

CARMEN DRAXLER

Carmen Draxler is a visual researcher and designer with a deep conviction for collective repair. Her practice moves between art and design to tell affective stories that critically investigate the entanglements of coloniality, capital, and climate change. Through visual research, performance, and collective practices she engages with climate emotions, feminist ecology and the impacts of oil infrastructure. She researches the alienating causes and conditions of the Anthropocene and uses visual storytelling figures that challenge dominant narratives to create spaces for meaningful connection and radical care. She is part and co-founder of the research-based artistic collective TogetherTogether. She is an alumni of Non-linear Narrative at the KABK in The Hague and holds a bachelor's degree in Visual Communication from Bauhaus University in Weimar. She has studied and worked in Germany, Canada and The Netherlands.

WEBSITES

Research-based artistic collective on the intersecion of visual art, performance, and social work, driven by the need of resisting the alienation of living in an individualistic society.

togethertogether.space/

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/silberring/

www.linkedin.com/in/carmen-draxler-174333298/

MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

TogetherTogether Collective

MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

Typografische Gesellschaft München

EDUCATION

2025 - Choreography School for New Dance
2025 Development

2023 - Non-linear Narrative Den Haag,
2025 Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende
Kunsten diploma

2020 - Performance and Design Concordia
2021 University Montreal

2018 - Visual Communication Bauhaus
2023 University Weimar diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2025 Graduation Show 2025 Royal Academy of Arts The Hague, Netherlands During the graduation show 2025, a spatial installation, performance, video essay, and workshops presented the research project »Practical proposals of what-might-be« on collectivity, interdependence, and suspension. It was the first time a collective of five graduates presented one unique graduation work at KABK.
graduation.kabk.nl/2025/carmen-draxler-Group

2024 Archival F(r)ictions National Archive The Hague, Netherlands Group exhibition showing archival research projects that trace, question and shift colonial narratives encoded in maps and cartography.
»Mother-of-Oil« was presented as lecture

- performance and auditive installation.
 Collaboration with Nationaal Archief, Den Haag.
issuu.com/kabk/docs/_unmapping_territories_-_master_non_linear_narrat
 Group
- 2024 On Sustainability and Regenerative Education Royal Academy of Arts The Hague, Netherlands
 Group
- 2024 Undercover Royal Academy of Arts The Hague, Netherlands Group show in the framework of the Second General Assembly at KABK, presenting the lecture performance »Mother-of-Oil« and material samples of plant dyes. Students, management and staff gathered to discuss the responsibility of artistic practices in times of multiple crises, demanding institutional commitment to ecological care.
 Group
- 2024 Conference on lichenology Havraníky, Czech Republic Group show on the socio-political effects of (technological) infrastructures. Exploring journalistic methods to visually research carbon migration, the auditive spatial installation »Unearthed« critically traced corporate narratives around climate solutions.
 Group
- 2023 Entanglements T12 Weimar, Germany Solo exhibition presenting the design research project »Entanglements« on ecological grief and lichen. The exhibition hosted fluorescent lichen prints in a dark room, a stone carving showcasing a symbiotic typeface, process pieces, and presentations.
 Solo
- 2022 Growing Materials University Library Weimar, Germany
 Group
- 2022 Den Haag Public Space Weimar, Germany Solo exhibition presenting 10 typographic posters in public space that challenge prejudices against gender-sensitive language. The interactive installation empowers people to actively confront linguistic discrimination and shows that it is in our hands to change language. Collaboration with Diversity Office,

PROJECTS

- 2025 Practical Proposals of What-Might-Be Royal Academy of the Art, The Hague Practical Proposals of What-Might-Be, Netherlands graduation.kabk.nl/2025/carmen-draxler As artists and researchers, we are often asked to define an individual practice. But what happens when the practice is collective? »Practical proposals of what-might-be« responds to a society shaped by modernity and coloniality, where individualism is prioritized. In this context, coming together is a politicized experience for which we propose a language that suspends our belief and involvement in exploitative structures. The project exhibits an ongoing research into collective care through public gatherings and interventions, and unfolds in three interconnected pieces, a site-specific installation, a performance and a video essay. This project is both a proposal and a question: a space where we suspend productivism, reclaim agency, imagine futures, and ask what if? Collective work of TogetherTogether.
- 2025 Collective Repair—Stitching a Social Fabric of Care Royal Academy of the Art, The Hague The Hague, Netherlands [2024](#) »Stitching a Social Fabric of Care« is master thesis about collective repair as a form of community care. In conversation with repairers from Spinozahof and the Feminist Needlework Party, I researched the character of the social relations that emerge from the manual act of repairing objects together, expanding the notion of repair beyond the material layer. Through recorded conversations and feminist theories, I describe collective repair as an ethical framework of care and examine its potential to bridge difference, social alienation and polarization by building

