate professor in bioethics at the Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen. Since 2004 researching different aspects of the ethical relationship between humans and nature, focusing on areas such as animals, agriculture, biotechnology, climate change and biodiversity. He has published +50 peer reviewed papers and +10 books. From 2010-2016 he was member of the Danish Ethical Council, an advisory body to the Danish Parliament, he has given several keynote lectures at international conferences and is an often-used speaker at public events and often-used expert in Danish media.

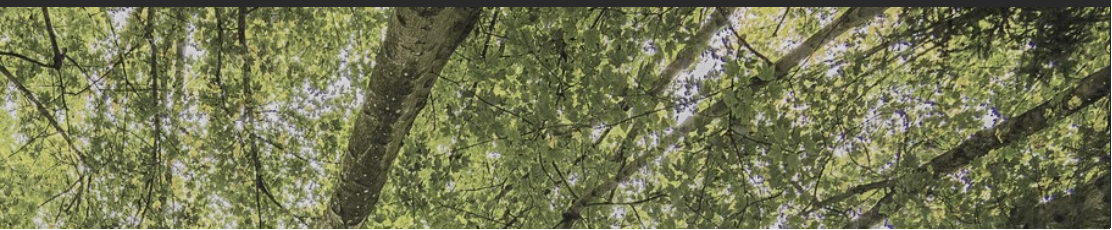
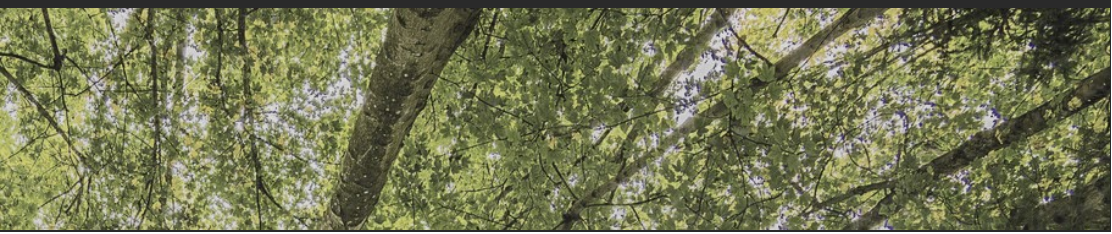




Photo credits: Lisa Bregneager

## BIRGITTE KIRKHOFF

Birgitte Kirkhoff established Being in Practice in 2021. In courses, retreats, and as mentor, she connects the dots between art, ecology, and spirituality towards conscious being and practice. Currently, she works on a book about Spiritual Ecology, told through 12 different people's practices. Birgitte is an Art Historian and has worked as a gallerist, a curator, and a director. In 2012-14, she curated an exhibition series within the realm of New Materialism, called Materiality 1-3 (on things and memory, soil and time, and on consciousness). Being in Practice has its roots in this work. Her final position was Director at Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde, 2014-2021. As part of the Great Resignation, she wanted to dedicate her life to matters closer to the heart and quit. Birgitte is a fan of Spiritual Ecology that covers all her interests and continues to expand its inclusion of voices and subjects. [www.beinginpractice.dk](http://www.beinginpractice.dk)



