

Can the arts degrow?
Practices of learning and caring in the midst of the climate crisis

Daphne Dragona

BauTopia, Culture & Creativity Conference
Porto, 11.10.22

How can we secure the sustainability of the cultural sector while also respecting the sustainability of the planet?

Which practices are still needed while we talk about innovation and development?

What can approaches like the one of degrowth bring to this discourse?

I. In the ruins of progress

II. Degrowth and the arts

III. Changing pace

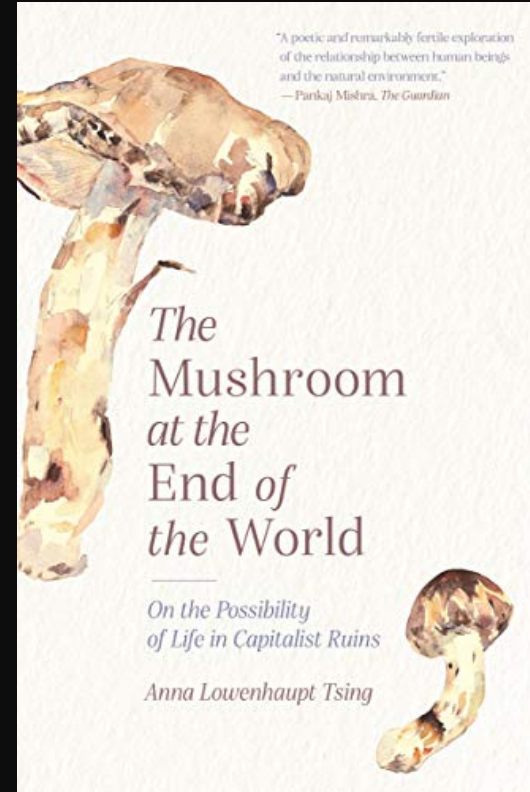
I. In the ruins of progress

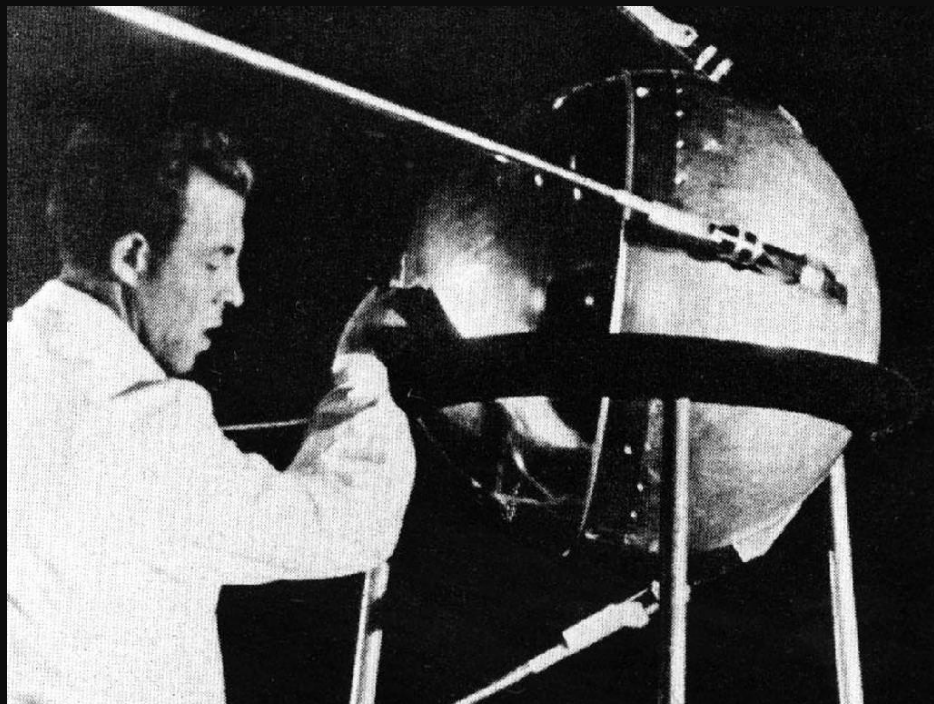


Superflux, Refuge for Resurgence (Window View), 2021

On

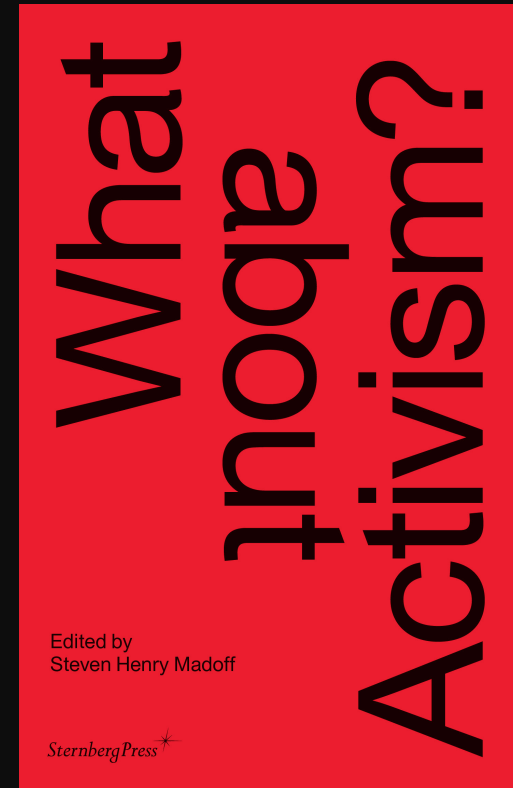
“In a global state of precarity, we don’t have choices other than looking for life in this ruin.”

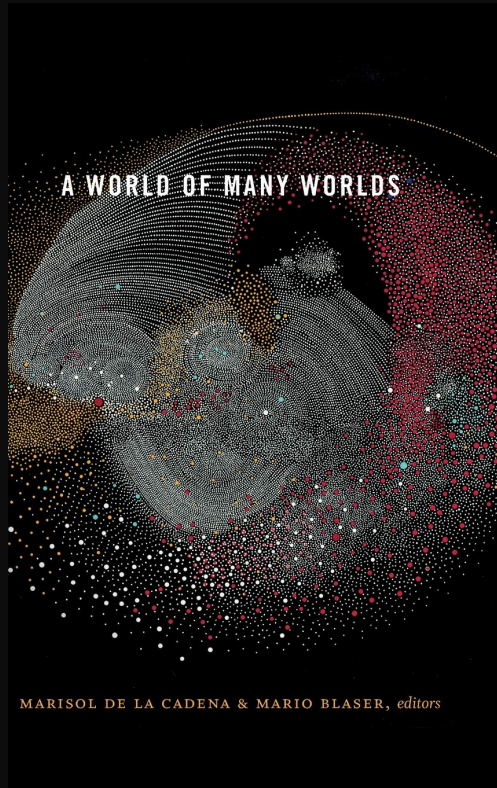




