



Alternative Education & Community-Based Artistic Approaches

three days of self-learning and shared practices
for artists, curators, cultural workers and educators

14 - 16 Febbraio 2026

Villa Davia, Borgo di Colle Ameno – Sasso Marconi (BO)

An initiative curated by Parsec APS

in collaboration with Miško Uostas (LT), Spazio Relativo and the Municipality of Sasso Marconi
as part of the European Erasmus+ project Creative Landscapes

Alternative Education & Community-Based Artistic Approaches is the first public event of Creative Landscapes, a European Erasmus+ project exploring the role of art and education as tools to activate territories, communities and transforming landscapes. The project unfolds through a programme of artistic residencies, two training initiatives aimed at cultural workers, and a series of activities involving local communities.

Creative Landscapes develops across two contexts: **Sasso Marconi**, in the Bolognese Apennines, and **Švenčionėliai**, a small forest town in north-eastern Lithuania. Although geographically distant, both places share a deep connection to the land and a desire to connect cultural regeneration with environmental awareness.

The three days are not conceived as a frontal training programme, but as a **space for self-learning and horizontal exchange**, where educational models, roles and methodologies can be collectively deconstructed by sharing practices, tools and experiences. The goal is not only to transmit skills, but above all to create the conditions to learn together through listening, dialogue and shared work.

The initiative is addressed to those working in decentralised contexts as well as in urban or institutional settings, and to anyone who wishes to adopt or strengthen an ecological, situated and community-based approach within their artistic, curatorial, educational or cultural practice. An open invitation to all who feel the **need to rethink the way they work in relation to territories and communities**.

Saturday 14 February - Alternative Education Models

The first day is dedicated to exploring alternative education models, self-learning practices and non-institutional learning tools.

Through dialogue with experiences operating outside or on the margins of traditional educational systems, the day invites participants to question the roles, formats and methodologies of cultural education, sharing situated practices and tools that can be adapted and reused.

The morning opens with a roundtable discussion featuring **Scuola di Ecologia Politica in Montagna and Anna Hilber**, vice president of the association BASIS Vinschgau Venosta, an organization dedicated to transdisciplinary promotion and education in the fields of economy, culture, and social practices based in Silandro.

Scuola di Ecologia Politica in Montagna is an educational and discussion-based program created to examine the ecological crisis through its social, economic, and cultural dimensions, while also questioning the power structures that shape it. Active since 2020 in Castiglione dei Pepoli, in the Emilian Apennines, the school promotes a decentralized perspective rooted in mountain territories, rethinking the relationship between communities and the landscapes they inhabit.

BASIS Vinschgau Venosta is a large-scale adaptive reuse project located in the former Druso barracks in Silandro. Founded in 2019, the association works toward the balanced strengthening of rural areas and promotes an ecosocial model of social and economic development.



Day programme

10:00 - 10:30 · Introduction to the day's theme

10:30 - 12:00 · Roundtable + Q&A

12:00 - 13:00 · Participants' introduction and formation of working groups

13:00 - 14:30 · Lunch break (with the possibility to sign up for speed dates)

15:00 - 18:30 · Thematic working groups "UN-LEARNING: Ecologies of knowledge production" / individual speed dates

18:30 · Collective sharing and aperitivo

UN- LEARNING: Ecologies of knowledge production

WORKSHOP

The proposed workshops explore modes of knowledge production that avoid extractive approaches towards people and territories, giving back time, care, and relationships instead.

The methodologies activated across the four activities from open-source toolkits and essays developed by artists, researchers, and collectives, including *Radical Friends – Decentralised Autonomous Organisations and the Arts* (Ruth Catlow, Penny Rafferty, Torque Editions, 2022), *Standpoint Autotheory – Writing Embodied Experiences and Relational Artistic Practices* (Ana de Almeida, Mariel Rodríguez, eds., Sternberg Press, 2025), and *Toolkit for Collective Reflection and Unlearning* (Howarth, Fricke, 2022 – Researcher Development, University of Exeter Doctoral College).

Through moments of reading and collective experimentation, we engage with real experiences and replicable devices to imagine alternative, situated, and non-hierarchical models of knowledge production. The session is divided into four workshops, each focusing on a different approach to regenerative, community-centered learning.

Choose the workshop that interests you most and experiment with the group through new practices and replicable tools.



Collective Lucid Imagining

A workshop designed to experience a different way of learning and producing knowledge, without starting from predefined content to “explain,” goals to achieve, or already-defined projects.

