



CONVERSATIONS TO REDRESS A FASHION DISASTER

DECOLONIAL CRITIQUES TO FASHION'S CLIMATE URGENCY RESPONSE

4 NOVEMBER 2019

[RESEARCH COLLECTIVE FOR DECOLONIZING FASHION](#)

[JAN VAN EYCK ACADEMY MAASTRICHT](#)

PROGRAMME

9:30 COFFEE

10:00 **WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE CLIMATE URGENCY INTENSIVE**
BY HICHAM KHALIDI

10:10 **CONVERSATION: EVERYTHING HAS TO CHANGE – WHY DECOLONISE FASHION?**
MODERATED BY HICHAM KHALIDI

Like everything else, fashion is at an unprecedented, critical juncture. The exploitation of nature and marginalization of people, upon which capitalism is constructed, must be replaced with the recognition of common humanity and unity with nature: caring and respect. For fashion, the recognition that all peoples, everywhere and through time, have always had dynamic clothing systems, has magnificent transformative potential, as needed to address climate change.

11:00 **IN CONVERSATION WITH... [BOBBINE BERDEN](#) ON SCARY SALES – HOW MUCH ARE YOU WORTH?**
MODERATED BY TOBY SLADE

In response to Bobbine Berden's installation 'Scary Sales – How Much Are You Worth?', this conversation explores the moral and economic ideas that the work addresses. Is our economic system based on planned obsolescence? Are we all born consumers? How do we determine value? How much are we worth?

OR

[IARTS](#) FASHION LAB

BY IARTS SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

After a series of conversations with RCDF members Sandra Niessen and Angela Jansen, iArts second year studentsⁱ have created a series of 'artistic experiments' in response to some of RCDF's research topics. Rethinking these topics does not only require the mind, but also the body and a creative spirit! Participants are invited to shake off their comfort zone and join the Lab.

11:30 **CONVERSATION: CAN (FASHION) EDUCATION BE DECOLONIAL?**
MODERATED BY SANDRA NIESSEN

How is current fashion education colonial and what would decolonial fashion look like? Conventional fashion education operates hand in glove with the fashion industry. Participants in this conversation will explore how revisioned, decolonial fashion education can facilitate a more sustainable and broad perception and practice of fashion, to render the industry of the future fair and sustainable.

12:30 **LUNCH**

13:30 **CONVERSATION: WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF LUXURY?**
MODERATED BY TOBY SLADE

As well as the centralized exploitation of resources, moving wealth from colony to metropole, the colonial model also propagates hierarchical systems of knowledge and taste; defining which objects are to be regarded as valuable and luxurious. In addressing fashion's contribution to the climate urgency, not only does the supply side, of global labour exploitation, environmentally destructive textiles, and designer education need to be changed but also the colonially structured desire for luxury in each of us. This conversation will explore what a truly decolonialized luxury fashion would look like.

14:30 **IN CONVERSATION WITH... [ELISA VAN JOOLEN](#) ON PORTAL**
MODERATED BY SANDRA NIESSEN

In response to Elisa van Joolen's ongoing project PORTAL, this conversation offers a 'window' onto the complex relations that we have with our clothes. The artist will explain the evolution of her work and participants will have an opportunity to explore the 'climate' implications of her 'Portal'.

OR

IARTS FASHION LAB
BY IARTS SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

15:00 **CONVERSATION: WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL OF THE DIGITAL FOR (FASHION) CURATION?**
MODERATED BY ERICA DE GREEF

This conversation takes as its starting point a [digital exhibition](#) showcasing the work of seventeen emerging international fashion designers so as to consider and explore both the decolonial potential for fashion from previously marginalised fashion cultures, and the decolonial aesthetics and practices of these designers' curated spaces within the colonial setting of London's Somerset House.

16:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

16:30 **IN CONVERSATION WITH... [ISABELLA DE ANGELIS](#) & [ISOBEL DYSON](#) ON THE GENTRIFICATION OF SUSTAINABILITY'**
MODERATED BY ERICA DE GREEF

In response to the artistic project 'The Gentrification of Sustainability,' that investigates the state of an increasingly 'sustainable' fashion industry, this conversation aims to stimulate discussions around 'what does sustainability mean, particularly within fashion?' And how can we stop it from becoming another product that turns into waste?

OR

IARTS FASHION LAB

BY IARTS SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

17:00 FINAL CONVERSATION: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

MODERATED BY TOBY SLADE

This final conversation of the day aims to draw some conclusions and pull together the various tangents of thought into considerations for future conversations and future action. What are the conceptual and structural changes that need to be made? What organisations should we join? Where are our energies best spent? What research still needs to be done? Can a vision for a sustainable, decolonialised future be realised in fashion before it is too late?

18:00 DINNER

19:00 FILM SCREENING

[THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING](#), (2015; 90 MIN) BY NAOMI KLEIN AND AVI LEWIS

IN THE HALLWAY LEADING INTO THE AUDITORIUM

SCARY SALES - HOW MUCH ARE YOU WORTH? BY BOBBINE BERDEN

THE GENTRIFICATION OF SUSTAINABILITY BY ISABELLA DE ANGELIS & ISOBEL DYSON

PORTAL BY ELISA VAN JOOLEN

IN THE RESTAURANT

SHORT FILM SCREENINGS:

1. DICHOTOMY (2018)
2. COKE THREDS (2019)
3. DUST TO DUST (2012)
4. XINGELENGELE (2017)
5. DREAMING (2018)

SHORT DOCUMENTARY SCREENINGS:

6. MADE IN FORESTS (2018)
7. FASHIONING RESPECT IN BOLIVIA'S INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL CLOTHING (2018)
8. NAOMI KLEIN: CAPITALISM AND THE CLIMATE (2015)
9. THE LAST WEAVER (2015)

IN THE MEETING ROOM (OPPOSITE THE AUDITORIUM)

IARTS FASHION LAB

ⁱ IARTS MAASTRICHT IS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS BACHELOR PROGRAM THAT TRAINS STUDENTS TO USE ARTISTIC METHODS TO ENGAGE WITH SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIETAL ISSUES IN THE WORLD OF TODAY. IARTS IS PART OF HOGESCHOOL ZUYD.