



Dr Maria E Jansen | 2026

PORT FOLIO

LIVING LABS

Serious Play

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Regenerative Work





Culture change by
research, play and art.

Dr. Ele Jansen

CONTACT



+491636274353



ele@deepcreation.co



www.deepcreation.co

EDUCATION

PhD Design Anthropology

University of New South Wales,
Sydney, 2011-2015

MA Media Comms & English

Leipzig University
2000-2006

AWARDS



Int. Postgrad Research Stipend
by Australian Government



Academic Teaching Award
by University of Tech Sydney



Magister Magna cum Laude
by University of Leipzig

PROJECTS

RESIDENCIES AND PROJECTS

Manifesto for Tomorrow: community arts immersion.

We Are In.Tuition: retreat, workshop, network.

Be. Poietic. Punks: Speculative Design Lab.

Dr Divine: Divining Performance Piece. .

GAME DESIGN

Conscious Cycle Kit: trains cyclical creative practice.

PolyPoly: questions traditional business mechanics.

The Wish: prototypes solutions to wicked problems.

PROGRAMS, LABS AND COURSES

2025- * Leuphana University: Curriculum Lead

HOLII Holistic Impact Incubator

2022-2025 InnoPort: Lead Future of Work

2021-2022 Climate Living Lab: Lead Social
Design for Change.

2020 DeepCreation: Founder. Life Design

2017-2022 FutureScouts: Coach Game Design

2016-2019 Wir Bauen Zukunft: Facilitator

2011-2017 LearnDoShare, Co-Founder

TEACHING

Leuphana University

Founder at Heart

Regenerative Entrepreneurship

Wismar University of applied Sciences

Founder at Heart

Motivation & Resilience

University of Technology Sydney

Founder at Heart @ MBAe

Global Entrepreneurship @ MBAe

Complexity and Creativity

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Design Thinking & Game Design

TRAININGS

4D Mapping: Constellation Work

Dana Richter, Baltic, Sea, 2022

Mindcoach: Kriya Meditation Teacher

Mark Breadner, Bali, 2021

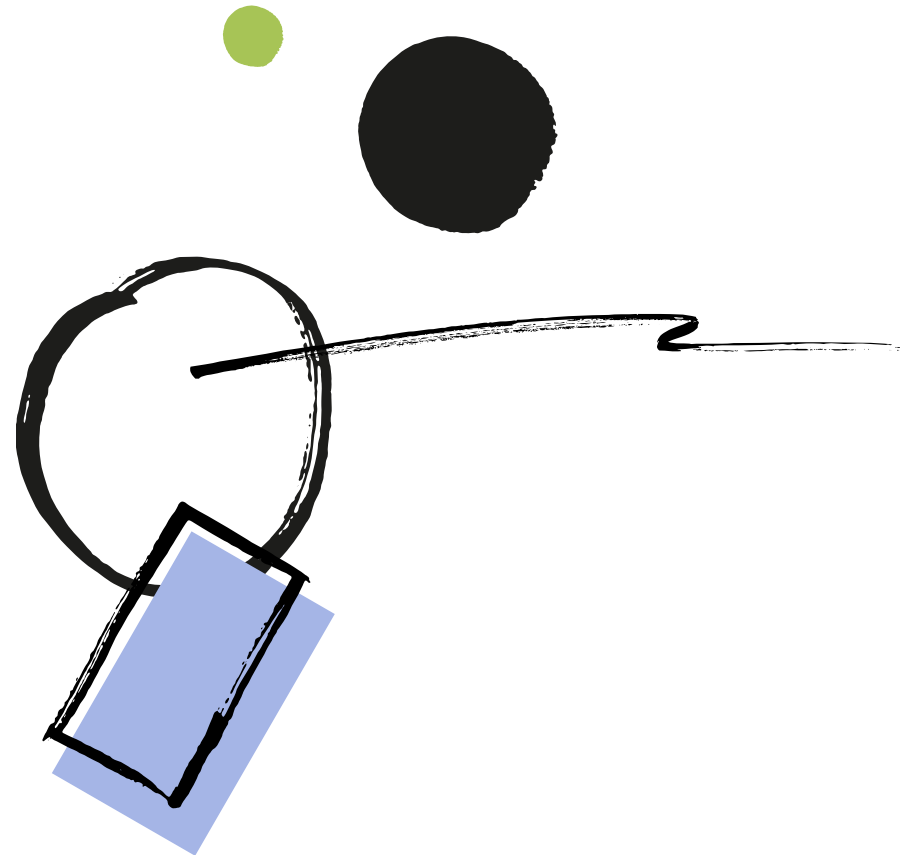
Braincare: Brains = Behaviour

Allison Davies, Tasmania, 2019

Permaculture Design

Arise Education, Portugal, 2017

Overview



01	Format: Reformative Workshop
02	Format: Living Labs
03	Theme: Cyclical Awareness
04	Theme: Creativity
05	Theme: Resilience
06	Theme: Respect
07	Theme: Courage
08	Theme: Wayfinding
09	Theme: Purpose
10	Overview of Creative Projects

Workshops I offer

- 01** Regenerative Entrepreneurship
- 02** Cycle Thinking
- 03** Societal Transformation
- 04** Creativity and Complexity
- 05** Co-Creation
- 06** Design Thinking
- 07** Narrative Design



01/10

Reformative Workshops

I run cutting-edge transformative lab-style workshops and lectures at several Universities including the University of Technology Sydney, University of New South Wales, Leuphana University, Hochschule Wismar, Film Academy Ludwigsburg, University of Zurich, University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, Leipzig University and Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences.

Living labs I co-created*

- 01** Wir bauen Zukunft
- 02** Learn Do Share
- 03** Reallabor Gut Alaune
- 04** Carbon-neutral Hospital

*if interested, please ask for links and materials, which I'll happily provide.

02/10

Living Labs

"Real life Labs" are immersive experiments taking place within an existing system. It's a combination of people, program and mindset. Living labs are tools that help to gradually implement large scale transformations.



Classes may involve

- 01** Life Cycles and Navigating Complexity
 - >> Conscious Cycle Kit
 - >> Deep Creation
- 02** Story and Mythical Cycles
 - >> Hero(ine)'s Journey
 - >> Yarning and Lore
- 03** Design Thinking and Creative Cycles
 - >> R&D
 - >> Iteration

03/10

Cyclical Awareness

Much of my work touches into cyclical models of doing and being. I design and use card decks and story structures to help humans shape the world around them.

www.deepcreation.co



- 01** "I can't tell you enough how important your course has been to me (and I know my fellow students). Your heart, care, ethos, and passion should be a part of all education. You are on to something, as you must well know by the impact you're having."

Sarah Murdoch, Los Angeles

- 02** "This course connected me to who I am and who I want to be. You showed me how to dig deep down to bring out the meaningful side of who we are and I thank you for that. I wanted to keep learning more from you!"

Mohsen J., Sydney

- 03** "I want to personally thank you for teaching me. The concepts you shared will play a central role in how I influence the world this decade. The class has actually been a humbling experience."

Oluwashina I., Cape town



Selected Testimonials



Classes may involve

- 01** Introducing four creative phases, using the metaphor of the seasons.
- 02** Applying design thinking as a crafty gift giving workshop to practice the ropes of the creative process.
- 03** Diving into the possibilities of co-creation and collective impact.



04/10

Creativity

Understanding creativity as a native human faculty is the basis to unlearn preset paths from traditional schooling and recover one's original lifeline

Allow for 2-6h

Classes may involve

- 01** Introducing four phases of resilience, using the metaphor of the seasons.
- 02** Getting to know ecosystemic and personal resiliency: the seven central building blocks of resilient systems.
- 03** Collectively designing a game to memorise the learnings.



05/10

Resilience

We develop a nuanced understanding of resilience beyond merely “bouncing back”.

Allow for 2-6h

Classes may involve

- 01** Using the metaphor of the seasons, we explore mature self-care: responsibility for own feelings, thoughts and actions.
- 02** Conversational intelligence: cultivating dignified life-giving interactions.
- 03** With all due respect for mother nature: a simple premise to treat her well.



06/10

Respect

How can we be attentive to ourselves, others and the environment? What is a respectful composure made of?

