

Portfolio

2024

Ekaterina Volkova and Julien Thomas

Ekaterina Volkova (1992, RU) and Julien Thomas (1986, CA) compose alternative alliances and strategies for the production and reception of earthly knowledge. Through installations, objects, publications and presentations, the duo engage academic institutions, government agencies, and publics in weaving together nascent narratives and latent symbolisms that act as tools and techniques for navigating late modernity

Volkova and Thomas met at the Sandberg Instituut's Designing Democracy temporary MA program (2014–16), and began collaborating in 2019 on themes of distributed sense-making and interactive media. In 2022 they were selected for the Jan van Eyck Academie / Urban Futures Studio artist residency 'Reimagining low-carbon futures' in partnership with the IMAGE climate modelling team. They were residents of the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht from 2022–23, where they collaborated with earth science researchers to present a series of works anticipating future cloudscapes. During 2023–24 they were artists-in-residence at the Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (KNMI) where they explored inner climates. They will be conducting artistic research alongside the Dutch national climate negotiation team in preparation for the 2024 COP in Azerbaijan. Their work has been presented at Springtij (Terschelling, 2022), Pathways to Sustainability (Utrecht, 2023), the Urgency Intensive (Maastricht, 2022), Jan van Eyck Academy Open Studios (Maastricht, 2023), the Koninklijk Academie van Wetenschap (Amsterdam, 2023) and the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (2024).

Cold Fronts and Warm Baths (2024)

Cold Fronts and Warm Baths is a limited-run publication presenting the outcomes of an artist residency at the Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute — KNMI).

