

Cultural Creative Spaces & Cities

spacesandciti

Commons Sense: Let's Create a Bottom-Up European Democracy

Digital Co-Creation Lab
29-30 June 2020



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union



Co-Creation Lab Proposal

Challenge Nr 3:

Building spaces of encounter between local and EU level

Team 11:

Spiritual Commoning

Names of team members:

Michael Dobbie

Sonya Armaghanyan

Evan Reinhold

Marije Nie

Mateja Stanislava Rot



Unknown Directions: the Spiritual Commons



Context and Perspective:

The commons can often seem like an ambiguous, even abstract idea. Yet they somehow hold the potential to contain all of who we are, how we relate and interact with one another...as humans, as Europeans...reaching through all levels of self and society....

our proposal is a direction for collective research and prototyping...

Spaces of Encounter are social labs which will contain these questions for us. Places able to host this process of realisation and awareness within our various communities. The public imagination must be engaged in these spaces. They need to remain flexible and adaptable to suit the needs of the moment and time, wherever needed... Spaces of listening, witnessing and practice or prototyping of relevant, new hybrid social forms. These are spaces of social innovation that must somehow engage at all levels. This is the creative process that must somehow be democratised for all to take part. This is our future together that must discover...not just by the experts...let's simply learn to experiment, to fail as needed without regret. Let us learn how to learn together, to start somewhere, to begin as we can.



do we need further thought into collective spiritual commons?

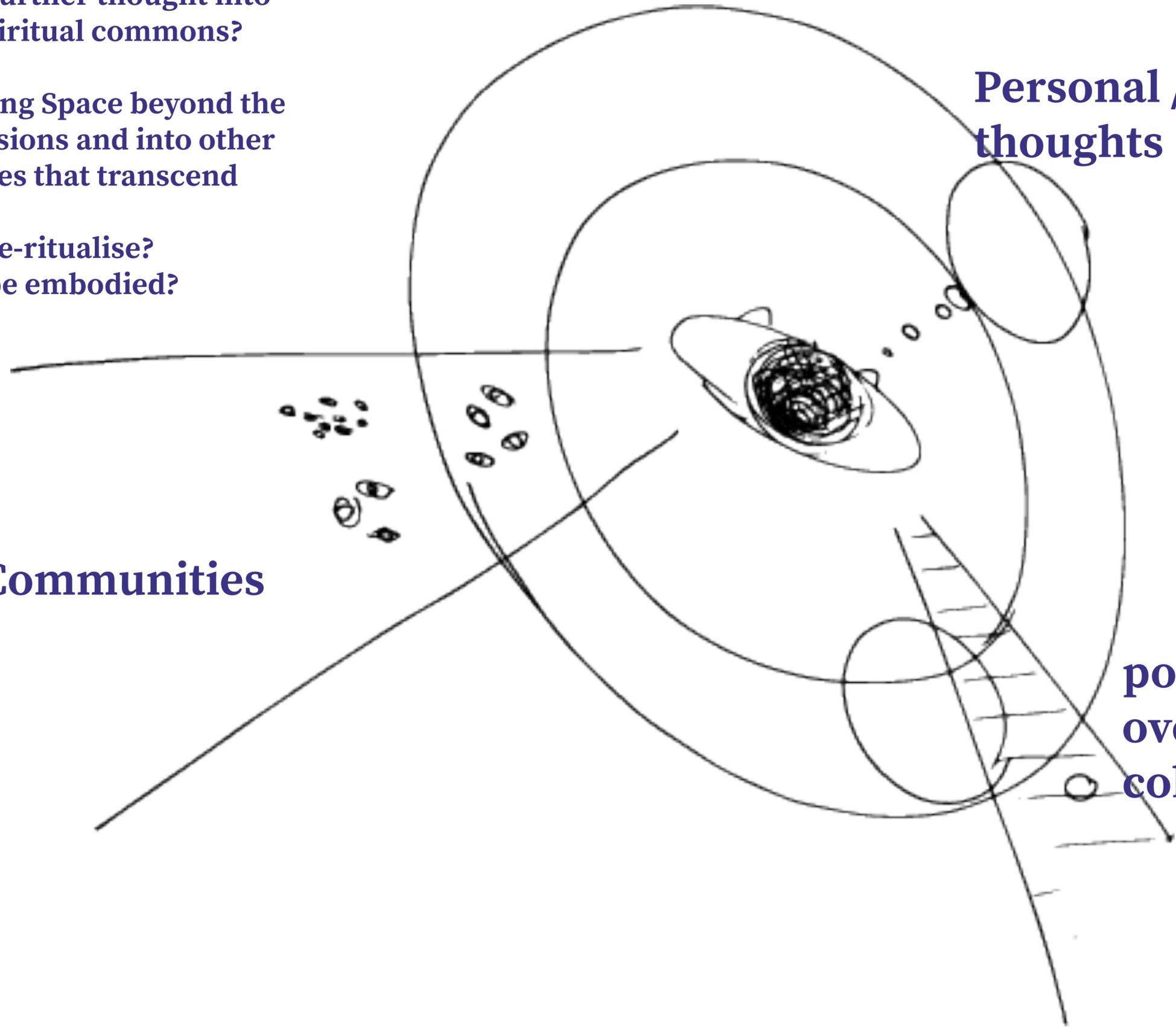
Understanding Space beyond the three dimensions and into other spaces, spaces that transcend