Allow for 2-6h

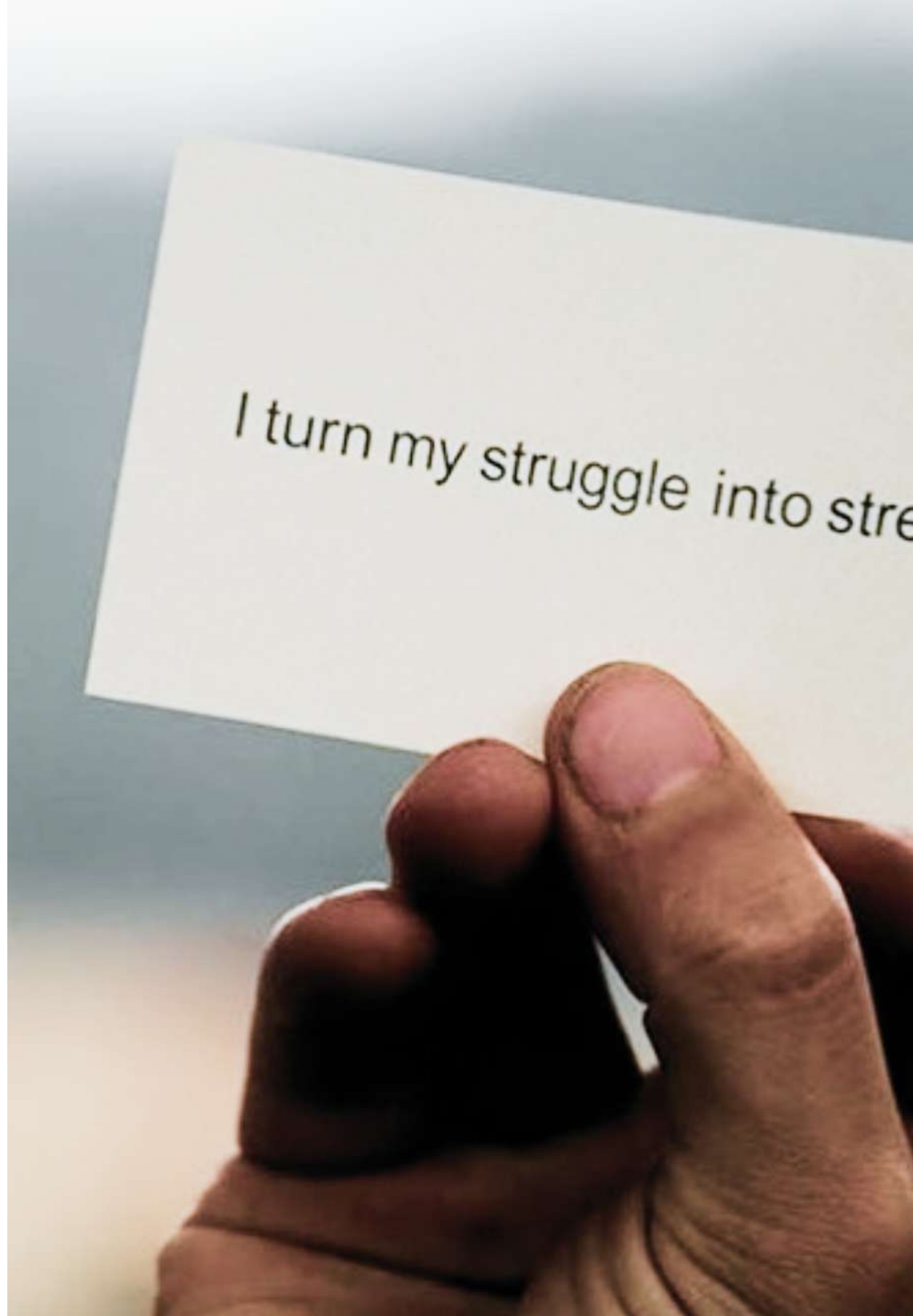
Classes may involve

01 The four phases of the mythic merry-go-round..

02 The Hero(in)'s Journey: Tale or Roadmap?

03 A self-experience based on cyclical rhythms..

Or: crafting your life's story from back to front..



07/10

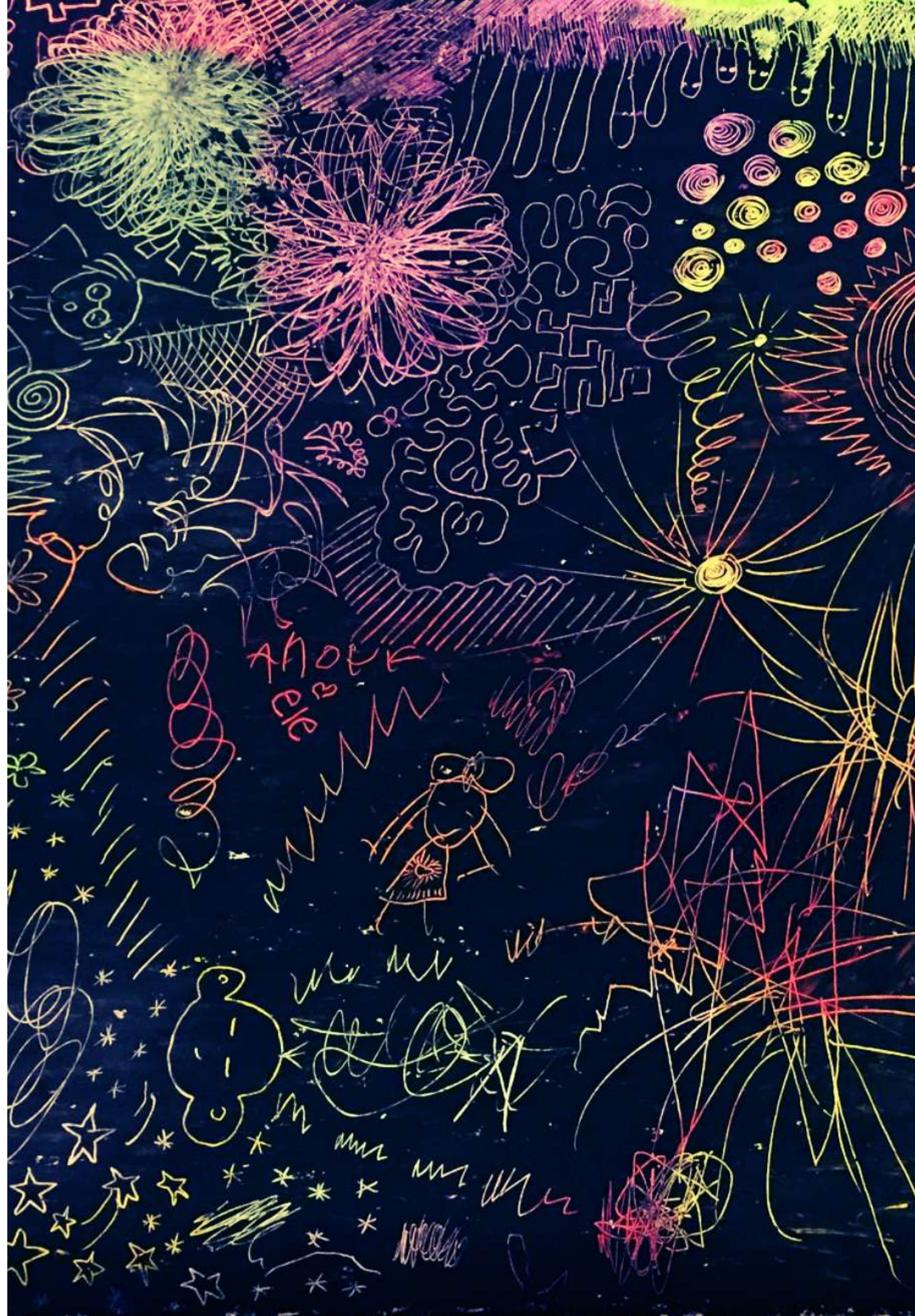
Courage

Exploring the monomyth of the Hero's Journey as a metaphor and inspiration to commit and accept life's callings and challenges.

Allow for 2-12h

Classes may involve

- 01** What are the relations between meditation, mindfulness, embodiment, intuition, and values?
- 02** Working with Peter Kruse's Limbic Map or the Purpose Venn Diagram (often named IKIGAI).
- 03** Creating a daily/weekly schedule to find a rhythm for inner work.



8/10

The Inner Path

Scraping away the veil. What can we learn from the path of spiritual, esoteric, religious and mystery schools?

Allow for 2-12h

Classes may involve

- 01** Unpacking emergence and organic imagery as new images that may replace strategy and tactics.
- 02** How to tune one's sensors. Systemic coaching. Learning about the Artist's Way.
- 03** Homework or in-class: nature solo.



08/10

Wayfinding

The art of presencing is a core practice to feel the way forward, to switch on one's radar and lift towards serendipity.

Allow for 2-4h

Classes may involve

- 01** What's purpose? What are values? Why is this important?
- 02** What are your values? Working with Peter Kruse's Limbic Map to chart personal and business values.
- 03** Hinting at the Purpose Venn Diagram (often named IKIGAI) for further exploration.

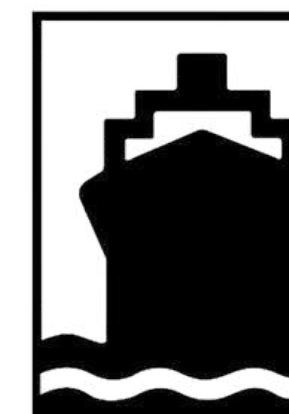
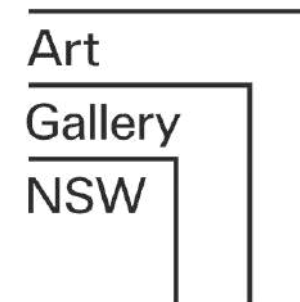


09/10

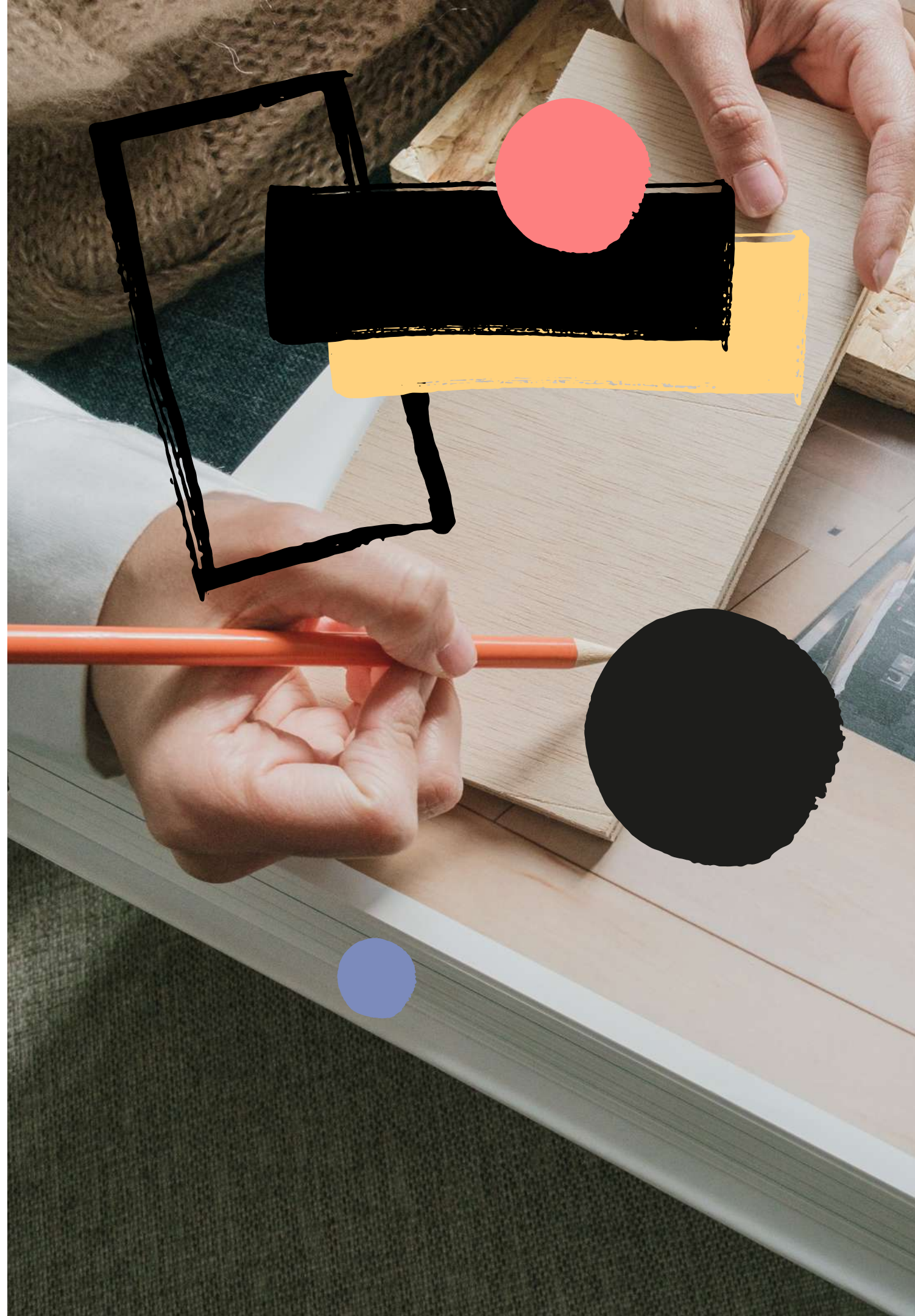
Purpose

Value-driven economics are emerging - not only at the fringes. What does it mean to live and lead with purpose?

