



Theunis Karelse

MFA Fine Arts

24-10-1974

theun@fo.am

🐦 @theunk

//theunkarelse.net

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education:

St. Joost Graphic Arts, Breda, NL

Sandberg Institute Autonomous Arts, Amsterdam, NL

Grants:

2001 Startstipendium, Fonds BKVB

2007 Basisstipendium, Fonds BKVB

2013 Basisstipendium, Mondriaan Fonds

2017 Werkbijdrage Bewezen Talent, Mondriaan Fonds

Honours:

2011 Prix Ars Electronica, Honourable Mention
in category Digital Communities for *Boskoi*

Affiliations:

2004 to present core-member of FoAM Brussels

2005 to present co-founder core-member of FoAM Amsterdam

2014 to present founder of MidWest Experimental Station

2018 to present board member of Embassy of the Earth

2018 Design for non-humans

Guest teacher during a course led by Kelvin Godee at HKU Product Design and Interior Design.

role: guest-teacher

Nov 2018 - HKU, Utrecht, The Netherlands



Fieldguide to Random Forests

Research publication (120pages) for the Random Forests programme with essays and other contributions by: Nik Gaffney, Maja Kuzmanovic, Driessens/Verstappen, Ian Ingram, Antti Tenetz, Tivon Rice, Michelle Gerearts, Wilfried Houjebek, Klaas Kuitenbrouwer, Sjef van Gaalen, Jeroen van Westen, Jan de Graaf & Jacqueline Heerema.

role: writer, editor, designer

Oct 2018 - Electriciteitsfabriek, Den Haag, The Netherlands

seminar: Environmental Literacy

A closing seminar for the Random Forest programme during the Climate as Artifact exhibition exploring environmental literacy and fieldwork for humans and machines.

role: organiser, host, presenter

Oct 2018 - Electriciteitsfabriek, Den Haag, The Netherlands

Equinix Walk

An excursion to the Equinix AM3 datacenter at SciencePark in Amsterdam exploring the materiality (architecture and infrastructure) for algorithms. In collaboration with Arita Baaijens and her Paradijs in de Polder project.

role: host, presenter

Oct 2018 - SciencePark, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

FoAM retreat 2018

A FoAM network retreat with all the 5 current studios and Open Studio public presentation.

role: participant

Sep 2018 - FoAM Kernow, Falmouth, United Kingdom

Terrafiction

Participation in narrative worldbuilding workshop exploring cultural narratives as preludes to terraforming.

role: participant

Sep 2018 - Fiber Festival, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Rainforest Restoration

Documentary/ research trip to rainforest regenerators in Kerala and reforestation practitioners in Coorg.

role: initiator, interviewer, cameraman, editor

Sep 2018 - GB Sanctuary, Kerala, India

{un}[split] Micro Performance and Macro Matters

A series of guest-performances during this festival, performing '10.000 Peacock Feathers in Foaming Acid' with Evelina Domnitch and Dmitry Gelfand within the Sphaerae multidome inflatable pavilion.

role: Sphaerae host, guest-performer

Aug 2018 - Muffatwerk, Munchen, Germany

MAAJAAM, Wild Bits

Participant in this two week residency ending with a two day festival.

role: participant

Jul 2018 - MAAJAAM, Estonia

International Earth Trusteeship Gathering

Presentation during one day conference outlining the case for environmental guidelines for artificial intelligence.

role: participant, presenter

Jun 2018 - Vreedehuis, Den Haag, The Netherlands

The North Sea Embassy Lab

A one day lab during BorderSessions festival, hosted in collaboration with Thijs Middeldorp and Saar van Blaaderen of the Parliament of Things.

role: co-host

Jun 2018 - BorderKitchen, Den Haag, The Netherlands

Autonomous Agents for Regenerative Ecologies

A one day lab during BorderSessions festival, hosted in collaboration with Klaas Kuitenbrouwer and Sjef van Gaalen.

role: organiser, co-host

Jun 2018 - GreySpace, Den Haag, The Netherlands

Machine Wilderness workshop Ian Ingram

A Machine Wilderness workshop by Ian Ingram on animal gestures, mechatronics and machine learning.

role: organiser, co-host

Jun 2018 - Glazenhuis, Amstelpark, Amsterdam

Machine Wilderness youth workshop Ian Ingram

A Machine Wilderness workshop for youngsters by Ian Ingram on animal gestures, machine gestures and multispecies interactions.

role: organiser

May 2018 - Glazenhuis, Amstelpark, Amsterdam

Machine Wilderness workshop Rihards Vitols

A Machine Wilderness workshop by Rihards Vitols on bioacoustics and communication among crows.