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

- 2024 Floating University Berlin Berlin, Germany Artistic residency within the second round of the »Free Radicals« programme at the open-air Floating Learnscapes. Directed towards self-organised student groups to implement interdisciplinary practices or research outside the walls of institution, and engage with pressing matters of our times: notions of ecologies, solidarity, political and social engagement as well as care for ourselves and our surroundings. Participated as part of Strudeling Collective. floating-berlin.org/programmes/learnscapes/ls-24/free-radicals-2024/
- 2024 Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes Colditz, Germany Summer school in literature and sociology researching »The Improbability of the End«. We address the social and aesthetic issues of endings, closures and cessations that have been at the heart of the crises of recent years: Think of the »end« of the pandemic, capitalism and globalization as well as the inevitable depletion of natural resources. Using current and historical examples, we research the question of why it is easy to see the beginning of things, and harder to see the ends.
- 2023 BlackStar Studios Inveremere, Canada Worked as graphic designer and sales manager for the gallery and art studio BlackStars.
- 2022 Burg Giebichenstein <https://www.burg-halle.de/artikel/a/artistic-research-forschen-an-dingen>, Germany Residency on design and artistic research. Artistic research assigns an immanent knowledge to the world of things, whether everyday objects or works of art. In the work group on »The knowledge of things« facilitated by Anja Neidhardt we ask if design products are also traces of cognitive processes. What then is the role of design research? How

lasting connections and encouraging embodied learning. Collective repair contributes to sustainable, self-organized communities as it fosters mutual support and reclaims participation which challenges hierarchical structures and envisions care as a central organizing principle in society; gesturing towards commoning. The thesis is accompanied by an audio piece documenting the recorded conversations, and a series of photographs zooming-in on the manual labour and collective care of repair.

does a research-oriented design practice expand traditional paradigms in design? Can critical design research bring emancipatory potential to the design museum? www.burg-halle.de/artikel/a/artistic-research-forschen-an-dingen

2024 Mother-of-Oil Nationaal Archief The Hague, Netherlands »Mother-of-Oil« is a research project that traces the colonial roots of the Dutch-British oil company Shell. By following the stories of seashells from Indonesia, the audio-visual installation displays a relational map of archival material that reveals Shell's entanglement with the Dutch East India Company (VOC). Like tulips, seashells were highly coveted commodities in the 17th century that captivated many wealthy Europeans and became a symbol of power and prestige—a symbol that is now the logo of the global oil empire Shell. Before extracting oil, Shell's predecessors sold trinket boxes adorned with seashells from the Indo-Pacific. By reimagining a seashell box as carrier bag for displaced landscapes and distorted images, »Mother-of-Oil« seeks to disrupt colonial narratives and highlight how the commodification of marine life became a template for fossil capitalism. The work is activated through lecture performance.

2024 How on Earth?! European Space Agency The Hague, Netherlands By floating in water, we invite astronauts and space dreamers to drift beyond the constraints of colonial imagination. The video work extends a call to the European Space Agency (ESA) to join us in a pool where floating becomes a method for caring space ethics—as a chance to reimagine our place in the cosmos and build futures on more humble and caring relations. Through performance, movement and

conversation, floating and weightlessness, we seek to escape the technological imaginary that have shaped the planetary and extraterrestrial exploration. The video work experiments with storytelling for a feminist speculative fiction of space. It is a reminder that space is not a blank canvas for human ambition but a shared environment. The video work was developed during the Moonshot '24 programme of ESA to propose a workshop on space ethics with astronauts for the next ASE Planetary Gathering. Collective work of the AstroHydroFeministSuperWitches.

2024 Uearthed Royal Academy of the Art, The Hague The Hague, Netherlands
With »Uearthed« we look at the Dutch geoengineering project PORTHOS at the Port of Rotterdam. As a quick-fix for climate change, existing oil pipelines are currently transformed into an infrastructure to compress carbon emissions from port industries into the sandstone of depleted oil fields offshore. This technology is known as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Regarded as an inevitable tool by the Dutch government to meet national climate goals, we ask who really profits from this expensive and short-lived technology. To bring the capitalist agenda of the project into view, »Uearthed« maps the public discourse around CCS and gives voice to the more-than-human realm. On a site of speculative archeology, visitors can listen to the stories of three future fossils that challenge human exceptionalism and surface our deep entanglements with the North Sea. Collective work with Laura Flethe.