Allow for 1-2h



- 01** Who could know?
- 01** Regenerative Entrepreneurship
- 02** Cycle Thinking
- 02** Social Transformation
What will it be?
- 04** Creativity and Complexity
- 05** Co-Creation
- 06** Design Thinking
It's a bit of a mystery.
- 07** Narrative Design



10/10

Selected Projects

Paid or unpaid, I'm constantly creating, alone, together, poetry, products, social sculptures.

CONSCIOUS CYCLE KIT

Card Deck
Self-commissioned
2019

The purpose of the kit is to help reclaim a natural flow of creation. Each of us has a unique rhythm, which we can tap, if we listen in and become attentive for our surrounding. The card deck gives playful prompts for contemplation and action. Like engaging with a non-linear book, individuals learn and train life skills and hacks for change.

www.deepcreation.co



CO-CREATIVE BUILDING

Living Lab

University of Applied Sciences Potsdam

Reallabor Gut Alaune

German language

2023

Over the course of a semester, students immersed in a living lab aimed at co-creating a sustainable community house in a collectively owned place called Gut Alaune. Architectural students learned ethnography and spent weeks at a time building with other volunteers, sleeping on location, experiencing community life and co-creation. The outcome are 6 term papers and a +100-pages documentation.



PLANETARY HEALTH LAB

Living Lab

Havelhöhe Hospital

German language

2021-2022

This was the inaugural project of a decade long project to make a hospital carbon neutral. Our living lab was designed to involve employees and stakeholders in both researching problems and developing solutions to the fields of food, energy, waste, mobility, emissions and transformation. Among many results and outcomes we produced a +100-pages playbook for other institutions to freely use.



GOOD CLIMATE CARDS

Card Set

Living Lab Climate Friendly Hospital

German language

2021-2022

A set of postcards to help get climate conscious in everyday life. Each card shows a prompt to become climate wise. They're icebreaker, conversation starter, provocative agent for good.

The cards were initially used within the Living Lab Climate Friendly Hospital in Berlin. Later it was released in a creative common license,

For the love of our planet and the abundant nature it gifts us.



WE ARE IN.TUITION

Artist Residency
UTS' Creative Intelligence Unit
2018

We Are In.Tuition is a creative residency, dojo, retreat, open value network and fieldbook. It's the result of 15 months of dojos / gatherings jamming on a loosely defined field of shared practice: intuition and mutual care in leadership, and the future of work. In February 2018, we spent a weekend at Cowra's The Corridor Project, a rural Australian Woolshed to explore the question- what does it mean to be intuitive, trusting in flow, emergence and embodied wisdom when living in patriarchal structures?

The fieldbook has philosophical articles, musings, poems, game instructions and thought exercises, introductions to concepts, book recommendations, and there's a playlist, too!



MANIFESTO FOR TOMORROW

Community Arts Co-Creation

Commissioned by Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

2017



Manifesto For Tomorrow was an experimental youth engagement program that made participants the authors of their own declarations of beliefs, intentions and motifs. The program ran in the spring of 2017. I.C.E., the Art Gallery of New South Wales and an alliance of education partners developed and delivered a youth program of artistic research and interpretation, production and presentation that asserted individual and collective identities through the development of a two manifestos; one made by students from Auburn Girls High School and one by Granville Boys. Thereby, Manifesto for Tomorrow provided vulnerable and disenfranchised youth from Western Sydney access to resources to both study and produce alternative narratives of representation and identity.



ANDROGYNY

Social Sculpture Lab
Self-commissioned
2016

A community and playshop series to start a conversation about the “in between” across many domains: sex (on being both masc/fem as male/female), politics (on binaries and unity), creativity (on being ambidextrous), mind (on reasoning and sensing), culture (on science and art), philosophy (on spirituality and logic). It’s about integration and remix and what it means when it gets jumbled in a body; how it (re)presents itself in the world; and about our agency.



TESTIMONIALS



“I can’t tell you enough how important your course has been to me (and I know my fellow students). Your heart, care, ethos, and passion should be a part of all education. You are on to something, as you must well know by the impact you’re having.”

SARAH MURDOCH, LOS ANGELES



“This course connected me to who I am and who I want to be. You showed me how to dig deep down to bring out the meaningful side of who we are and I thank you for that. I wanted to keep learning more from you!”

MOHSEN J., SYDNEY

“I want to personally thank you for teaching me. The concepts you shared will play a central role in how I influence the world this decade. The class has actually been a humbling experience.”

OLUWASHINA I., CAPE TOWN

POLYPOLY

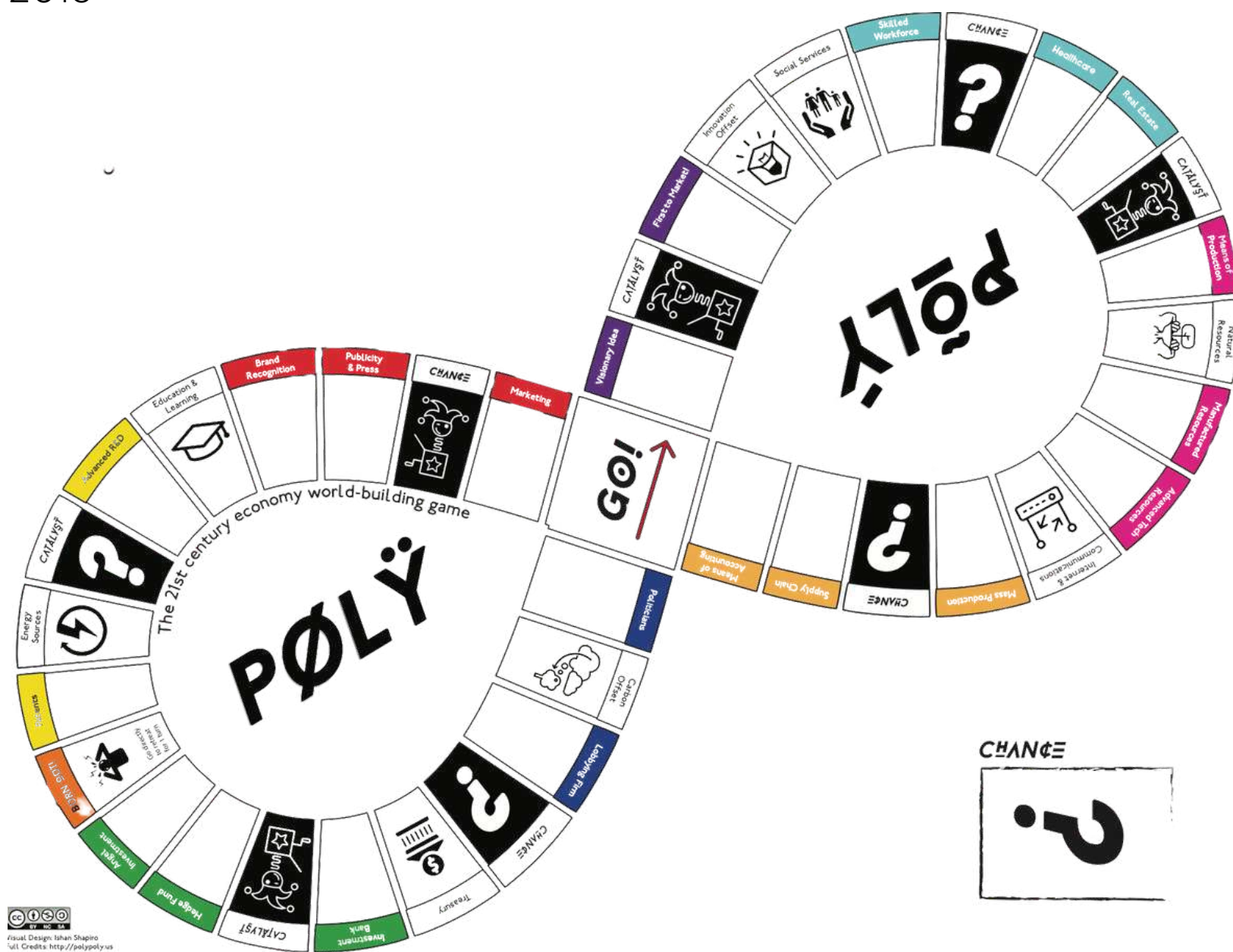
Serious Game

Commissioned by the Business School

at the University of Technology Sydney

Co-created with Ishan Shapiro, FutureScouts

2016



We flipped Monopoly and asked our students to hack the game further, to prototype resilient business for a time of transition, to experience the commons, to create economic fictions.

We wanted to offer a collaborative game that educates about commons-based business modelling.

The game is played like monopoly, but we changed the properties to ones that are systemically related to the intersection of economics and politics. The community chest contains cards on resiliency and chance cards pose challenges to growth and profit maximisation. There are five currencies, e.g. reputation, time, and natural resources. The game win is when all properties belong to the commons.

The goal of Polypoly is to engage in a non-zero sum game to create “steady-state” economic systems.

BE.POIETIC.PUNKS

Rapid Prototyping (involving story, live jam & design)
At This is Not Art, Newcastle
2015



WHAT IF YOUR REBEL HEART RAN FREE?

Do structures form us, or do we form structures? The Italian Operaismo movement of the 1960s believed that it's ultimately the people who change systems. So, we look at our own agency and may wonder – how can we shape the world around us?