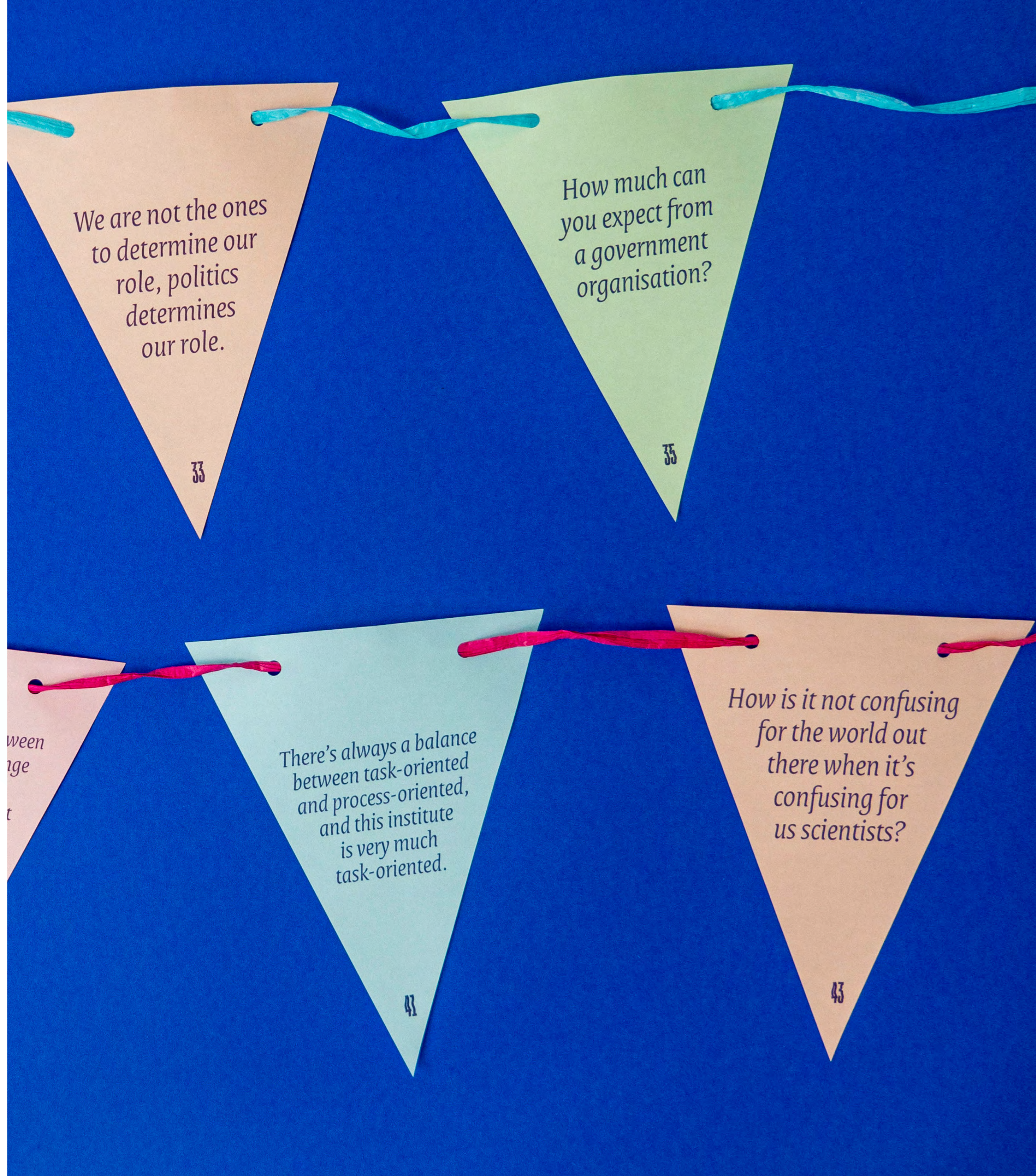
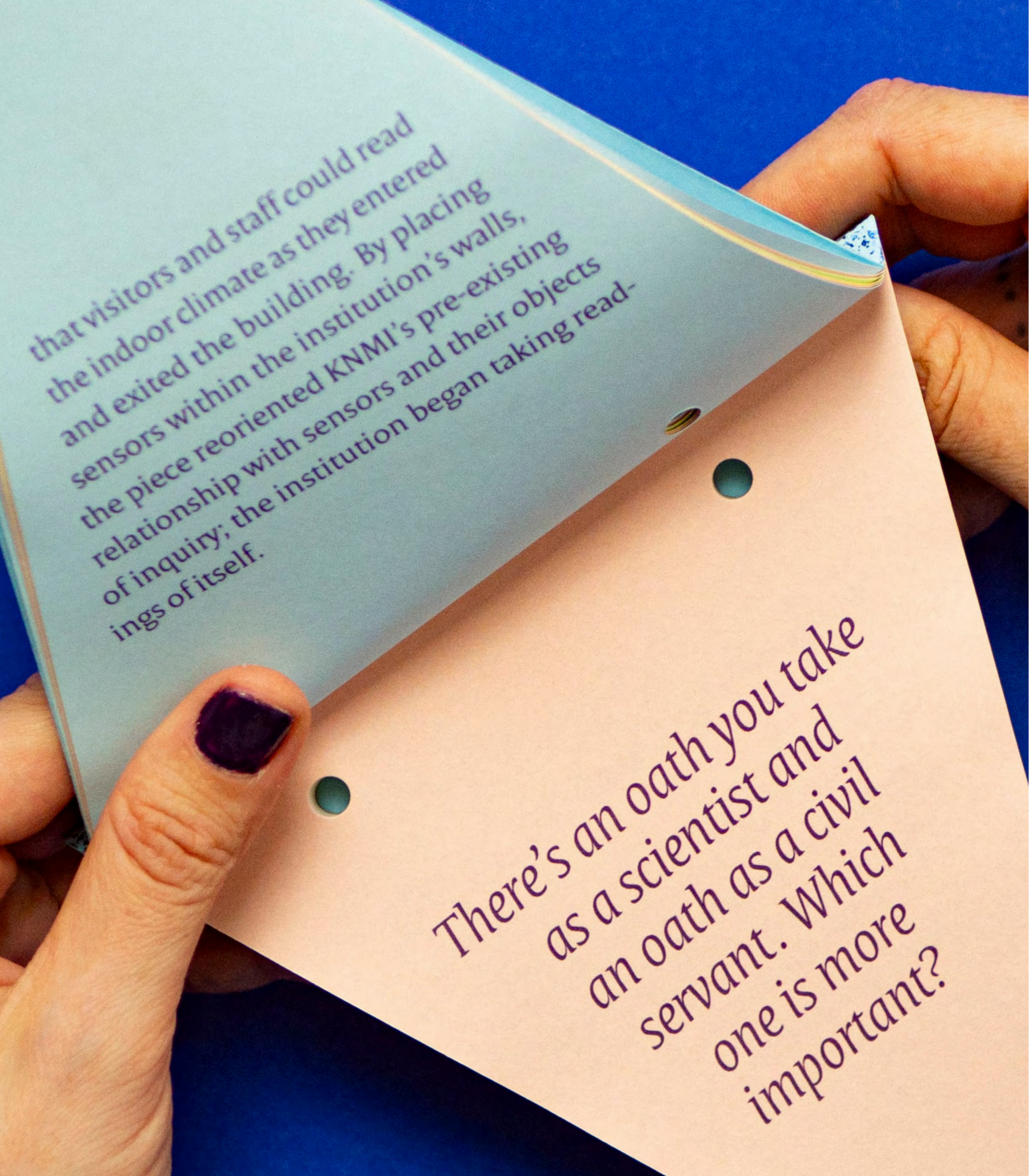
The publication's title draws a connection between indoor and outdoor climates at KNMI. From this starting point, the booklet reflects upon the organisational climate of the primary institution tasked with communicating climate risks to the Dutch public.



