

RU PROGRAM REPORT

RESIDENCY UNLIMITED

dirt & debt

**international
artist residency
2019 | 2020**

Austria (Sch)	10.3448	-0.007	411 - 411	10.3448	1.0
Belgium (BFr)	30.2400	-0.026	200 - 600	30.3050	30.0
Denmark (DKr)	5.6860	-0.0025	845 - 875	5.6972	5.0
Finland (FMr)	4.6091	+0.0259	053 - 128	4.6248	4.0
France (FFr)	5.0417	-0.0015	414 - 419	5.0518	5.0
Germany (DM)	1.4709	-0.0009	705 - 713	1.4743	1.0
Greece (Dr)	241.090	-0.135	020 - 160	241.790	239.0
Iceland (Is)	1.5725	+0.001	715 - 735	1.5736	1.0
Italy (L)	1567.41	+1.06	700 - 782	1573.64	156.0
Luxembourg (LFr)	30.2400	-0.028	200 - 600	30.3050	30.0
Netherlands (Fl)	1.6466	-0.002	482 - 489	1.6505	1.0
Norway (NKr)	6.4066	+0.004	028 - 103	6.4191	6.0
Portugal (Ea)	152.085	-0.015	020 - 150	153.130	151.0
Spain (Pta)	123.615	-0.16	590 - 840	123.860	123.0
Sweden (SKr)	6.7787	-0.0008	737 - 837	6.7950	6.0
Switzerland (SFr)	1.1864	-0.0026	860 - 867	1.1894	1.0
United Kingdom (£)	1.5245	-0.11	242 - 247	1.5255	1.0
United States (\$)	1.2558	-	555 - 560	1.2558	1.0
Japan (Y)	0.68290	-	-	0.68290	0.68
Canada (C\$)	0.99	-	980 - 990	0.99	0.99
Mexico (Peso)	17.2	-	11 871 - 11 871	17.2	17.2
India (Rupee)	73	-	08 680 - 08 680	73	73
China (Yuan)	7.5575	-	75 550 - 75 550	7.5575	7.5575
South Africa (Rand)	-	-	-	-	-
Australia (A\$)	1.2907	-0.0015	903 - 912	1.2912	1.29
Hong Kong (HK\$)	7.7317	-0.0008	312 - 322	7.7322	7.73
Singapore (S\$)	34.0500	+0.1345	500 - 500	34.1500	33.9
South Korea (Won)	3.0915	+0.003	890 - 940	3.0940	3.0
Japan (Y)	105.335	+0.035	290 - 380	105.490	105.0
Malaysia (M\$)	2.5285	-0.0008	380 - 390	2.5298	2.5
New Zealand (NZ\$)	-	-	-	-	1.4
Philippines (Peso)	-	-	-	-	6.1
Saudi Arabia (SR)	-	-	-	-	3.7
Singapore (S\$)	-	-	-	-	1.4
South Africa (R)	-	-	-	-	3.8
South Korea (Won)	-	-	-	-	80.0
Taiwan (T\$)	-	-	-	-	7.4
Thailand (Bt)	-	-	-	-	5.2

SDR rate per \$ for Mar 13. Bid/offer spreads in the Dollar Spot table show only market bid and offer rates. UK, Ireland & ECJ are quoted in

DIRT & DEBT 2019

In a global context of escalating ecological crisis and of polarizing inequality and demographic shifts that drive urbanization, healthy and accessible land/dirt/earth/soil are at the core of thriving societies. Dirt & Debt, RU's first thematic residency, responded to this reality by inviting seven NYC-based artists to envisage new pathways to how we build and manage our built and natural world in order to foster equitable, ecological and compassionate community.

From February to April 2019, Dirt & Debt artists participated in weekly mentored workshops at RU and talks over pot-luck dinners hosted by NYU's Food Studies Program, led by key professionals in a wide variety of fields. Bringing together artists with urban planners, alternative transportation specialists, financiers, soil and environmental scientists, food experts, and more, Dirt & Debt created a unique forum for the exchange of ideas and development of new fluencies across practices.

The three-month residency concluded with a public program at RU on Dirt & Debt: Ecology, Finance and Art at the Community Level.

Dirt & Debt demonstrates RU's ongoing commitment to convening an annual thematic residency as an artist-driven model for innovation. RU considers this program a pivotal demonstration of the role of artist residencies play in addressing topics of critical interest.

