This document is an introduction to the residency program at Timelab.

*If you feel there is anything missing or unclear, please let us know, we see this document as a collaborative writing

What is Timelab?

We believe in the power from within.

On a practice of experienced and sustainable experiments, together with a powerful and broad network of partners, we imagine what we want the world to become.
Our building represents these becomings.

Our learnings we bundle in knowledge and practice.

We see the role of the organization as a dramaturg: making connections in the multi-perspective of cross-sectoral practice, creating a story that inspires. Our space is our anchor, our research ground, our discussion partner.

Our spatial awareness stimulates our critical voice and self-reflection.

Our place breathes the soul of our work and shows the scars of a world in all its complexity.

In our relationships we do not shy away from confrontation and continue to look for connections between the present, past, people, domains and beyond. We work on a thorough record of our research and remain inquisitive, amazed and eager to learn about many different perspectives.

Our research

Current projects in Timelab, organized in 6 streams of endless research that connect within time. Past and Future.

Redefining Cultural Space
What if all culture houses become local energy fields in all its dimensions for the neighborhood? How can a cultural space be open and welcoming to all?

Reshaping Industry
What does a business model for material production based on open knowledge and locally harvested bio-based waste materials look like?

Remodeling Common Ground

How can we strengthen our common ground by peer learning and better understanding each other?

Reinforcing Practical Learning
Can we reconnect to practice and 'learning by making' as a way to reconnect to the world?

Repairable Machines
How do we create open R&D as an act of autonomy?

Reclaiming Residencies
Can we increase the artist's self-reliance through a residency built on peer and collaborative structures?

Our space is a flexible space where functions follows form

Started off with the ambition to investigate how an elastic shared space would look like, we started renovating the old factory in the city center of Ghent.

Today the place houses 3 levels of different but interconnected functions.

Groundfloor - meet and discover

here there is :
- an arena for debate and presentations
- an open event space
- an edible garden
- the knotfactory
- the waterlab
- the eatery

First floor - working area

here there is :
- a co-working office
- a shared kitchen
- a makerlab
- a school

Second floor - reflection and care

here there is :
- a caring space for workshops (soma, self development, internal work)
- an artists studio

The artistic residency (AiR) art Timelab is not a service

We want to introduce you shortly into the format of the AiR as a central part of the artistic program. Over the years, this format took many forms. With a short historic overview, we want to position ourselves in the world of artists' residencies. In the **annex** you find a list of artists that have been in residency in Timelab in the last years.

Although best known from the romantic 19 and 20 centuries where patronage offered a place to stay and work to various artists from abroad, the dominant model of arts residencies emerged in the 1960s offering artists to withdraw from daily life into an escape or, the opposite, a period of work in a local community, often with a need for social or political change. Artists-run-residencies developed an alternative exhibition circuit and made the residency work more visible. In the late 80 and 90s, the globalization and high mobility of people influenced the arts residencies. An international and intercultural encounter brought the hosting organization to the foreground as an independent connector and catalyst of the global art world and the local contemporary art scene. The residential arts center started forming an international fabric of knowledge and experience in the arts. After 2000, this network further intensified and consolidated. With this evolution, also the need to explore the meaning and value of AiR grew.

Digitalisation and social media, cheaper and easier traveling, profoundly diversified and enlarged the field of residency places all over the world. They organized as a field, advocate for their being and with this the competition took off. For many artists, residencies became an important part of their career. Quality standards and selection procedures became an important part of the work of the hosting organization. In this evolution, we cannot deny a rising market logic getting a grip on artistic practice and autonomy of the arts. The AIR risks to bite itself in the tail. Born to disconnect from daily pressure and to have a full autonomy of the creation in order to crack open unseen layers of the mundane, the free form of the AIR becomes a service. As a reaction, hard to grasp models of residencies came into existence. The fluidity led to the rise of more thematic residencies. The focus on the model of working shifts to the 'what' we are focussing on. The topics, more and more often becoming topics of sustainability and complex societal issues, also are a hook to work interdisciplinary with experts on the field from different perspectives. Both organizations and artists are rethinking their role in society and the cultural field. **The artistic practice develops towards artistic research.** Residencies offer other spaces and models for the development of knowledge, not only in the arts, but in society as well. The role of the host to capture and develop a knowledge network, known from the sixties residencies, breaks through the boundaries of the arts scene and delivers more often a necessary contribution to all kinds of research and development. We see businesses inviting artists to develop or redesign products and services or throw another perspective on the non-arts environment. An approach embraced by some, banned by others.