Where is the grey area between stating that climate change is dangerous and instructing people what to do? And how do we move within that area?

inst ructions

1. Pull out the pages with quotes that resonate with you.
2. Want to add more? Write your own thoughts that need to be heard within your organisation using the empty pages at the end of the book.
3. Get a piece of string and hang the flags together. Coffee corner decorations?



Cloudnet (2023)

Cloudnet is a 110 square metre camouflage net, handwoven with the image of a cloudy sky. The installation interweaves thermal blankets, funerary shrouds and camouflage netting to fabricate a space that anticipates the disappearance of marine stratocumulous clouds due to future climate change.

The work was presented during the 2023 Jan van Eyck Open Studios. Over the duration of the exhibition, an array of programmed elements were hosted within the netted structure to fuse scientific, artistic and activist practices and approaches toward the future of altered cloudscares.







Ritual elements from *Sillage :: In the Wake of Clouds*, a guided meditation by John James accompanied by incense of Linden, Mugwort and Wormwood.



[Link to the guided meditation](#)



Public Program at Jan van Eyck
Open Studios, 25.06.2023

Demystifying Clouds:
Pouriya Alinaghi (TU Delft)



Rebellious Researchers:
Arthur Oldeman (Utrecht University)
and Koen Lemaire (Vrije Universiteit),
members of Scientist Rebellion