How do we re-ritualise?
Can the EU be embodied?

Communities

Personal / collective thoughts

**points of contention
overlap, diversion, and
collision**



3.1 Concrete proposals to bring Europe closer to citizens and cultural operators – Organisation of the ‘homes of commons’: how can homes of commons act as effective tools to decentralise EU institutions and foster a dialogue with the local contexts? How can homes of commons communicate and collaborate simultaneously with EU institutions, local authorities and citizens?

Analysis:

The commons already exist in rudimentary ways, they simply need feeding and nourishment. The ‘homes of commons’ that already exist do not always realise their potential within the commons, new awareness and connections need to be made. An awareness and attention to these shared physical and mental commons can be better addressed through the lens of the “spiritual commons”.

Our spontaneous group here only barely began to touch on some personal common points together of what that even means. But the idea of Practices and Rituals are the initial tangible outcomes of this work. A small online experiment that we gave ourselves a few moments for is included in following photos. We wish to continue to expand this work together and to widen our circle.



3.1 [Analyses]

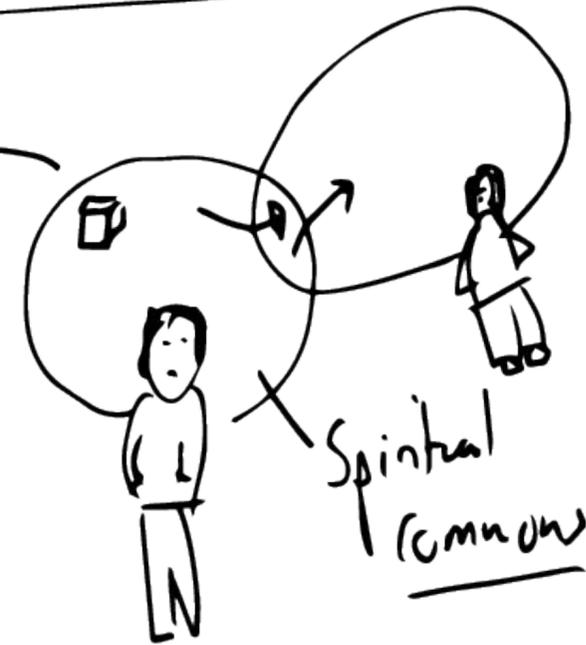
• what is the Common "SPACE"
of the EU-^{& Feeling} ^{& intention}
^{& restriction}

Homes of Commons

[proposal]



Hyper OBJECT



Spiritual Commons

Experiment → SPACE of Encounter.