At Timelab we take the AiR a step further. We introduced the PRESENCE-residency in 2021. 2 artists are in residence for 3 months.

The AiR is part of a format of 2 years cycli in the artistic program that is driven by the collaboration between the sprinters and the hosting organization Timelab. They meet every year in spring to define the research question of the fall residency. The agent, who is part of the timelab staff team, takes up the accountability to bring the research question into the residency program without pushing the artists to give answers, produce or present. **The AiR takes place in the fall, 2 artists reside in the Timelab space for 3 months.** They are selected based on a thematic link with the streams and projects. Defining the **host as a dramaturg** and the space as a container leads us to a very specific approach of the residency as a format focused on personal growth, self care, autonomy and reflection as an enabler for a stronger position of the artist in society. The AiR is combined with a yearly camp that is more practical and production based, but is also embedded in the research question set during the sprint.

The artistic program cycle - year 2022

sprinters

Z. Blace, Rasa Alksnyte, Andrew gryf Paterson, Stefan Klein

The profile of the sprinters is a small group of intuitively affiliated artists who have an interest in the artists' intersectionality, relationship between individual and institution and commons strategies with the underlying goal to break out of the dominant economic - competitive, monetary, linear discourse and move toward gaining resilience and autonomy.

They act on a meta-level, connecting the cycles of practical research/experiments and are continuously building - together with the organizing Host - the knowledge body, or memory of the organization.

- the sprinters are 'mid career', mature artists with experience on the level of organizational models
- the sprinters look at their artistic practice from the perspective of being fully human, on the intersection of many roles in life.
- the sprinters operate on a meta level, their role is not to combine with a residency or mentorship in Timelab
- the sprinters gather every year, 4 days end of february together with the team of timelab
- at the yearly sprint the group evaluates the past work and sets the new research questions for the current year

- the agents, this is a role staff members takes who joins the project leads of residents, projects, camps, work with the research questions and report to the sprinters
 - the sprinters end the yearly sprint with a publication and are supported in this task by graphic designers and writers to fulfill this task
- the sprinters are paid to take up this role and responsibility
- during the sprint we test several workshops and tools from our coaches network

Residents

Illia Gladshtein - spring
Alaa Abu Asad - fall

The artists are selected based on these characteristics :
thematic anchor with Timelab and work of the artist
mid career, no junior artists
mature and critical voice
keen on collaborating and open dialogue
self reliable

Agent

Evi Swinnen will be the agent for 2022. This means she will be your SPOC and weekly anchor for your process and questions

summercamp

To emphasize the research on a non-production AIR and to anticipate the many questions on production support, we organize a **yearly camp** aiming at accelerating the individual work of professional makers. With the juxtaposition of the camp and the non-production AIR, we can research the challenges, attitudes and opportunities of production vs non-production based artistic collaborations.

We invite professional makers and artists with a technical/design question into our space for a 10 day summercamp. (2 weekends, 1 week)
With the support of a technical crew, we analyze the problems and accelerate the production/execution of the concept of the designer or artist.

Max 12 participants + technical crew of local makers

At the end of the camp, we present all solutions in an exhibition.

Profile: artists/designers with practical production issues

Here the role of the agent is crucial. The agent, a team member of Timelab has a personal research question that aligns the summercamp to the Timelab purpose.

