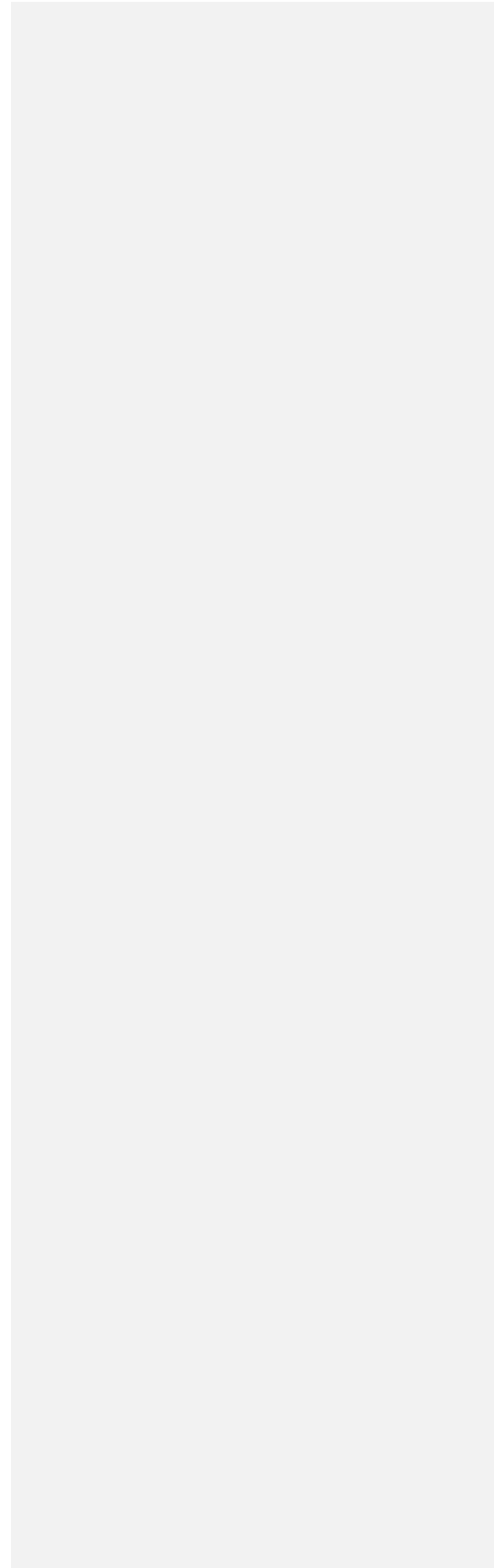# Commoning Art Residencies
Sprint @ Timelab

23-26 February 2022, Ghent Belgium
Participants: Z. Blace, Rasa Alksnyte, Andrew Paterson, Stefan Klein, Evi Swinnen, Marieke Maertens
Observer: Leda Decleyre

Observation rapport

This report aims to be a sort of *"overall"* [1]document containing different findings during the 4-day long process of sprinting during the period 23-26 February 2022 in Timelab, Ghent. It combines practical information on how the sprint was collectively given shape and aims at bringing forward content that combines different perspectives through the analysis of notes, scrambled together to form a collective memory. Given the role of the observer (an outside-looking in role) during the Sprint, this document can not comprehend all knowings, learnings and their stories . In this document different information sources, handwritten texts, digital texts, images, (transcribed) audio-files are mixed, blended and sorted to create a glimpse of the sprinting process of 2022. In reflection upon the Sprint Program, this report documents some activities and happenings through which the group practiced peer-learning and helped creating flows in the sprint process

What is this about?[2]

Open-ended definition of a sprint; A sprint, can be a 4-day deep dive with a peer-group of international artists, the Timelab team and observer(s) that come together in the physical space of Timelab, Ghent to participate in hybrid workshops involving coaching, facilitation and documentation methods. The time together is used for reflecting on the artistic practice of the past year by bringing in experiences, challenges and ambitions that can be linked tot the upcoming residencies in Timelab.

The role of Sprinters[3]

Open- ended definition of a Sprinter in a group plurality as sprinters;

A group of artists gather every year to 'Sprint', evaluating the last year and setting outlines for the next year. It is an unclosed group that can grow through the residency program and the group has a specific set of rules, duties and rights (Network of Communities). The sprint group acts as a think tank on possibilities, new models and methods of residency transformations. The community of sprinters is an autonomous group working within the mutually agreed guidelines of the organization of Timelab. It is one of the communities of the network of communities in Timelab. **The agent** brings to surface again the research questions that were determined by the Sprint peer group in a previous sprint and the group collectively reflects upon takings around these questions and previous residencies. The sprinters aim to bring forward new research questions and develop new ideas that can be treated in the new upcoming residencies and future editions of the Sprint.