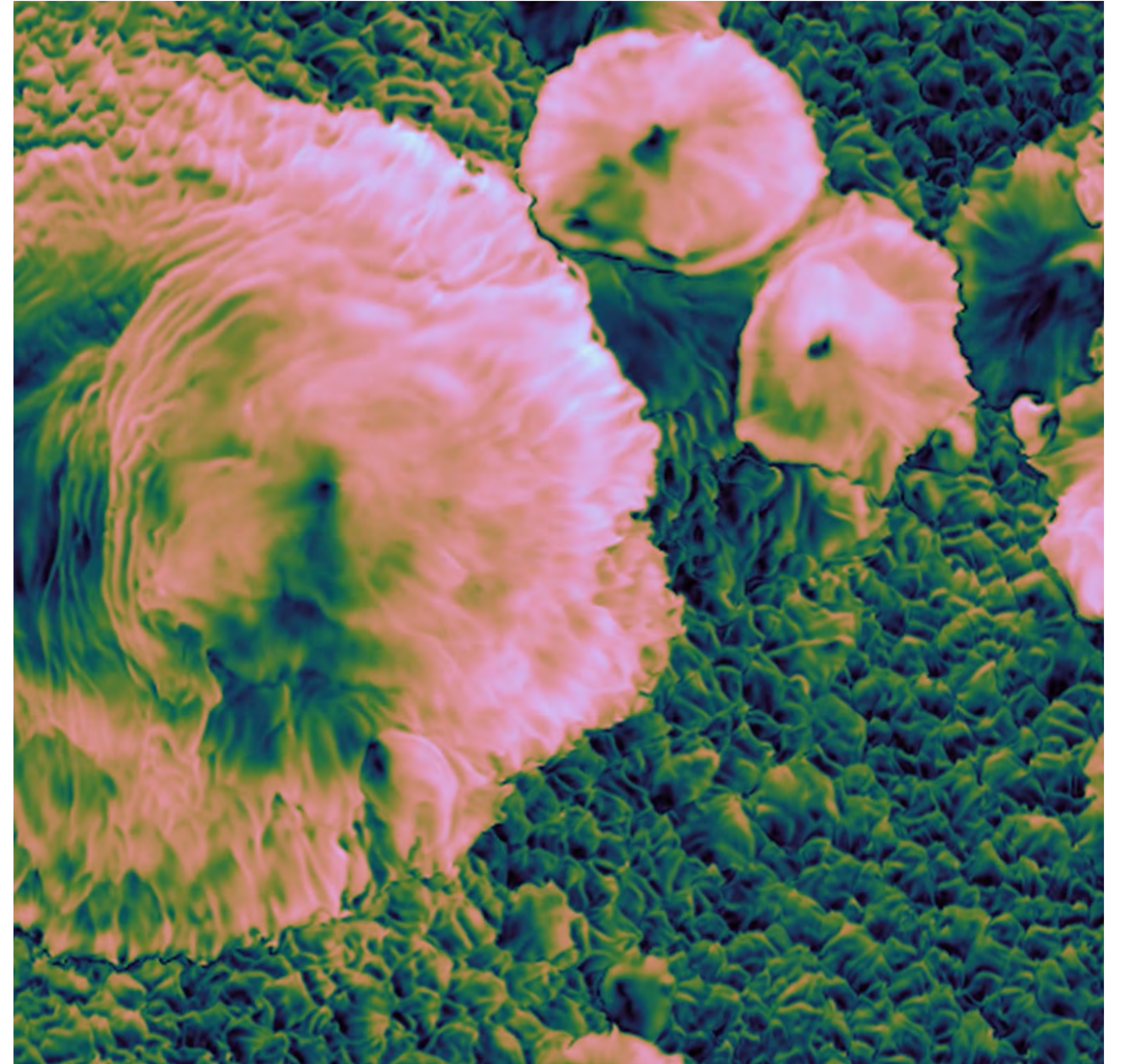
Ruptured Render (2023)

Ruptured Render uses cloud modelling software to imagine future clouds. Climate models project that higher concentrations of CO₂ and rising ocean temperatures could cause marine stratocumulus clouds to break up, leading to a catastrophic 12 degree rise in global temperatures.