# **REFLECTIONS FROM THE WORKSHOP**



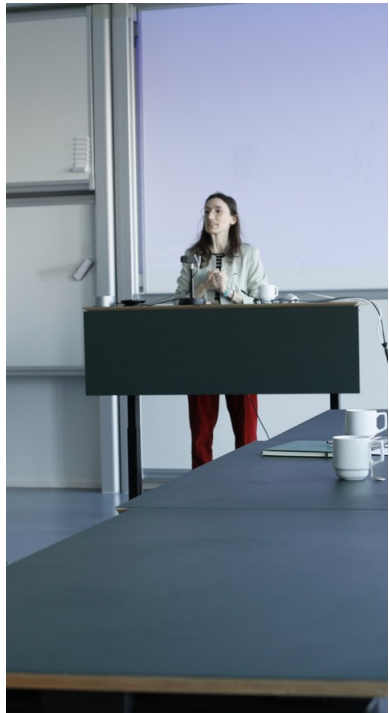
# NOTES FROM DISCUSSIONS



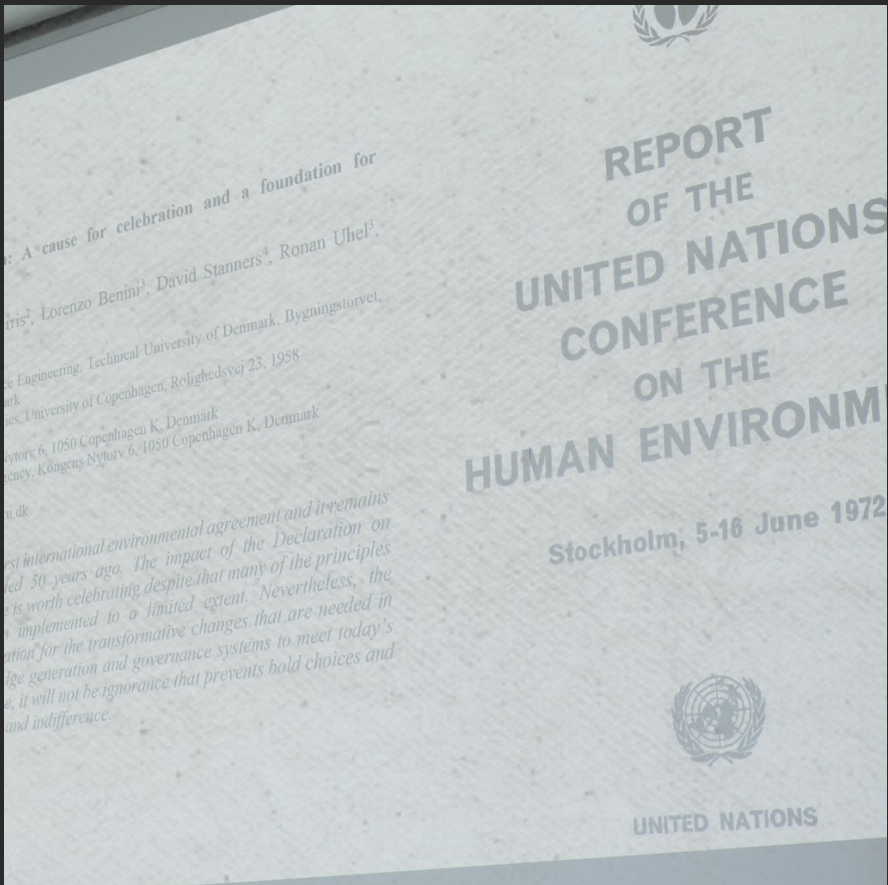
14

/  
WE SHAPE THE  
LIFE-WORLD OF  
EACHOTHER.

/  
USE THE POWER  
YOU HAVE FOR BENEFIT  
OF THE OTHER. BUT  
WHICH IS THE BENEFIT  
OF THE OTHER?



# Why is it important?





LECTURE 1

# WHO HAS TIME FOR POETRY WHEN THE WATER RISES?



**MICKEY GJERRIS**

/  
SCIENTIFIC  
PROBLEMS  
SHOULD BE  
SOLVED WITH  
SCIENCE. WHAT  
ABOUT ETHICAL  
PROBLEMS? LIKE  
EXTINCTION.



ETHICS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU. YES, YOU. BECAUSE WHAT YOU DO MATTERS. PROBABLY IT WILL NOT CHANGE THE SYSTEM BUT DEFINES WHO YOU ARE.

STICKING WITH ONE'S OWN VALUES CAN CREATE CONFLICT BETWEEN PEOPLE. BEYOND "ME BEING RIGHT AND YOU BEING WRONG" THERE IS "WE HAVE A PROBLEM", AND WE CAN ADDRESS IT OR NOT.



19

/  
MOMENTS

**THE INDIVIDUAL IS NEVER INVOLVED WITH THE OTHER WITHOUT HAVING IN HER HAND SOME OF THE OTHER PERSON'S LIFE... WE ARE EACH OTHERS WORLD AND DESTINY... WITH OUR BARE ATTITUDE TOWARD EACH OTHER WE SHAPE THE LIFE-WORLDS OF EACH OTHER... THIS PHENOMENA IS HIGHLY DISTURBING.**  
**K.E. LØGSTRUP: THE ETHICAL DEMAND (1956)**

# *OUR COMMON STORY*

20

/  
CONSIDERING THE AMAZING STORY OF HOW OUR GALAXY CAME TO LIFE, THE CREATION OF MILLIONS STARS, THE GENETIC EXCHANGE THROUGH EVOLUTION...

TODAY YOU ARE HERE.

