

## **Radikale Koexistenz – Menschliches und Nicht-Menschliches in Design und Kunst**

Mittwoch, 29. November, 17:00 – 20.00 Uhr:

### **Co-designing in more-than-human entanglements**

#### **Towards a Phyto-centred Design**

Introduced by d-o-t-s in October 2020 – as part of the Plant Fever touring exhibition curated by d-o-t-s and produced by the Belgian museum CID Grand-Hornu – The Manifesto of Phyto-centred Design is a call to practitioners and the general public to establish a new sense of respect, responsibility and empathy towards plants. Inspired by ongoing initiatives of international designers, engineers, artists, writers and philosophers, the manifesto consists of seven points to rethink our relationship with the vegetal realm. The points should not be read as rules but rather as invitations to see the world through the perspective of plants. So that we can “recognise the permanent state of our fragility, our mortality and our finitude” – to adopt the words of American philosopher and professor Donna Haraway – and stay alert and develop new resilient schemes that, like plants, can adapt.

**d-o-t-s** is a nomadic curatorial practice founded by Laura Drouet FR and Olivier Lacrouets IT/FR. The duo’s investigations focus on the diverse and questionable relationships that – through design – human communities establish among themselves, with other animals, plants, and landscapes. Defined by the participatory and interdisciplinary approach, d-o-t-s’ work spans writing, exhibition-making, hands-on workshops and design commissions. Recent and ongoing projects include: the touring exhibition Plant Fever (Kunstgewerbemuseum Dresden – DE, 2023 & 2024), the book Greenhouse Stories. A Critical Re-examination of Transparent Microcosms (Onomatopée – NL, 2023), the performance & short film Stork Fiction (2023). Laura (Niort – FR, 1989) holds a MA in History of Art from the University of Poitiers, France. Olivier (Milan – IT, 1988) holds a BA in Industrial Design from the Politecnico di Milano, Italy.

**Speaking Bread.** Relationships beyond Materiality is a multidisciplinary research project that focuses on the relationships that emerge between human and non-human entities through the process of making artisanal and traditional bread. Speaking Bread highlights the importance of preserving the traditions, specifically the ways of working, relating, and creating through the craftsmanship embedded in this simple yet essential everyday product— bread. The relevance of this research relies on bread as the medium of material knowledge, and questions our way of engaging with nature and the material world.

Speaking Bread was awarded with the ZHdK Förderpreis Design Award in 2022, and finalist for the Josef Müller-Brockmann Design Award in 2023. It has been exhibited at Counterparts, by the Swiss Design Network in 2022, at the Zurich Meets Copenhagen by the City of Zurich in 2023, and at Swissnex San Francisco by Pro Helvetia in 2023. The book is in its final stage and will be officially published by Spector Books in 2024.

**Carolina Marquez Bernard** is a Spanish-dutch book designer and independent researcher based in Zurich. She works in the fields of culture, anthropology, the arts, and fashion, with projects presented in spaces like Helmhaus Zurich, Löwenbräukunst, and The Glasgow Gallery of Photography, among others.

Carolina explores design from theory and practice through multidisciplinary collaborations that propose new forms of human-environmental interaction. Carolina is currently working as a research associate at the Institute for Design Research, and will teach her first course on critical and speculative design to bachelor students in Design at the Zurich University of the Arts in 2024.