3.1 Concrete proposals to bring Europe closer to citizens and cultural operators – Organisation of the ‘homes of commons’: how can homes of commons act as effective tools to decentralise EU institutions and foster a dialogue with the local contexts? How can homes of commons communicate and collaborate simultaneously with EU institutions, local authorities and citizens?

Concrete Proposal:

The Spiritual Commons exists everywhere and yet, nowhere. Our natural commons is a harmony of trees, land, water, air, tended and cared for. Our public commons are designed and maintained, they need architecture, conduct, laws and structure. What does our Spiritual Commons need? How might space for this be better designed? We need to be able to listen, have time for dreams, for our intuitions, safe space for our chaos, our vulnerabilities, human honesty and messy creativity- allowing us to sit with the unknown together, especially in these unpredictable times. It is where embodiment of our human stories (body, mind, soul) can take place, representing fully who we are.

The Space of Encounter moves and travels as needed, yes all over Europe! It is where Europe hosts itself back to itself! Where each of us is creatively enabled to re-discover identity and belonging...as individuals, as the collective, community, society, nation....



3. 2 Concrete proposals to bring Europe closer to citizens and cultural operators – Agenda of the homes of commons: what should be on the agenda of homes of commons, in order to facilitate the links between the EU and the local level? What function should homes of commons have (advocacy, information, co-creation, local participation...)?

Analysis

3.2



• Exercise of communing?
we interacted by
Exploring our commonalities
in exploring an image of
our choice.

→ please see
following slides

Exercise in how we can get into the same space / frame of mind?



 **evan Reinhold** 20 hours ago
Freely floating, but connected in the grid, i like this projection. can a spiritual space be networked logically? probably only when we are all universal pegs on a line, haha



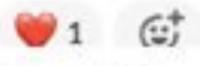
 **michael dobbie** 19 hours ago
hanging out, strung out