BEING ON THIS PLANET IS THE "SPECIAL TIME", LIKE A COFFEE BREAK IN A NORMAL DAY. NOT BEING HERE IS THE "NORMAL".  
SO, ARE YOU HERE TO DO WHAT?



/

"WE HAVE A PLANET AND WE MANAGE IT. ALL WILL BE FINE."  
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.



... WHERE TO GO NOW?





## LECTURE 2

# SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY



**BIRGITTE KIRKHOFF**

23

/  
CREATE AND  
WITNESS

# WHY ART?

24

/

I.  
ART CAN RAISE AWARENESS AND AFFECT OTHERS.  
THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

III.  
ART CAN SHOW NON-ARTISTS HOW MUCH AGENCY  
EACH PEOPLE HAS. YOU HAVE CHOICE IN HOW TO  
REACT TO A SITUATION. ARTISTS DON'T DO THEIR JOB  
AND KEEP DOWN THE HEAD.

SPEAK UP YOUR TRUTH AND STAND UP.

III.  
THROUGH ART, WE LEARN NEW WAY OF DOING, WE  
LEARN TO BE MORE, WE LEARN TO UNLEARN WHAT IS  
NOT USEFUL ANYMORE.

IV.  
ART MIRROR THE COMPLEXITY OF THE WORLD.

V.  
ART TELLS STORIES OF PLACES AND COMMUNITIES.  
WE TELL STORIES TO FEEL PART OF A COMMUNITY  
INVOLVING THE NON-HUMAN.

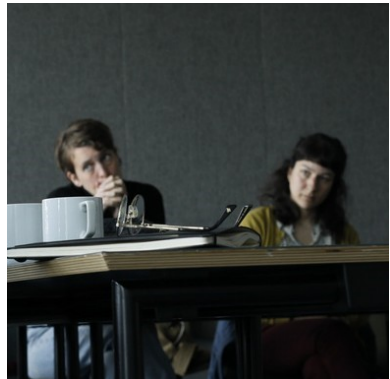
WE ARE HERE TOGETHER.



THE KEYWORD OF THE WORKSHOP:  
**CONNECTIONS**



/  
**ONE SPECIES  
(HUMAN) DECIDE  
THE FUTURE OF  
OTHER SPECIES**



25

/  
**HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND  
HOW TO BE HUMAN AND  
WHAT NATURE IS?**

