

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

## SILKE RIIS

I am pretty anxious about being an artist of the early 21st century. The future seems like a dystopia that has already arrived, yet our global crisis is so normalised that it is almost boring to talk about. How do I make art in a world that is dying? To answer this question I had to realise that its statement is wrong: The world isn't dying, we are. And with us die all the myths and rules we have created. This leaves space for new questions: How do I produce art for (and as) a dying species, and what will come after us? I speculate about futures without me, creating models of imagined species from a world without anthropocentric necropolitics. I get inspired by the already otherworldly: Rainforest plants, marine invertebrates, mould formations, as well as mythologies, paracosms and science fiction. I want to represent and reflect the fragility of life and the ecosystems that make our world, so I treat my art as bouquets of flowers. There is an unspoken consensus about their premise: When a flower is picked its transformation begins, where it will undeniably go from vibrant and perky to decaying and brown. Knowing this, I will pick it for its beauty anyway, buying front-row tickets to a slow performance piece on decomposition. This is represented in my main choice of materials, liquid latex and unfired clay; The tears of the trees and the flesh of the Earth. With these two components I have developed a sculptural technique that is ephemeral and alive, slowly changing over the years much like myself. I think nothing should last forever. Not bouquets of flowers, nor my artworks. Being from the 21st century, their aesthetic memories will be immortalised through the lens of my phone and the pixels on a screen, but their smell, their touch, the way the light and shadow played on their skin will only be remembered by those who experienced them. I make art for an uncertain future by making art with an uncertain future.

## WEBSITES

Personal website

[silkeriis.com](https://silkeriis.com)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

[instagram.com/silke.riis](https://instagram.com/silke.riis)

## EDUCATION

- 2023 - midseason program, 2023 Groningen, HET
- 2024 RESORT
- 2019 - BA Fine Arts Den Haag, Koninklijke
- 2023 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten
- 2018 - Art folk high school Kunsthøjskolen i
- 2019 Holbæk

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Unter und unter uns Maerz Galerie  
Linz, Austria Group show that was part

## INTERNATIONAL

## EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

	of the first ever Klimabiennale Wien ("Climate Biennale Vienna"), which had a focus on climate change. <a href="http://www.maerz.at/event/unter-und-unter-uns-klimabiennale-wien/">www.maerz.at/event/unter-und-unter-uns-klimabiennale-wien/</a> Group	2024	Self-organised Tokyo, Japan A 5 week self-organised research trip to Tokyo, Japan. Researching plant life in urban space, futurism, japanese post-atomic bomb art, and ceramics.
2024	Long grass, short lives (A recipe for clumping) ATV Piccardthof (via het resort) Groningen, Netherlands Our group show that marked the end of our 2 week residency in the community garden ATV Piccardthof in Groningen. The artworks and exhibition concept was developed there, and the show was on for a week, following the garden's opening hours (from sunrise til sunset). My work was a site-specific installation on the trees in the apple orchard, and it is still on view there until September 2024. <a href="http://www.hetresort.nl/midseason-23.html">www.hetresort.nl/midseason-23.html</a> Group	2022	Die Angewandte Vienna, Austria Exchange semester in the Site-Specific Art Department
2024	The Bredase Garden of Earthly Delights - Searching for the balance of things Stedelijk Museum Breda Breda, Netherlands A group show inspired by Bosch's "Garden of Earthly Delights", bringing the painting to life in 4 different public gardens of Breda. <a href="http://kop.nu/agenda/tuinderlusten/">kop.nu/agenda/tuinderlusten/</a> Group		
2024	BEERS 9 - Unge kunstnere på kro Byens Kro Copenhagen, Denmark Group show at the legendary anti-establishment art venue, "Byens Kro" in the heart of Copenhagen Group		
2023	Konvooi Festival, 2023 Het Entrepot Bruges, Belgium Art and performance festival taking place in the harbour of Bruges and in Het Entrepot <a href="http://konvooifestival.be/">konvooifestival.be/</a> Group		
2023	Nomadic exhibition Reading Room Rotterdam x Ijskast Rotterdam, Netherlands De Ijskast and Reading Room hosted 24 artists inside the RRR bakfiets along with some featured books from the collection. The tour included stops at Rib, Depot, Melly and Piet Zwart. I contributed with a functional ceramic whistle, inspired by		

the classic Danish “piv-i-røv-fløjte”, which directly translates to “toot-in-the-ass-whistle”.