Understanding poiesis is key to influencing this global transition.

Poiesis means “becoming” or “bringing forth.” It means to act from the heart – to contribute to something larger than oneself.

In philosophy, the concept describes the poetic and aesthetic realities that surface through human reflection and emotional expression. What comes about through poiesis are subjective truths that are ethical, humanistic, and spiritual. Being in poiesis

can be a liberating, even ecstatic, sensation of congruence between body and mind. Imagine what the future of work would look like. A future in which you do what you love, with people you like, towards something meaningful that protects resources and

ourselves.

PAN.PUCK.BEET.LOVE.

Installation (drawing, words, interactive clay station)

Self-commissioned
2015

This small hand drawn mystical creature is based on the Greek nymph God, Pan and the Midsummer Night's Dream elf, Puck. It's the center piece for an interactive bricolage. It's a work about lust and mischief; and about the suffering it involves. The temptation is represented by a beet, a melancholic vegetable in Tom Robbins' magical realism.

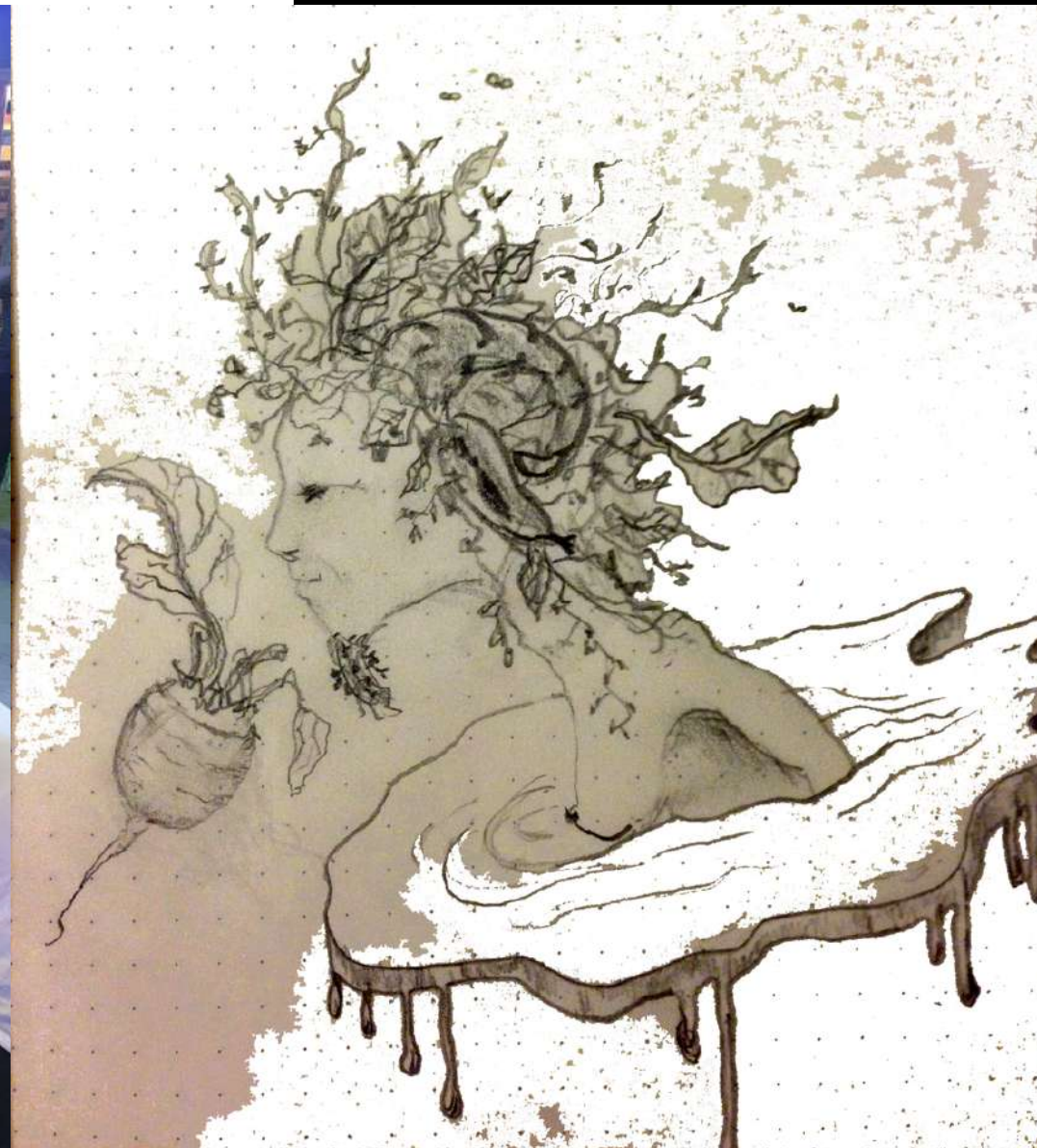


PAN.PUCK.BEET.LOVE.

Installation (drawing, words, interactive clay station)

Exhibited at Art Out Sydney
2015

This small hand drawn mystical creature is based on the Greek nymph God, Pan and the Midsummer Night's Dream elf, Puck. It's the center piece for an interactive bricolage. It's a work about lust and mischief; and about the suffering it involves. The temptation is represented by a beet, a melancholic vegetable in Tom Robbins' magical realism.



DR DIVINE

Solo Performance

Exhibited at Burning Man, This.Is.Not.Art, Sydney

Hackathon

2015-2018

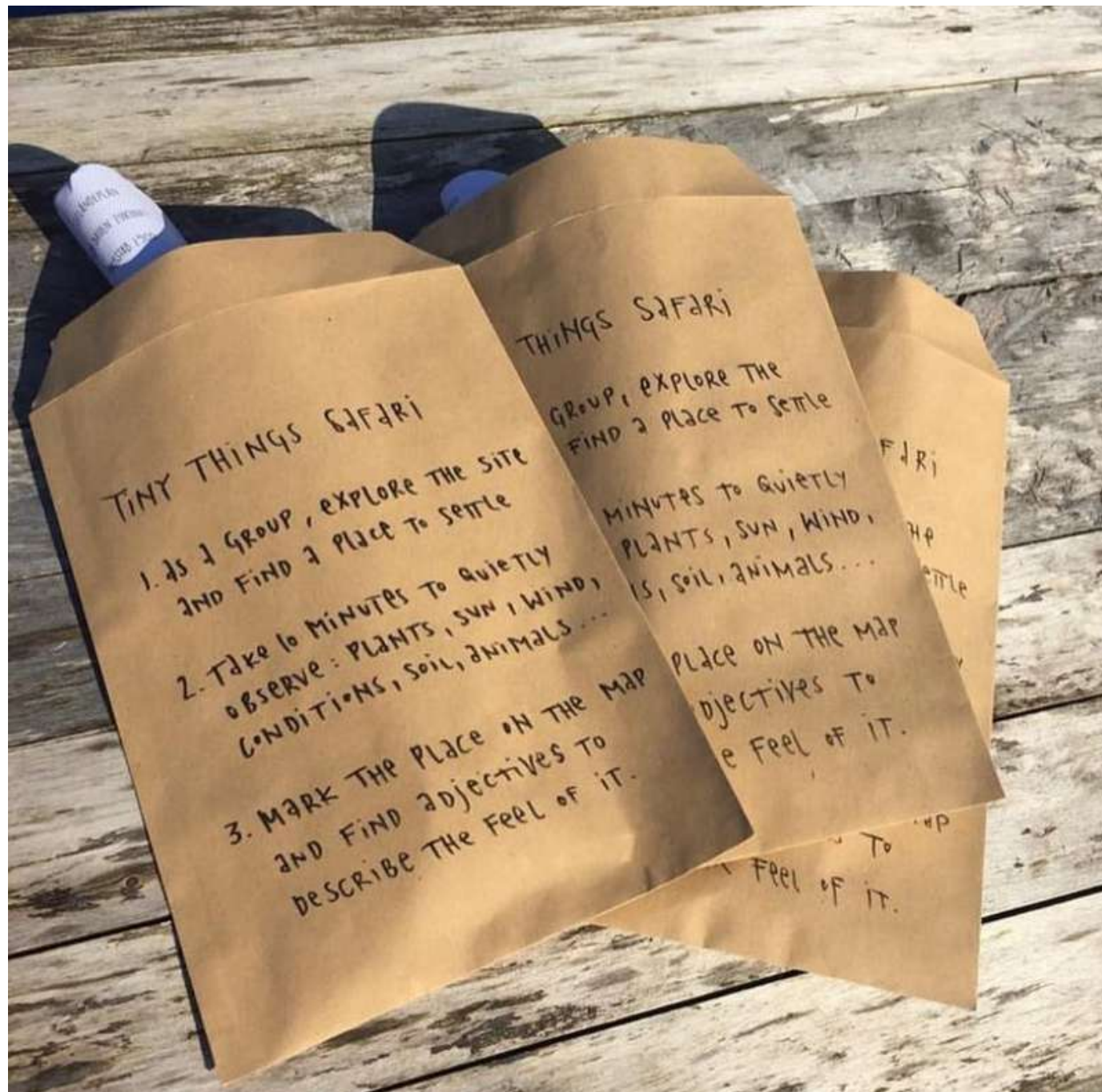
Meet my belly box. We found all materials at the Bower in Marrickville, a junk yard, reverse garbage type of shop. The best place to find odd little things. And we were so lucky! Found the suitcase, a children's harness that I could easily fit and attach, a small drawer that fitted perfectly into the side, a candle holder, and all kinds of small items and curiosities that gave me first ideas for a love charm and some other games. Then I added velvet curtains behind which I hid some special tools and the magic book.



TINY THINGS

Contemplative Safari

Played at Wir bauen Zukunft
2017



In a rural setting, this contemplative game invites one or more players to explore the natural environment through slow movement and attention to tender energies around them. Participants received a small bag with a map of a 10ha botanic garden, a pen, a sheet of paper and an even smaller bag to collect a specimen or seeds. The aim was to sensitise for nature's frequencies and find meaningful attributes of places by naming the qualities.

THE WISH

Rapid Prototyping Game

Played at UN, Google Labs, Columbia University
2013



Inspired by 1-hour prototyping workshops, the game itself works like a handbook that guides players and can be applied to any problem. Combining storytelling, collaboration and game mechanics, the concept uses absurdity to inspire divergent thinking, and applies design principles to ensure realistic outcomes. By also creating a collective narrative that explains the solution, it can be easily explained to outsiders, so the ideas can travel.

