

Applying the 8 patterns of Timelab to the residency

A collective work by the artists taking part in sprint spring 2019 : Z. Einat Tuchman, Lena Scrabs, Filip Berte, Cliona Harney, Paloma Sanchez, Helen Milne, Ingrid Vrancken, e.a.

Content

[Dream](#)

[Resources](#)

[Practice](#)

[Identity](#)

[open end](#)

[Disruption](#)

[Decision making](#)

Dream

RESIDENCY: How would you describe the shared vision of the group? Do you need a shared vision?

Under the term **vision** we understand “the ability to think about or plan the future with **imagination** or wisdom”. A shared vision differs from a shared **culture**, in the sense that a culture implies a certain way of living, of doing things. A general group of people doesn’t necessarily need a shared vision, for example a group of friends. In order for a commons to be sustainable, the group of commoners do need a shared vision in our opinion. And if not a shared vision, at least a basic set of **shared values**, such as honesty (regarding your interests and level of commitment), respect and care. We do believe that the vision of an individual can evolve by ways of discussion, assembly,... The group is in a constant process of **negotiation**, learning and if necessary compromising. A possible example is that one of the artist residents wanted to buy a radio for one of the projects. The other residents disagreed and suggested that the radio could maybe be borrowed instead. In the end the whole group agreed on borrowing a radio instead of buying one.

Resources

How are resources built?

Resources are tangible tools, but also intangible relations. It seems that they are accrued over time, through sharing and various modes of operation, such as; **contribution** (activated through exchange: by word-of-mouth, peer-to-peer interaction and quotidian artistic approaches), **acts of generosity**, **discussion and agreement, disagreement, flexibility, and building and maintaining relationships.**

How can artists/relations/practice be a resource?

Artists are often **mediators**, bridges between an institution and a defined 'place'. They can be catalysts for the building of relationships, or the initiator of research. Through continued **presence** (not always possible) whilst undertaking the residency, initial connections are made, for example at the Boerenmarkt. The challenge comes in maintaining these relationships, and communicating this as a resource. The **'minor gestures'** the residents proposed and carried out, in the name of 'maintenance' and connection to the neighbourhood, go some way towards this: opening up their practice and **representing** the work of Timelab in the locale.

Suggestions for maintaining these relationships this might be through producing a physical database to allow continuity of connections across residencies - or perhaps a programme where 'key' members of the local community who have proved interested in the past are invited to meet with their contacts from the previous residencies in collaboration with incoming residents. Additionally, a focus on peer-to-peer skill exchange 'workshops' and 'readings' within De Schuur, open to residents and the neighbourhood would be welcomed. Creating opportunities for self-elected leadership and accountability (ensuring that these workshops and readings actually happen throughout the residency to better share knowledge), and recorded situations for articulation (and therefore vulnerability, trust and reflection) can help cement these intangible resources.

How can artistic practice/relations be a resource and how are they built?

Sharing

Skill exchange

Methods and Hacks

Vulnerability

Trust

Alliances

*Create situations for articulation and exploration

Modes of Operation

Quotidian (accessible) artistic approaches

Flexibility

Shared authorship

Modulation

Mediation

*Definition/Glossaries

*Agreed protocols for the negotiation of authorship

Practice

PROTOTYPING RELATES TO CREATION & CO-CREATION BY:

Allowing for testing, improvement, & versioning of works/ideas.

Enabling material thinking & experimentation.

Enabling sustainability by allowing for iteration, evaluation & transformation through testing & trials.

Prototyping is dynamic and emphasizes trial & error with an open mind and heart.

Prototyping can take the form of combinations & putting things together be that people, systems, organisations.b

Prototyping gives more space for playing, experimenting, it is low impact, iterative & future orientated! ..

Co-creation discussion p2p foundation: <https://wiki.p2pfoundation.net/Co-Creation>

Concrete examples: We experimented with different prototypes such as Einat's game, Radio Onderhoud,

Identity

How does the 'Otherness of people in the group' influence your (future) work?

- Residents became **more confident** in their artistic strategies when they **confronted** with Other sets of beliefs, and this confrontation **activated and reinforced** their artistic practice.
- Letting the Other 'infect' you, transforms your artistic methods and helps to **un- and re-learn**.
- The Other activates feelings of **alertness and care**. The context of actions and reactions need to be taken into account with **sensitivity and tolerance** for differences.
- Being in a residency with the Other makes it more likely to **cross the threshold** that is often not crossable in everyday environments.
- The Other is an opportunity to **do it differently** - by letting go of your own convictions.
- **The Neighbours/Timelab staff**; How does this Otherness interact with the group of residents?

- Where the Otherness can become intriguing and complicated is in the equality of roles of practices - where **different sets of beliefs** can be **nourished and clash**. The tensions that arise from these clashes are the **backdoors for transformation**. We should go toward them with care in order to understand the triggers inside of us.
- One should set certain **mindful boundaries** for themselves in relation to the Other, and vice versa.

-----input from Marc and Z-----

Attitude / invitation to act :

Inviting to use, Think further
 To re-use re-made, re-interpret
 To share is to care. Interact. Keep the dialogue alive

Tools / structures :

Change the authoring process...copy/paste.
 Use open content license model & free art license
 Create database. Additive process.

Goal:

To make things accessible to different audiences and levels of knowledge.
 To welcome multiple input. Not take positions for granted as absolute, but question.
 Learning in a dialogical way is better... Avoid previous trap people had to go through.