"We sat on hard seats, contending with hard topics, and the guests were met with hard resistance at times." - JENI WIGHTMAN

11 WORKSHOPS WITH 15 GUEST EXPERTS / **5 DINNERS** WITH 6 GUEST EXPERTS / **2 OFFSITE TRIPS** TO 5 SPACES: MTA MUSEUM, MTA, SIMS RECYCLING CENTER, COOPER HEWITT MOBILITY EXHIBITION, GENSPACE ORGANIZATION / **1 CONCLUDING ROUNDTABLE** WITH 3 GUEST SPEAKERS, 1 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AND MODERATOR /

DIRT & DEBT 2019

SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

01 GENERAL MEETING + 30 MINS
PRESENTATIONS 10:00 - 6:00 / RU

07 POT-LUCK SUPPER: ALLIE WIST
6:30 - 8:30 / NYU FOOD STUDIES

08 VINEET DIWADKAR
10:00 - 6:00 / RU

15 ANDREA SILVERMAN:
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
SITE VISIT: TRANSIT MUSEUM
ON-SITE MEETING: KEVIN GURLEY MTA
10:00 - 6:00 / RU

21 POT-LUCK SUPPER: MELISSA
METRICK, UMBER BAWA 6:30 - 8:30 /
NYU FOOD STUDIES

22 FRANZISKA LANDES
10:00 - 6:00 / RU

MARCH

01 CAROLINE WOOLARD AND LEIGH
CLAIRE LA BERGE 10:00 TO 6:00 / RU

08 OFF-SITE VISITS: SIMS MUNICIPAL
RECYCLING CENTER / GENSPACE
/ MOBILITY EXHIBITION / COOPER
HEWITT 10:00 - 6:00 / SIMS CENTER

15 SANFORD RICH AND ANTONIO
RODRIQUEZ: FINANCE WORKSHOP
PART I 10:00 - 6:00 / RU

21 POT-LUCK SUPPER LEE DAVIES
6:30 - 8:30 / NYU FOOD STUDIES

22 SANFORD RICH: FINANCE
WORKSHOP PART II 10:00 - 6:00 / RU

23 CAROLYN GROSSMAN MEAGHER
10:00 - 6:00 / PARSONS

29 JAVIER ORS AUSÍN
10:00 - 6:00 / RU

APRIL

05 GROUP MEETUP/REFLECTION
10:00 - 6:00 / RU

11 POT-LUCK SUPPER-TATTFOO TAN
6:30 - 8:30 / NYU FOOD STUDIES

12 JACOB OLMEDO 10:00 - 6:00 / RU

18 POT-LUCK SUPPER: IAIN KERR,
SPURSE 6:30 - 8:30 / NYU FOOD STUDIES

19 ELLIOTT ROTH 10:00 - 6:00 / RU

26 ALLISON HENRY
10:00 - 6:00 / RU

27 MATT SEYBOLD
10:00 - 6:00 / PARSONS

CLOSING ROUNDTABLE WITH MATT SEYBOLD, JENI
WIGHTMAN, JENNIFER GROSS, DAVID SUN KONG,
JANE PHILBRICK-MODERATOR
TILL-A PARTIAL SPONSER
7:00 - 8:00 / RU

DIRT & DEBT PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Seven participants were selected out of 53 applicants through an open call for proposals issued by Residency Unlimited in July 2018 for the Dirt & Debt residency based on excellence of practice and innovative approaches to sustaining community prosperity and ecological well-being. The finalists represent a spectrum of race, age, nationality, and media, balancing material orientations with system processes.



ANNA RILEY's research-based studio practice is concerned with material chemistry, new materialism, and the ethical questions of the built and natural environment. Guided by her interest in the seemingly 'inert' world and an appreciation for the types of labor that lie behind the built environment, she creates work to be in dialogue with contemporary debates about recycling, land use, artistic labor, craft histories, ecofeminism, and performance.



But what if lots like this could become food forests for the community instead of cash cows for the rich?

CANDACE THOMPSON is a [human] performer and interdisciplinary media maker fascinated with the feedback loops generated by place, culture, identity, climate, economics, and daily interpersonal interaction. She makes video, audio, web projects, and ritualistic installations—both IRL and online—that examine and challenge the truths we purportedly hold to be self-evident. Perhaps they aren't so self-evident after all.