role: organiser

May 2018 - Glazenhuis, Amstelpark, Amsterdam

Machine Wilderness exhibition

A Machine Wilderness exhibition and residency program with Ian Ingram, Rihards Vitols, Jip van Leeuwenstein, Driessens/Verstappen.

role: organiser, host

May 2018 - Glazenhuis, Amstelpark, Amsterdam

2017

Random Forests @ Ars Bioarctica

An eight day Random Forests fieldworksession with Ian Ingram, Antti Tenetz, Shah Selbe, Theun Karelse.

role: organiser, host, participant

May 2018 - Kilpisjarvi Biological Station, Finland

Random Forests @ Terschelling

A five day Random Forests fieldworksession with Jan de Graaf, Jeroen van Westen, Theun Karelse, Michelle Geraerts, Sjef van Gaalen, Sander Turnhout, Paul Seidler, Tivon Rice.

role: organiser, host

Mar 2018 - Imrama, Terschelling, Netherlands

NRC debate Kunstmens

NRC debate on what light art and literature can shine on new relations between the artificial and the natural

role: presenter

Mar 2018 - Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Machine Wilderness @ PiNG

A three day Machine Wilderness workshop with participants from the PlateformeC hacklab community and students for the Beaux-Arts academy.

role: workshop leader

Dec 2017 - Association PiNG, Nantes, France

Artificial Ecologies

A presentation of Machine Wilderness research with Alice Smits and Ivan Henriques and exploration of the Venice Lagoon with local partners for future fieldwork.

role: organiser, presenter, participant

Oct 2017 - MicroClima, Venice, Italy

Ecological robotics, biopolitics and creative practice

Migrating Art Academies (MigAA) residency based on my Machine Wilderness programme. Organised by Vilnius Academy of Arts in collaboration with Allenheads Contemporary Arts and Institutio media.

role: presenter, participant

Sep 2017 - Nida Art Colony, Nida, Lithuania

Terra2 conference

Kick-off meeting bringing together Dutch initiatives in restoration ecology from cultural, science and financial sectors and government.

role: participator

Jun 2017 - Iona Stichting, Amsterdam, Netherlands

CIBAP lecture

Lecture at CIBAP college in Zwolle about project Machine Wilderness and ecosystem restoration.

role: presenter

Apr 2017 - CIBAP, Zwolle, Netherlands

Cultures of Machine Participation workshop

Participation in the workshop at the research group for the design of information systems (DESIGN) at the University of Oslo (UiO)

role: participant in panel, workshop organiser / leader

Apr 2017 - Department of Informatics UiO, Oslo, Norway

Rainforest Restoration

Documentary/ research trip to rainforest and sustainable agriculture practitioners.

role: initiator, interviewer, cameraman, editor

Mar 2017 - GB Sanctuary, Kerala, India

2016

Machine Wilderness @ Transmediale

Participation in the panel 'Becoming Earth: Engineering Symbiotic Futures', and a Machine Wilderness workshop which looked at the phenology of local animals around the Haus Der Kulture Der Welt as a source for designing technology for that biome.

role: participant in panel, workshop organiser / leader

Feb 2017 - Haus Der Kulture Der Welt, Berlin, Germany

Le vide et la lumière

Le vide et la lumière (Void and Light) is an exhibition of the installation works by Synergetica - Evelina Domnitch and Dmitry Gelfand - with large-scale commissioned works by Cocky Eek and Theun Karelse, and numerous collaborations with Synergetica associates: Paul Prudence, Jean-Marc Chomaz, Alexander Miltsen, Richard Chartier and Erik Werner.

role: participant, technical designer

Oct/Dec 2016 - Le Lieu Unique, Nantes, France

Machine Wilderness @ Victoria and Albert museum

A Machine Wilderness session during the Digital Design weekend in the museum garden of the Victoria and Albert museum. We'll show various prototypes made within the Machine Wilderness program, and host hands-on sessions building and releasing wilderness machines in the garden. Participants include: artist Ian Ingram, behavioural ecologist Matthew Creasey, designer Paloma Torres and artist/naturalist Antti Tenetz.

role: participant, curator, co-host with Alice Smits

Sep 2016 - V&A, London, United Kingdom

Machine Wilderness @ Pixelache Festival

Theun invited Clemens Driessen to collaborate on a Machine Wilderness fieldwork session during Pixelache festival exploring urban mixed zones in Helsinki to prototype technological interventions for wild animals to navigate the local Anthropocenic landscapes. The session is designed with Scott Smith, who works with governments, companies and institutes to redefine futures.

