



Bios of the presenters at  
***The Art of Looking Sideways***  
Reflections on the Art of Actions

*(in order of appearance in the program)*



**F. David Peat**

David Peat was born in Liverpool, England where he obtained his PhD before moving to Canada. After spending two years at Queen's University, Kingston he joined the National Research Council of Canada where he carried out research in theoretical physics. He was also a member of the Foresight Group of the Science Council of Canada.

During the 1980s Peat began discussions with Native American Elders which culminated in a meeting between Native Elders and Western Scientists held at the Fetzer Institute in 1992. Peat has also organized similar encounters between scientists and artists. In 1998 he was "Scientist in Residence", giving lectures, tutorials and interacting with staff and students, at St Martin's School & Goldsmith's College, London, The Ruskin School, Oxford, The West of England School of Art (Bristol) and The Brighton School of Art. He has also written a number of exhibition catalogue essays on links between art and science. He has also been consultant to the National Gallery of Canada on concept development and research for exhibitions.

In 1996 Peat moved to the medieval village of Pari in Tuscany where is created the Pari Center for New Learning. He is the author of over twenty books.



**Boel Christensen-Scheel**

Boel Christensen-Scheel holds a PhD in performance theory. The title of her dissertation is: "Mobile Homes- Aspects of Situatedness and De-situatedness in Contemporary Experimental Practice and Theory."

Currently she works at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages of the University of Oslo.



### **Alan Boldon**

Alan Boldon has 25 years experience working on interdisciplinary projects as an artist, curator and project manager. For 12 years he directed an international arts summer school in Luxembourg that was used as a model of good practice by the EU. He has an MA in Psychological Aesthetics and has taught: Fine Art, Arts Management, Socially contextualised arts practices, public art and psychological aesthetics at BA and MA level for the past 10 years as well as lecturing throughout Europe, the USA and Canada. He has worked as a consultant to towns and cities as well as developing training and leadership programmes. He led the development of Arts and Ecology at Dartington College of Arts including the design of an MA. This course attracted international attention and praise for being innovative and challenging on every level in terms of scope and depth of course concerns, design and pedagogy.

Boldon recently worked as part of the executive of Arnolfini Gallery to develop a new organisational structure, HE partnerships and research. He has now founded, and directs, a new Arts and Ecology Research Institute focused on interdisciplinary approaches to ecological place-shaping. In 2009 he was made an Honorary Fellow of Winchester School of Art for his work in pushing the boundaries of arts practice. He is also Artist/Fellow in the Faculty of Engineering at Bristol University. He is an active fellow of the RSA and Academician of the Academy of Urbanism. Current work includes curriculum development with several Universities, developing place-making strategy for Plymouth and working with TATE on arts and ecology strategy.



### **Beverly Naidus**

Born in Salem, Massachusetts in 1953, to two New Yorkers, Beverly Naidus grew up in the Northeast. She received a BA from Carleton College and an MFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Early recognition in the New York City art world offered her many opportunities to exhibit her interactive installations and digital art projects in diverse venues, including mainstream museums and city streets. Inspired by lived experience, topics in her artwork include environmental illness, global warming, unemployment, the alienation of consumer culture, nuclear nightmares, body hate, celebrating cultural identity, confronting racism and anti-Semitism, and envisioning utopia and global justice.

Beverly Naidus has produced several artist's books *including What Kinda Name is That?* and *One Size Does Not Fit All*. Her art has been discussed in books by Paul Von Blum, Lucy R. Lippard, Suzi Gablik, Lisa Bloom and others, and reviewed in many contemporary journals.

Her teaching career includes work as an artist/teacher in New York City museums, Carleton College, California State University Long Beach, Goddard College, Hampshire College, and the Institute for Social Ecology. She has guest lectured and led workshops all over North America and in Europe. Beverly has co-created a program, Arts in Community, with a focus on art for social change for the University of Washington, Tacoma. She lives in the middle of the woods on Vashon Island with her husband and son.



### **Hildegard Kurt**

Dr. Hildegard Kurt is a cultural researcher who lives in Berlin, Germany. Her work focuses on art and sustainability, aesthetic education, art and agriculture, social sculpture and intercultural dialogue.

