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# "CREATIVE SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE" Body Performing Nature

8-9 July 2023

PROGRAMME



EVENT  
PRESENTED BY

**NA  
HR**

Nature, Art &  
Habitat  
Residency  
[www.nahr.it](http://www.nahr.it)



Baita Magrera  
Val Taleggio, Bergamo, Italy

Address:  
Frazione Reggetto, 2, 24010  
Vedeseta BG, Italia



# ABOUT THE EVENT

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EMPACT is pleased to announce the two-day workshop: Creative Sustainability in Practice: Body Performing Nature, organised by Nature, Art & Habitat Residency (NAHR). Join us if you would like to discover model projects and pioneering initiatives expressing the combination of art and ecological practices within the scope of Empathy and Sustainability.

The seminar takes place within the framework of the innovative EMPACT – Empathy and Sustainability: The Art of Thinking Like A Mountain, Creative Europe project.

How can artists and other cultural promoters implement empathic practices towards the environment in their work? During the two days we will discuss the role of empathy in the arts as a means to activate the necessary mindset to not consider ourselves as separate from the natural world, but as part of the intricate synergies between ecosystems.

In this direction, in the year 2023, NAHR has turned its focus to the element of AIR, and its diverse functions in the natural and cultural ecosystems, to draw inspiration for artistic experimentation. By the hand of the EMPACT project, NAHR has tried to put creative sustainability into practice with 5 interdisciplinary artists who have considered and analyzed this resource in Val Taleggio (BG) for the development of empathetic artifacts. We will also have the pleasure of counting with dancers from Northwestern University, Chicago USA, who will perform live.



# EVENT OUTCOMES

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The seminar is expected to:

- Bring together artists, cultural institutions and cross-cutting professionals from social sciences, natural sciences, architecture, performing arts and sustainability studies to figure out ways in which to support artists and cultural professionals in connecting their work with environmental issues, empathy and sustainability in an impactful way.
- Introduce, discuss and clarify the meaning of "empathy" in arts, as well as the role of art and cultural practices in implementing empathy towards nature and non-human beings in artistic research and production.
- Consider Val Taleggio as a place of inspiration. This seminar will educate/train participants who will be able to learn about model projects and pioneering initiatives that express the combination of art and ecological practices, within the framework of Empathy and Sustainability.

Join us to collectively reexamine the relationship between human and nature and how Art can put its creative capacity into practice towards a more sustainable coexistence/cohabitation.

# EVENT DETAILS

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DATES: 8–9 JULY 2023

TIMES: 9AM – 18PM

LOCATION: [Baita Magrera – Frazione Reggetto,, 2, 24010 Vedeseta BG, Italia](#)

The seminar includes presentations and round-table discussions, as well as slow walks to observe the local ecosystems.

It is free of charge and will be held in English.

The workshop is open to any professional or student interested in dance, visual arts, architecture, ecology, agronomy, and anyone who cares about the topic of socio-environmental sustainability.

There is limited capacity. Don't miss out!

## TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

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Please fill in the short registration form here: <https://forms.gle/wGsYCaHPYDWhoJA9> (open with Chrome web browser)

We look forward to welcoming you!



# AGENDA

DAY 1

08 JULY (SATURDAY)

- 09:00 WELCOMING COFFEE & INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS
- 09:15 PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION  
Ilaria Mazzoleni, Architect and Scientific Coordinatorat and Founder of NAHR
- 09:30 EMPATHY IN THE CREATIVE PROCESS  
Susanna Ravelli, Cultural Manager and NAHR *Board member*
- 10:15 LIBRETTOS DEDICATED TO CONTEMPORANY ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES  
Roxanne Korda, Opera Singer and Oliver Farrow, Composer
- 11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:15 EMPACT + NAHR ART RESIDENCY PROJECTS  
Coordinated by Ilaria Mazzoleni, Architect Ana Pecar, Andria Zachariou, Kaja Racuscek, Lea Petrou and Miriam Kolev.
- 12:30 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
- 13:00 LUNCH BREAK
- 14:30 PASTURE WALK AND GUIDED TOUR *EN PLAIN AIR* WALK - FROM THE MEADOW AND PASTURE ECOSYSTEM TO THE STABLE.  
  