2023 Entanglements Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany »Entanglements« is a design research project that aims to visualise the climate emotion of ecological grief. To understand the complex grief experienced in response to environmental losses, »Entanglements« looks at the remarkable life of lichen, offering inspiring teachings of the possibility of species coexisting symbiotically on a

damaged planet. The parallels between lichen and ecological grief offer an emotional approach to the climate crisis and reveal new scopes for action. On this journey into a new epoch☒, the Symbiocene, we are accompanied by the eco-psychological reader »Kriecht« that serves as an experimental toolkit to understand climate emotions. Additionally to the reader, the research project encompasses a workshop, a process book, the typeface »Graphis Scripta« presented on stone and biofluorescent prints—all of which was brought together in a solo exhibition.

PUBLICATIONS

2025 Graphis Scripta Book Slanted Publishers Scholarship for students in the fields of Art Karlsruhe, Germany www.slanted.de/product/slanted-experimental-type-3-0/

REVIEWS

2021 Student's Public Poster Installation Highlights Gender-Inclusive Language Website Weimar, Germany www.uni-weimar.de/en/university/structure/central-university-facilities/equal-opportunity-office/newsletter-archive/texte-newsletter/summaery-2021-students-public-poster-installation-highlights-gender-inclusive-language/

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2023 Scholarship for students in the fields of Art Stipendium der Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes Weimar, Germany Scholarship that supported artistic practice throughout education

2020 Mobility-enhancing scholarship DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service Weimar, Germany Grant that supported a half year academic exchange to Canada



Whispering bodies: scores for the we, 2025



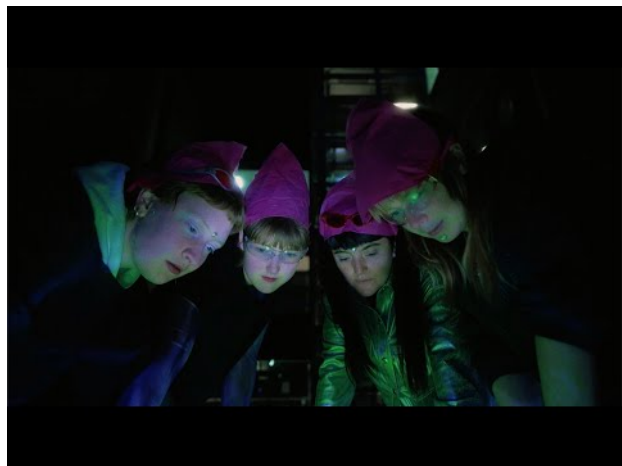
Risking entanglement, 2025



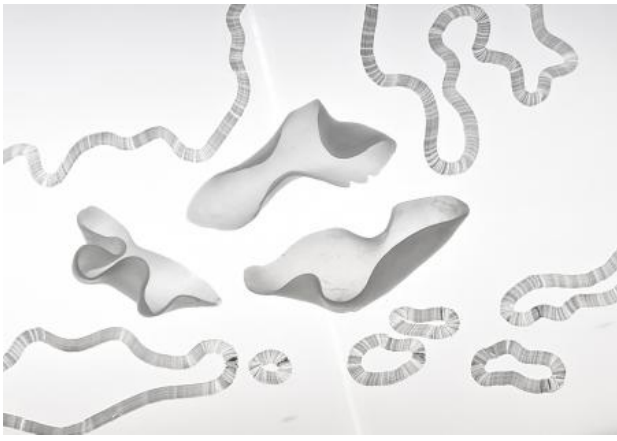
Garden of suspension, 2025



Whispering bodies: scores for the we, 2025



How on Earth?!, 2024
3 min



Mother-of-Oil, 2024
Shells made from wax



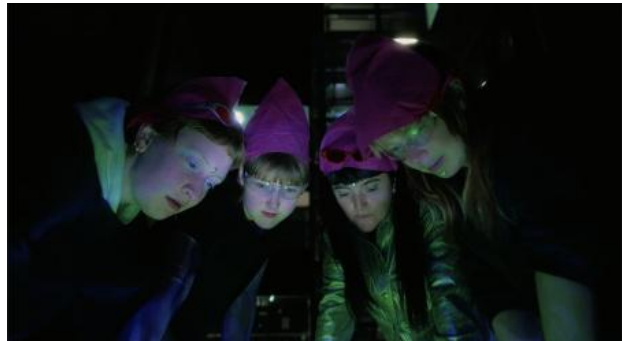
Mother-of-Oil, 2024



Mother-of-Oil, 2024



How on Earth?!, 2024



How on Earth?!, 2024