“Modernity naturalized concepts of finance, progress and growth imposed on the ways community, survival and of course life have long been understood.”

María Belén Sáez de Ibarra, “Cosmopolitics of the Living”, 2019





“The idea of ontological politics needs the transformative magic of tales, rituals, modes of palaver, ways of thinking- feeling with, which reworld our ruins and open them to partial connections with other worlds. This is also the only legacy we can leave to the next generation, what can perhaps help them make a difference between living”

Isabelle Stengers, “Ontological Politics”, 2018

ruins and just surviving.

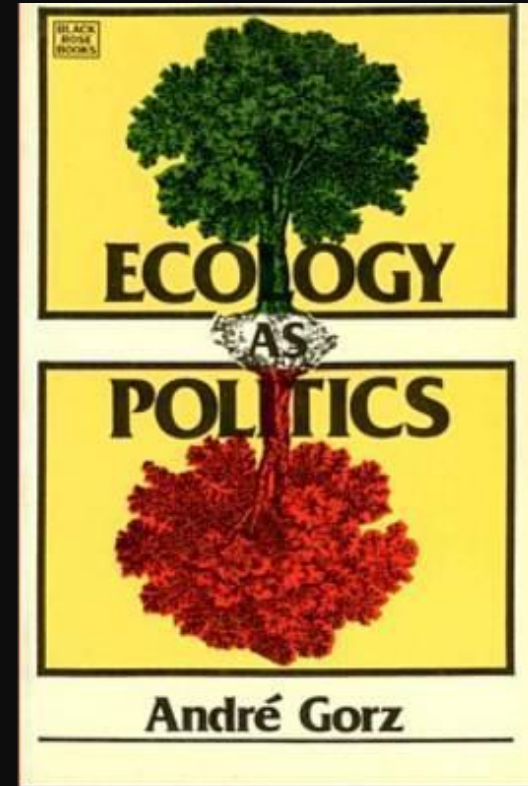
II. Degrowth and the arts



Disnovation, Shadow Growth, 2021

“It is not so much growth that must be attacked as the illusion which it sustains, the dynamic of ever-growing and ever-frustrated needs on which is based, and the competition which it institutionalizes by inciting each individual to seek to rise above all others”.