LUISA VALDERRAMA's work draws on her experience of living between rural and urban environments in Colombia, where she grew up. She explores organic materiality, formalist composition, self-reflection and how things relate to the land through a combination of mixed media sculpture, installation, painting, and video.

DIRT & DEBT PARTICIPATING ARTISTS



Combining art history and ecology, **JESSICA SEGALL** present acts of endurance and build tools for survival in a precarious time. Travels to hostile climates inspire my work, which is designed to unpack ideas of environmental conservation and bring a little wildness into institutional spaces. In her performances she plays with both the risk of engaging with the environment and the vulnerability of the environment itself.



JENIFER WIGHTMAN is a research scientist specializing in greenhouse gas inventories and life cycle analysis of agriculture, forestry, waste, and bioenergy systems at Cornell University. Her art practice began in 2002 and employs scientific tropes to incite curiosity of biological phenomena and inform an ecological rationality.



MELISSA MARKS describes “the drawn mark” as a “mutable abstraction, linear catalyst and fantasy instigator.” “Every drawing I make is a diagram of a core-shaking internal disruption, an interior landscape made visible, a picture of a self in a constant state of remaking.”



MARYAM MONALISA GHARAVI is an artist, writer, and theorist. Her work explores the activated or ‘live’ film; meaning, legibility, and poetics (including neologism, epistolary fiction, abécédaires, and networked literary forms); visibility and iconography (from iconized bandits to facial recognition technologies); surveillance, empire, and security; and emerging approaches to the interplay between aesthetic and political valences in the public domain.

DIRT & DEBT CURATORS



DR. LIVIA ALEXANDER is residency director and consultant at RU. She is Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Art and Design at Montclair State University. Her most recent work is focused on examining the relationship between art infrastructure and artistic production and urbanity. She has curated and produced numerous art and film programs and exhibitions, showcased at MoMA New York, Tate Modern, Sharjah Art Foundation, The Film Society of Lincoln Center, and many more. Her award-winning scholarly writing has appeared in the *Journal of Visual Anthropology*, *Framework*, *MERIP*, and as book chapters and catalog essays. She regularly contributes to *Hyperallergic* and *Harper's Bazaar Art Arabia*.



JANE PHILBRICK is an artist, educator, and writer. Her large-scale installations and sculpture range in media from ultrasound and rammed earth to magnetic levitation and found space. She works in collaboration across disciplines in science, engineering, architecture, music, and performance. Her current work explores artist's interventions in the built environment, applying the holistic and synthetic methodologies of artist practice to real estate development in urban and suburban settings. Jane teaches in the Art, Media, Technology Program, Parsons School of Design/The New School, and is founder of TILL (Today's Industrial Living Landscapes), a multidisciplinary practice focused on holistic, community-based brownfield regeneration seeking community-specific opportunities that engage the global context.

DIRT & DEBT GUEST SPEAKERS

Dirt & Debt was structured to promote co-learning within three thematic sections – capital, ecology, and community. Industry experts were invited to conduct weekly workshops with the artists at RU, presenting lectures in a seminar setting followed by group Q&A. Each guest then met individually with artists for one-on-one sessions. The day closed with summary discussion/overview led by the guest and residency co-curators, with takeaways/insights offered by guests on new perspectives they've gained seeing their field through the lens of Dirt & Debt artists and possible next steps for individual artists and the community as a whole.

Lectures and dialogue were structured to promote awareness, deepen understanding, and promote interdisciplinary literacy and legibility in key issues of financialization, climate change, heritage and identity, new technologies for land remediation, and the transitioning relationship of the city to exurban peripheries. These weekly meetings provided the framework for new learning and exchange, fostering collaboration and creating networks artists can apply and develop in their creative and critical practices and processes.

VINEET DIWADKAR
URBAN PLANNING GLOBAL



VINEET DIWADKAR is a designer and urban planner based in Brooklyn, New York. He manages Aecom's Urban Analytics projects for the NYC metro region and is a principal researcher with the Terreform Center for Advanced Urban Research. He works with communities and governments, non-profit organizations, and academia to deliver more inclusive community and housing development, infrastructure, ecological and heritage conservation, and economic planning projects using data-driven methods.

