



Derik-Baegert-Gesellschaft e.V.  
Schloss Ringenberg  
Schlossstr. 8 | D 46499 Hamminkeln  
+49 2852 9229 | schloss-ringenberg.de  
kunst@schloss-ringenberg.de  
plugin-project.com  
IBAN DE5835650000000320200  
SWIFT-BIC WELADED1WES  
Tax 130 5995 0723

## Resilience and Adaptation | plugin conference at Schloss Ringenberg

12th April 2018, 14.00 - 17.30

organized by Alexandra Landré

On April 12th Schloss Ringenberg will organize a plugin 'conference' on economic practices in the visual arts. For this third edition, the focus will lie on forms of resilience and adaptation that artists employ to react on the constant changing economic environment. Four Dutch guest speakers – Gabriel Lester, Diana Scherer, Peter van der Es & Adam Nillissen – will give an insight into their own method of adaptation, influenced by economic challenges, interdisciplinarity and new forms of collaboration. In this way the plugin 'conference' intends to open up the discussion on economic models in the arts and how they are applied in real life.

### Program\_

14.00 welcome and Introduction  
14.15 Presentation Gabriel Lester  
14.45 Q & A  
15.00 Presentation Diana Scherer  
15.30 Q & A  
15.45 Break  
16.00 Presentation UNFAIR | Peter van der Es & Adam Nillissen  
16.30 Q&A | Followed by final discussion  
17.30 Drinks  
18.00 Dinner

### Speakers\_

#### #1 Gabriel Lester

'My artwork, films and installations originate from a desire to tell stories and construct environments that support these stories or propose their own narrative interpretation. In early years this led to writing prose and composing electronic music. Later, after studying cinema and eventually fine arts, my artworks became what could be typified as cinematographic, without necessarily employing film or video. Like cinema, my practice has come to embrace all imaginable media and occupy both time and space. The artworks propose a tension span and are either implicitly narrative, explicitly visual or both at once. These artworks seldom convey any explicit message or singular idea, but rather propose ways to relate to the world, how it is presented and what mechanisms and components constitute our perception and understanding of it.'

- Gabriel Lester -

Lester's practice has always characterized itself by entering into partnerships with experts in other fields. In some cases, this means a shared authorship in which different disciplines together come to an end product. In other cases, this means that different parties fill in each independent component within a situation. Appealing examples of collaborations are the refurbishment of North Delegates Lounge in the United Nations building in New York where Lester was part of the team with Rem Koolhaas, Irma Boom, Louise Schouwenberg, and Irma Boom; design for 65 slow traffic bridges in collaboration with Monadnock architects from Rotterdam; design post office with Jennifer Tee and Richard Niessen; Big Bang Pang in the museum of Steven Hol and the Funenpark together with Landlab landscape architects.

Gabriel Lester was born in Amsterdam in 1972, where he currently lives and works. His oeuvre consists of installations, performances and film / video art. In addition, he commissioned art projects in the public space and is active as an inventor, film director, teacher and author. Initially, Lester concentrated on prose and electronic music. After his study as a filmmaker and visual artist, his work became cinematographic, without always making use of film or video. His art encompasses and uses all conceivable media. Currently, Lester is mainly engaged in international projects, including several solo exhibitions, two new feature films, sculptures for the public space and architectural projects. He also holds lectures and teaches

## #2 Diana Scherer

'In my work I explore the relationship man has with his natural environment and his desire to control nature. For the past few years my fascination has mainly been focused on the dynamics of belowground plant parts. I've been captivated by the root system, with its hidden, underground processes; it is considered to be the brain of the plant by plant neurobiologists. Charles Darwin was the first to watch the behavior of plant roots. In his book *The Power of Movements of Plants*, he describes how roots do not passively grow down, but move and observe. A root navigates, knows what's up and down, observes gravity and localizes moisture and chemicals. Darwin discovered that plants are a lot more intelligent, than everybody thought. For contemporary botanists, this buried matter is still a wondrous land. There is a global investigation to discover this hidden world. I also want to explore it and apply the 'intelligence' of plants in my work.'

- Diana Scherer-

Diana Scherer's initial fascination with plant roots and following inquiry has shaped her artistic practice into an in-depth research on a new kind of material. She combines different patterns from a variety of sources and incorporates them into a transdisciplinary project. Throughout her practice, Diana Scherer collaborates with biologists and ecologists from the Radboud University in Nijmegen in her research. In addition to the important function that has roots in the storage of greenhouse gases, the scientific interest was also awakened by the project's potential to actually develop a material that combines its favorable ecological properties with a new method of natural production. With botanist Gerard van der Weerden, Scherer looks at possibilities to grow a complete garment under the ground. And in a next step we try to eliminate the potting soil from the process by growing the roots in hydroponics. Experiments with the roots of other plant species such as bulrush (water purifying) and astelia (methane filtering) are still at a premature stage.

Ideally, artist Diana Scherer works with grain, and more specifically with the rapidly growing wrestling system that characterizes this crop. By allowing the grain to grow and on a subterranean template, it can manipulate root growth in such a way that 'woven' or 'braided' patterns arise. Scherer derives the inspiration for these patterns from the geometric structures of cell structures, snowflakes or shells. Her fascination with the material has led to the appointment as New Material Fellow in 2017, an innovation grant that is supported by a het Nieuwe Instituut, Stichting Doen en Fonds Kwadraat. Scherer contributes to several conferences and expert meetings and her work is featured in numerous publications. Her work has been shown in a great number of international exhibitions and presentations, amongst which New Orleans Museum of Art, Pratt Institute New York, Design Week Jerusalem, Wageningen University and European Ceramic Workcenter (EKWC).

## #3 Peter van der Es & Adam Nillissen | UNFAIR Amsterdam

'(...) UNFAIR departs from a realistic insight in market structures, without compromising artistic autonomy.'

Daan Gielis, artist, participant 2016-

'UNFAIR is one of the most fun art fairs in the Netherlands; authentic, reasonably priced, fresh, open and sympathetic. (...) A real treat for collectors and enthusiasts of good contemporary art.'

Jop Ubbens, director Christie's Nederland -

UNFAIR Amsterdam was born in 2012 as an artist's run platform with the aim to create collaborations, build links, curate and promote the artists of a new generation. The initial idea of UNFAIR was born out of a period of austerity due to fundamental budget cuts in the cultural sector. What can we do ourselves, faced with these challenges, to improve the cultural infrastructure? And what about the way emerging artists are able to work together? These were the questions that guided the founding partners Peter van der Es and Adam Nillissen in establishing UNFAIR Platform. Since its first event in 2013 and three successful art fairs later, UNFAIR Amsterdam has grown into a functioning space for curating and stimulating various projects, events and collaborations for artists. The organization has worked with over 100 artists and shown 750 individual pieces of art in more than 12 events and 20 programs.

Peter van der Es is visual artist and founding director of UNFAIR. After graduating from Aki ArtEZ, Van der Es has participated in numerous solo and group shows, like *The Gelderland Biennale 2014*, *Kunsthal KaDe Amsersfoort*, *Galerie Bart* and *Polderlicht*. In 2013 he was Dutch artist in residence at *Schloss Ringenberg*. Parallel to his artistic Practice van der Es is also affiliated advisor to the *Mondriaan Foundation*. Peter van der Es is based in Amsterdam

Adam Nillissen is visual artist and founding director of Unfair. Nillissen also graduated from Aki ArtEZ and has participated in a variety of (inter-)national exhibitions, like *OUT Now festival*, *Bremen*, *Hollanda Monumental*, *Sao Paulo* and *Media Art Festival Friesland*.