LEARN DO SHARE

Social Sculpture, Self-commissioned
2010-2016



LEARN DO SHARE was a co-creation platform, using narrative design and social innovation to improve lives.

Working with global players, such as Google Creative Labs, UNESCO, the UN, Ivy League's Columbia University and others, we explored participatory systems, collaborative spaces, share culture, and self-propelled creativity. Our empathy and storytelling labs brought together stakeholders across siloes, having a positive effect on creative communities within an open design environment locally & globally.

how do we make the world work for 100%
of humanity in the shortest
possible time through
spontaneous cooperation
without ecological damage or disadvantage to anyone?

- Buckminster Fuller

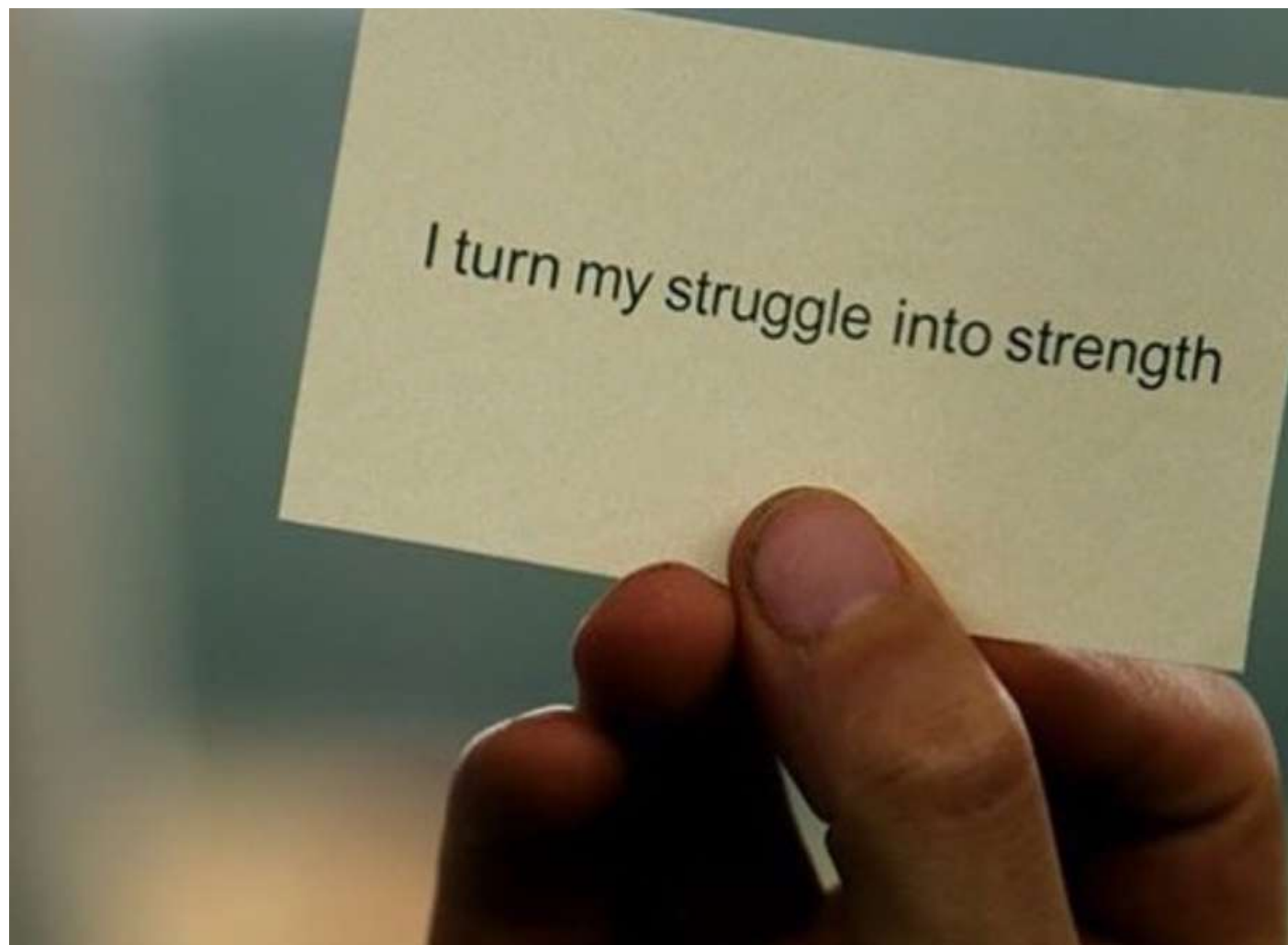
SUPERHERO CARD GAME

Serious Play

Self-commisioned

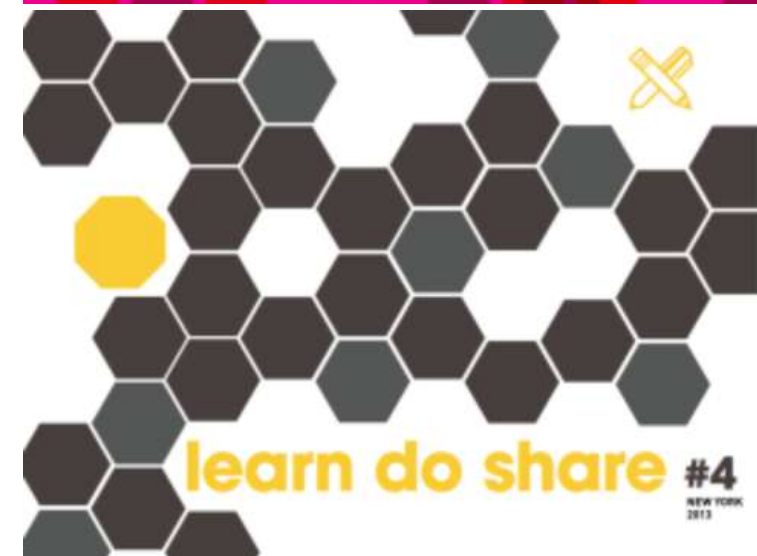
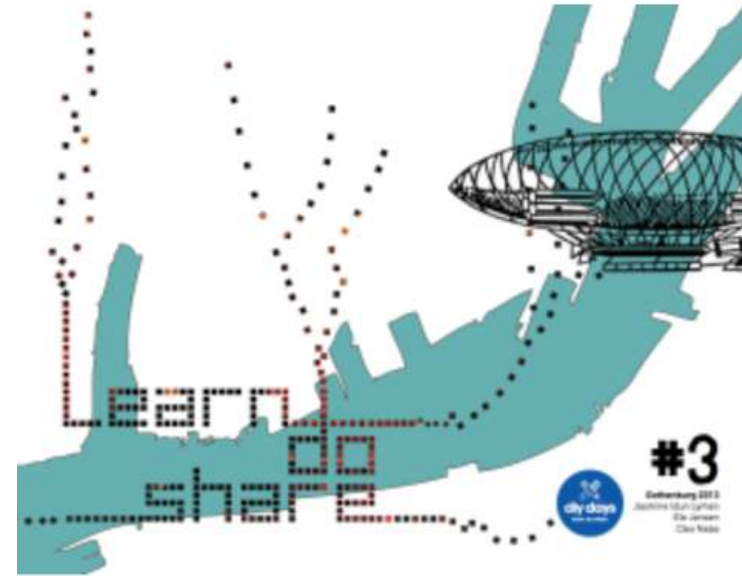
2014

I designed this game as an ice breaker for young University students. Each would pull a card before recess. Their task was to trade for a super hero quality they'd love best. Upon returning to class, i would ask them who traded, how they felt about their chosen cards, who kept their cards and how they felt about them. The basic message given to them was that each of us receives gifts in life, but sometimes we don't appreciate what we're given, because trends make other things seem attractive. The game objective is to give insight into our life journey and empower confidence in our personal capacity and creativity. Learn to be vulnerable and experience others' openness.



FIELDBOOKS

Co-ethnographic Inquiries
Self-commissioned
2011-2023



Over the years I compiled a dozen co-ethnographic fieldbooks to document the many social innovation projects we co-created,