KEVIN GURLEY
ON-SITE MEETING: MTA

KEVIN GURLEY is Senior Transportation Planner with the MTA, New York City Transit, Kevin Gurley is an urban planner/designer who is passionate about cities, mobility, economic development, and the design of public spaces. He believes public transit is an essential element in creating greater opportunities for residents, by providing equitable access to the city and its resources.



DIRT & DEBT GUEST SPEAKERS

Drawing on a semi-think tank semi studio model, Dirt & Debt artists met weekly with guest experts in fields of economics and finance, art and community, science and environment to nurture critical dialogues that cut across siloed expertise and support new professional fluences and connectivity.

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ANDREA SILVERMAN WASTE, WATER, TRANSIT

ANDREA SILVERMAN is an Assistant Professor at New York University, with joint appointments in the Department of Civil and Urban Engineering at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering, and the NYU College of Global Public Health. The overarching goal of Dr. Silverman's work is to develop sustainable and appropriate wastewater treatment systems, in an effort to protect public health and environmental quality.

DIRT & DEBT GUEST SPEAKERS

FRANZISKA LANDES: SOIL

FRANZISKA LANDES is a fifth year Ph.D. student in the Earth and Environmental Science program at Columbia University. She is interested in environmental geochemistry and public health, especially the potential for community and public participation in science to reduce exposure to environmental contaminants while increasing our knowledge of environmental contaminants, public awareness of relevant health information, and improve science literacy. Her current work involves developing a field test kit for lead in soils and studying the impact of soil lead contamination in New York and Peru.



CAROLINE WOOLARD & LEIGH CLAIRE LA BERGE FINANCE, ART, LITERATURE



CAROLINE WOOLARD employs sculptures and online networks to metonymize group work. Woolard has co-founded barter networks OurGoods.org and TradeSchool.coop (2008-2015), the Study Center for Group Work (since 2016), BFAMFAPhD.com (since 2014), and the NYC Real Estate Investment Cooperative (since 2016).

LEIGH CLAIRE LA BERGE is the author of Scandals and Abstraction: Financial Fiction of the Long 1980s, as well as the co-editor of Reading Capitalist Realism. Her new book, Wages Against Artwork: Decommodified Labor and the Claims of Socially Engaged Art will be released by Duke University next year. She is assistant professor of English at BMCC, City University of New York.

This residency convened all kinds of people: financiers, curators, soil scientists, waste managers, transportation managers, city planners, artists. In the end, this wasn't an artist residency; it was a reminder of the integration of the multiple disciplines we each embody that requires we step back from our expertise in order to step forward into the whole of our shared community.

- **Jeni Wightman**

DIRT & DEBT GUEST SPEAKERS

SANFORD RICH & ANTONIO RODRIQUEZ FINANCE WORKSHOP



SANFORD RICH has been an Executive Director at New York City Board of Education Retirement System since January 2016. Mr. Rich served as the Chief of Negotiations and Restructuring at Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation(PBGC) since December 17, 2012 until January 2016. He supervised staffers involved with supporting troubled plans.

ANTONIO RODRIQUEZ is currently Director of Investment Strategy at the NYC Board of Education Retirement System where he works with the Executive Director and Board of Trustees on creating and implementing investment policy and strategy. Prior to his role at BERS he was Senior Pensions and Investments Officer at the New York City Mayor's Office of Pensions and Investments where he represented the Finance Commissioner as Trustee on the New York City Police Pension Fund board and New York City Fire Department Pension Fund board.

JAVIER ORS AUSÍN HERITAGE CONSERVATION

JAVIER ORS AUSÍN, heritage specialist currently working as Program Associate at World Monuments Fund, where he manages and oversees some of WMF's field projects and initiatives, as well as the organization's public programs in New York. His professional and research work focuses on the intersection of heritage with colonial and modern architecture, issues of social justice and representation in the built environment, and the social impact of inclusive conservation practices.