The table is based on collective imagination, listening (to rhythm, atmosphere, and tension), and the body as a tool for perception and transformation. The aim is to train adaptability: staying with change, chaos, and unexpected shifts in direction. Participants enter a free-form narrative process in which each person contributes to the creation of a shared world, leaving space for evolution, contradiction, and divergence. Through this method, the goal is to develop collective lucidity and move through the process of creative chaos.



Allo-Auto Process

This workshop invites participants to experiment with *autotheory* as a situated method for cultural work and **community-based practices**. Through three key movements, positioning, shifting, and negotiating, participants will explore how to navigate the complexities of care, collectivity, and responsibility in non-hierarchical settings.

By using radical honesty as a methodological tool, the group will challenge the idealization of collective practices and reflect on how they can also become extractive. Through the “**allo-auto-process**” (speaking and letting others speak), participants will reflect on their own positions within the group, allowing new forms of knowledge to emerge through collaboration.



Living Agenda

This workshop explores the concept of a **Living Agenda**, a dynamic approach to collective work that resists the pressure of efficiency. Participants will test a mini Living Agenda in real time, observing how it can support more sustainable practices. The workshop unfolds through a series of rituals, such as the “**Talking Stone**” circle and “**Body Breakaways**”, designed to shift the group’s energy and encourage deep listening, presence, and co-creation.

By the end, participants will develop a replicable ritual structure to apply within their own cultural contexts. The goal is not to optimize the process, but to create space for a more meaningful and less performative engagement in longer-term processes.



Toolkit for Collective Reflection and Unlearning - Exercises towards decolonisation

This workshop activates a set of exercises developed as a practice of collective reflection and **(un)learning** towards a possible decolonisation of the ways in which we produce and legitimise knowledge. The group will build a shared code of practice and engage in guided activities of self-reflection and positionality (where we speak from, which norms we internalise, who is heard and who remains invisible), questioning the implicit hierarchies that shape educational, cultural, and research contexts.

Through exercises on knowledge production and language, the table makes visible automatisms, exclusions, and normalised forms of power, in order to test concrete and replicable tools for more situated and accessible practices.

Sunday 15 February - Community-Based Artistic Approaches

The second day focuses on community-based artistic practices, co-design processes with territories and long-term relationships between art and communities. The day explores how artistic practices can become tools for social activation, trust-building and the production of shared knowledge.

The morning opens with a roundtable featuring **Adelita Husni-Bey**, an artist who has long worked with participatory practices and collective processes, and **Habitattt**.

Adelita Husni-Bey is an Italian-Libyan artist and educator whose work intertwines participatory practices, research and experimental educational formats, questioning the mechanisms of political and economic power that shape contemporary society.

Habitattt is a cultural project and participatory platform working between art and territory, promoting practices of dwelling and collective storytelling in rural contexts, with a particular focus on the Tuscan Romagna area. Through residencies, workshops and public moments, habitattt builds a living archive of experiences, memories and local imaginaries.



Day programme

10:00 - 10:30 · Introduction to the day's theme

10:30 - 12:00 · Roundtable + Q&A

12:00 - 13:00 · Participants' introduction and formation of working groups

13:00 - 14:30 · Lunch break (with the possibility to sign up for speed dates)

15:00 - 18:30 · Thematic working groups "Rebuilding: Artistic Practices for Collective Imagination" / individual speed dates

18:30 · Collective sharing and aperitivo

Rebuilding: Artistic Practices for Collective Imagination

WORKSHOP

This series of workshops explores community-based artistic approaches as situated practices capable of generating relationships, activating contexts, and building temporary forms of community. The session draws inspiration from projects and methodologies developed by contemporary artists, such as *Arte Útil* by Tania Bruguera, *Soil Kitchen* by Futurefarmers, *Gelatineria*, and *Group Material*, translating them into workshop formats and replicable exercises.

Participants will engage in hands-on creative activities that challenge established ideas of *authorship*, *impact*, and *value*, exploring art as a device for collective imagination, shared action, and mutual responsibility. Each workshop focuses on a specific perspective: from recontextualizing the vocabulary used in artistic and cultural fields as a critical and collective tool, to experimenting with sensory practices connected to matter, care, and body care; from observing soil and local materials as a way to read ecological and social transformations, to building counter-narratives through collecting, listening, and assembling stories and place-based memories.

Choose the workshop that interests you most and experiment with the group through new practices and replicable tools.



Arte Útil: Lexicon of Usership

This workshop offers an introduction to **Arte Útil** practices, presenting the framework and approach developed by artist Tania Bruguera, which considers art as a tool or device to be used in the search for sustainable solutions to social change. The notion of what constitutes Arte Útil has been developed through a set of criteria formulated by Bruguera in collaboration with curators and researchers at **Van Abbemuseum** (Eindhoven), **Queens Museum** (New York), and **Grizedale Arts** (Coniston).