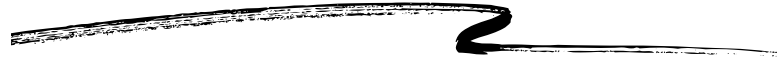
LEVEL UP

Table Top Game

Commissioned by Forschungsverbund

ForChange

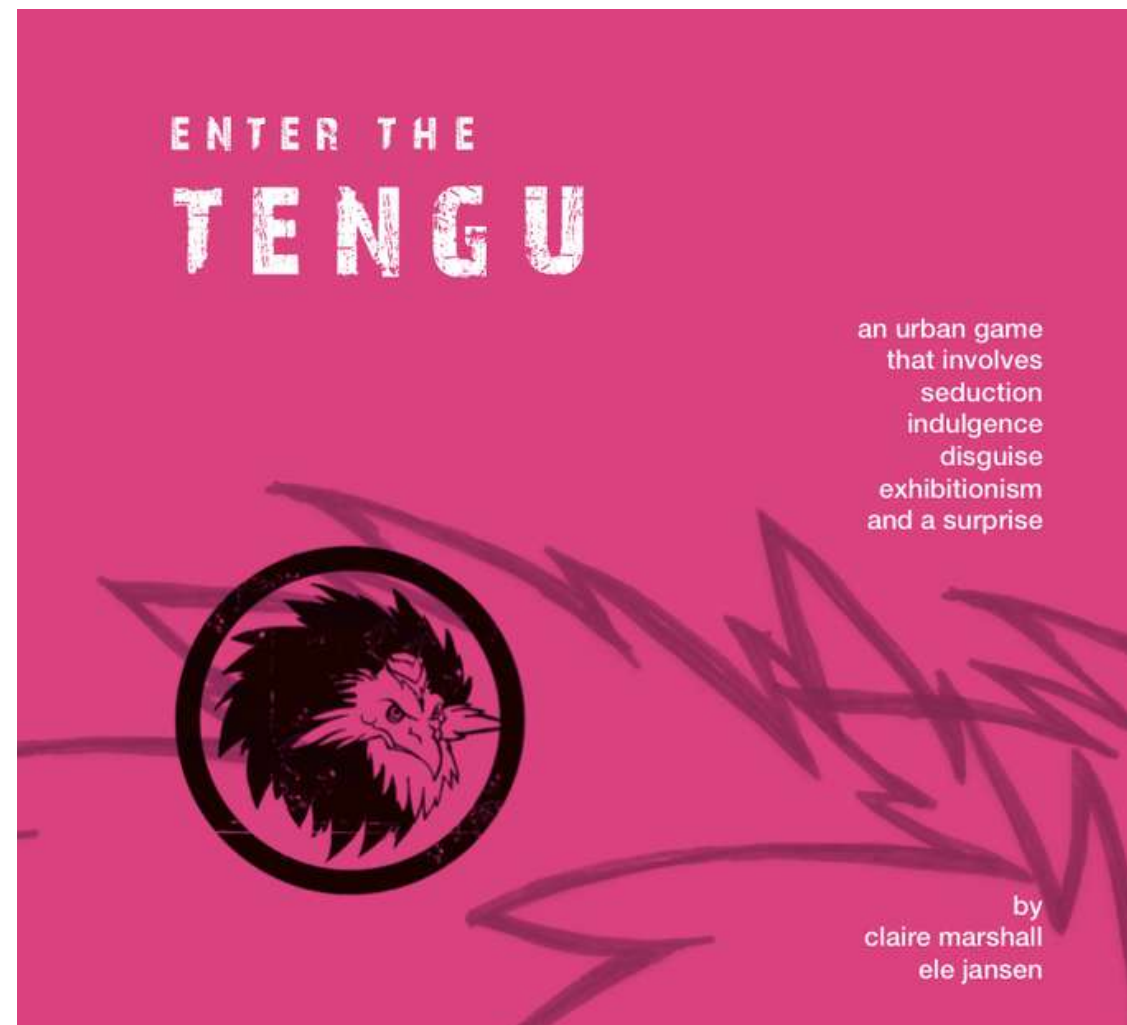
2015



Storytelling card game to aid groups in companies or cooperatives to tap their empathy with each other and solve resiliency problems of their collective behaviours or projects.

ENTER THE TENGU

Urban Escape Game
Self-commissioned
2012



Enter the Tengu is an urban game, a digital scavenger hunt that uses technology and other objects to lead two players from a mysterious starting point to a locked treasure box at the end of the journey.

This game was supported by White Rabbit gallery in Sydney, who kindly allowed us to mount a plaque with an artist and artwork description including a QR code that initiated the game play.

CREATIVITY UNBOUND, PHD THESIS

This thesis concerns social engagement at the intersection of open design and media technology. The study reflects on the practice of a group of creative entrepreneurs, who seek new methods and contexts for collaboration both online and offline. My case is an international collective called Reboot. They co-produce games, narratives, and workshops that aim at engaging others to become activists for social innovation through experiential learning and applied creativity. I investigate what drives them, what they desire, how they learn, and how they co-create. The core problem is: how does a focus on innovating process shape the way individuals approach work and life? Ethnography forms the central research method. It tracks the exchange and performance values expressed by members of the Reboot collective. I use an experimental enactive research design, which enriches current academic practices in media and design ethnography.



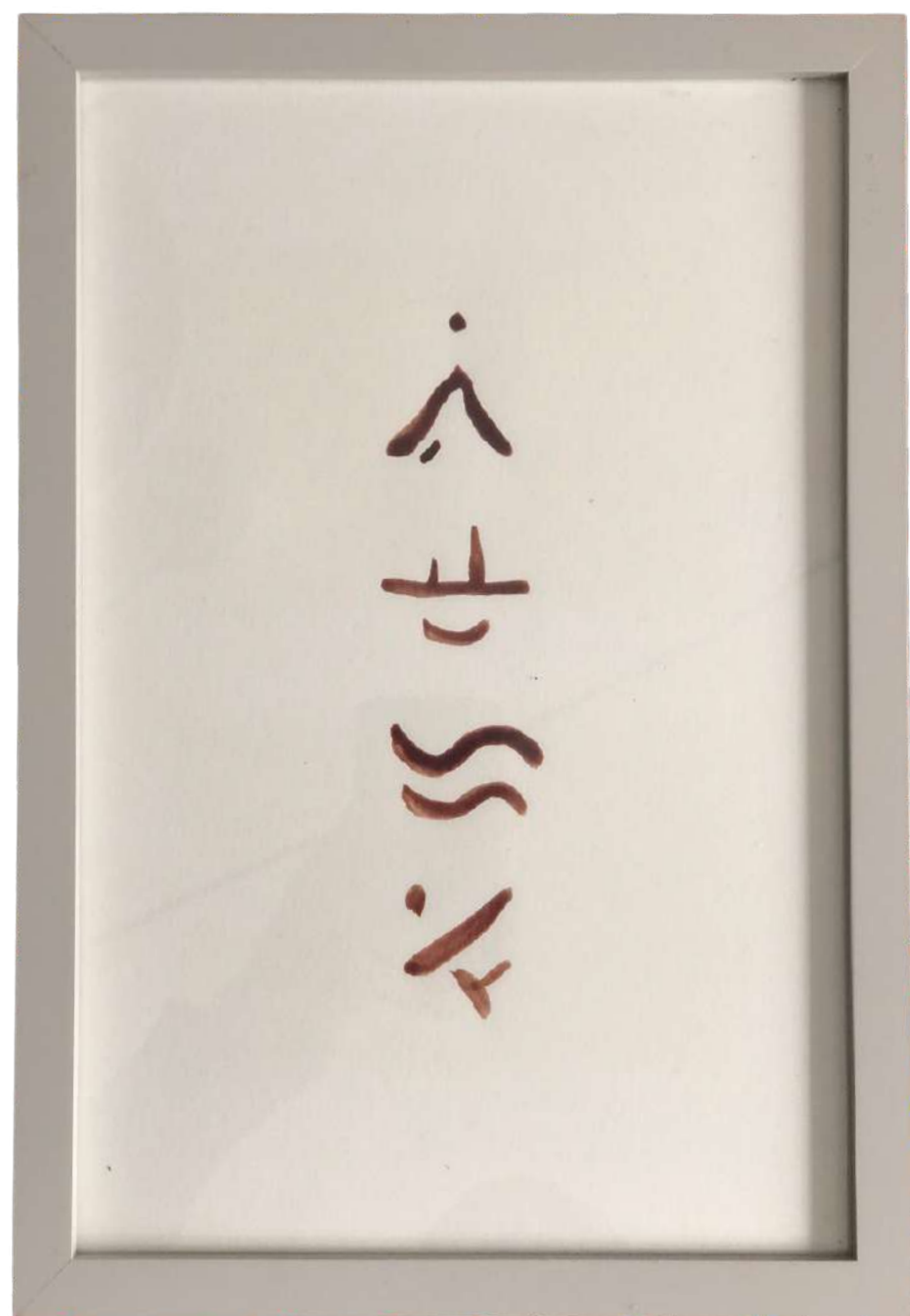
PAPERWORKS

BLESSINGS FOR THE HOME

Blood on paper

29x21 cm

2023



PAPERWORKS

ONCE A MONCE

Blood on paper

29x21 cm

2023



PAPERWORKS

EXILED DREAMING

Blood and Acrylic on paper

29x21 cm

2022



PAPERWORKS

MENOPAUSE

Blood and pigment on paper

2021



PAPERWORKS

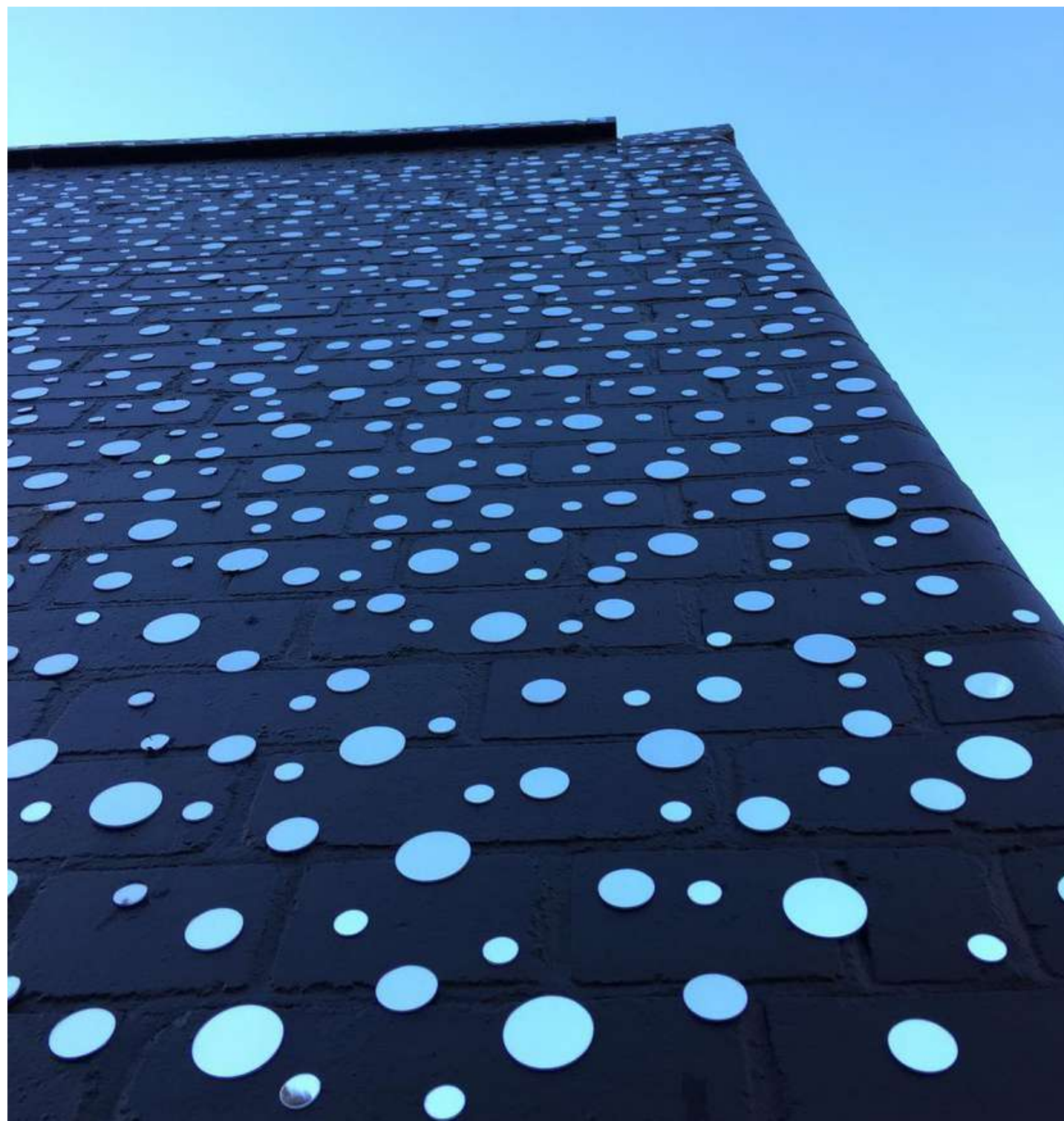
GAIL'S BUTTERFLY
Tint colour on paper
2014



