

EcoArtLab
Bern Academy of the Arts
NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark
Institute of Eternal Utopias

Wednesday, 22 April 2026
17:00 – 19:00 Auditorium
Bern Academy of the Arts
Fellerstrasse 11, 3018 Bern

SHAPING UTOPIAS

Methods & Practices of Art, Activism, and Climate Research

*Interviews of the Dreamers
Reflections on the Transdisciplinary EcoArtLab Collaboration*

How do artists, activists, and researchers collaborate through different practices to create utopias? The *Institute of Eternal Utopias* will take you on a twisted lecture that blends academic reflection with performative and embodied modes of presentation. Sharing an alchemical transformation on how we could look at the world, it will introduce you to their work, or will it unfold as a dream?

Emmeline Werner, Mads Kjærgaard
Lange & Annika Nilsson
activists and artists, NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark

Asgar Hougaard
external lecturer, University of Copenhagen

This event will elaborate on the motivations, frames, and actions of the *Institute for Eternal Utopias*. It will also reflect on the participatory action research process led by PhD researcher Johanna Paschen and share initial insights from multiple perspectives. The presentation will evolve into an open discussion, inviting collective reflection and dialogue.

Moderation: Johanna Paschen
researcher, EcoArtLab, University of Bern & Bern Academy of the Arts (HKB)

Host: EcoArtLab, IPTK

*Talk will be in English | Further questions on accessibility:
thubten.shonsthang@hkb.bfh.ch*

A photograph of a dried plant specimen, possibly a grass or reed, with several long, thin stems. Some stems are green, while others are brown and dried. The plant is positioned on the left side of the page, with its roots visible at the bottom left. The stems curve and cross each other across the page.

The SNSF-funded research project *Relational Encounters between the Arts and Climate Research* examined the collaborative working process between artists, activists, and researchers. Through participatory action research, the research focused on practices and forms of methodological integration within transdisciplinary collaboration with the artists and activists as co-researchers.

The *Institute of Eternal Utopias* is a space where artists and activists meet to process, digest, perform and reflect on utopias. It takes its roots in the Danish environmental organisation NOAH (part of the Friends of the Earth network) and employs activism as a method and tool to share visions and embody the change it seeks in the world. Combining ecofeminist approaches with the praxis of ecological care, the initiative originated to gather people's dreams and bring them to the European Union, transforming our relationship to politics by 'wearing the costume of power' as we would like it to be: soft, flowery, supportive and in solidarity. The Institute aims to be a sense-based, meditative and collaborative laboratory for inspiration, dreams, hope, togetherness, and cultivating tasty and sensory alternatives.