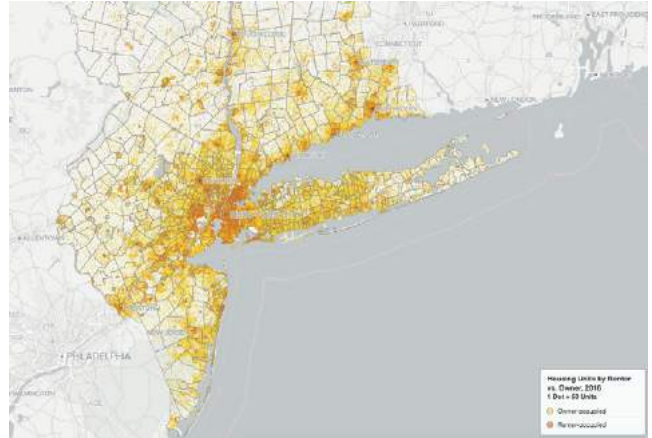
DIRT & DEBT GUEST SPEAKERS

JACOB OLMEDO ECOLOGICAL FASHION

JACOB OLMEDO (b. Sheboygan, Wisconsin, lives and works in New York, NY) holds a BFA in Fashion Design from the School of Fashion at Parsons. He is a designer and artist who focuses on sustainability and the future of fashion through textiles and garments.



CAROLYN GROSSMAN MEAGHER URBAN PLANNING NYC



CAROLYN GROSSMAN MEAGHER, head of the newly formed Regional Planning Division within New York City's Planning Department, uses census data about the way human beings live and work to collaborate with governments across the region on issues of shared planning priority, to ask questions about how we define local, community, neighborhood, forest and territories. Her job coordinates analysis and storytelling, partnerships and contact, how people live and how they live together.

ELLIOT ROTH THE FUTURE

Elliot Roth Spira, Inc, CEO, DIY astrobiologist, and writer **Elliott Roth** is incredibly motivated to solve physiological needs using simple biological design. He is a Kairos Fellow, a Seasteading Ambassador, a member of the TFF NextGen Council, and sits on the Virginia Governor's Council for Youth Entrepreneurship. Elliot has spoken at Synbiobeta, SXSW, and Thought for Food on social impact, synthetic biology and food.



DIRT & DEBT GUEST SPEAKERS

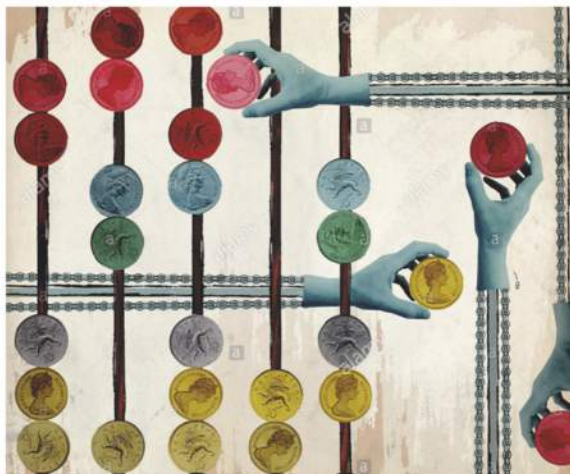
MATT SEYBOLD
FINANCE CAPITAL

ALLISON HENRY
FUTURE TRANSIT

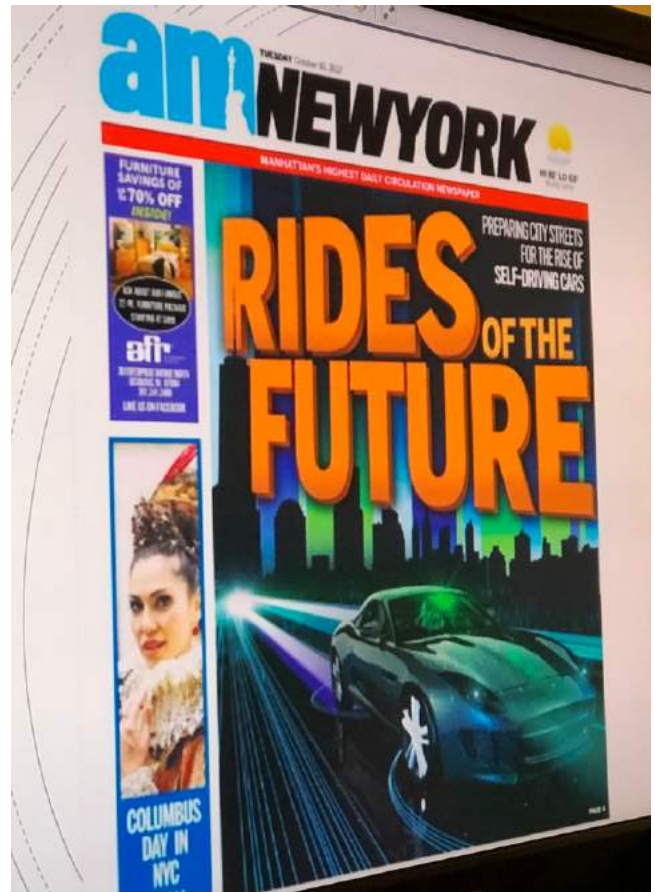
MATT SEYBOLD shared with the group his original and provocative focus on the intersection of economics, mass media, and literary culture in the United States. He writes: Finance is theatre. Both require the collective voluntary suspension of disbelief. When we buy stocks, or even so much as make a bank deposit, we implicate ourselves in the illusion that a few slips of paper, a few drops of ink or a few lines of code are interchangeable with bushels of wheat, parcels of land and weeks of labour.