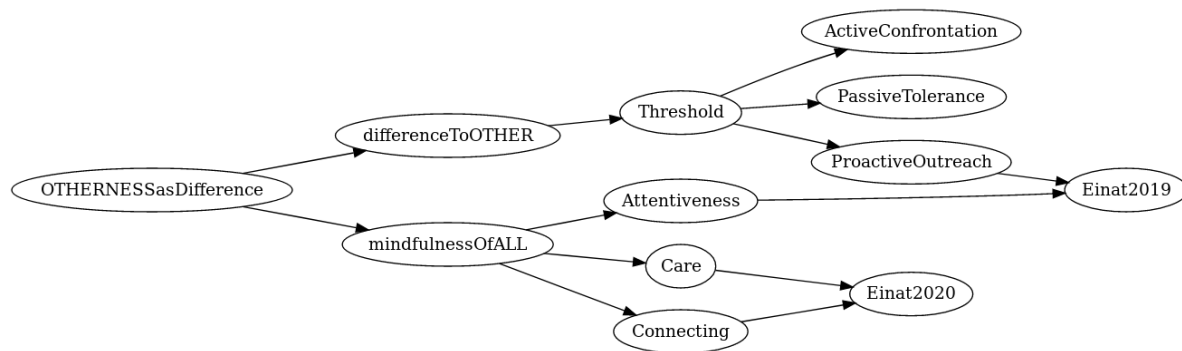
```
digraph G {
  rankdir=LR;
```

```
OTHERNESSasDifference -> differenceToOTHER ->
Threshold -> ActiveConfrontation
Threshold -> PassiveTolerance
Threshold -> ProactiveOutreach -> Einat2019
```

```
OTHERNESSasDifference -> mindfulnessOfALL -> Attentiveness ->
Einat2019
mindfulnessOfALL -> Care -> Einat2020
mindfulnessOfALL -> Connecting -> Einat2020
```

```
}
```

Paste in <http://www.webgraphviz.com/> to get graphics



Open end

Attitude / invitation to act :

Inviting to use, Think further

To re-use, re-made, re-interpret

To share is to care. Interact. Keep the dialogue alive

Tools / structures :

Change the authoring process...copy/paste.

Use open content license model & free art license

Create database. Additive process.

Goal:

To make things accessible to different audiences and levels of knowledge.

To welcome multiple input. Not take positions for granted as absolute, but question.

Learning in a dialogical way is better... Avoid previous trap people had to go through.

Disruption

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THE UNKNOWN AND DISRUPTION?

1. I usually get stressed when plans change, but coming here with the explicit expectation of dealing with the unknown made me relaxed, open and joyful

about it. I found conflicts and discussions exciting and saw them as the essence of the residency, of shaping the model and learning.

Example: The discussions around how to distribute budget was one of the moments in the residency where we really got to the core of the way we want to operate and to distinguish this residency from others. This discussion included the perception of working time, expectations from and obligations towards Timelab as the institution, the question of what is fair, and the value of a contribution. We aimed to unlearn the classic 9-5 working routine that everybody usually operates in. We also learned to unlearn patterns of former residency situations, in which the finances are a given fact. We needed to take on this responsibility, agree and follow up.

2. Don't try to hide!

Example: Have a regular check-in with yourself and share it with the people around you: What is happening in your "normal" life, what do you carry, where else are you involved, what do you need to take care of right now.

3. Improvising on spot and (content) filtering (partly works)

Example: If something doesn't work for you, try to adapt it according to your needs. Try to ignore the requirements, work habits of the institution, work in hours that fit for you.

4. Trust, Openness, How do I learn to deal with being disruptive? Confrontation.

Example: Confront the people you work with to trust the environment you all work in together. One can step out and others will carry/take over. Accept the gap! At some point Filip felt very much under pressure to work every day and didn't allow himself to take a break. The group supported and even pushed him to take care of himself, to step out and let us take over.

5. Don't be afraid of things you don't know but at the same time communicate what worries you.

Example: If you see your fellow residents or anyone involved in the residency act in a peculiar way that is not clear to you, address it. It probably has a reason and nobody is perfect.

6. Openly and with as much flexibility as you can bear.

Example: Try your best but accept that you don't need to be able know everything already or act in a certain way. Things take time.

7. Welcome it and analyze it but also feel okay to push it away if you are not ready for it now. It can always come back later on.

Example: See Nr. 6

8. You can never fully understand another person. Interacting with each other equals disrupting. You have to open yourself up to deal with it → Threshold

Example: You never know where someone is coming from and the others don't know where you are coming from. Try to make it easier to deal with you: Provide a "manual" for yourself if you can ("When I'm concentrated, I have a very judgemental mimic - It doesn't mean I disagree"). Wear your heart on your sleeve but don't feel obligated to share things you prefer to keep for yourself.

9.
 1. Aaaaah!
 2. Recognize why I'm feeling this way.
 3. Stay in the unknown and accept you can't control everything.
 4. Focus on the bits of it that feel good.
 5. Believe you have agency.

Decision making

How do you experience decision-making?

- **Consent**, not consensus. We don't have to agree, but we have to approve of the decision made by the group. For example, the residents decided to do an activity every week at the farmer's market in Dampoort. The type of group activity was readapted concerning the necessities of the moment by accepting the weekly ritual, a frame was set between the residents and the inhabitants of the neighborhood.
- There should be a **shifting role** within the group to decide HOW decision making happens. That role is rotating **between the residents**.
- The people present at a given moment are empowered to make a decision that is **respected and trusted** by the absent residents. It can be **redefined and renegotiated** later. Decision making is a **dynamic process**. Example: Trello, the system of finance.
- **How** you make a decision and **what** decision is made depends on the **timeframe, scale, and needs** of residents.
- Decision mechanisms should stay **flexible** and **host clashes** in precarious circumstances

- Decisions - including unpopular ones - should be **revisited** and assembled to decide what is relevant, in order to not lose sight of previous agreements and archive results.
- Using **online tools** for decision making should first be **communicated** and **assessed** by the group to insure that all participants are **confident and capable** of using a platform effectively