The sprinters are   a generative network of committed artists

in charge of conceptualizing, implementing and evaluating different activities that support the livelihood of the group
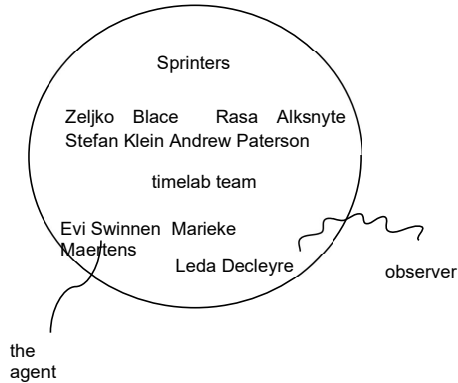
Sprint participants 2022 @ Timelab

Sprinters

Zeljko Blace   Rasa Alksnyte
Stefan Klein Andrew Paterson

timelab team

Evi Swinnen Marieke
Maertens
          Leda Decleyre   observer

the
agent

Agreed channels upon communication for/ about the Sprint
Telegram group: XXX
Miraheze/wikicommons: https://timelab.miraheze.org/wiki/Sprint
Google drive:https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K2gZGZDRLDEoWOvLnD-d0EhNk7p8-Wc3
Audiorecordings: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_dCXtCQcqIJjf0z49MiYnEUfRW7lfxUg
Zoom for the hybrid workshops

What's on the menu?

23th of February
evening walk and get together dinner @ Fattoush, Ghent
24th of February Sprint session I
Joined breakfast, prepared in Timelab kitchen
10:00-12:00: check in + defining the research question // intro ritual
Setting intentions of all participants
Focus on memory and identity
12:30 lunch
14:00- 16:00: workshop Clean Language with facilitator Francis Laleman
Working in a cycle of pairing and open feedback in group
End with reflection on the day
25th of February Sprint session II
9:00 breakfast
10:00-12:00: check out/check in
Work session in two groups around memory and identity
12:30 lunch
14:00-16:00: work session discussion
17:00 check-out
20:00 dinner
26th of February Sprint session III
9:00 breakfast

10:00-12:00 check in + making zine and collectively working on wiki platform
12:00 check out and goodbye

Observations/ reflections upon the program in the 2022 SPRINT

Check in // setting the intentions of the group and reflection on the research questions

The Sprint 2022 started off with a reflection upon the pandemic times, what do we share and learn from different personal perspectives in this peer group and how can this help in sustaining a commoning of artist residencies in Timelab/general? There is a way of listening to everyone and letting people reflect upon their experiences — this can only be done in an environment that lets people be SAFE and BRAVE — this gives an opportunity for the group to determine focus points.

There is great need for a climate of care
Is there time to install this?
What does this mean for different people?

Is there a setting of focus for this sprint?
Reflecting upon the research questions by setting two streams MEMORY and IDENTITY

HOW DO WE APPROACH BUILDING MEMORY AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE IN A COMPLEX MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVE AND OPEN ENDED PROCESS?
check out the Wiki page of the Sprint 2022

Generating playfulness and group learning through exercises

Workshop clean language in a hybrid work form with facilitator Francis Laleman

The second half of day 01 is spent in sign of peer learning, by participating in a workshop Clean Language given by external coach Francis Laleman. Clean questions provide a method/tool for learning how to speak a language completely detached from fake empathy. *"there is no way that I can understand what you feel/think/know".* It can be used as a powerful tool for people to help people build metaphors and give space for empowering their stories. — as a listener only use/repeat words of the speaker by asking clean questions
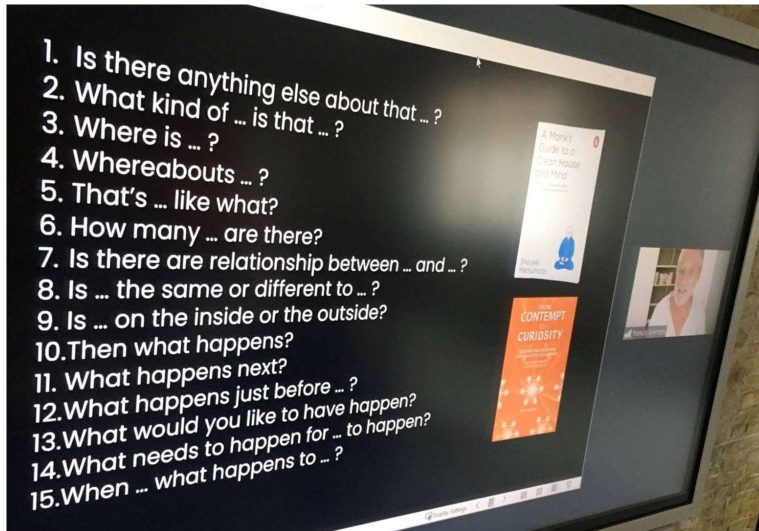
Exercise for the group using clean questions : if you are at your best as an artist, that is like what?