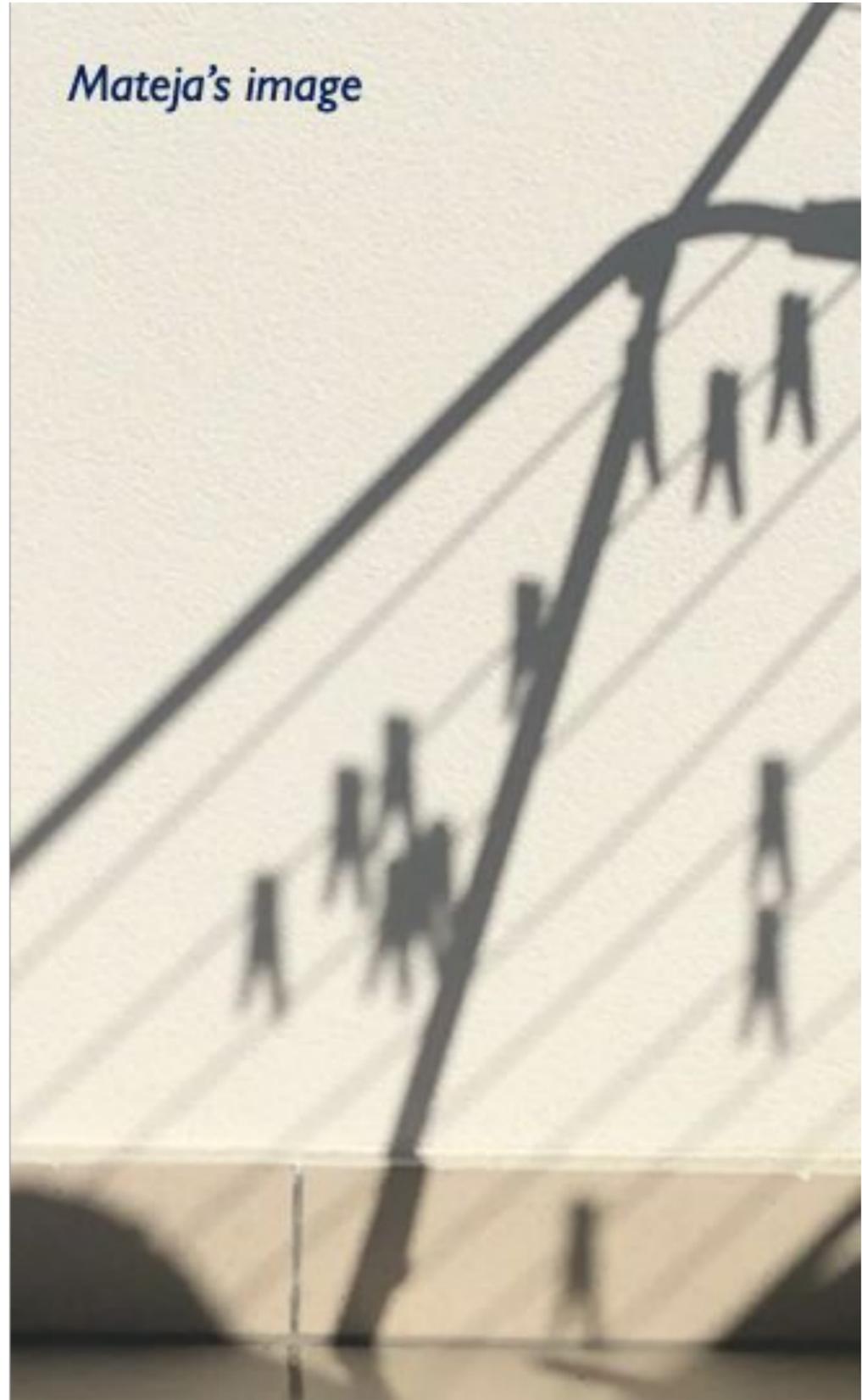
 **Sonya Armaghanyan** 18 hours ago
I feel the sun in this image. It takes me to a place where I can be in a daydreaming state without worrying about my to do list, but simply be. It also reminds me of my childhood and watching the lazy swaying of the freshly washed laundry hanging out the windows in the neighborhoods, and that fresh smell mixing with the dusty air smell.