André Gorz, *Ecology as Politics*
(first published as *Ecologie et Politique*, 1975)



ÜBER DIE METAPHER DES WACHSTUMS

»ON THE METAPHOR OF GROWTH«
27. MAI – 31. JULI 2011

Eröffnung
Donnerstag, 26. Mai 2011
20.00 Uhr

Frankfurter Kunstverein
Schlossplatz am Römerberg
Mark 44
60311 Frankfurt am Main
www.fkv.de

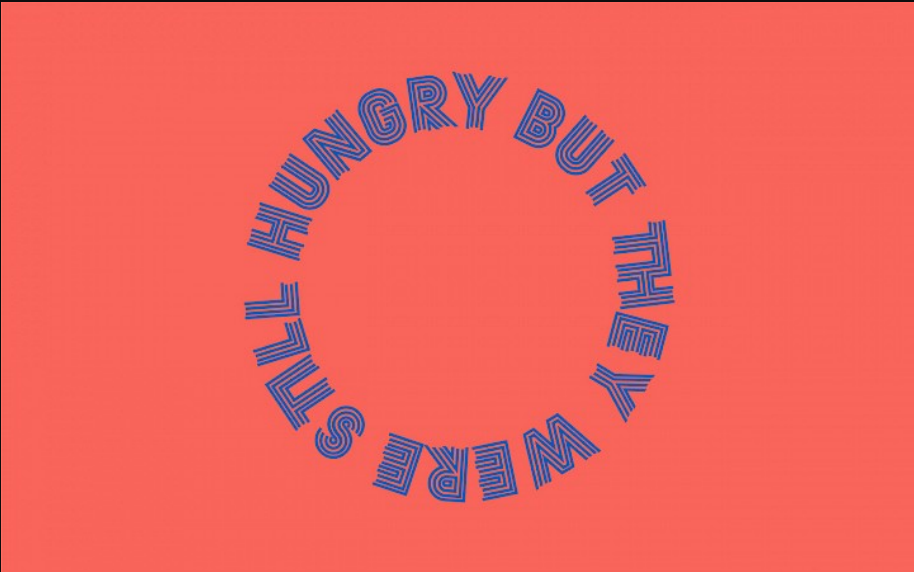
Öffnungszeiten:
Dienstag, Donnerstag, Samstag
11.00 – 19.00 Uhr
Mittwoch
11.00 – 18.00 Uhr
Sonntag und Sonntag
14.00 – 19.00 Uhr
Montag geschlossen

Die PROJEKT GALLERY KUNSTWERKE
mit Kunstwerk gefördert durch
Die Bundesregierung am Museum **DERWY & LEBER** 127

Die DEUTSCHE BANK
UNION

Die KUNSTHAUS FRANKFURT
mit Förderung durch

FRANKFURTER KUNSTVEREIN



“This is an invitation for curators operating in distinct geographies but within an intertwined geopolitical reality to slow down their ways of working and being, to imagine new ecologies of care as a continuous practice of support, and to listen with attention to feelings that arise from encounters with objects and subjects.”

Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez, For Slow Institutions, e-flux #85 , 2017



III. Changing pace



Kris De Decker, Bike Generator

Sakiya





Forest Curriculum



19th to 20th February 2020
Regular and Prescription Work
Site
Treatment
A workshop on ecology, colonial and natural histories, and cosmologies in Southeast Asia

the forest is in the city is in the forest

Nomina Nuda
Los Baños, Laguna, PH

The Forest Is In The City Is In The Forest is workshop organized by **THE FOREST CURRICULUM** in collaboration with **Nomina Nuda**, in the framework of **IdeasCity Singapore**. It will be led by artists Tan Zi Hao (Malaysia) and Christian Tabazon (Philippines), drawing from their ongoing engagements with cosmology, histories of imperialism and natural history.

Taking place over a day and a half on site in Los Baños, it will commence with an itinerary designed by Tabazon, followed by a speculative workshop by Tan on reframing of critical research methodologies. A total of 20 participants will be chosen by open call and by invitation by Nomina Nuda, from various disciplinary backgrounds.

Applicants are requested to send in a single paragraph introducing themselves and outlining why they are interested to participate in the workshop. Selected applicants will be expected to be present for both days of the workshop; if this is not possible, it is advised that this be intimated to the organizers in advance. Applications may be sent in English or Filipino, to theforestcurriculum@gmail.com by **10th February 2020**. Successful applicants will be notified by 12th February.