The **Routledge Companion** to
Literature and Economics



Edited by Matt Seybold and Michelle Chihara



ALLISON HENRY, a Design Strategist at Gensler working at the intersection of organizational culture and spatial analysis, initiated a conversation about transportation systems and mobility technologies that expanded on earlier D&D conversations begun at The Cooper Hewitt exhibition, *The Road Ahead: Reimagining Mobility* - one of several productive field trips.

DIRT & DEBT POT-LUCK SUPPERS

Hosted in collaboration with the Food Studies program and organized by artist and writer **Allie Wist**.

Twice a month, Dirt & Debt residency artists, people in the food world, students and walk ins met over casual potluck-style gatherings for a creative dialogue about food system issues.

ALLIE WIST

ALLIE WIST is an artist, creative director, and researcher whose work is anchored in food culture, food systems, and global landscapes. She is an adjunct professor at NYU and The New School, a part-time editor for FoodFuture Co, and a contributor to Saveur magazine.



MELISSA METRICK AND UMBER BAWA



MELISSA METRICK is a graduate of the Master's Program in Food Studies, she was instrumental in establishing the NYU Urban Farm Lab, an educational greenspace located right on the university's campus. Metrick was the garden manager at Roberta's, a popular farm-to-table restaurant dishing out wood-fired pizzas in Brooklyn, for 7 years. As garden manager, she designed and created the on-site kitchen garden, which is also used to educate the chefs and guests in how to grow food sustainably within a city environment.

UMBER BAWA is the Founder + CEO of Rabble, a curated impact investment platform that enables people to invest in projects that produce social and environmental good. Prior to founding Rabble, UMBER led project finance and strategic initiatives at Spirae, a Colorado-based cleantech firm. There, he created financial models for renewable-based microgrid and smart city projects, and led smart city initiatives in North America and Europe.

DIRT & DEBT POT-LUCK SUPPERS

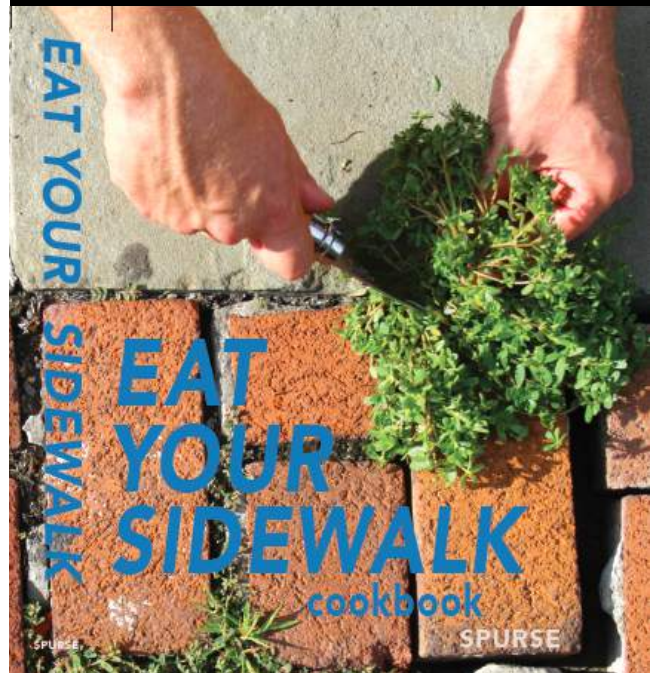
TATFOO TAN



Artist **TATFOO TAN**'s practice focuses on issues relating to ecology, sustainability and healthy living. His work is project-based, ephemeral and educational in nature. Tan has been widely recognized for his artistic contributions and service to the community, and is the proud recipient of a proclamation from The City of New York.