26

/

**SPIRITUALITY IS HONOURING LIFE  
WITH A SET OF PRACTICES:**

- I.  
LISTENING DEEPLY TO PERCEIVE WE ARE ALL  
CONNECTED.**
  
- II.  
OBSERVING WITH LOVING EYES.**
  
- III.  
NO HUMAN EXCEPTIONALISM.**

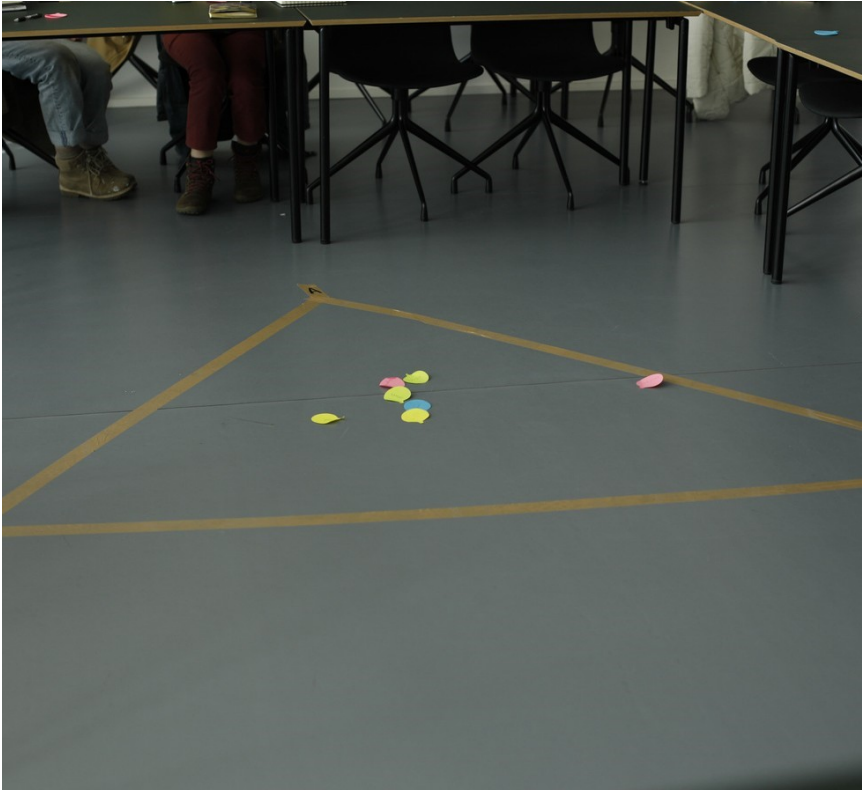


DURING THE CREATIVE ACTIVITY, ARTISTS HAVE USE THEIR WORK TO  
CONNECT THEIR IDEASOF SPIRITUALITY AND ECOLOGICAL THINKING .

# *CREATIVE ACTIVITY*

ALEXANDRA MOLTKE JOHANSEN | ELIN SUNDSTRÖM | LEA  
PORSAGER | NANNA DEBOIS BUHL | SHĚKUFÉ HEIBERG |  
URSULA ANDKJÆR OLSEN