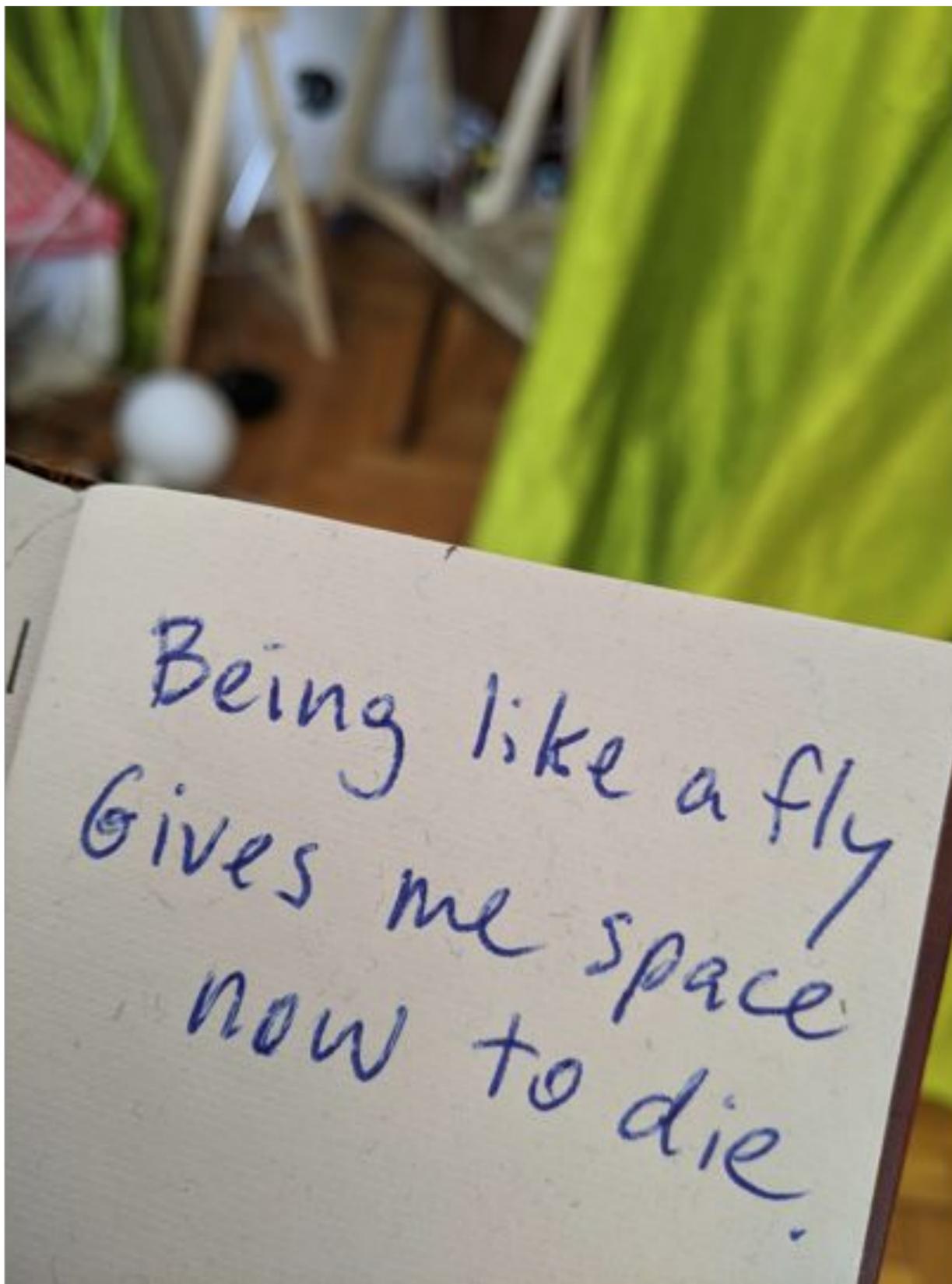
 **Marije Nie** 18 hours ago
we are all ephemeral, musical notes in the big polyphony of life



 **Mateja Stanislava Rot** 15 hours ago
we are entering a purpose journey. how might we increase our spiritual bonds in this time so that we come out into the world more united in peace and more human?
the reflection is followed by my outdoor observations. i see an owl, i can hear birds chirping and trees dancing in this early morning sun.



Michael's image



-  **evan Reinhold** 7 hours ago
freely flying, again a referenc to freedom in the commons, as to die makes me think of a rebirth, or a facet dieing
-  **Marije Nie** 6 hours ago
every fly needs a place to sit down once in a while... even though science still doesn't really know how a fly can sit on the ceiling...
-  **Sonya Armaghanyan** 6 hours ago
My focus immediately goes to the bright green and the faded background. I imagine a space that is creatively messy, but every item has its own role and importance to be there, making sure creation is possible. It's a place where strange ideas and identities can emerge.
-  **Mateja Stanislava Rot** 5 hours ago
an opportunity for a soul to die to be reborn. the soul of humanity. (edited)
-  **michael dobbie** 1 hour ago
were just some words that came out of me in a rhyme after sitting at a couple of online calls, not sure why really, maybe coz i'm the fly on the wall or i'm flying too high in cyberspace or becoz a fly is just nothing at all and i let myself be that nothing which then allows me to die like flies do....could go on more but maybe that helps give some ideas....





evan Reinhold 19 hours ago

Strong Sturdy, a sense of heritage and nationality, also resilient,
Also a vessel, and a model to travel,
build iteratively, based on learning from the past.



michael dobbie 19 hours ago

i got transport...going places



Sonya Armaghanyan 18 hours ago

Makes me think of the Ruby Slippers from The Wizard of Oz. The
fairytale-esque nature of human nature. Makes me think of collection
of memories and how my memories can fit into my slippers that I wear
and continue to go places.