About Us

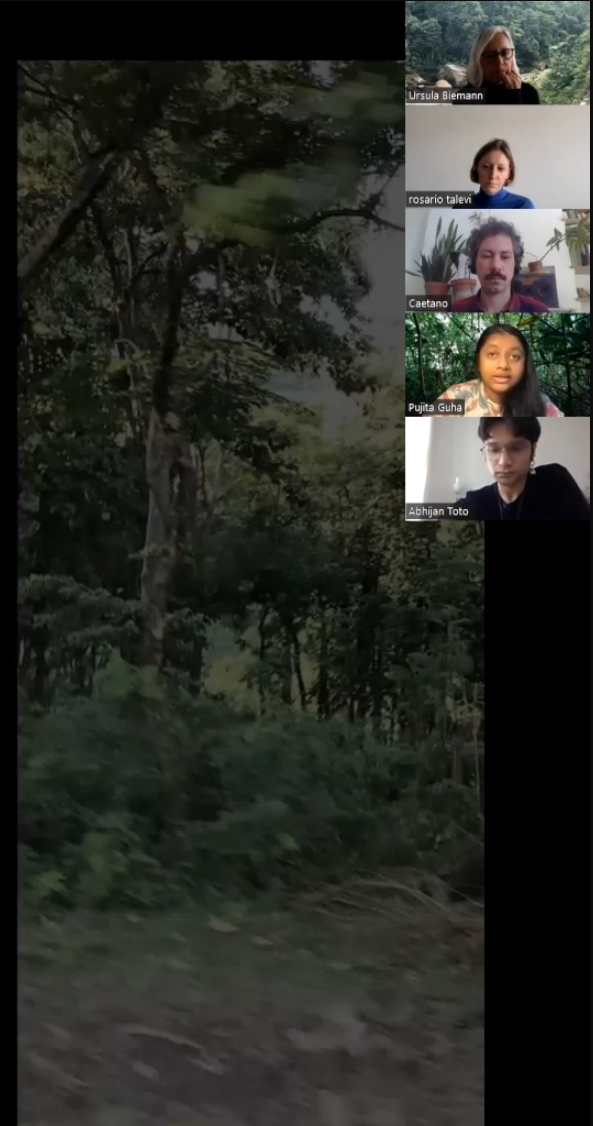


The Forest Curriculum is an itinerant and nomadic platform for interdisciplinary research and mutual co-learning. It proposes to assemble a located critique of the Anthropocene via the naturecultures of zomia, the forested belt that connects South and Southeast Asia. The Forest Curriculum works with artists, researchers, indigenous organizations and thinkers, musicians, activists. It was founded and is co-directed by curators Abhijan Toto and Pujita Guha. Abhijan Toto is an independent curator and researcher, who has previously worked with the Dhaka Art Summit, Baller Arts Projects, MUSEUM of Contemporary Design, and the

Forest *as* Curatorial Practice

The Forest Curriculum is an itinerant system of pedagogy that proposes to work with academics, film-makers, artists, musicians, activists, students and local stakeholders to produce systems of sharing located knowledges, organized around the issues of a particular location and field of operation.

In the moment of the crisis of the liberal university, under attack from fascist and neo-liberal forces, the Curriculum proposes a model of nomadic, para(sitic) institutionality that works through furthering entanglement and creating situations of mutual stakeholding of knowledge. It seeks to imagine what forms of politics and pedagogies must be invented to think alongside, and become intimate with the many beings of the many worlds we inhabit.



Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology





[PROJECTS](#) [PUBLICATIONS](#) [ABOUT](#)

Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology is a platform for planetary becomings.

We work with the embodied, theoretical and political implications of global, but unequally distributed environmental breakdown in response to multispecies worlds in urgent need of regeneration and care.

We facilitate a myriad of multidisciplinary events, exhibitions, workshops and symposia across landscapes, disciplines, contexts and histories spanning from rural spaces, festival sites, ocean shores, boats, academic- and exhibition spaces and more. Our methods are experimental and flow through and across genres. We aim for long durational, cross-pollinating knowledge productions in conversation with many partners.

We try to *stay with the trouble* of cultivating relations and ethics that point towards and rework the different response-abilities 'we' carry on a planet wounded by the violence of colonialism, white imperialism and extractive capitalism, while also reconfiguring the already exclusive and non-innocent notion of the Human. Born and raised within eurocentric, western structures, we work from within the troubled histories of our own privileges situated, as they and we are, within global structures of inequity and oppression, and we try to challenge our heritage of exploitative, pathogenic and destructive systems and norms. We strive to facilitate openings for the mourning of past, present and future worlds lost, while also holding space for radical joy, insurgent play and modest hope – guided by an intersectional feminism that is anti-capitalist and anti-racist – driven by the urgent need to cultivate practices for soft resistance.

We work towards the composing of collectives, resilient and vulnerable and intergenerational, in the ambition to imagine and co-create liveable worlds otherwise.

“The word ecology has its etymological roots in ‘oikos’, meaning ‘home’. In language, as well, we are sometimes home and sometimes lost. The question, then, remains whether we might be able to reconstruct new im/possible homes, new liveable ecologies for an uncertain future through and with language, narration, speculation.”

Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology, *Always coming home* project

Embracing degrowth is “an invitation to go on the inevitably long journey of the decolonisation of our growth imaginaries, moving from cultural awareness to a systemic and material transformation changing our everyday practice”

Vincent Liegey and Anita Nelson, *Exploring Degrowth*, 2020