Stefano Torriani, Naturalist illustrator and Sara Invernizzi, Researcher
- 19:00 DINNER

END OF DAY 1



# AGENDA

DAY 2

09 JULY (SUNDAY)

- 09:00 **WELCOMING GREETINGS**      **COFFEE**      &      **INSTITUTIONAL**
- 09:15 **PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION**  
Illaria Mazzoleni, Architect and Scientific  
Coordinatorat and Founder of NAHR
- 09:30 **EMPATHIC PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATION: EMPACT CURRICULUM**  
Efi Kyprianidou, Assistant Professor in Philosophy  
and Art Theory at the Department of Fine Arts of the  
Cyprus Technological University
- 10:00 **AIR AND ATMOSPHERE**  
Guido Lanzani, Metereologist ARPA Lombardia
- 10:30 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:00 **A SCRIPT FOR WIND AND IVENS**  
*Alberto Vázquez, Espacio Rojo Association, Madrid*
- 12:30 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 14:00 **BODY IN NATURE**  
Jeffery M Hancock, Teaching Artist and Director and  
Designer-ish design.
- 15:00 **LIVE PERFORMANCE**  
Jeffery M Hancock and his students Sophie Alfreda  
Kartha Teitler, Ariana Jean Marie Ferguson and Rowan  
McCloskey, from Northwestern University - School of  
Communication, Department of Theater, Dance Program,  
Chicago, USA
- 16:00 **END OF DAY 1**



# SPEAKER BIOS

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## ÁLVARO VÁZQUEZ

Co-founder of the non-profit Espacio Rojo organization since 2004, he manages projects and programs in the field of culture, education and social action.

BA (Hons) in Film & Video (University College of the Creative Arts, UK). Produces, writes and directs shorts.

As Artist-Educator he has developed mediation and educational programs in Musac, Museum of Contemporary Art of Castile and Leon, Museum of Contemporary Art Patio Herreriano de Valladolid, Museum Network of Lugo, Fine Arts of Bilbao, Contemporary Art Museum Gas Natural Unión Fenosa of A Coruña, Pontevedra Museum, Art Centre of Alcobendas, Galician Centre of Modern Art and Museum of Galician People both in Santiago de Compostela, in addition to 4 years as an educator artist in residence with his own workshop of Espacio Rojo in CA2M, Art Center Dos De Mayo de Mostoles in Madrid.

As a trainer, he has conducted training sessions on art-based methodologies, mediation or intercultural education in Europe (Slovenia, Greece, Spain)

## GUIDO LANZANI

Guido Lanzani is an executive in charge of the Operational Unit that deals with air quality monitoring in Arpa Lombardia, Italy.

He applies his expertise on meteorology to collaborate with NAHR in communicating the atmospheric conditions of Val Taleggio and its effects on the natural and cultural ecosystems.

## EFI KYPRIANIDOU

Dr. Efi Kyprianidou is an Assistant Professor in Philosophy and Art Theory at the Department of Fine Arts of the Cyprus Technological University. Her main research areas are Philosophy of Art, Aesthetics, and Arts Management. She has published papers in reviews and books, and she is editor of the volumes *Weaving Culture in Europe* (Nissos, 2017) and *The Art of Compassion* (Nissos, 2019). Currently she co-edits the book *Empathy and the Aesthetic Mind: Perspectives on Fiction and Beyond* with K. Bantinaki and F. Vassiliou (Bloomsbury, forthcoming). She has also curated art exhibitions in Cyprus, Greece, Germany and Great Britain, and she is the scientific consultant and head curator of the Virtual Museum of Modern and Contemporary Cypriot Art.

## ILARIA MAZZOLENI

Ilaria Mazzoleni is an architect, educator, author, and NAHR Founder. Her conceptual work in the fields of sustainable architecture and biomimicry has been published internationally. Prior to CalPoly Pomona, Mazzoleni was faculty member at the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) and CalArts in Los Angeles. Mazzoleni's research focuses on biomimicry, where innovation in architecture and design is inspired by the processes and functions of nature. Mazzoleni has authored and published the book *Architecture Follows Nature - Biomimetic Principles for Innovative Design* (CRC Press, 2013).