Summercamp Knotfactory - first week of juli
Summercamp Soft Connections - last 2 weeks of august

Publication

Yearly publication by the sprinters + wiki platform
form of dairy/reflection by the artist

Our Team 2022

Evi Swinnen - coordinator and founder of Timelab
Marieke Maertens - staff member, project lead of Knotfactory and Timelab method.
Filip D'Hoore - logistic support

Torben Vandevelde - new staff member from May on
Veronique De Mey - new staff member from Aug on

Leda Decleyre - intern Timelab method
Selina Vanstalle - intern Knotfactory

Our dog Kioko, a german shepherd dog will be around. If you have an issue with her, contact the team.

Process and habits

how we care :

1. Maintain our rhythms : Daily check in, weekly stand-up, weekly tactical, monthly governance and quarterly evaluations.

2. Dedicate Mondays to team and space

3. Dedicate thursday to deep dives and sharing experiences

4. Promptly inform of any absences, including illness or sabbaticals.

5. Communicate clearly, create and observe explicit norms and boundaries. This includes responding to any team communications and, also, expressing opinion, addressing power and vulnerability.

6. Teach themself and mentor others on working in the collective while being ready to give and receive critical feedback.

7. Represent and advocate for their team, online and offline

8. Systemically distribute Care work

a. Their level of care work will correspond to the benefit they get from being part of the collective.
b. They will care for the wellbeing of the collective as a living entity, and make sure it's healthy and thriving.
c. They will care for the wellbeing of all members of the collective, specially the person they are supporting.

9. Not wait for others to do what I could do myself, and ask for help when they get stuck.

10. Offer their creativity and dedication and create new patterns together.

Onboarding tasks

- stand up tasks
- monday lunch
- rituals
- presentations
- key, flat and other practical issues
- shadowing during external visits

My habits:
individual - team - inhabitants of the space - external groups

- journaling
- meetings with the agent
- presentation of your work
- monday meeting
- monday sessions and tools
- deep dive thursdays
- sports and embodiment
- food and kitchen activities
- reading and library fun
- any form of observation

- care to keep shared areas clean
- taking care of the garden: cleaning, watering, harvesting, helping with building infrastructure etc.

practicalities

Directions to Timelab
Kogelstraat 34, 9000 Gent

By Train / public transport

You should arrive at Gent-Dampoort

From Brussels: different trains (e.g. direction of Brugge, Poperinge, …) are possible, but they should have a stop at Gent-Sint-Pieters station → switch trains (quickly!) to arrive at station Gent-Dampoort (different directions are possible: e.g. Eeklo, Antwerp)

From Antwerp: different trains (e.g. direction of Oostende, Poperinge, Gent-Sint-Pieters), but this train will have a stop at Gent-Dampoort

Go to the back of the station (through under the train bridge), and go to **Antwerpsesteenweg. Kogelstraat** is a side street

https://goo.gl/maps/AcZiUuDKoPt

Space

If you want to visit our space in VR or online audio walk, a creation by Duncan Speakman, Tineke De Meyer and Lucas Dewulf

https://hubs.mozilla.com/WCYx33R/timelab-augmented-tour?vr_entry_type=2d_now

Key Policy
You will get 2 keys. One for~~from~~ the main entrance and one for~~from~~ the flat/studio.

Heating Policy
The heating upstairs works with pellets. If you need any help, let us know.

Absence

The residency is a presence residency, so by long absence the contract will stop

Team holidays
The full team takes a month off in July and 2 weeks in December. We do not take into account our official holidays. For leaves during the year we collectively agree or team members can propose their activity on which they will not be available according to their personal needs.

What happens if you are **not available** for a half day, few days etc? As long as it is not harmful for the organization, this is possible.

Key is to communicate about it as soon as possible:

If the unavailability is light:

You can use these platforms to communicate your plans as soon as possible.
-   Monday* tactical meetings
-   slack channel (stand-up)

*If you are not available on Monday, let it know the week before.

If you are completely unreachable for a day or longer:
for longer unavailabilities, check if it is unharmful with Evi.

What happens in case of emergencies?
Let Evi know as soon as possible, preferably before the start of the day and by phone call.

What about fees and reimbursements?

As a resident you will receive a fee of 7500 euro. We will agree together the phases of payment based on needs and expectations.