[www.instagram.com/p/CwhgEvjonGY/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/CwhgEvjonGY/?img_index=1)

Group

- 2023 Museumnacht Den Haag Amare The Hague, Netherlands I represented KABK Fine Arts Department together with fellow alumna Obbe van der Weide at Amare

Group

- 2023 Manifestations Dutch Design Week Eindhoven, Netherlands Showed my installation "Shadow Dwellers" at Manifestations in the Veem building, Strijp-S, of DDW

[ddw.nl/en/programme/11021/shadow-dwellers](https://ddw.nl/en/programme/11021/shadow-dwellers)

Group

- 2023 Wat denk je Zelf? Mediamatic Amsterdam, Netherlands During Museum Night 2023 (Saturday, November 4), Mediamatic will transform into a living self-test street. Based on about 12 art projects, you can research questions such as: How different am I and do I want to belong somewhere? No problem; there is also a bar for normal people!

[www.mediamatic.net/nl/page/389888/wat-denk-je-zelf](https://www.mediamatic.net/nl/page/389888/wat-denk-je-zelf)

Group

- 2023 Hybrid Realms Trixie The Hague, Netherlands Tissues consisting of plant fibers, human and non/more-than-human hybrids forming to sustain life and plants overtaking environments, the works in Hybrid Realms are reacting to ecological shifts, mirrors common sci-fi motifs. Due to environmental changes these futures are closer than we often realize. The exhibition delves into the thematic exploration of biomorphic forms and an inward contemplation of materiality, uniting the practices of diverse artists. In the exhibition space their different methods of approaching the subject of human and non human life forms relationships and how they could intertwine are in dialogue with each other. The artists invite the viewer to

perceive the interconnectivity of structure and identity of the human form in relation to its ecosystem in an open-ended manner. Hybrid Realms prompts us to ponder the ambiguous space in which we, along with all other life forms, exist—a realm between rigid categories.

[www.trixieth Hague.nl/news/hybrid-realms-group-exhibition/](http://www.trixieth Hague.nl/news/hybrid-realms-group-exhibition/)  
Group

- 2023     Some Breathe Through Their Butts  
Mediamatic Amsterdam, Netherlands  
For Mediamatic Silke has transformed two bathrooms into curious habitats for cucumber-shaped creatures that visitors are invited to experience in the privacy of a toilet visit. The installation draws inspiration from cucumber curvatures and the fascinating life of sea cucumbers and their poop.  
[www.mediamatic.net/en/page/389850/some-breathe-through-their-butts](http://www.mediamatic.net/en/page/389850/some-breathe-through-their-butts)  
Solo

- 2023     Fever Festival The Grey Space in the  
Middle Den Haag, Netherlands Art  
exhibition and festival.  
[www.instagram.com/fevrfestival/](http://www.instagram.com/fevrfestival/)  
Group

- 2023     POP UP Festival Højbro Plads (public  
space) Copenhagen, Denmark Art  
festival taking place in different public  
spaces in Copenhagen. [www.popup-arts.com/festival](http://www.popup-arts.com/festival)  
Group

- 2023     KABK Grad Show The Royal Academy  
of Art The Hague Den Haag,  
Netherlands Graduation show from  
KABK [graduation.kabk.nl/](http://graduation.kabk.nl/)  
Group

- 2022     Three Birds, No Stone Verheeskade /  
7aak Den Haag, Netherlands Pre-Grad  
show, organised with my graduating  
class  
Group

- 2022     An Evening with the Shadow Barth  
Kapel Den Haag, Netherlands An  
evening event of experimental dinner,  
performance, and installation, paying  
tribute to "the shadow"  
[silkeriis.com/An-evening-with-the-](http://silkeriis.com/An-evening-with-the-)

[shadow](#)  
Group

2022 Garden of Stars III Ketelstraat studios / garden Den Haag, Netherlands Sculpture garden / exhibition, arranged by Shani Leseman in the 750m2 garden behind her studio at Ketelstraat 23

Group

2022 Wissen Der Stadt Public space Vienna, Austria Part of Angewandte Festival 2022

[www.angewandtefestival.at/2022](http://www.angewandtefestival.at/2022)

Group

2022 The Blue Hour Society Paulusplatz Gallery Vienna, Austria Exhibition showing the results of our futuristic archaeology work as an experimental art group

Group

2021 Far Closer Page Not Found Den Haag, Netherlands Window exhibition during covid [page-not-found.nl/2021/02/25/far-closer-exhibition/](https://page-not-found.nl/2021/02/25/far-closer-exhibition/)

Group

2020 SHOWCASE Heden Gallery Den Haag, Netherlands Window exhibition during covid, Heden paired up KABK students with artists from their collection