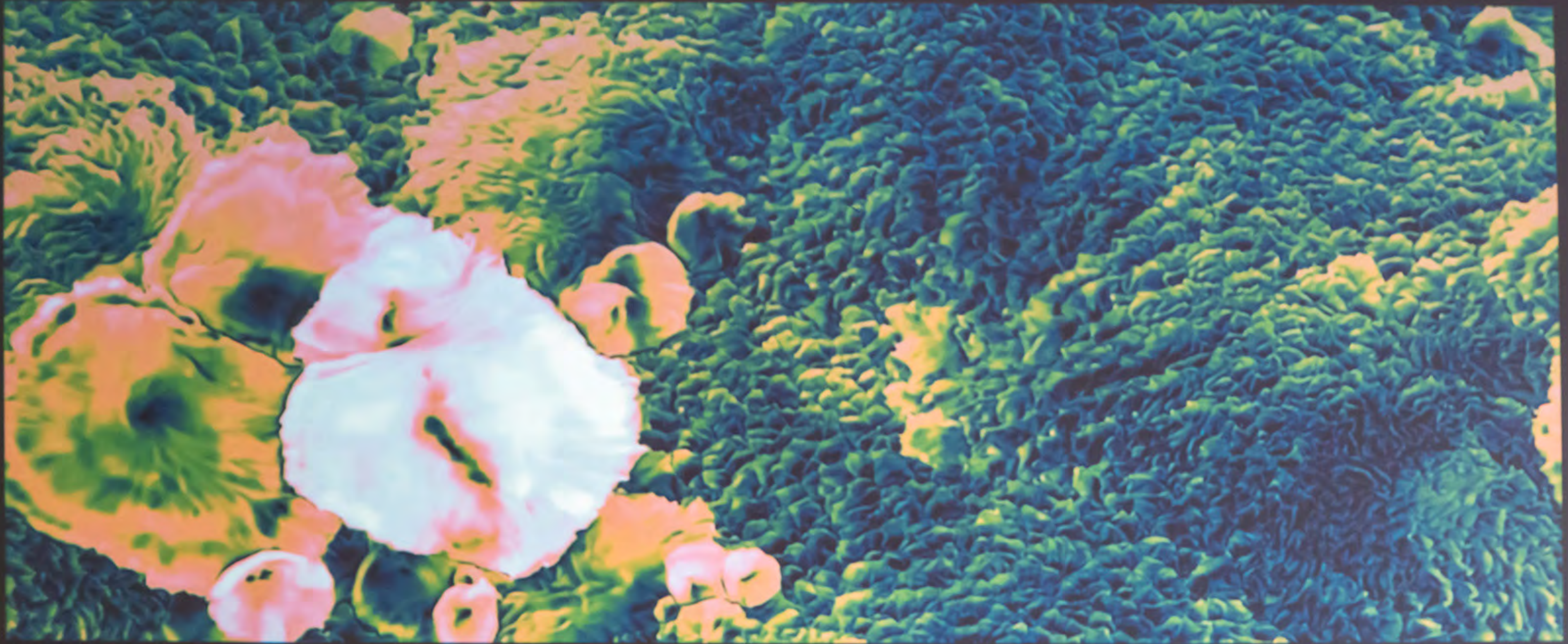
The video installation presents this incomprehensible future through the same lens of abstraction used by climate scientists, in order to invite a consideration of climate tipping points beyond the binaries of hope and despair.

The work was presented during the 2023 Jan van Eyck Open Studios.

Developed in partnership with Menno Veerman and Chiel van Heerwaarden, Wageningen University.



[Link to video documentation](#)



Ruptured Render, installation view

Digital Foreshadow (2023)

Digital Foreshadow is a video installation that links Google Maps' 2013 digital erasure of clouds as a foreshadowing of the disappearance of clouds due to climate change.

The work was presented during the 2023 Jan van Eyck Open Studios.



The cloud casting this shadow
is missing from the image.

Developed in partnership with Philip Kraaijenbrink, Utrecht University.

[Link](#) to video documentation

Digital Foreshadow

In 2019, an article in
the scientific journal *Nature*
predicts a new climate
tipping point.