You will also receive a reimbursement for your travel expenses from home to the residency and back. The resident will look for affordable tickets, check in for agreement with the agent and prepay the costs. These expenses need to be uploaded to the platform expenses.timelab.org in order to get reimbursed.

There is no fixed budget for production or presentation.

Possibility of (external) mentor

Although, for material costs or other production expenses you can ask the agent what is possible and negotiable with the project budgeting.

Invoices must be addressed to :

Timelab vzw
Kogelstraat 34
9000 Gent
BE 441.576.365

description: fee AiR <year>

Annex

The history of the artistic program at Timelab

2010 - 2016

Every year 2 residents came to timelab. They got a fee, housing, coaching and network. The result was a production or presentation at Timelab in collaboration with another cultural organization.

Nikolaus Gansterer
Juliana Borinski
Geert Jan Hobijn - Staalplaat
Duncan Speakman
Kaffe Matthews
Jesse Howard
Daniela Dossi
Eugenia Morpurgo
Lisa Ma

Simultaneously every year there was a festival to head hunt artists for the program or explore topics of interest

2009 - Summercamp electrified - how to electrify the city
2010 - Summercamp electrified - respark
2011 - Summercamp electrified - reclaiming public space
2012 - Springcamp - system error
2013 - Dagen voor verzet
2014 - Atelier de Stad : Niets is verloren
2015 - the future of city labs
2016 - How do we save time
2017 - Sportscamp

SPRINTING - 2017-2020
From 2017 we started to renegotiate the value and meaning of the residency program based on the knowledge built in community work and theory on commons.

2017 - uncommoning residencies
with a simultaneous AIR trying to build a group from artists know by timelab

2017 - Stefan Klein
2017 - Z blace
2017 - Vasilis Niaros

2018 - AIR as a commons

with a seperate more practical residency program

2018 - Mobile Air (Pia Gruter)

2019 - a residency is not a service

2019 - onderhoud (a collective residency developed by the sprinters group)

2020 - documentation and communication as a topic for the sprintersgroup
with an investigation on production and presentation as a mandatory result of the residency
program

2020 - Berte & Harney production

2021 - development of coaching capacity in the team combined with a curated presentation
program for the admiration festival and an integration of artistic work in current projects and
the building.

what we agree upon:

Here are some conventions that further define the relationship's proportions:

When people connect with others and the world, they usually have certain **expectations**, in
a residency this is no different and often even more influenced by our beliefs. As a resident I
consciously choose to create clear agreements with a high degree of integrity in my
relationship with the host (and actually in all areas of my work and life). If I notice in myself
an unsatisfied expectation about the residency, I see it as my responsibility to create clarity
about this, to speak up and let my Agent know what I need to be able to reach a new
agreement on this.

I agree to speak my mind and not assume that the other person knows or should know what
is going on inside or outside of me. I will not assume that the other person is aware of my
internal state. It is good to **communicate** much earlier so that I can be sure that others
understand me and can guide me in an appropriate way.

I agree that at times I will feel **uncomfortable** with my growth. This is not an easy road and
I will continue to volunteer to push the boundaries of my own abilities. However, I agree not
to put myself in potentially harmful situations.

I will take responsibility for my own mental and physical well-being. I will use common sense
to keep myself safe, expressing boundaries. It is my responsibility to say "No" when I no
longer feel able to explore further. I see it as my responsibility to keep exploring safely.

I agree to be **vulnerable** and to report when something is not seen or spoken, even if I don't know exactly what it is yet. I am willing to share things about myself. If I catch myself holding back on something, I will speak up. If I catch myself not being fully present in the now, I will speak up. I will attribute success experiences to myself and be proud of this without holding back.

I understand that the effects of the residency process are solely the result of my own efforts and motivation. Even when they turn out in a completely different way than I expected. I myself take full **responsibility** for any kind of personal and professional growth.

I understand that I may share my personal experiences and insights with others AND I agree **to keep the details of our processes, exercises and assignments to myself.** This is to prevent things from being taken out of context for those outside the residency, and not to transfer things to others without the necessary background knowledge of the deeper how and why.

