



## The Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology from the self-organized visual arts scene presents an innovative and slow growing exhibition format

The Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology is receiving “The Vision Exhibition Award 2022” for the exhibition idea *Hosting Lands. Between the Ruin, the Field and the Forest*. They will create an innovative, engaging and slowly growing exhibition movement, transpiring at six different locations in Denmark over the course of three years.

The exhibition idea, ‘Hosting Lands’, encompasses knowledge about activism, grassroots movements, and radical ways of restructuring life amidst the ruins of capitalism. The movement will be creating publicly shared terrains, forest gardens and other communal spaces. They will be interacting closely with local communities, schools, kindergartens, fishermen, farmers, cultural centers, associations and residents.

At different locations – in Jutland and on Zealand, Funen and Møn – during the exhibition, from 2023-2025 – plots of land will be leased or acquired and converted into publicly owned common property. The invited Danish and international artists will unfold their respective practices at the hosting sites – together with communities of local residents and the wider public.

The idea receives the exhibition prize because it is inventively rethinking an exhibition model that becomes something more than a spectacular one-off event, while presenting collective and hyperlocal ways of living, along with new approaches to being in the World - in the cross-section between the local and the global.

Dea Antonsen and Ida Bencke, co-founders of the Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology:

*"Our vision involves art that reaches into the future. It poses a challenge to the spectacular and instead investigates what are simultaneously caring, painstaking and practical ways of building new worlds that patiently and slowly regenerate both communities and the soil upon which such communities exist."*

*"We wish to unfurl questions about hospitality and hosting in multifaceted and decolonial perspectives by bringing together actors who are working with relations between landscapes, bodies, species and communities. We hope to engender a common, responsive and tangible force for change able to present alternatives to today's planetary collapse."*

### **HOSTING LANDS. BETWEEN THE RUIN, THE FIELD AND THE FOREST.**

'Hosting Lands' is a slowly growing and decentralized exhibition movement dealing with our relations to land by investigating the complexities of connected to questions around hospitality and being a host.

The artists in 'Hosting Lands' constitute a diverse and dynamic field of practices. Through their art, they address how we – considered against the backdrop of today's climate and biodiversity crises – may develop ways of living that care for land and its inhabitants without exploiting and over-consuming resources, in the broadest sense.

The Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology has gathered a team of curators, consisting of Abhijan Toto and Pujita Guha (The Forest Curriculum) and Aziza Harmel. The curators' vital network of artists will intertwine different topographies, cultural lenses, aesthetic practices, as well as ecological and political perspectives, which are going to be brought into close dialogue with Danish localities, artistic practices and local communities. As such, 'Hosting Lands', will become a part of a global movement dedicated to sustainable living, which has been partly inspired by thinkers such as Vandana Shiva, Zoe Todd and Françoise Vergès.

Read more about 'Hosting Lands. Between the Ruin, the Field and the Forest' [here](#).

### **MOTIVATION FROM THE JURY**

*Hosting Lands. Between the Ruin, the Field and the Forest is an original and innovative exhibition concept revealing an exhibition model that presents a way of living which extends patiently beyond a spectacular one-off event.*

*With trails leading back to ideas from the 'land art' of the 1970s and in a broad field of today's prevailing theories, Hosting Lands is searching for new methods and practices of care and solicitude that can rethink the relation between host and guest on planet earth.*

*Through their capacity of being constituted as independent curators and publishers, and through a myriad of multi-disciplinary approaches, The Laboratory for Aesthetics and*

*Ecology is a strong expression of the non-institutional, self-organized visual arts scene. With The Vision Exhibition Award, the jury recognizes the unique contribution that the laboratory is making to the ongoing development of the art field.*

### **THE EXHIBITION'S LOCATIONS**

'Hosting Lands. Between the Ruin, the Field and the Forest will unfold in the years 2023-2025 – in six different locations across Denmark:

Kronheden, near Thorsted, Western Jutland  
OXER in Ebeltoft Fregathavn, Eastern Jutland  
Toftegaarden in Åkilde, Funen  
Løkkegravene near Odense, Funen  
På Den Anden Side in Hårbølle, Møn  
Hjortetakly in Kalvehave, South Zealand

### **THE TEAM OF CURATORS**

*Hosting Lands* is curated by The Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology (Dea Antonsen & Ida Bencke), The Forest Curriculum (Abhijan Toto & Pujita Guha) and Aziza Harmel.

The Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology is a curatorial platform for experimental, artistic and literary work around shared exhaustion and collective regeneration in the intersection of ecology, the social and multispecies inequality and solidarity. LABAE creates new communities focusing on radical care and reparation practices. LABAE is situated in Denmark.

The Forest Curriculum is an itinerant and nomadic platform for interdisciplinary research and mutual co-learning. It proposes to assemble a critique of the Anthropocene via the local nature cultures of Zomia, the forested belt that connects South and Southeast Asia. The Forest Curriculum works with artists, researchers, indigenous organizations and thinkers, musicians, and activists.

Aziza Harmel is based in Tunisia and Austria. Harmel works with nomadic exhibition productions and questions around restoration, occupation and the decolonization of exhibition formats. Working in rural areas in Tunisia, particularly with the landscapes of Carthage, Harmel negotiates politics of the wreck and the ruin, spanning past, present and future.

### **CONFIRMED CONTRIBUTORS TO HOSTING LANDS**

Annette Holdensen & Sophia Luna Portra, Yesmine Ben Khelil, Jette Hye Jin Mortensen, Rahima Gambo, Emmy Laura Perez Fjalland, Jorge Gonzáles Santos, OXER, Jenni Laiti og Indigenous Climate Futures Embassy, På Den Anden Side, Rice Brewing Sisters Club, Joar Nango, Center for Militant Futurology, Kåre Grundvåg, Shëkufe Tadayoni Heiberg, Harvest School, Samara Sallam, Alexandra Moltke Johansen, Kultivator, Monia Sander Haj-Mohamed, and more to be announced.

### **THE VISION EXHIBITION AWARD**

Every year, with its Vision Exhibition Award, Bikubenfonden invites museums, exhibition halls and other exhibition actors to realize a visionary exhibition concept with contemporary relevance. A jury consisting of professionals hailing from relevant sectors evaluate all the submitted proposals. Three of the ideas are then invited to be considered in a second round, where participants are asked to further develop and qualify their ideas. The final recipient of the award is granted as much as five million Danish kroner for the realization of the exhibition.

### **THE JURY OF THE VISION EXHIBITION AWARD FOR THE YEAR 2022**

Helga Just Christoffersen - curator, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo New York, USA

Julian Juhlin - scenographer

David Zahle - architect and partner in BIG Bjarke Ingels Group

Gitte Ørskou - director, Moderna Museet

Hannah Heilmann - visual artist, art historian and associate professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts

Mette Marcus - director, Bikubenfonden

### **PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE VISION EXHIBITION AWARD**

2021: Copenhagen Contemporary, for the exhibition, "Yes, it Moves!" The exhibition is scheduled to open on May 1, 2023.

2020: Kunsthall Rønnebæksholm, for the exhibition "Soil. Sickness. Society."

2019: Kunsthall Aarhus, for the exhibition, "Go Extreme"

2018: KUNSTEN. Museum of Modern Art in Aalborg, for the exhibition "Work it Out!".

2017: Esbjerg Art Museum, for the exhibition concept, "Wunderkammer".

2016: The performance artist group, Sisters Hope, and Den Frie Udstillingsbygning, for the exhibition, "Sisters Academy - The Boarding School".

2015: The Medical Museion, for the exhibition project, "Mind the Gut".

Read more at [The Vision Exhibition Award](#)

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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