

**Saturday 24 April 2021, from 12 pm (+3 GMT) on.**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Design Biennial – Empathy Revisited: Designs for more than one – was launched in October 2020 with many of its projects continuing to live post-2021. **Not quite a finissage!** is a day-long event, which marks a closure while opening new works to the public at the same time. It presents projects by an international line-up of designers, architects and artists, whose work adopts sensitive, diplomatic, sometimes therapeutic functions, with the aim of connecting us with one another but also with the world around us. Seeking to define a new role for design based on empathy, this event interrogates how we relate emotionally with other species and bodies – biological, geological, mineral, mechanic.

Comprising talks, walks, performances and screenings, it puts forward ideas and projects that encourage us to rethink practices of care and civility at this critical moment in time, and to collectively build new systems and structures for reconnecting.

Not quite a finissage! will be shared through İKSV's YouTube channel as well as the websites of the Design Museum and Het Nieuwe Instituut.

welcome discussion

12.00

Mariana Pestana, Sumitra Upham, Billie Muraben and Deniz Ova in conversation with Can Remzi Ergen about the challenges of a never ending Design Biennial...

### “Mystical Advert”

An invitation to engage with rituals from **object\*oriented\*magic**

reading room

12.27

**Mattering of a Productive Mythology** is a research project by **Aslı Uludağ** exploring and contributing to the toolkit utilised by the powerful and organised resistance led by local women and fruit growers, who are fighting to protect the land from the slow violence created by more than 300 boreholes situated in the Büyük Menderes Graben, Turkey’s primary geothermal field.

research presentation

12.42

**Material Histories: Sands, Soils, Recipes and Other Archives** is an investigation by **Counterspace** on recipes as archival and archaeological material to communicate socio-political narratives and material cultures in the Saharan region.

video podcast

12.45

### The Avocado Toast

A conversation between **Linda Schilling Cuellar** and Billie Muraben about the avocado toast trend, and how our appetites, and what we think of as ingenuity, push ecosystems to their limit. They discuss how human invention, neoliberal economic legislation, a wellness food trend, and patents taken out on nature collapsed the Petorca river landscape in Chile’s Central Valley.

film screening

13.55

### Unclaimed latifundium: Eat more, fish further!

is a video-piece which collates archival propagandistic material depicting the myth of Francoist modernity, including the aggressive development of industrial fisheries supported by the nostalgic backdrop of artisanal river fishing. Within **Partnerships**, a research-led archive by **FRAUD**, the work engages with the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its devastating effects upon ‘extra-Mediterranean’ marine life, such as the exhaustion of fish stocks and local fisheries.

video podcast

13.12

**Ayşenaz Toker & Merve Tuna** in conversation with Billie Muraben about the non-human forces operating in superstitions and vernacular folk beliefs. Using everyday objects as ingredients for spells, the manual of **object\*oriented\*magic** offers guidance on handling everyday problems to the lost souls of the modern world.

film screening

13.25

**Satellite Kitchens** is a research project by **TiriLab**, investigating the kitchen as a space of assembly, resistance, empowerment and care. It maps the typologies of communal kitchens within more than forty communities in the Thesprotia hinterland, capturing their unique interior and spatial configurations, as well as the recipes and stories of the cross-cultural generations of women who have occupied them.

landscape of voices

13.40

With the emergence of the unregulated gig economy, and particularly food delivery apps, new social patterns and economic logics have flourished online, redefining preset gendered relationships and economic power structures, in countries such as Egypt or Libya. **Rebel Kitchens**, a research project by **Anna Puigjaner (MAIO)** in collaboration with **Alina Abouelenin**, unveils a new wave of food apps that are transforming the social and culinary landscape in North Africa while offering women economic independence, by turning their domestic kitchens into spaces of production.

video podcast

13.48

A conversation between **BUREAU** and Billie Muraben, about **Mush Rooms**, a project that sheds light on the viral crisis that the world population is going through, developed in collaboration with **Chef Walter El Nagar** and **Filipe Felizardo**. They will speak about mushrooms, and the importance of a political attitude towards newly perceived paradigms.

virtual tour

14.00

Spread across the city of Istanbul, the **New Civic Rituals** are interventions that rehearse new kinds of encounters across human and non-human citizens, hosted by specific community groups and sites. From communal cooking to gardens and playgrounds, these projects have a restorative function, providing experiences of being together, reconnecting, and caring for the city and its multiple inhabitants.

film screening

14.04

Through the media of essay, film, and drawing, **The Cosmogony of (Racial) Capitalism** is a design-led investigation into the material cultures present at the birth of capitalism and its emergence out of the relations of power forged in the integrated network of the sugar-cane plantation. Taking as its point of departure the meeting between the Portuguese and the Edo people in the Kingdom of Benin, a leading society in the Yoruba-Edo region of West Africa, **Dele Adeyemo** revisits the divergent world-making cartographic practices that coalesced to form the early universe of capitalism.