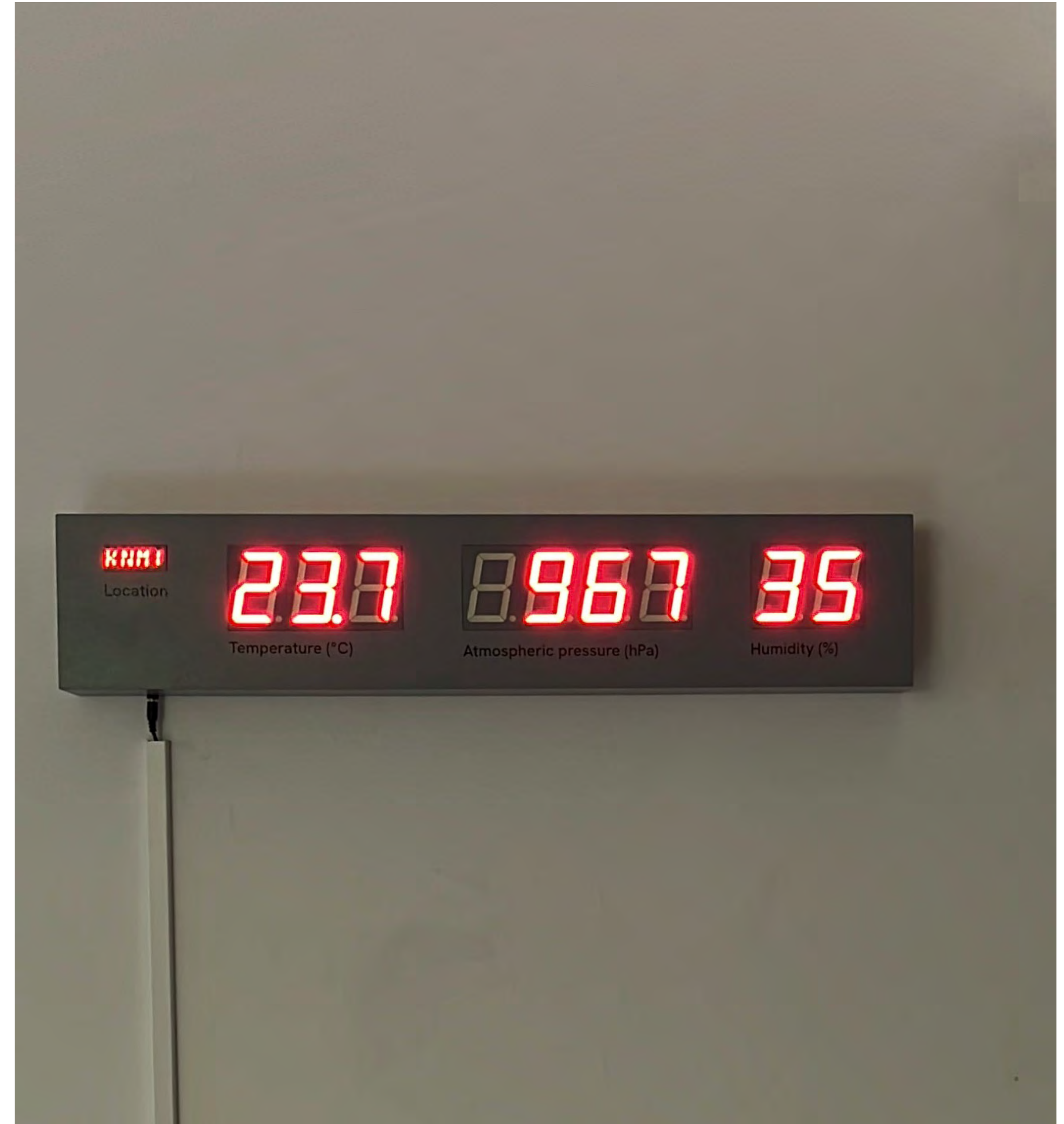
Digital Foreshadow, installation view

Climate Control (2023)

Climate Control presents readings from a variety of meteorological sensors placed inside the headquarters of the Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (KNMI). By reorienting the focus of climate data within the walls of institutions mandated to address climate change, the installation proposes a connection between indoor (organisational) climate and global climate. In making this connection, the work invites discussion of the potential of contemporary institutions to respond to climate risk, and considers how we may anticipate future climates.

The work was presented during the 2023 Jan van Eyck Open Studios.

Developed in conversation with Werenfried Spit and Eveline Bos, Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut.
Technical guidance by Gijs Mos.