FOTOGRAFY

HOLES IN HEAVEN

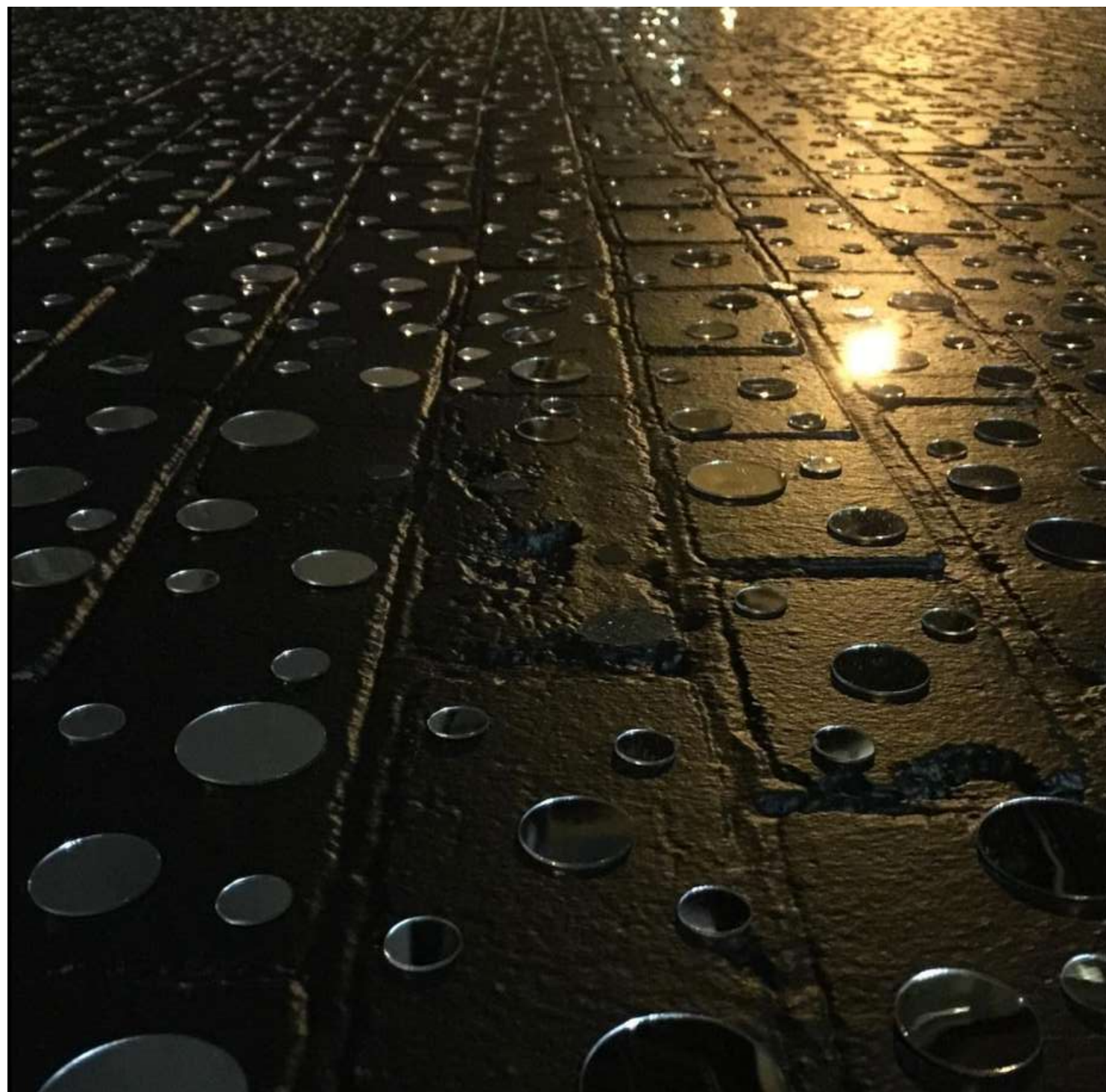
2017



FOTOGRAFY

EVERY STEP A TEARDROP

2017



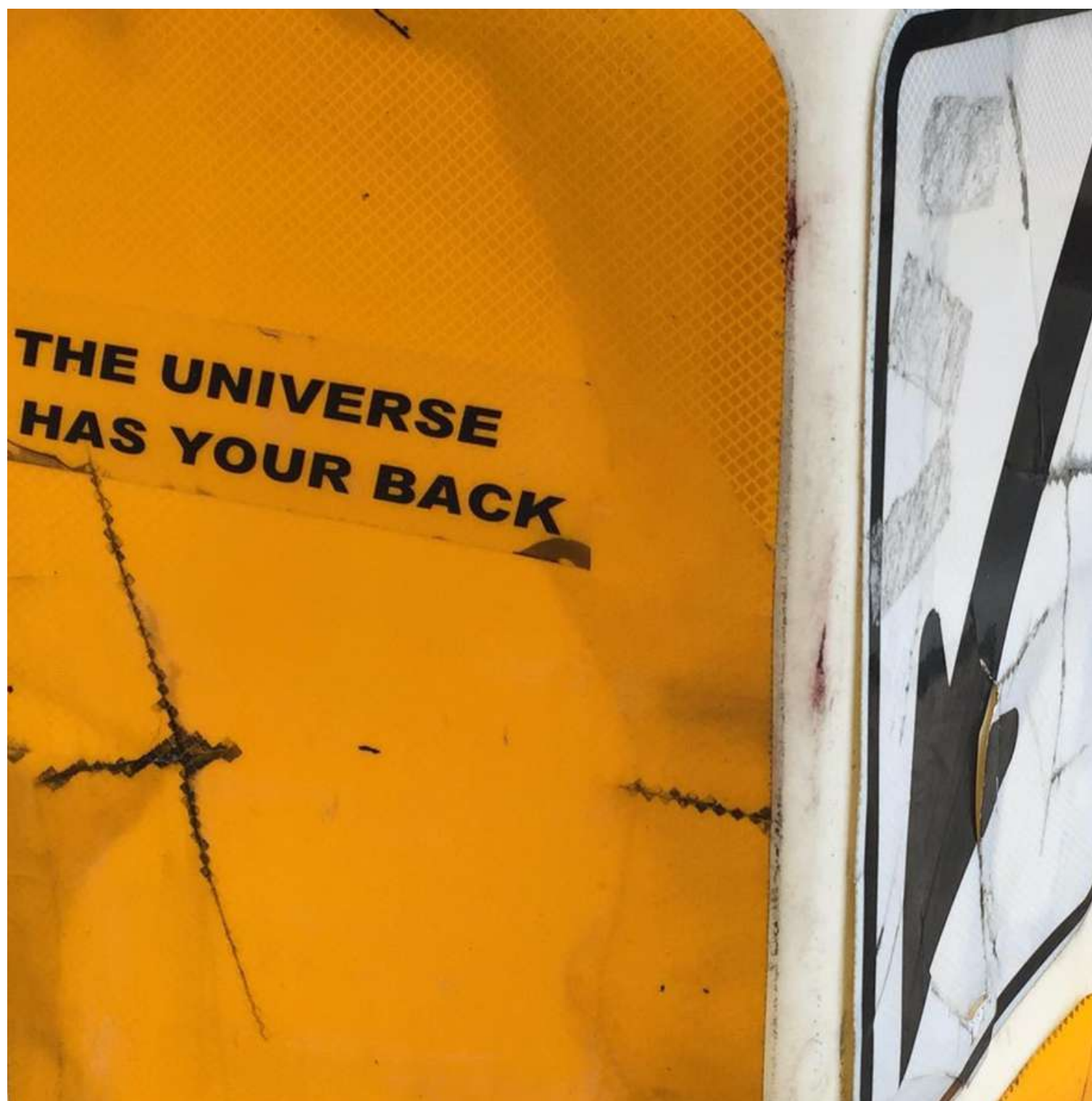
FOTOGRAFY

INVERSE
2023



FOTOGRAFY

THE UNIVERSE HAS YOUR BACK
2016



FOTOGRAFY

WHEREWAY TO HEAVEN
2015



FOTOGRAFY

FROST | CLOUDS
2022



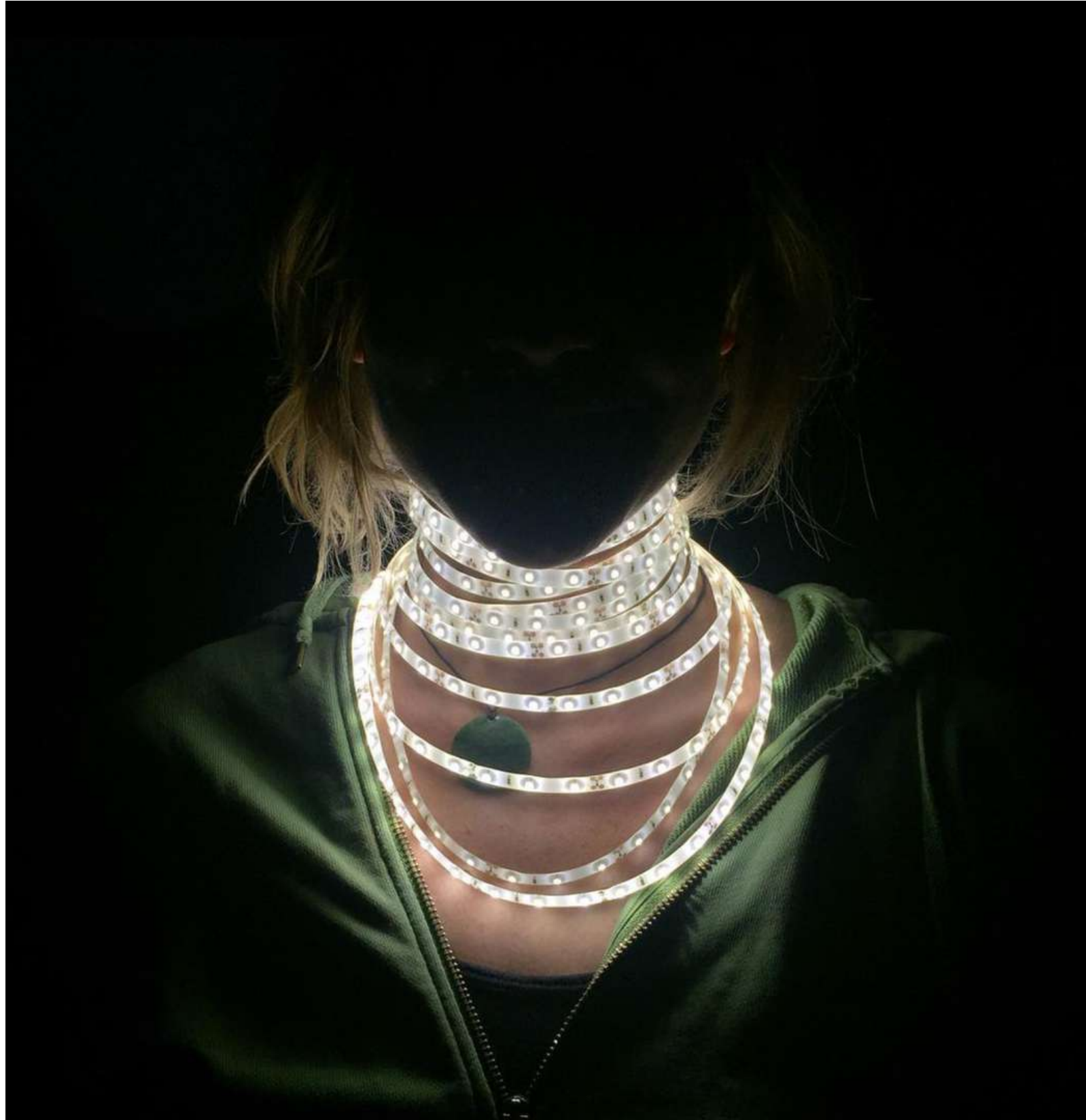
BODY PAINT & FOTOGRAFY

WARRIOR OF PEACE
2024



LIGHT ART & FOTOGRAFY

I AM AI
2014



FOTOGRAFY

THIS IS RED
2021



POEM

BARE BONES

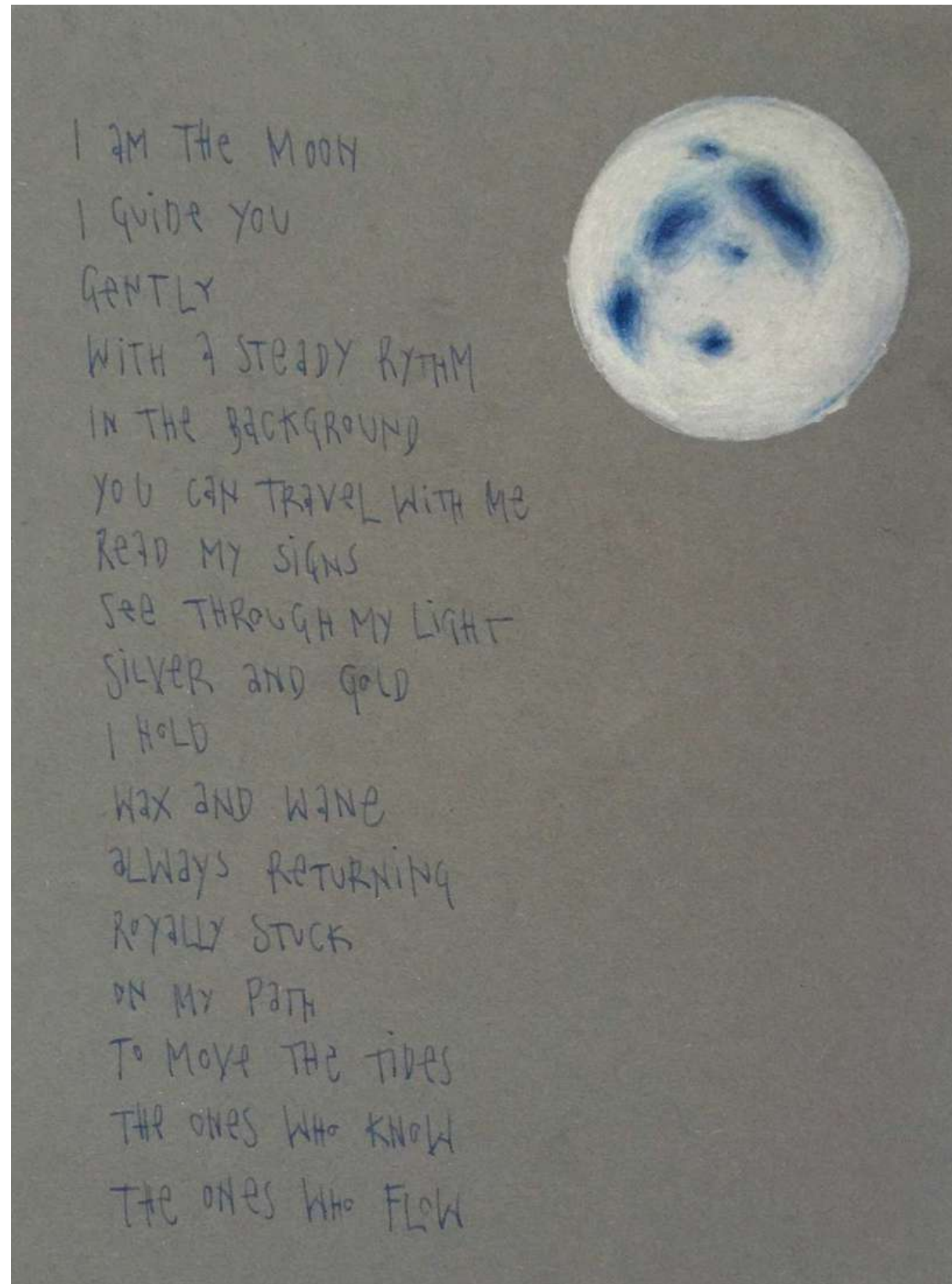
2019

i'm BARE BONES
BUT NOW I KNOW HOW I'M PUT TOGETHER
I'VE BEEN BROKEN
NOT ONCE
NOT TWICE
LIKE PEARLS ON A STRING
ARE YOUR VICTORIES
MY DEAR CHILD
YOU BREAK ME EVERY DAY
AND I LEARN TO BE PATIENT
AND I LEARN TO BEND
BECAUSE I KNOW
MY GROWL IS YOUR HOWL
MY PAIN YOUR FREEDOM
MY GRACE THE LOVE YOU RETAIN
LET CHAOS BE LOVE
WE RISE ABOVE

POEM

I AM THE MOON

2017



POEM

FOUR AM

2016

4AM ICH BIN KRAFT
ZUES VERBÜNDET SICH
DER MOND LACHT MIT MIR
MEIN HERZ IST EXPLODIERT
UND VERTEILT SICH
IN MEINEM KÖRPER
HERZSCHLÄGE ÜBERALL
SIE ERINNERN MICH
AN DAS WISSEN IN MEINEM KÖRPER
UND HEILEN ZUES
WEIL ICH GENAU WEISS
WAS ICH TUN MUSS.
MEINE KREATIVITÄT
ÜBERSCHLÄGT SICH
MEIN KÖRPER VERSPRÜHT LIEBE
MEIN SPIRITUELLER RAUM
DEHNT SICH IN ALLE DIMENSIONEN
UND NIMMT ALLE MIT

lovelemu

DEATH IS A CONDITION
OF THE MIND
BUT IT IS NOT A FACT
WHEN THE EGO DIES
IT'S JUST THAT WAY OF THE MIND
RIGHT THEN
RIGHT THERE
A NEW EGO IS BORN
SHAPING ITSELF
FROM THE BATTLING MIND
THE REMNANTS THAT REFUSED TO DIE
THE ONES THAT BELIEVE
THEY ARE GOD LOVE INTUITION
THE ONES THAT GUIDE
FROM BEHIND THE SCENES
SNEAKING UP ON YOU
TO JUDGE AND MAKE SENSE
UNTIL YOUR BODY TEACHES
YOUR MIND
ABOUT DEATH
AND YOUR SOUL GOES
BUGGER ME I'M FREE

POEM

DEATH
2015

POEM

CLARITY IS A CRIME