Mateja Stanislava Rot 17 hours ago

set for embarking on a journey of discovery. firmly
grounded/rooted. (edited)



Marije Nie 21 minutes ago

I chose this picture because I recently realised that I have owned red
clogs all my life... Also my tap shoes are red..
Shoes are my instrument, they help me discover paths, navigate cross
roads and travel without moving.

Marije's image



Evan's image



michael dobbie 19 hours ago

so much to listen and hear, to filter in or out, learn from



Marije Nie 18 hours ago

there is a tiny one somewhere in the middle that also wants to speak..



Sonya Armaghanyan 18 hours ago

My attention goes to the almost invisible airplane. I can't help but think of these times and how much I miss being on the plane, sitting in a window seat and having that moment of disconnection up in the air, unreachable. My happy place. Just me, the skies outside the airplane window, my postcards and having G&T is also nice.



Mateja Stanislava Rot 17 hours ago

announcing to the world the greatest message of this time: "we are alive!" and there are infinite ways of spiritual bonding from here onwards. (edited)



evan Reinhold 1 hour ago

My image represents all the vying things in our world trying to get our attention, and different levels of of people we connect with
And also the notion of space but a meta space where there is enough 'room' for everyone in the spiritual commons.





evan Reinhold 7 hours ago

My comments: we cannot return to what we were before. Alices' goose turned bad? we need a harmony in the creativity. also there is a hedge hog in the bottom? hedge hogs have their own safe space in yheir hide, can we learn something of the spiritual commons here? is it about individual space or a safe space when we have trust?



michael dobbie 7 hours ago

the process of constant creation and re-creation (paints and colours in background)



Marije Nie 5 hours ago

what is written stays, but will be understood differently each time it is read..



Mateja Stanislava Rot 5 hours ago

now is the only time that i exist. there is no past. there is no future. i am that.



Sonya's image



Sonya Armaghanyan < 1 minute ago

My calendar planner that contains my daily to do lists, my thoughts, my flight itineraries, where I can put colorful sticky-notes, add colorful pencils and highlights. I am still not used to the online calendar. My day feels more exciting if I hand-write it. This planner with Alice is from 2018, but I couldn't leave it in 2018, I took it with me into 2019 and now 2020. I still find space on its pages and I keep changing the day on the top of the page to reflect the correct day in a now. It's fun, as every day I see what I was doing exactly a year and two years ago. A process... "Alice in Wonderland" is my most favorite book of all. Alice's curiosity and her many questions guide me in my own daily, weekly, monthly processes.





“Where is Home?”

Performative workshop combining elements from theatre and dance movement to explore the notion of home and the sense of belonging. A practice in process that uses embodiment to discuss and feel the concept of home and what it means.

Facilitator: Sonya Armaghanyan





Building spaces of encounter through urban games

Urban games act as supportive environment for community action that is co-created within safe(r) space. With urban games we are bringing together playful approaches in urban design, storytelling and AR/VR innovation. Throughout the process we hold space for people so that they feel comfortable and motivated to co-create and share their experiences through play. Such spaces of encounter have the potential to uplevel the human connection where people can be more present together and become active co-creators of their environment.

Mateja Stanislava Rot



3.3 Homes of commons and cultural and creative spaces: how can we rethink cultural and creative spaces as community organisations suggesting new ways for the EU to relate with the local level, aware of the role of relevant national/regional level organisations ?

Analysis // Concrete Proposal



Can we rethink The large object of the EU as a more nurturing ecosystem, like a tree, with its needs, dependents, and oppertunities.

Many diverse organisms live on/in a tree and help it trive, based on a natural understanding of one another,

Nurture / care / safety
Two way relations between the small and the big



Our 5 Keywords

Challenge Nr 3: Building spaces of encounter between local and EU level

Spiritual Commons
Spaces of encounter
Process in practice
individual and collective SPACE?
Embodiment