IAIN KERR: SPURSE

IAIN KERR, SPURSE SPURSE has been at the forefront of ecological research, experimental design, and innovation leadership for the last two decades — developing groundbreaking ways to probe, catalyze, disrupt and re-imagine systems both large and small, they have collaborated with communities, organizations, and individuals from the high arctic to the inner cities in Bolivia. Their award-winning projects reveal an astonishing range of creative solutions to effecting real change: from restaurants, wetlands, wayfinding apps, urban renewal programs, microbiology laboratories, cookbooks, buildings, everyday tools and more.



*Working as an artist in NYC is challenging on many levels, but the rewards are in the communities that can be formed, the critical discourse and smart people who are willing to engage hard topics, and open up unconventional ways of thinking. - **Jessica Segall***

*I really loved the Thursday dinners... I am grateful to have made connections with folks I have long wanted to share space with.- **Candance Thompson***

DIRT & DEBT SITE VISITS

SIMS MUNICIPAL RECYCLING CENTER



SIMS MUNICIPAL RECYCLING CENTER (SMR) provides key service for New York City's curbside recycling system. As a business of Sims Metal Management, SMR processes and markets more than 200,000 tons of plastic, glass and metal that New Yorkers put into recycling bins each year.



GENSPACE



GENSPACE is the world's first community lab—a place where anyone can learn and work on biotechnology. Since 2009, we have served the greater New York area by providing STEM educational outreach, classes for adults, cultural events, and a platform for science innovation at the grassroots level.



DIRT & DEBT SITE VISITS

COOPER HEWITT MOBILITY EXHIBITION



COOPER HEWITT MOBILITY EXHIBITION
The Road Ahead: Reimagining Mobility presented 40 design projects inspired by the technologies that will change how we move people, goods, and services in the future. With the rapid convergence of data and design innovation, cities are becoming smarter and transport options are multiplying. The Road Ahead encourages visitors to creatively consider how droids, bots, drones, and more can make streetscapes safer, transportation more equitable, and cities more sustainable.



MTA TRANSIT MUSEUM GUIDED TOUR



A guided walkthrough vintage subway and elevated cars and exhibits that share the rich story of public transportation. Our guide discussed the history, technology, design, and future of transportation and shared with us the challenge of moving millions of passengers daily. The tour presented the magnitude and complexity of New York City's public transportation system as well as the environmental, social, and economic sustainability of transportation over time.



DIRT & DEBT IMPACT

Against the backdrop of an ever-expanding portfolio of initiatives undertaken by municipal leaders and real estate developers in various urban centers in the US and internationally to leverage art as a catalyst for economic growth, Dirt & Debt championed artist-driven models as a more symbiotic alternative to top-down and return-driven incumbent strategies.

Designed to be both a hands-on and door-opening practical residency, artists were encouraged to pursue their work and research and look to us as a sounding board for concept development and network facilitators.

*This residency concluded with a public event at Residency Unlimited with **Matthew Seybold, Jeni Wightman, Jennifer Gross, David Sun Kong**, discussing ecology, finance and art at the community*

“Many of the themes we discussed opened up ideas in my head for larger, long term projects with communities and specific issues. The question that stuck with me is: What can we, as artists, do? Listening to other people’s work and ideas got me thinking about how could I address all these issues in my own way.”

- LUISA VALDERRAMA



“From day one, I found our group conversations to be alert and intimate, generously contentious, happily interruptive, and profoundly productive... Dirt &Debt is an ambitious experiment, and I appreciate the way in which we all rose to its challenge. I appreciated the “think tank” in all its forms and variations.”

- MELISSA MARKS

The thoughtful programing exposed me to multivalent facets of ecolgical and financial peril. I can forthrightly say that I would not have been immersed in these ideas otherwise.I have begun a research project tentatively titled ORG (Oil Research Group). Oil is the way I have found to make the ideas of dirt and debt tangible to me in a personal and artistic capacity, from the return to oil wars (Venezuela, Iran), to global financial markets (based on oil shares), to its very future as a non-renewable resource.”

- MELISSA MARKS

