

Press Release
Kassel, June 2, 2021

THIRD EDITION OF CONVERSATION SERIES LUMBUNG CALLING ON JUNE 5, 2021,
FOCUSES ON LUMBUNG VALUE INDEPENDENCE



INSTAR, Art to the limit, Workshop with the theoretician Brian Holmes and the artist Claire Pentecost, Havana, 2017,
Photo: INSTAR

The seven-part conversation series lumbung calling launches documenta fifteen's Public Program, activated under the title Meydan. Each edition of the series is dedicated to one of the lumbung values: **Local Anchor, Humor, Independence, Generosity, Transparency, Sufficiency, and Regeneration**. The format dives deeper into the background of the artistic concept for documenta fifteen and illuminates the idea of lumbung from many different angles. Through conversations with a variety of guests, lumbung calling will explore the rich meaning of lumbung across multiple disciplines, points of view, and contexts, within an artistic framing. The invited protagonists have faced major challenges and initiated breakthroughs on various scales and include academics, cultural activists, independent researchers, organic farmers, and festival organizers, among others.

Third edition of lumbung calling: Independence

The third lumbung calling on June 5, 2021, focuses on the lumbung value of Independence. In lumbung practice, independence can be perceived as interdependence, in order to avoid the binary approach that condemns and severely restricts the relationship to a hierarchical definition that favors always one part over another, in an always incomplete theorem.

Taking its cue from ecological ways of thinking, in lumbung, relations between humans and other-than-humans weave independence and interdependence together. Independence from is rather transformed into interdependence between, which shows how relations are deeply complex and how nothing can truly thrive on its own, rather being mutually reliant on each other.

lumbung calling on Independence hosts a conversation between Tania Bruguera, founder of the Cuban Instituto de Artivismo Hannah Arendt (INSTAR), and the Palestinian Agroecology scholar Omar Tesdell.

Through their artistic efforts, artist Tania Bruguera and the Havana-based collective INSTAR are dedicated to promoting independence, democracy, fundamental civil rights, and social fairness, by offering workshops to strengthen the capacities of artists, intellectuals and activists. They also provide financial support for their independent projects.

Omar Tesdell is a Palestinian Agroecology scholar, who is engaged in a collective struggle for freedom and basic human rights. Tesdell's perspective demonstrates how agriculture research should not only be limited to the biophysical dimension, rather how it transcends academic disciplines and how it is deeply connected to an interspecies and socioeconomic dimension.

lumbung calling takes place on the first Saturday of every month over seven sessions, from April to October 2021. It is hosted by the artist Jumana Emil Abboud and ruangrupa member Mirwan Andan. Previous editions focused on the lumbung values Local Anchor and Humor.

lumbung calling can be viewed digitally through documenta fifteen's social media channels YouTube and Facebook. The conversation will be in English and translated into International Sign Language. Recordings of individual events will subsequently be available on documenta fifteen's website and YouTube, supplemented by German and English subtitles.

Guests and Hosts

Instituto de Artivismo Hannah Arendt (INSTAR) emerged as an institution for civic literacy in 2015, from an artistic intervention, organized by the Cuban artist **Tania**

Bruguera, where people read and discussed Hannah Arendt's book *The Origins of Totalitarianism* for one hundred hours. Bruguera is a political performance artist who explores the relationship between art, activism, and social change. Her work examines the social effects of political and economic power. Since its inception, INSTAR has been thought of as a democratic and horizontal space, where decisions are made by consensus. Its members claim social justice and rights in Cuba, such as fair wages, a working environment that is maternity friendly, supporting independent projects and artists, and respect for freedom of expression. INSTAR is a safe space that protects and connects other organizations, activists, and artists, offering workshops, financial support through prizes and scholarships, and visibility. INSTAR is a lumbung member of documenta fifteen.

Omar Imseeh Tesdell is Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Birzeit University, Palestine. He studies landscape and agroecological transformation in the Middle East and the Americas. More specifically, Tesdell is interested in the relationship between ecological change and built environment. Tesdell's peer-reviewed research has been published in refereed journals such as *Plants, People, Planet* (2020), *Frontiers in Plant Science* (2020), *Journal of Arid Environments* (2020), *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems* (2019), *Geoforum* (2017), and *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (2015). Other recent publications include *Garden Gathering in A Garden Among the Hills: The Floral Heritage of Palestine*, *The Palestinian Museum* (2019). He has also edited an Arabic-English guide entitled *Palestinian Wild Food Plants* (2018), as part of a community-based research collective. In 2015, he held a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University in New York.

Jumana Emil Abboud is an artist whose creative interests lie in oral histories, personal and collective stories, and mythologies, particularly folk tales and their sites of being and unbeing. Abboud uses storytelling, performative elements, and workshop methodologies in her artistic practice to investigate our relationship to time and place, to the human and non-human, exploring tools of memory, attachment, and dispossession amid the challenge for continuity within political, ecological, and cultural struggles. Her work has been shown at *The Jerusalem Show* (2018); *Sharjah Biennale* (2017); *BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead* (2016); *Biennale di Venezia* (2015); and *Istanbul Biennale* (2009), among many others. She has participated in art residencies, including *Sakiya – Art/Science/Agriculture, Ramallah*; *Delfina Foundation, London*; *Arts Initiative Tokyo*; and *Gästateatelier Krone, Aarau*. Abboud is currently pursuing a practice-led PhD at the *Slade School of Fine Art, University College London*.

Mirwan Andan is a member of *ruangrupa*, Artistic Direction of *documenta fifteen*.

Undine Schäfer is a sign language interpreter based in *Göttingen*.

DOCUMENTA FIFTEEN

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 Kassel

JUNE 18



Program

lumbung calling: Independence

Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 8.30 am (CDT), 2.30 pm (CET), 3.30 pm (EEST), 7.30 pm (WIB)

With Tania Bruguera (INSTAR) and Omar Imseeh Tesdell

Hosted by Jumana Emil Abboud and Mirwan Andan

In English with translation into International Sign Language

Livestream via Facebook (@documentafifteen) and YouTube

(www.youtube.com/documentafifteen)

Further Editions

lumbung calling: Generosity, Saturday, July 3, 2021

lumbung calling: Transparency, Saturday, August 7, 2021

lumbung calling: Sufficiency, Saturday, September 4, 2021

lumbung calling: Regeneration, Saturday, October 2, 2021

Previous Editions

lumbung calling: Local Anchor, Saturday, April 3, 2021

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZn_2MErvLM

lumbung calling: Humor, Saturday, May 1, 2021

www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsM1e77clns

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