LIVE SUSTAINABLY



# THE EARTH IS WORTH IT

*Be custodians, not  
consumers*



ARTIST NANNA DEBOIS BUHL



ARTIST LEA PORSAGER



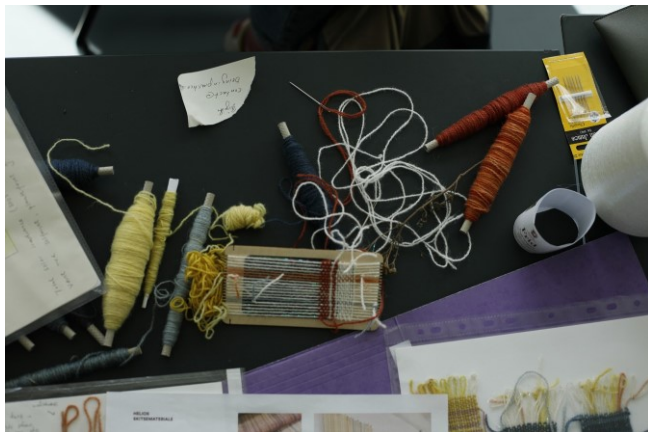




ARTIST ELIN SUNDSTRÖM

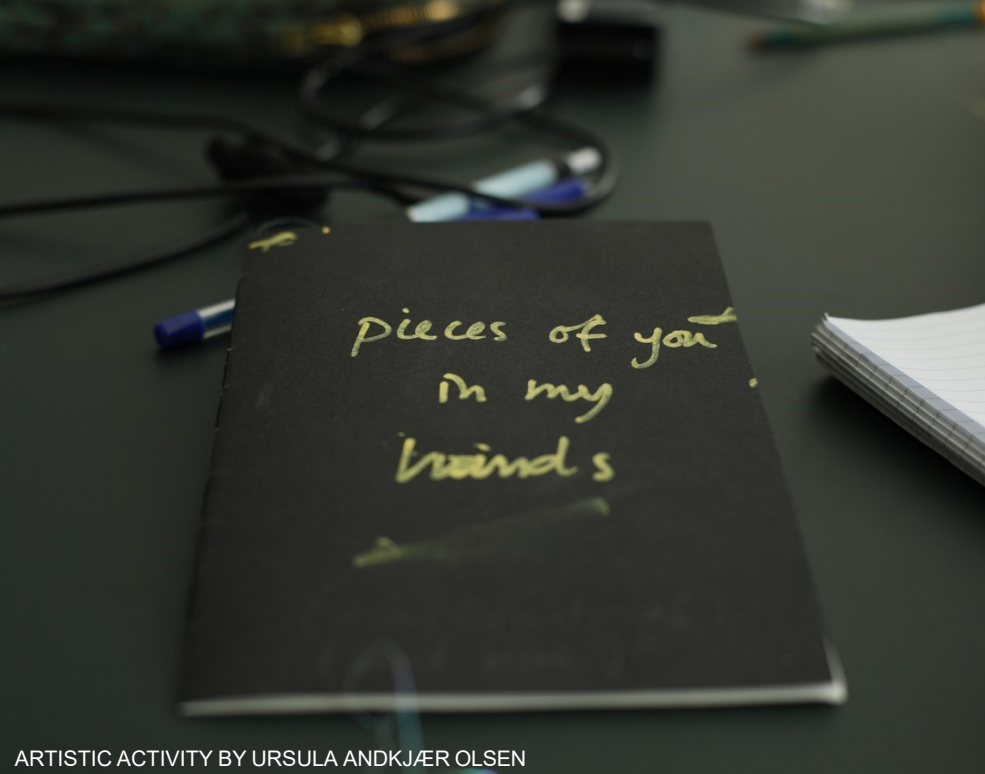






ARTISTIC ACTIVITY BY NANNA DEBOIS BUHL

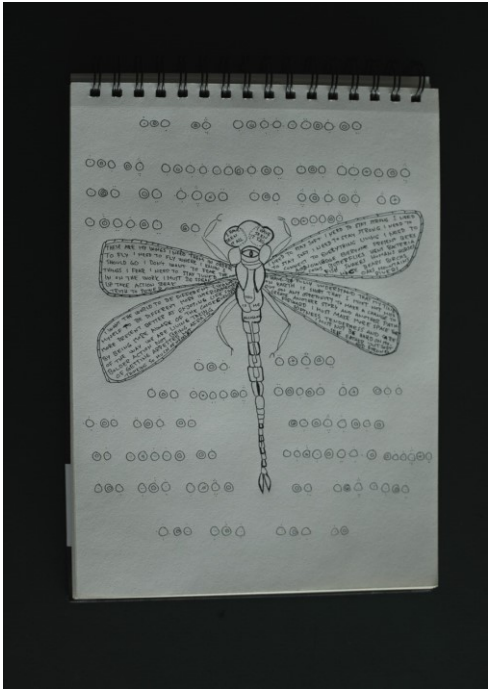


A black notebook with yellow handwritten text "pieces of you in my hands" is the central focus. The notebook is placed on a dark, reflective surface. To the left of the notebook, a blue pen lies horizontally. To the right, a stack of white papers is visible. In the background, there are blurred black cables and a pair of glasses. The lighting is soft, creating a moody atmosphere.

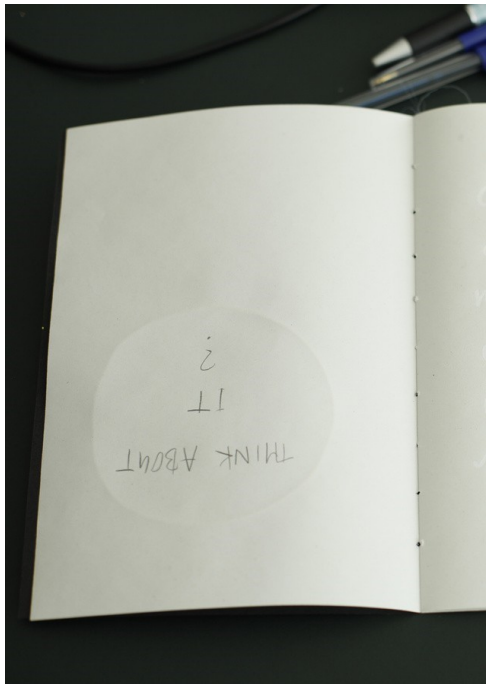
pieces of you  
in my  
hands

ARTISTIC ACTIVITY BY URSULA ANDKJÆR OLSEN





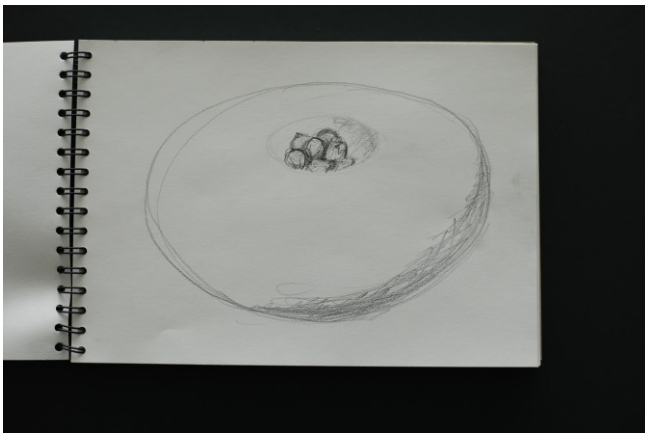
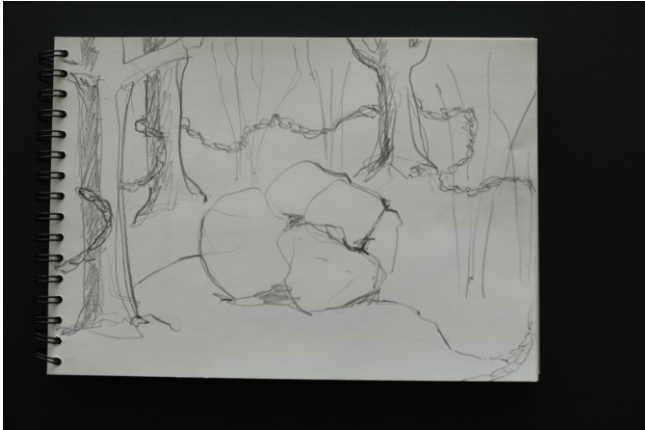
ARTISTIC ACTIVITY BY SHĒKUFÉ HEIBERG



