

/ SUMMER LAB'12
ART, CLIMATE CHANGE AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

/ IMAGINE 2020.

/ TRANSFORMA
/ TORRES VEDRAS, PORTUGAL
/ 05-09.SET.2012

CONFERENCE

5th Septembre'12 [Wednesday]
06.00pm > 06.15pm _ Welcome
06.15pm > 08.00pm _ CONFERENCE
09:00pm - 11:00pm _ Dinner (Hotel Império)

Luís Firmo (PT) + ANA PACHECO (PT) _ WELCOME
Theresa von Wuthenau (DE/FR) – IMAGINE 2020 – ART AND CLIMATE
Filipe Duarte Santos (PT) – CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Nancy Duxbury (CA/PT) – CITIES, CULTURES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Theresa von Wuthenau (DE/FR)
IMAGINE 2020 – ART AND CLIMATE

Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. For the eleven arts organisations making up the IMAGINE 2020 – Art and Climate Change network, 2020 is a realistic date to work towards for making changes necessary to stabilise the climate and secure a sustainable future.

“Artists of every kind have one overriding moral duty, which is to do their work as well as possible. But since that work partly consists of responding to what the world itself is up to, it would be strange if the best work being produced didn't take some account, in some way, of what's happening to our climate. Art is not only about beauty; sometimes it has to warn.” – Philip Pullman, novelist

What role can the cultural sector play in the necessary transition process, to drastically reduce carbon emissions, to mitigate climate change and increase resilience to the effects of peak oil? Artists traditionally confront issues of such societal importance head on and often act as a catalyst for societal change. Art, as Philip Pullman puts it, is about beauty, but sometimes it has to warn. Can it do both? And more? These are questions for the IMAGINE 2020 network members. They share a sense of responsibility to rise to the challenge and want to use their passion, their expertise, and their connections within the art world and beyond to engage the European cultural sector and use its creative potential to raise awareness, involving the general public both as audience and as participants. Art should provide a physical and imaginary space where people can take a step back, away from the corporate, the commercial and the educational, to exchange and engage with each other. It can address and involve more targeted audiences, such as young people, in playful yet serious ways. And above all it can create a positive energy and momentum for change through a sense of common purpose and hope.

(www.imagine2020.eu/)

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Filipe Duarte Santos (PT)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There are currently several signs of unsustainability of the contemporary development paradigm based on an intensive use of natural resources, especially energy, and unlimited growth of the economy. There will be an analysis of these unsustainabilities which include energy, water, food security, biodiversity and climate change. There will also be a brief analysis of the issue of climate change in Portugal in the various socio-economic sectors, impacts, vulnerabilities and mitigation and adaptation measures. Examples will be given of integrated and multi-sectorial strategy development of adaptation to climate change in Portuguese Municipalities, including Sintra and Cascais.

(www.sim.ul.pt)

Nancy Duxbury (CA/PT) –

CITIES, CULTURES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Since the turn of the new millennium, cities and communities have been at the heart of initiatives to include culture in sustainability planning and policy discussions. These efforts are linked to the rise of an emergent 'four-pillar' model of sustainability, informed by UNESCO's statements on the contributions of cultural diversity to sustainable development, the recovery of historical and culture-specific approaches and worldviews, and local-level community development trends. Operationally, this new paradigm is being advanced through a wide range of grassroots, varied, and experimental initiatives, rooted in a pervasive and heightened concern for grassroots public participation. Complementing these efforts, the United Cities and Local Governments organization is advocating for 'culture as the fourth pillar of sustainability' at an international level. Nonetheless, conceptual uncertainties and operational bottlenecks present challenges to meaningfully incorporate culture within sustainability discussions and planning, and to position culture as an agent in community resiliency and transition. The work continues ...

(<http://coimbra.academia.edu/NancyDuxbury>)