I acknowledge that I can share openly and freely during my residency, knowing that this is a safe space of utmost confidentiality.

The **defined space** in which we organise conversations is just as important as the coaching itself. There are several aspects that define a strong, defined space: Time, Space, Attention and Communication. Our intention is to treat each of these aspects with the same care.

Time: I commit to being on time for the scheduled sessions. If I know I will be late, I will notify my agent by email or text message. If I have to reschedule a session, I will notify my agent at least 48 hours in advance. I will finish what I was doing and take a break 10 minutes before the start of the session so that I can turn inward and prepare for the session.

Space: Together we ensure that the space feels safe and comfortable, so that I don't feel inhibited from expressing what is on my heart. I understand that the host also prepares in the same way.

Attention: With each session, I make sure that I am prepared to give the session my full attention. This also means that I am prepared, that I have my agenda with me, that I have done the assignments and exercises that I was given. I understand that the host is also preparing to be present with full attention.

Communication: we value quality over speed. This is both an exercise in expressing desires clearly and a way to support communication with integrity. Comments, reservations and feedback can be sent to the Agent at any time via email or personal conversation. We will deal with these at all times through individual conversations or in the group. What we want to share with the team can also be done via Slack.

Most people engage in relationships (romantic, work-related, etc.) as a 50/50 partnership. "I'll give you 50% if you give me 50%." This model can fall into a victim mentality if the other person does not engage in the way we expect him or her to.

The most powerful way to be in relationships is **100/0**: "I am 100% responsible for myself and you are 0% responsible". In this way we take full responsibility for our lives and our relationships. I am 100% committed to creating the most powerful relationship. I agree to fully commit and be 100% present. I understand that the host is committed to the same.

Insights come when we least expect them. I understand that during the process I might get an "a-ha!" moment or insight in a particular moment and not in another. In some insights things become clear, and deep truths emerge suddenly in minutes. In others slowly over weeks, months, and even years. I agree to always put insights first and see time as a delineation tool, not something that can measure the strength or depth of my experiences. When I feel full or fulfilled, I let the host know. If I feel I'm on the brink of a breakthrough and an extra push would help me move forward, I'll ask that too.

The foundation for our relationship is the mutual understanding that I am the one who has the answers to the challenges on my path. The role of the host is not to give me advice or provide solutions, she is a partner and encourages insights by asking questions, listening in depth and holding me accountable for the goals I set. I understand that I myself am my greatest source of growing, natural, creative and complete. I possess **inner wisdom** and am fully capable of conceiving, pursuing and achieving my goal on my own.

I understand that a residency is not a wellness trip. I am fully responsible for bringing powerful questions, content, energy and engagement into every encounter. I don't expect my host to do this work for me. **I am responsible for my actions, choices, thoughts and feelings.**

While we strive to be infallible, being human also means that there may be times when we haven't kept a certain appointment. During our coaching I will avoid saying "sorry". Instead, I strive to maintain **integrity** in my words. If I notice that I have not kept a certain appointment, I commit to doing so (e.g. "I acknowledge that I did not call my friend, even though this was the appointment. I commit myself to call again, according to what we agreed.")

I recognize that being responsible also means having the ability to respond to any situation. I agree to take responsibility for myself, **speak my truth**, and ask for what I want. I agree to being responsible for my own feelings and judgments, and I understand that I always have three answers to any question or challenge the coach presents: I can say "Yes"; I can say "No"; and/or I can negotiate. I also understand that the host can give the same three answers to any request I make.

I understand that a residency represents a very great opportunity for personal and professional growth. I understand that engaging again and again can make a noticeable difference, and especially in difficult times, I fully commit. If I'm **not satisfied** with my investment, I'll let my host know and we'll discuss ways to bring the power back, explore options for moving forward, and other alternatives.

I understand that even in difficult and painful times, when I feel judgment from myself, others, and so on, I have the choice to view the energy of my heart as an inexhaustible resource - not as a way around things, but as an exercise in self love.