



ŽIVOTNÍ PROSTŘEDÍ A UDRŽITELNÝ ROZVOJ V KULTUŘE, UMĚNÍ A VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ  
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CULTURE, ART AND EDUCATION

**How to tackle global (environmental) problems  
with imagination, beauty and creativity?**



Participatory art & education can play a powerful role in addressing some of the world's biggest challenges today. It can be a tool not only to raise awareness of issues, but also to engage people in collective action, create hope and foster new collaborations between sectors.

How can participatory art contribute to social change, help combat eco-anxiety and climate fatalism and how can collaboration with other domains be encouraged?



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# Participatory art as a tool to address global problems (more than 'art for art's sake')

Participatory art goes beyond the idea of 'art for art's sake' because it is not just aesthetic or expressive but can actually bring about social and ecological change. It encourages an artistic attitude of openness, reflection and sensitivity, which fosters dialogue and shared exploration of issues like social justice, climate change and biodiversity.

Art can connect people on both local and global levels through shared experiences and goals, which is crucial in tackling issues such as inequality, climate change and biodiversity loss.



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An example of this is art being used in community projects where citizens collaborate on a common creative goal. This can be a social process where people come together to generate solutions, such as creating green roofs, bee-friendly neighbourhoods (*Silence of the Bees*), climate-adaptive streets (*KLIMARE:PAIR*), new lighting plans for their village to promote biodiversity (*DARKER SKY*), or other ecological initiatives that directly contribute to





# SILENCE OF THE BEES



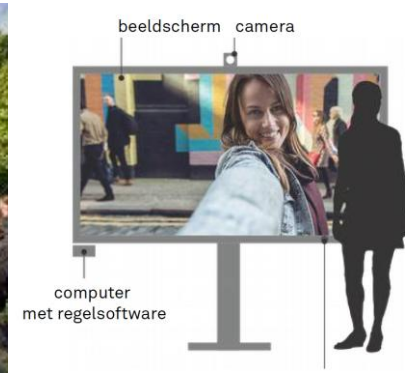
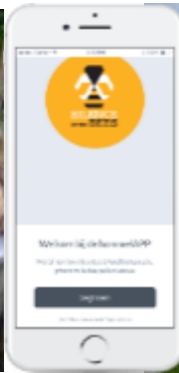
The project Silence of the Bees (SotB) was one of the main program components of LF2018.

## B-R(H)APSODIE - (B-RAP)

Awareness through 'inspiration & creation, facts & knowledge'. Change through stimulation of innovation and action. Silence of the Bees does this with the help of image and language, in music and art, in culture and science.

The B-RAP project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the INTERREG V A-Program Deutschland-Nederland and by the Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Bundes- und Europaangelegenheiten und Regionale Entwicklung and the Province of Fryslân.

**Citizen Science / Biophilia triggering / Oratorio / Bumblebee Rhapsody / Fenster zum Nachbarn / BIJENPACT / B-Aware**







Buitenpost, Oldenburg and Emden have a tourist attraction thanks to Silence of the Bees: The Oratorio, a sculpture in which visitors are immersed in music generated by bees. The Oratorios are connected to each other via a web application.



Oldenburg University and VHL Leeuwarden worked in collaboration with the Dutch Centre for Bee Research, Ökowerk Emden and IMME Bourtanger Moor together with a unique "Citizen Science" project. Children, young people, teachers & their own bumblebee colonies in the Ems-Dollard region were deployed to collect data and raise awareness. This data was uploaded by the 'young researchers' via the Inspektor B App. The sounds of their bumblebee colonies were also recorded. In collaboration with students from M.A. for Pop Culture (Leeuwarden), Institut für Musik (Oldenburg) and everyone involved, a Bumblebee Rhapsody was composed that was performed simultaneously on 21 June 2018 by local orchestras. The concerts in Buitenpost, Oldenburg and Emden were connected via a satellite connection and could be followed on all locations via large screens.





# The Path of Poetry Ökowerk Emden

Culture in Nature & Science

Article in the local newspaper  
Overwhelming response:

Participation of more than  
100 citizens.

Proposal of more than  
1.400 poems.

First selection of 85 poems.

Second selection by three  
persons (only 10 out of 85).

Outcome: 26 poems and  
aphorisms.







# The Reflection Pool - Nature, Culture & Science Conference

(Sept. 2018)

*"Look deep, deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."*

(Albert Einstein)

Under the guidance of poet Jan Kleefstra and painter Christiaan Kuitwaard, about 90 Frisians designed their ideal landscape. In the end, 'BIJENPACTS' (Bee Deals) were devised for large organisations and governments. In the meantime, 41 Bee Deals have already been signed, which collectively makes an enormous contribution to the Frisian biodiversity.





# Fostering collaboration between participatory art and other sectors

For participatory art to be effective in domains like climate change and biodiversity, collaboration between artists, scientists, policymakers, activists and communities is essential. An artistic attitude that embraces co-creation and cross-disciplinary dialogue can help bridge these sectors, allowing art to serve as a tool to make scientific data or policy goals more tangible.

For instance, policymakers could integrate art into public initiatives to encourage community involvement, while businesses could partner with artists to explore sustainable practices through creative projects.

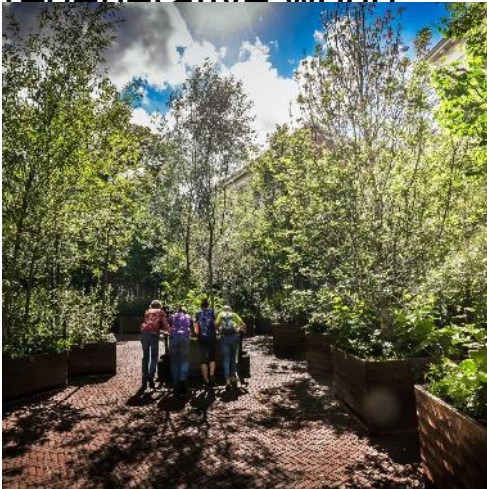


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# Participatory art and combating eco-anxiety and climate fatalism

Eco-anxiety and climate fatalism are emotional reactions to the bleak prospects of climate change, where people feel powerless or overwhelmed. Participatory art, grounded in the artistic attitude of imagination and empathy, can help restore hope by encouraging positive, active engagement. It fosters collective resilience by providing a sense of community, offering spaces to mourn ecological loss and inspiring new ways of thinking about sustainable futures.

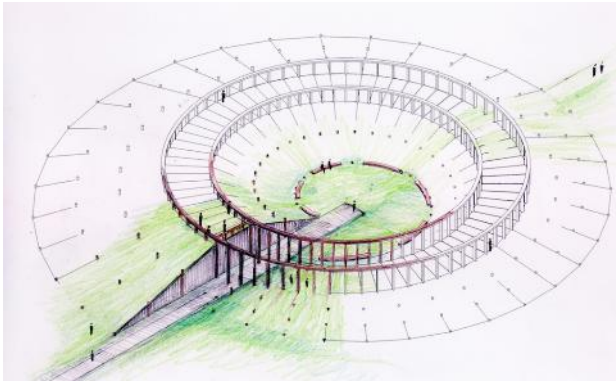
Through creative processes, participants can reclaim a sense of agency, reducing feelings of helplessness and building a shared vision for a more sustainable - or better - a regenerative world.



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Participatory art, shaped by the artistic attitude, has the potential to go beyond aesthetic expression by actively contributing to the solution of global problems like climate change and biodiversity loss. By fostering collaboration across domains and promoting hope, resilience and collective action, participatory art becomes a powerful tool for social and ecological transformation.





# Thank you!



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