She is co-founder of the “and. Institute for Art, Culture and Sustainability” (*and.Institute*), located in Berlin, Frankfurt/Main and Hamburg.

In 1999 Hildegard Kurt received her doctorate from the Institute for Cultural Science, Humboldt University, Berlin, with a thesis on “The New Muse - Impulses in Art for Overcoming Consumer Culture”. The term “New Muse”, coined by Joseph Beuys in his installation “Stag Monuments”, stands for the awareness of a creative potential that reaches beyond the art world: a non-technical and non-commercial creativity which cultivates respect instead of superiority; whose objective is no longer primarily the production of artefacts; a creativity which exercises receptivity for transformation processes and no longer separates human beings from nature.

Hildegard Kurt’s research, projects, lecturing and teaching - mainly in Germany, but also in Italy, Switzerland, England, Ireland, Korea, Georgia, Hungary and the USA - all centre around the role art and culture play in shaping a humane and ecologically viable future. From 2009 she is also working as transdisciplinary practitioner in the field of social sculpture.



### **Marianne Leisner**

Marianne Leisner is a landscape architect and a permaculture teacher, she has developed *Skulehager* together with Linda Jolly and has been active teaching and working with these issues for many years. She worked with her husband Rolf Jacobsen in Gaia Tjømer. She has also written several books and published numerous articles.



### **Linda Jolly**

At the Section for Teaching and Teacher Education at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences Linda Jolly works on building bridges between farm and garden activities and the schools of general education. The initial project, *Living School*, from 1996 to 2000, took its point of departure from the question: “How can we contribute to fostering hope, courage and resolve in children in order for them to be able to participate in a productive way in the forming of their surroundings?” More concretely, the goal was to create pedagogical “provinces” in which a committed, caring and continuous work with nature could occur to enable an enduring experience of connection and belonging. “Green care” is thus seen at our institute as essential for building health in children, as a prerequisite for learning. Currently, Linda is one of the driving forces in “Living Learning, the farm as a pedagogical resource.”



### **Solveig Slåttli**

Solveig Slåttli has been a class teacher for grades 1- 8 at the Waldorf school in Bergen, Norway, as well as a drawing and painting teacher for the upper levels since 1978. She runs courses for adults in painting, drawing and nature observation.



### **Jana Fröberg**

Jana Fröberg has a Bachelor degree in visual arts, from Oslo National Academy of the Arts, and she has contributed to numerous exhibitions, and developed both installations and art performances.



### **Katja Høst**

Katja Høst's work is concerned with identity as a flexible and context-dependent entity. Parameters in social situations and collective understanding influence how we picture ourselves. These parameters, and how they influence us, are her target of investigation. Through photographic and filmic studies she searches for the lines between the subjective and the objective in our self-understanding. When are we the masters of our own expression as social actors, and when are we not? What social context moves us? In what way? How or when do we welcome it? Katja Høst graduated in 1999 at Kunsthøyskolen in Bergen, Department of specialized art – photography, and has had solo exhibitions as well as joined group exhibitions.



### **Jan van Boeckel**

Jan van Boeckel is a Dutch anthropologist, visual artist, art teacher and filmmaker. One of Jan's areas of interest and concern are the worldviews and environmental philosophies of indigenous peoples.

Currently Jan van Boeckel is research fellow at Aalto University in Helsinki, where he is focusing on the added value of art practice in the context of nature and environmental education.

One of Jan's research interests is the tension between trying to 'open the senses' whilst coping with the current ecological crisis. From Helsinki, Finland, he started an international network for nature-art-education.



### **Tonje Hessen Schei**

Tonje Hessen Schei is a Norwegian filmmaker who has been working with independent documentary film since 1996. Her work focuses on human rights, environmental and social issues. She is the director of PLAY AGAIN, an award-winning documentary about the consequences of a childhood removed from nature. Other films include INDEPENDENT INTERVENTION, an award-winning documentary that investigates the importance of independent media in a time of war and corporate control of the media.

Tonje has a masters in film from the University of Trondheim in Norway and a BA in film production from the University of Texas in Austin.

Tonje is the founder and director of Ground Productions, an independent international documentary production company based in Portland and Norway.



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