response to the film

14.17

and performance lecture

**Dele Adeyemo, Ibiye Camp** and **Dámaso Randalfe** discuss how the ideas explored in **The Cosmogony of (Racial) Capitalism** have combined with their individual practice and research to produce an architectural pedagogy in the architecture design studio they lead together at the Royal College of Art. Working collaboratively with their students and invited guests their studio titled, **Demonic Shores: Imaginaries of Indeterminacy in the Age of Logistics**, develops a method for designing from the sites of black, indigenous and other worldviews, even as they are inscribed by violent cartographic systems.

thirst walk

14.50

**Sophie Krier** and **Erik Wong** anticipate on the upcoming **THIRST WALK**. A distributed walk and talk with designer Nur Horsanali, urbanist Yaşar Adnan Adanah, ecologist / activist Li An Phoa and architects Eva Pfannes & Sylvain Hartenberg (OOZE). Guided by artist Serkan Taycan, the walk will discuss the crucial supply of water in urban nodes, especially in Istanbul where the complex, collective supply of water goes back to pre-Roman times. Water is discussed as a commons, as metaphor, as politics: who quenches whose thirst? The **THIRST WALK** is part of **In Search of the Pluriverse**, Wong and Krier’s (podcast) edition of The Travelling Academy, an initiative of Het Nieuwe Instituut that brings together local and Netherlands-based designers. The embassies in each participating country are important partners in this project.

abandoned land visit

15.05

### Mediterranean stories among the olive fields.

For the occasion, the three artists, researchers and activists **Pelin Tan**, **Vivien Sansour** and **Luigi Coppola** propose an original video work, composed of three parts shot in three olive tree fields in three places of the Mediterranean: Turkey, Palestine and Salento (southern Italy). A crossed narrative that brings out a mix of geo-political visions, agro-ecological challenges and territorial peculiarities.

virtual field walk

15.40

Urban forests are scientifically proven to be an effective and cost-efficient solution for cities to fight climate change and the many urban challenges that we face as society. In this virtual field trip, Adib Dada takes us on a walk along the Beirut River where **theOtherDada** planted the first Miyawaki forest in Lebanon in 2019. He presents his afforestation project **TheOtherForest**, which explores the potential of nature-based solutions to address climate change in cities.

interview

15.55

Throughout the biennial, **Aslihan Demirtaş'** project **Earthable** has undergone a process of generation and regeneration through interaction with pollens, the sun and people. It has been an occurrence oscillating between a table, an agricultural field, a garden, a plant pot filled with soil loaned from a local farm in Istanbul, and a home to trillions of living bacteria, nematodes, protozoa and kilometers of mycorrhiza. This time, Demirtaş takes us to a field trip in a new plant garden allowing the plants in Florya Forest, Istanbul to grow as they wish with minimum intervention. **The Garden of the Worm and the Bird** takes its name from the traditional saying “for the worm, for the bird, for food”.

video podcast

16.15

In **Nature is Healing**, **Ilana Harris-Babou** presents the imaginary correspondence of a character who has fled Brooklyn for the countryside during the Spring of 2020. Billie Muraben speaks with Ilana about her film, the pitfalls of avoidance in times of crisis, and the strategies we use to distract ourselves.

interspecies conversation

16.25

**Microbial Fruits of Istanbul** is a platform that tells the complex histories of Istanbul community gardens (bostans) from the perspective of microorganisms. **Orkan Telhan** and **Uriel Fogueé (elli architects)** discuss the garden of gardens, the hybrid between a soil microbiology lab and a fruit tree with its host, a parrot.

performance lecture

16.38

**The Tent as an Image of the Cosmos** is a research project by **Black Athena Collective** that uses the myths surrounding Egypt's Library of Alexandria as its starting point, to address significant gaps in the writing of history. This performance lecture builds on their research in investigating the Mediterranean and Red Sea region to challenge contemporary understandings of an area entangled in colonial logics and to investigate how migration has shaped notions of culture in the region.

dance performance

16.48

**Waves**

Statistics show that many public spaces for outdoor activities, such as football fields or skateboard ramps are primarily used by boys and that girls are heavily underrepresented as users of public spaces. **Dansbana!** was founded by the architects Anna Fridolin, Anna Pang and Teres Selberg with the desire to change that through dance. A dance performance by **Waves** (Nil Gökner, Fiona Surujon, Burak Güney, Nihan Cimilli, Eylül Bayülken) takes place at **Dansbana! Kalamis**, a permanent installation in Kadıköy, with the aim to create a new meeting spot in Istanbul for dancers of all kinds.

book launch and closing

16.50

Mariana Pestana and Deniz Ova, moderated by Can Remzi Ergen, say few last words on the 5<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Design Biennial journey.