# SPEAKER BIOS

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## SUSANNA RAVELLI

Susanna Ravelli is a culture and contemporary art project manager working between Milan and Cremona, Italy. She has expertise in capacity building, negotiation and participatory approaches connected with water-landscape development planning and sustainable strategies.

## ROXANNE KORDA

Roxanne Korda is an opera singer, librettist and researcher based in Birmingham, UK.

Her work explores presenting new opera, on esoteric subject matter, in unique spaces, to different audiences. She co-founded the company Infinite Opera in 2018.

## OLIVER FARROW

Oliver Farrow is a composer, sound designer & performer for film, theatre and media. He has composed an ultraviolet opera set in the soil, a verbatim play connecting the lives of gay men in Birmingham and South Africa, and an award winning short film. He also co-founded the theatre company Shaky Crown Collective.

## SARA INVERNIZZI

Sara Invernizzi is a museographer and writer living in the Italian Orobie Prealps. Invernizzi collaborates with the Consortium for the Protection of Strachitunt Valtaleggio and has been a member of the scientific committee of the Ca' Marti Museum since 2020. Sara is an associate of NAHR and coordinates several of the onsite activities and the relations with the local public governing agencies.

## STEFANO TORRIANI

Stefano Torriani has been a nature illustrator for over forty years. He lives and works in San Pellegrino Terme, in the Brembana Valley (Bergamo). His passion for the nature of the Orobie Alps, which he constantly visits, has led him to only depict local flora and fauna, which he can observe directly, and he exclusively uses coloured pencils on paper. He has produced several monographic publications, exhibitions and has numerous collaborations with National parks and protected areas, where he also holds drawing and science dissemination courses.



# ARTIST BIOS

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## ANA PEČAR

Ana Pečar's video-based practice revolves around intangible, subtle, yet expressive scenes of nature. Spanning installations, photographs and ambient interventions, Pečar works to offer contemplative spaces, buffered from the outer fast pace world.

## ANDRIA ZACHARIOU

Andria Zachariou is a recent graduate from the Fine and Applied Arts program at Cyprus University of Technology (CUT). She presented her work in Cyprus through group exhibitions. In 2022, she did an Erasmus exchange in Facultad de Bellas Artes, Granada, Spain.

## KAJA RACUSCEK

Kaja Rakušček graduated from the University of Ljubljana with a degree in English Language and Literature. She is active in the fields of filmmaking, volunteering and poetry.

## LEA PETROU

Lea Petrou studied at Chelsea College, received a BA in Fine Art from Central St. Martins College, and a Masters in Sculpture from Royal College of Art, in London. Currently she is a PhD student at Athens School of Fine Art.

## JEFF HANCOCK & STUDENTS

Jeff Hancock, MFA, works with time, space, fabric, and other humans to design and co-construct performance, education, movement, and clothing to move in, centering improvisational practices around emergence. He is an Associate Professor at the School of communication at Northwestern University, USA.

Ariana Ferguson studies Dance and Art, Theory and Practice at Northwestern University. She's a dancer/choreographer/improviser in varying dance styles, the Artistic Director for her college dance troupe, and is interested in embodied movement research.

Rowan McCloskey is a dancer, researcher, and university student studying dance, political science, and computer science. He likes to explore the relationship between somatic experiencing and dance.

Sophie Teitler is a dancer currently attending Northwestern University. She is interested in the mind-body connection in dance practice and how that translates to human connection, healing, and the creative process.

## MIRIAN KOLEV

Mirian Kolev is a musician, composer and multidisciplinary artist, who lives in the Mountain of Bulgaria and works in experimental, electroacoustic, ambient, improvisational music sphere and sound art. He is also doing collaborative shows and projects with other musicians, visual artists, dancers, performers and composing music for art installations, videos and dance performances.



**EMPACT**

## **END OF PROGRAMME**

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