role: co-host with Clemens Driessen

Sep 2016 - Pixelache, Helsinki, Finland

Field Robotics Finland

Fieldwork in the Finnish Arctic circle at Kilpisjärvi Biological Research Station as part of the Ars Bioarctica residency program, Theun assembled an expert team with artist/naturalist Antti Tenetz and the Los Angeles based artist Ian Ingram who builds robots that try to communicate with wild animals. The team worked on integrating robotics into the local ecosystem, specifically to contact crows, to hunt like the local hawks and to disperse seeds like the local reindeer.

role: initiator, host, participant, cameraman

Jul 2016 - Finnish Society For Bioart, Kilpisjärvi, Finland

Futures Workshop World Government Summit 2017

Theun participated in a workshop for the Museum of the Future, an initiative by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum of the United Arab Emirates, that explores the future of science, technology and innovation. This workshop led by Noah Raford and Scott Smith aimed to come up with an outline for the exhibition that will present the museum at the World Government Summit in 2017.

role: participant

Jun 2016 - Tellart, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Experimental Station West

A 500m² urban experimental station, with orchard and greenhouse. Until the early nineties such (agricultural) research facilities existed as a public service. The goal of the Experimental Station West is to explore what such a station could mean in a present-day / urban context as a platform for urban restoration ecology, rewilding and artistic experimentation.

role: initiator, curator

Jun 2016 - MidWest, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Design Kwartier festival - Doggerland Clock

Presentation of *Doggerland Clock* a time-based work, built in collaboration with instrument maker Edwin Dieperink, exploring ways in which fossils can be 'activated' in stead of conserved. In this case the process of decay of a tusk of a juvenile mammoth is used to create an alternative method of measuring the passage of time.

role: presenter, participant

May 2016 - Archaeology Department, The Hague, Netherlands

Aromatopes workshop

This was a spin-off event organised by Judith van der Elst, continuing the work started during the Forest Bathing workshop. Theun hosted a Machine Wilderness design session.

role: presenter, participant

May 2016 - Montefeltro, Italy

Symbiotic Systems workshop

Invited Ivan Henriques to host a workshop in the Machine Wilderness program about integrating technological systems into complex ecosystems, using biomes in the Amstelpark as case studies. Included a session about dye-sensitized solar cells made with locally sourced pigments from plants in the park, i.a.w. Vincent Friebe of Laser Lab Amsterdam of the VU.

role: initiator, organiser with Alice Smits

Apr 2016 - Zone2Source, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Forest Bathing workshop

Organising a workshop in the Machine Wilderness programme lead by anthropologist Judith van der Elst about human technologies as agents in biosemiotics.

role: initiator, organiser with Alice Smits

Apr 2016 - Zone2Source, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Rainforest Restoration

Research trip to rainforest ecosystem restoration experts, with video interviews.

role: initiator, interviewer, cameraman, editor

Feb 2016 - GB Sanctuary, Kerala, India



WMMNA interview

Interview for WeMakeMoneyNotArt website on invitation by Regine Debatty.

role: presentation of work

Feb 2016 - WMMNA, Web

2015 Indigenous Climate Dialogue COP21

Alternative Climate ceremonial conference with elders of indigenous peoples and restoration ecology advocates such as Rex Wyler (co-founder Greenpeace) and John Liu (documentary maker).

role: participant

Dec 2015 - Chateau Millemont, Paris, France

Field Robotics Cornwall

A workshop in the Machine Wilderness programme in association with FoAM Kernow.

role: initiator, organiser, presenter, host

Nov 2015 - Falmouth, Cornwall, United Kingdom

Machine Wilderness symposium

Opening symposium of the programme with keynotespeakers:

Prof. Dr. Gusz Eiben (AI at VU), Prof. Em. Petran Kockelkoren (UTwente)

presenters: Dr Erik de Jong (Artis Academy) Ivan Henriques (artist), Anouk Visser (TUdelft)

Xavier San Giorgi (landscape architect), Ir Paul Roncken (WUR), Špela Petrič (artist)

Kenzo Kusuda (choreographer), Judith ven der Elst (anthropologist).

role: initiator, organizer, co-host with Alice Smits

Nov 2015 - Artis Royal Zoo, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Renewable Futures symposium

Conference presentation of the Machine Wilderness / FieldRobotics projects.