Some results by feeding back words:

Fluffy pink blanket, soft to touch constantly changing shape and density. Occasional people sitting on it or carrying it around. Eventually the blanket transforms into the pink fluff.
//////
Touching the bark of a tree with your fingers until your nails break off. One foot is stuck in a hole under the roots of the tree. The leg is covered with a black sticky oil; another leg stands strongly and supports the whole body. A cloud of colorful mosquitos are friendly buzzing above.

1. Is there anything else about that … ?
2. What kind of … is that … ?
3. Where is … ?
4. Whereabouts … ?
5. That's … like what?
6. How many … are there?
7. Is there are relationship between … and … ?
8. Is … the same or different to … ?
9. Is … on the inside or the outside?
10. Then what happens?
11. What happens next?
12. What happens just before … ?
13. What would you like to have happen?
14. What needs to happen for … to happen?
15. When … what happens to … ?

Picture: examples of clean questions to use in building conversation undone of fake empathy// Francis in image

Exercise for the group using clean questions : Most perfect 2 days at Timelab would be like?

Conversations, catching up, tell and remember, memory, extra places, tangible things, black shoes, sumo fighter like costume…
//////
joyful / synchronous / fulfilling / make sense / individual needs / expectations / lucky experience / shared understanding / advanced / progression / close to something / social cultural content / fulfillment / mature / share more widely / announcement / publication / social cultural event

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The check in's what is most remarkable you remember from yesterday?

These exercises make it possible for the group to create an environment of listening, practicing multi plurality , by letting everyone have a saying in the group context.

Closed eyes/ shared visualization exercise as a tool to train/test collective memory

— the exercise takes place as a stream of words dropping by association

— It's an exercise that creates deep listening

The group sits in a circle and closes their eyes, a person starts by dropping a word, the next person going in a circle movement makes an association and drops another word, this process is repeated endlessly, until the facilitator stops the word chain. After this proces everyone in the group tries to write down all the words they remember. Every time a person goes over their words, the group can check list the word on their own paper if they have written it down too.

Wordstream sprint 2022

Strawberry flavour, table, people with names, floating words, splinter, bookshelves, one head with many bodies attached, view from the top of the tree tops, shushing moss, ribbon, lots of words, more people with names, no flavour, hammer and nails, wood, rope, birds, saliva, sea, books, tree, barrel full of notebooks, dirty language, lip balm, balls, spores, nets, rumours, water, troll, wiki-wiki, envelopes, birds in nests…

Work sessions in two groups surrounding the research questions

The second half of day 02 was shaped around mapping possible approaches to the research questions in two groups and presenting it back to the group in a feedback process / processing ideas by brainstorming. The questions were made tangible by writing them down on big pieces of paper, allowing the different groups to make use of the physical space and visualization of information/ brainstorming possibilities on the research questions.

Q1: how to create memory & shared knowledge


Need for participatory memory making tools GIT/Wiki perspective which records changes, but GIT allows spin-offs/ forksVisual conservation/layers and back tracing exampleCollectively agreed central page, ToC with peripheral materials, notes, images in a collective pool submitted by many

Check wikicommons

Visualization of the brainstorm session on how to build memory & create shared

Q2: what is the identity of the sprinters (past and future)

Work with this group, keep it small but not always too comfortable
Can sprinters take another role in the organization?
NEED for minimal care to feel SAFE
the role of the sprinter is an unclear concept (how work a this?
Need for clarity on preparations for sprinting/ logistic processes
UNLEARNING and LEARNING = purpose
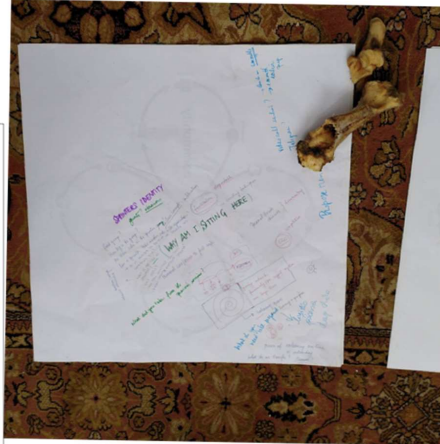
Closing session Sprint

Peer contributing to the Sprint 2022 memory making; everybody contributes to making a wiki commons . Z gives an introduction in setting up a Wiki account and sets out the basics for making a page. All the individual pages contribute to a general/communal wiki commons, where information and collective memory takes shape.
This moment seems to be an important shared moment, because the act of reflecting as a group also connects to practicalities. Some of the results of this moment/learning can be found on : https://timelab.miraheze.org/wiki/Sprint/2022

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Future Setting action(s)

need to update and documenting in Wiki commons as a platform, keep it a common competence and easy to use as part of a learning peer system/ also play with the system;
Can there be a design of rituals for dealing with the sprint memory?