FIN

Intro

**Mariana Pestana** is an architect and curator interested in critical social practice and the role of fiction in re-imagining futures for an age marked by technological progress and an ecological crisis. She co-founded the collective **The Decorators**, an interdisciplinary practice that makes collaborative public realm interventions and cultural programmes, currently design fellows at Stanley Picker Gallery. Previously Mariana worked as a curator at the Department of Architecture, Design and Digital at the Victoria and Albert Museum and lectured at Central Saint Martins, Chelsea College of Arts, and Royal College of Arts. Recently, she co-curated the exhibitions **The Future Starts Here**, at the Victoria and Albert Museum (2018) and **Eco Visionaries: Art and Architecture After the Anthropocene** at MAAT (2018), **Eco Visionaries: Towards an Interspecies Future** at Matadero (2019), and a third iteration of the latter at **The Royal Academy** (2019). She was the curator of the exhibitions **The Real and Other Fictions for Close, Closer**, Lisbon Architecture Triennale (2013) and **This Time Tomorrow** for the V&A at the World Economic Forum (2016). She curated **Fiction Practice**, the Young Curators Lab for Porto Design Biennale 2019. Pestana holds a PhD in Architecture from the Bartlett School of Architecture.

**Billie Muraben** (Assistant Curator & Deputy Editor) is a writer, editor and lecturer based in London. She has written for *Artsy*, *Disegno*, *Elephant*, *Eye*, *Maharam Stories*, *Port* and *Varoom* among other publications, and was previously Online Editor of *The Gourmand*. Her work is informed by an interest in design by its broadest definition, and challenging the spaces, places and practices that we privilege in the context of art and design. Of British/Turkish descent, she has a particular interest in practices rooted in the Eastern Mediterranean. She's previously written about television as a potential site of distribution for

art practice; postmodern architecture and ruin value; and dancing water fountains as monumental symbols of power. She teaches on the Experience & Environment platform of BA Graphic Communication Design at Central Saint Martins, and previously taught MA Visual Communication at the Royal College of Art and BA Illustration at Camberwell College of Arts. She is currently Editorial Advisor on the third edition of *A Line which Forms a Volume*, a publication and symposium on design research by MA Graphic Media Design at London College of Communication. She holds an MA in Visual Communication from the RCA.

**Sumitra Upham** (Curator of Programmes) is a London-based curator working at the intersection of art, design and technology. She is currently Senior Curator of Public Programmes at the Design Museum where she is responsible for public programming, residencies and temporary projects. Previously, she was Associate Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, Design Curator at Coin Street Community Builders, and part of the exhibitions team at White Cube, London. Last year she sat on the curatorial committee for London Festival of Architecture 2018.

**Can Remzi Ergen** Can Remzi Ergen is working as the Communication Officer at United Nations Children's Fund Turkey Country Office, Features Editor at *GQ Magazine* and Contributing Editor *At Large* at *Vogue Turkey*. He also works as an advisor for brands on content development and communication strategy and creative direction.

## Participants

**Ayşenaz Toker** is a product designer and instructor at the Istanbul Bilgi University. Interested in the implicit language of things and the meanings and histories surrounding the objects, she extracts the associations attached to the things that occupy our environment. She collects, combines and transposes these references to design objects that are based on visual and physical memory. She also teaches workshops, organises exhibitions and writes on relations between craft, design and education.

**Merve Tuna** is a designer and an artist. She crafts prosthetic objects for everyday life that project the libidinal aspect of social relations. Investing in the noumenal dimension of prosthesis with hidden narratives, she makes films and examines the cultural and emotional meanings of these fictional objects, how they mediate intersubjective relations and whether they trigger shifts in existing perceptions.

**Aslı Uludağ** is a visual artist whose work exists at the intersection between art and research and spans various forms, including performance, installation and archive. Her research projects focus on forms of violence that are enacted through the relationship between humans, more-than-human entities and the environment, and investigate the techno-scientific, legal and architectural tools used to realise their operations. Through her practice she proposes alternative forms of spatial, temporal and material engagement with the environment as modes of resistance.

**Counterspace** is a Johannesburg-based collaborative architectural studio led by its founder and principal, Sumayya Vally. Vally's design, research and pedagogical practice is committed to finding expression for hybrid identities and contested territories. The studio is inspired by its location and is committed to developing design

expression particularly for the African continent – through design research, publishing, pedagogy, buildings and other forms of architecture.

**Linda Schilling Cuellar** is an architect and urban designer from Chile. Her practice focuses on questions related to methodological approaches to the discipline of architecture, exploring narrative tools along with questions of scale and accountability in the context of extractive economies.

**FRAUD** is made up of the duo Audrey Samson and Francisco Gallardo. Critical spatial practitioners, they develop modes of art-led enquiry, which examine the process of 'financialisation' through extractive data practices, and cultivate critical cosmogony building.