role: presenter

Oct 2015 - RIXc, Riga, Estonia

Field_Notes / HYBRID Matters

Fieldtrip in the Finnish Arctic circle at Kilpisjärvi Biological Research Station as part of the 'encounters in a layered landscape' - team lead by Antti Tenetz

role: participant

Sep 2015 - Finnish Society For Bioart, Kilpisjärvi, Finland

Inter Format symposium

Symposium on art, ecology and time at Nida Art Colony

role: presentation of work

Aug 2015 - Nida Art Colony, Neringa, Lithuania

CURVE at Boulevard festival

A 1600m² inflatable double spiral space designed by Cocky Eek as a collaborative production with Schweigman&

role: technical design and engineering

Aug 2015 - De Boulevard, Den Bosch, The Netherlands

Default Ireland

A three week nomadic art and media expedition following a straight line across Ireland from the North to the South coast, with a team of creative practitioners.

role: co-organizer, team-member

Jul 2015 - Nadine, Ireland

Sphaerae at EAPlab

An experimental programme of performances, compositions and installations made for the Sphaerae multidome inflatable pavilion by artists working with sound, light. In collaboration with iinitiative.

role: organiser, engineer

Jun 2015 - EAPlab, The Hague, Netherlands

Machine Wilderness

A discussion and prototyping platform investigating the role of technology in landscapes, with a particular focus on environmental robotics. Currently the technologies, systems and infrastructures in our landscapes are anthropocentric. Machine Wilderness explores what these technologies and design methods would look like if they were designed inclusive of the entire living landscape. FieldRobotics is a special series of expeditions within the programme taking specific locations in Europe as the starting point for the design process. In collaboration with Alice Smits of Zone2Source, artist Ivan Henriques and anthropologist Judith van der Elst.

role: initiator, curator, organizer, presenter, lead-designer

May 2015 - Amsterdam, Netherlands



Next Doggerland

A closing essay on cutting edge trends in ecology and bioarts, combining the two connected coastal residencies; in nov/dec 2013 at Nida Art Colony, Lithuania and in nov/dec 2014 at the Sandmotor hosted by Satteliëtgroup.

role: artist, researcher, writer, graphic designer

Mar 2015 - Satteliëtgroep, the Hague, Netherlands

Cultural Geology

An expedition onto the Sandmotor and presentation of ice-age fossil remains found on the Sandmotor during my residency, made into an amazing Mammoth broth by experimental cook Sjim Hendrix.

role: presenter

Mar 2015 - Satteliëtgroep, the Hague, Netherlands

Natural History

An essay written on invitation of L.A. artist Jeff Cain for his exhibition catalogue, and a talk



at the closing conference of his project investigating 3D printing and ecology.
role: writer, presenter

Mar 2015 - Cerritos College Art Galery, Los Angeles, California

2014

Badgast at the Sandmotor

A two month artist in residence at the Sandmotor, an 52 million ton temporary artificial island on the coast near The Hague.

role: researcher

Nov 2014 - Satellietgroep, the Hague, Netherlands

AxS festival

An experimental programme of performances, compositions and installations made for the Sphaerae multidome inflatable pavilion by artists working with sound, light during the AxS festival. The line-up of artists was made in collaboration with Evelina Domnitch and Dmitry Gelfand of Portable Palace.

role: initiator, host, production

Sep 2014 - Pasadena Arts Council, Pasadena, California

Gogbot festival

An experimental programme of performances, compositions and installations made for the Sphaerae multidome inflatable pavilion by artists working with sound, light during the Gogbot festival. The line-up of artists was made in collaboration with Evelina Domnitch and Dmitry Gelfand of Portable Palace.

role: initiator, host, production

Aug 2014 - Planetart, Enschede, Netherlands

Posedy, hunters and animal paths

Part of the Laboratory In The Open Field programme, participation in a workshop on hunting towers and landscape practices.

role: participant

Jun 2014 - YoYo, Hranice, Czech Republic

Designing Scarcity exhibition

A presentation within the exhibition of the Boskoi open source wild plant foraging programme. Boskoi was in 2010 the worlds first smartphone app connected to nature.

role: group exhibition

May 2014 - Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Techno-Ecologies symposium

Symposium participation and presentation on art and ecology.

Feb 2014 - Nida Art Colony, Neringa, Lithuania

Midwest Experimental Station

A 800m2 urban outdoor lab for field-experiments in art, urban ecology and restoration ecology in Amsterdam West.

role: initiator, lead researcher

Jan 2014 - Midwest, Amsterdam, Netherlands

De Groene Stad

A talk on urban wildfood sources and project Boskoi.

role: presenter

Jan 2014 - Zone2Source, Amsterdam, Netherlands

River of Herbs

A talk on urban wildfood sources and project Boskoi.

role: presenter

Jan 2014 - Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam, Netherlands