ARTISTIC ACTIVITY BY URSULA ANDKJÆR OLSEN



START TODAY

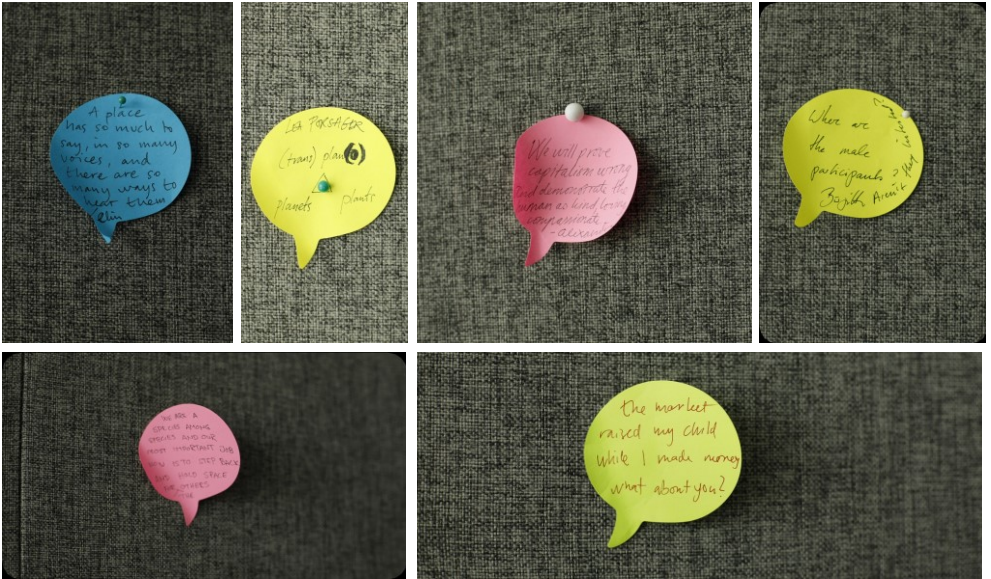


ARTISTIC ACTIVITY BY ELIN SUNDSTRÖM





# FINAL THOUGHTS:



FROM THE ARTISTS



**WE WILL PROVE CAPITALISM WRONG AND  
DEMONSTRATE THE HUMAN AS KIND, LOVING,  
COMPASSIONATE**

**THE MARKET RAISED MY CHILD WHILE I MADE MONEY,  
WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

**THERE IS A PARTY AFTER THE PARTY**

**A PLACE HAS SO MUCH TO SAY, IN SO MANY VOICES,  
AND THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO HEAR THEM.**

**WE ARE A SPECIES AMONG SPECIES AND OUR MOST  
IMPORTANT JOB NOW IS TO STEP BACK AND HOLD  
SPACE FOR THE OTHERS**

**WHERE ARE THE MALE PARTICIPANTS? AREN'T THEY  
INTERESTED?**

## SUGGESTED READINGS:

- Abram, David. *Becoming Animal. An Earthly Cosmology.* Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2010.
- Løgstrup, Knud Ejler. *The Ethical Demand.* University of Notre Dame Press, 2022. [1956]

## DISCOVER MORE:

- Elin Sundström

<https://www.elinsundstrom.net>

IG: [@elinsundstrom\\_](#)

- Mickey Gjerris

[www.mickeygjerris.com](http://www.mickeygjerris.com)

## PEOPLE:

Organizer - Samanta Viziale

Support organizer - Anne Sofie Lindberg Knudsen, Amalie Voss.

Photographer - Mads Bolding Fenger Poulsen

Chief of CApE - Stefan Gaarsmand Jacobsen