**TiriLab** is an initiative and an open platform that explores multi-cultural heritage related to local technologies, gastronomy and culture specific to rural communities in northwestern Greece. It is a joint venture of collectives and individuals, practitioners and researchers with a focus on architecture and territory, local ecologies and digital technologies, circular economy and sharing models, initiated by Christina Serifi and Juan Chacón.

**Anna Puigjaner** is an architect, researcher and co-founder of MAIO, an architectural office based in Barcelona. Her on-going research project, Kitchenless Cities, is focused on housing projects with collective kitchens, where the elimination of the individual kitchen from the house allows a redefinition of domestic labour.

**BUREAU** is the project of Daniel Zamarbide, Carine Pimenta and Galliane Zamarbide. Active in the physical, cultural and social environment with a critical standpoint and with an immersive attitude, BUREAU is a furniture series, an editorial project, a design team. They are architects.

**Dele Adeyemo** is an architect, creative director and urban theorist. His creative practice and research interrogate the underlying drivers in the production of space, locating them in the racialising logic of processes that orchestrate planetary patterns of living.

**Ibiye Camp** is a multidisciplinary artist. Her work engages with technology, trade and material within the African Diaspora.

**Dámaso Randulfe** is an artist, architect and editor of Migrant Journal. Spanning writing, image-making, film and installations, his work explores ecologies, territories and technologies in relation to the circulation and contemporary status of the image.

**Sophie Krier** is a relational artist, researcher, educator and editor. Through her work she interweaves biographies of beings and places, and conceives tools and situations for collective narration and reflection.

**Eric Wong** has a background in graphic design, teaches at the Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, in the TXT department and founded Wongema: a place for work, contemplation and surprising encounters in the far north of the Netherlands.

**Pelin Tan's** research field is architectural sociology, research methods on conflict zones, socially engaged design, alternative design pedagogies. Currently, she is a Senior Researcher at the Center for Arts, Design and Social Research (Boston), Researcher of the architecture faculty of Thessaly University, Greece. Professor at the Fine Arts Faculty, Batman University, Batman, Turkey.

**Vivien Sansour** is the founder of the Palestine Heirloom Seed Library (2014) and the Travelling Kitchen (2015), which were launched with the goal of preserving seed heritage, and bringing it to the table, to 'eat our history rather than store it away as a relic of the past'.

**Luigi Coppola** is an artist and activist and promoter of participative projects and politically motivated actions. His artistic practice is connected with the process of social re-appropriation of the commons that starts with an analysis of specific social, political, and cultural contexts. He trained as a scientist as well as in the field of art.

**Adib Dada** is the founder of theOtherDada Regenerative Consultancy & Architecture, whose mission is to activate projects across architecture, design, and art by creating unconventional links at the frontier of science. Going beyond traditional architecture, his work employs a holistic and biomimetic design approach with nature and people at its core.

**Aslıhan Demirtaş** is an architect and the co-founder of KHORA Office, based in Istanbul. Her practice purposefully crosses territories and boundaries of disciplines in the form of building, landscape and installation projects, exhibitions and art projects, as well as research.

**Iiana Harris-Babou's** interdisciplinary work spans sculpture and installation, though it is grounded in video. She speaks the aspirational language of consumer culture and uses humour as a means to digest painful realities. Her work confronts the contradictions of the American Dream: the ever unreliable notion that hard work will lead to upward mobility and economic freedom.

**Orkan Telhan** is an interdisciplinary artist, designer and researcher who investigates critical issues of social, cultural and environmental responsibility. Telhan is Associate Professor of Fine Arts – Emerging Design Practices, at University of Pennsylvania, Weitzman School of Design. He holds a PhD in Design and Computation from MIT's Department of Architecture.

**elii** is an architecture office established in Madrid in 2006 by Uriel Fogue, Eva Gil and Carlos Palacios. Its professional practice extends to the field of teaching (ETSAM, UE in Madrid, and EPFL, in Lausanne) and research ('Cyborg Garden – Mutant Institute of Environmental Narratives', Matadero Madrid).

**Black Athena Collective** is a research and artistic laboratory for experimentation that engages political discourse and practices of spatial construction connected to the Red Sea region from Eritrea to Egypt. Through multi-disciplinary perspectives including geography, archaeology and history, Black Athena Collective employs writing, performance-lectures and visual strategies to interrogate histories of the region and initiate new dynamics of history.

**Dansbana!** is an organisation based in Stockholm, designing public spaces for dance and founded and is run by the architects Anna Fridolin, Anna Pang and Teres Selberg. The name 'dansbana' derives from a traditional building type for outdoor dancing common in Scandinavia. The organisation seeks to revive and update this typology and make space for many types of dancers and dances. Dansbana! tries in particular to reach out to girls as users of outdoor spaces and involve them in the design process.