[www.instagram.com/p/CKi431jlqD2/?img\\_index=4](https://www.instagram.com/p/CKi431jlqD2/?img_index=4)

Group

## COMMISSIONS

-- Some Breathe Through Their Butts Mediamatic Amsterdam, Netherlands I was commissioned by Mediamatic to make an installation in two of their bathrooms. I had complete creative freedom but had to make sure the bathrooms could still be functional (e.g. able to get cleaned and accessed with a wheelchair). They wanted me to include pieces with my clay-naturelatex technique too. This resulted in my installation "Some Breathe Through Their Butts" which explores the

## SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2023 Moltke-Leth Copenhagen / Tisvildeleje, Denmark A private collection by Edit Moltke-Leth, supporting contemporary young artists. She acquired my sculpture "Stipe Stalker", which funded my graduation project

potential hybrid habitat of cucumbers and sea cucumbers, inspired by the fascinating lives of the two namesake species.

[www.mediamatic.net/en/page/389850/some-breathe-through-their-butts](http://www.mediamatic.net/en/page/389850/some-breathe-through-their-butts) finished

## PUBLICATIONS

2023 180, No.3, Strategies Book pressure press Frederic Maier and Juri Groß (with various artists) Berlin, Germany 180 is a collaborative book project where Frederic Maier and Juri Groß invite different artists to interpret a theme/topic in 24 hours. The concept began last year as a way to connect different young european artists, and so the book is spread all over Europe. It is always printed in an edition of 180. I was invited to join issue No. 3, with the theme "strategies". The book will most likely be available at Page Not Found this autumn.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

2023 Manifestations Young Talent Award Dutch Design Week, Eindhoven Eindhoven, Netherlands Nominated for Manifestations Young Talent Award at Dutch Design Week 2023

2023 Stroom Young Talent Award (sinds 2004) Stroom, Den Haag The Hague, Netherlands I received this award for my graduation project at KABK Grad Show 2023, and will start my mentor program with Mickey Yang in September.

## SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2024 - -- Artist talk about my artistic practice and my installation "Some Breathe Through Their Butts" at Mediamatic, Amsterdam

2022 - I gave a workshop called "Flexible Sculptures", teaching my sculptural technique to students at Academie voor Theater en Dans, Amsterdam





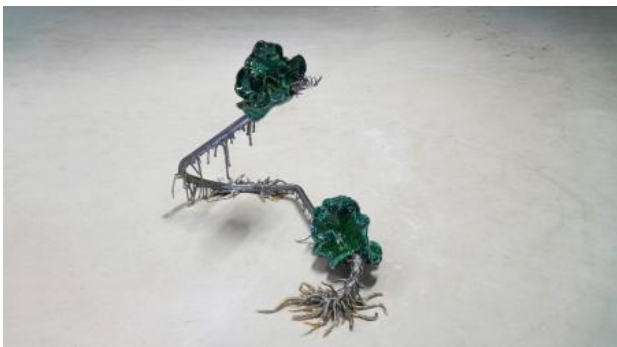
Birds! Birds! Birds! (To Everything There is a Season),  
2024  
Ceramics, bird seeds, Various



This Year Taught Me Something About Roots and  
Mortality, 2023  
Discarded steel tube, nature latex, clay, metallic pigment,  
ceramic glaze and dried sea lavender , 40 x 17 x 55 cm



Friendly Giant Hogweed or Momentary Protection of  
Defense Mechanisms / Momentary Protection against  
Rain, Sunshine, and Hail, 2023  
Drenthe clay, giant hogweed



Hybrid Realms, 2023



This Year Taught Me Something About Roots and Mortality, 2023

Discarded steel tube, nature latex, clay, metallic pigment, ceramic glaze and dried sea lavender, 40 x 17 x 55 cm



Corpse Flower, 2023  
Clay, glaze, nature latex



Some Breathe Through Their Butts, 2023  
Full room multimedia installation in 2 functioning bathrooms; Clay, nature latex, steel, wire, ceramic glaze, pigment, aquariums, aquarium pumps, 3 x 1 x 3,5 m



Some Breathe Through Their Butts, 2023  
Full room multimedia installation in 2 functioning  
bathrooms; Clay, naturelatex, steel, wire, ceramic glaze,  
pigment, aquariums, aquarium pumps, 3 x 3 x 3,5 m



Some Breathe Through Their Butts, 2023  
Clay, naturelatex, aquarium, ceramic glaze, 25 x 30 x 20  
cm



Some Breathe Through Their Butts, 2023  
Clay, naturelatex, aquarium, ceramic glaze, 40 x 40 x 40  
cm