During the workshop, participants will read and discuss the Arte Útil criteria as an entry point to artistic practices that engage with context, urgencies, and collective processes. The session will also focus on language, starting from selected terms drawn from Stephen Wright's *Toward a Lexicon of Usership*, with the aim of questioning the words, roles, and relationships that shape cultural production and participatory practices.



Micro Soil Kitchen

Inspired by Futurefarmers' *Soil Kitchen*, a temporary intervention and exchange-based space where free soup was offered in return for soil samples from the neighborhood, this workshop activates a participatory format grounded in gathering, exchange, and conviviality, using soil as an entry point to read the landscape through resources, relationships, and ongoing transformations.

Through site-based collecting, the creation of a shared "soil table" as a temporary archive, and informal conversations shaped by the logic of the kitchen, participants engage in a collective device that brings together ecological attention, artistic practice, and shared learning. The workshop frames exchange as a light infrastructure for community-making, turning material engagement into a space for dialogue and a trigger for further actions, reflections, and practices to be reactivated in one's own context.



Gelatineria

Gelatineria is a Jelly Lab for artists, researchers, and anyone interested in sensory and collective practices. The workshop offers a participatory artistic experience that intertwines material experimentation, scientific imagination, and co-creation processes, recognising the experiment as a situated practice capable of breaking down the boundaries of the laboratory and welcoming interference, contamination, and shared forms of participation. Gelatineria's research is rooted in feminist new materialisms, art-science practices, and **DIY approaches**, exploring matter as an active field of relations and transformations.

During the afternoon, Gelatineria will also provide an open-access bibliographic path available for participants to consult freely, bringing together new materialisms, contemporary feminism, art-science, and phenomenology, with particular attention to thinkers such as Rosi Braidotti, Karen Barad, Donna Haraway, and Manuel DeLanda.



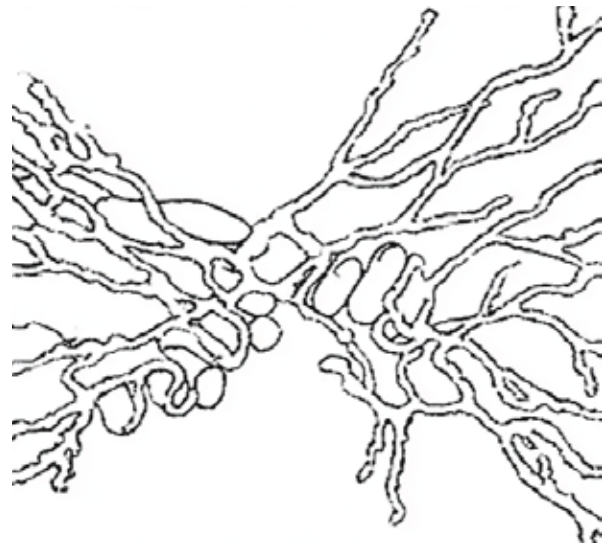
How can a landscape be activated through community-based practices?

The workshop is conceived as a collective space for reading, discussion, and shared production, exploring the relationship between territory, margins, and community-based artistic practices. Through texts, theoretical references, and case studies connected to collaborative practices and new territorial imaginaries, the activity invites participants to critically reflect on the ways communities can inhabit, transform, and reinterpret places. The program alternates moments of collective reading and open discussion with group imaginative exercises, encouraging the development of speculative visions, narrative mappings, and alternative scenarios. The reflections that emerge are further developed through drawing and visual production practices, fostering the translation of ideas into shared graphic and textual materials.

The workshop concludes with the creation of a collective fanzine, conceived as a temporary archive of images, texts, notes, and narratives produced throughout the experience. The publication thus becomes a tool for critical exchange and political imagination, capable of reflecting the plurality of perspectives that emerge from the group process while activating new reflections on the territory and its possible futures.

Monday 16 February - Closing session and meeting with the Apennine communities

The final day is conceived as a moment of translation and opening: moving from the reflections that emerged during the days of self-learning towards a concrete dialogue with the territory. The goal is to share practices, questions and visions, and to co-imagine together with the local community the possible developments of the public programme of the Creative Landscapes artistic residency.



Day programme

15:30 - 16:00 · Welcoming the public and informal introductions (families, local young people, artisans of the Borgo, Spazio Relativo, associations and informal groups from the Apennines)

16:00 - 17:00 · Presentation of the Creative Landscapes project

17:00 - 18:00 · Sharing the path developed during the days

18:00 - 19:00 · Participatory table: co-imagining together the public programme of the artistic residency (workshops, talks, open studio, collective activities)

19:00 - 21:00 · Collective sharing and aperitivo