2014

CLARITY IS A CRIME

POEM

HYPERMODERN

2013

Hypermodernity. In which we PICK and FILTER our content, we don't follow a common program, we DIY, CURATE and SKIP canon, we're not part of a crowd, we're part of many small scenes. We are a multitude of PARTIAL IDENTITIES and each FRAGMENT likes to CONNECT with a different MILEU. We don't meet people that are very much like us because we CREATE our INDIVIDUAL DIVERSITY as a result of our careful SELECTION of EXPERIENCES that shape our SELF. We live in a squat and wear a suit to work. We don't IDENTIFY with institutions, we BUILD them. We like to TAKE what's abundant and SHARE what's unique. We totally dig INDEPENDENCE and find a sense of BELONGING in all our little PASSION projects. We like MANY SMALL. COMMUNALITY today is about SIZE, INTENTION and CHOICE. We are DIVERSIFIED beings. Yet we love the COMMONS. You gotta love the PARADOX within.

POEM

BRONTE POOL

Published in Spacey Magazine

2012

Having coffee watching massive green translucent
turning white water waves cannon into sandstone cliffs
lifting fine spray into gently sunlit light blue air before
running along those cliffs with no music just listening
to the wild roar beneath anticipating my swim at
Bronte pool with effervescing water cooling me before
I sundry on the bench watching those bloody seagulls
kitching up my ineffable horizon view.

Hypothermia will wrap her long before she would feel death creeping up on her.

Melting through layers of snow her last body warmth will melt the ice on the Norwegian lake, where she lost her path, where she gave up.

Hypothermia will finally make her feel warm and heavenly content.

And she won't hear the ice cracking before it releases her physical existence into the dark and deep forgiveness of nature.