XXXXXX

Location

22.8

Temperature (°C)

897.2

Atmospheric pressure (hPa)

31

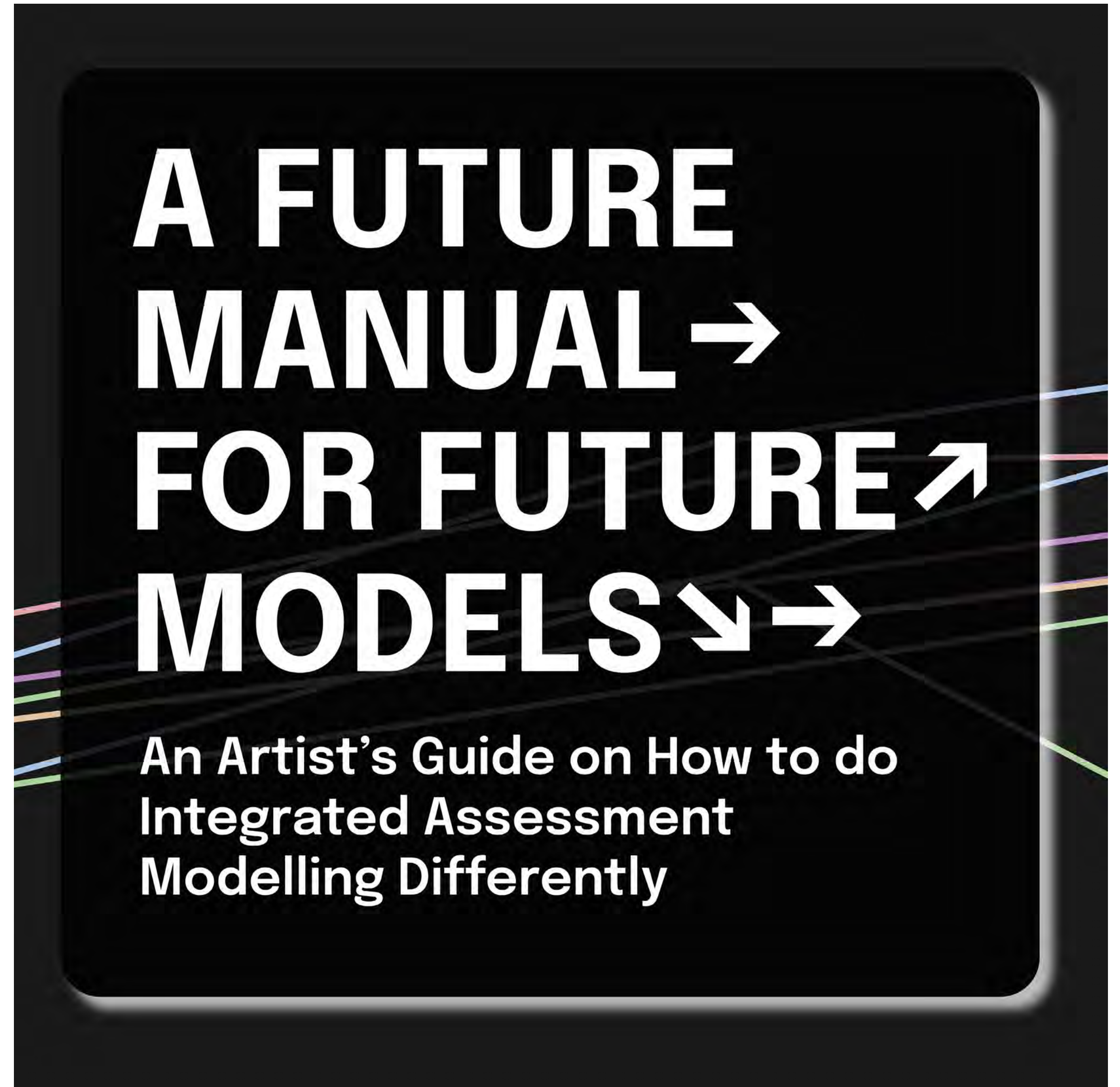
Humidity (%)

Future Models Manual (2022)

A Future Manual for Future Models is an alternative guide to Integrated Assessment Models, vast computer programs that indicate future consequences of climate change, and form the scientific basis of climate change discourse and policy.

The manual takes the form of a website, and explores climate models from the perspective of creative practices such as film making, graphic design, storytelling, and translation in order to propose alternatives to current climate modelling practices.

The project was conducted during the Imagining Low Carbon Futures residency, Jan van Eyck Academie and Urban Futures Studio, Utrecht University.



[Link to the project](#)

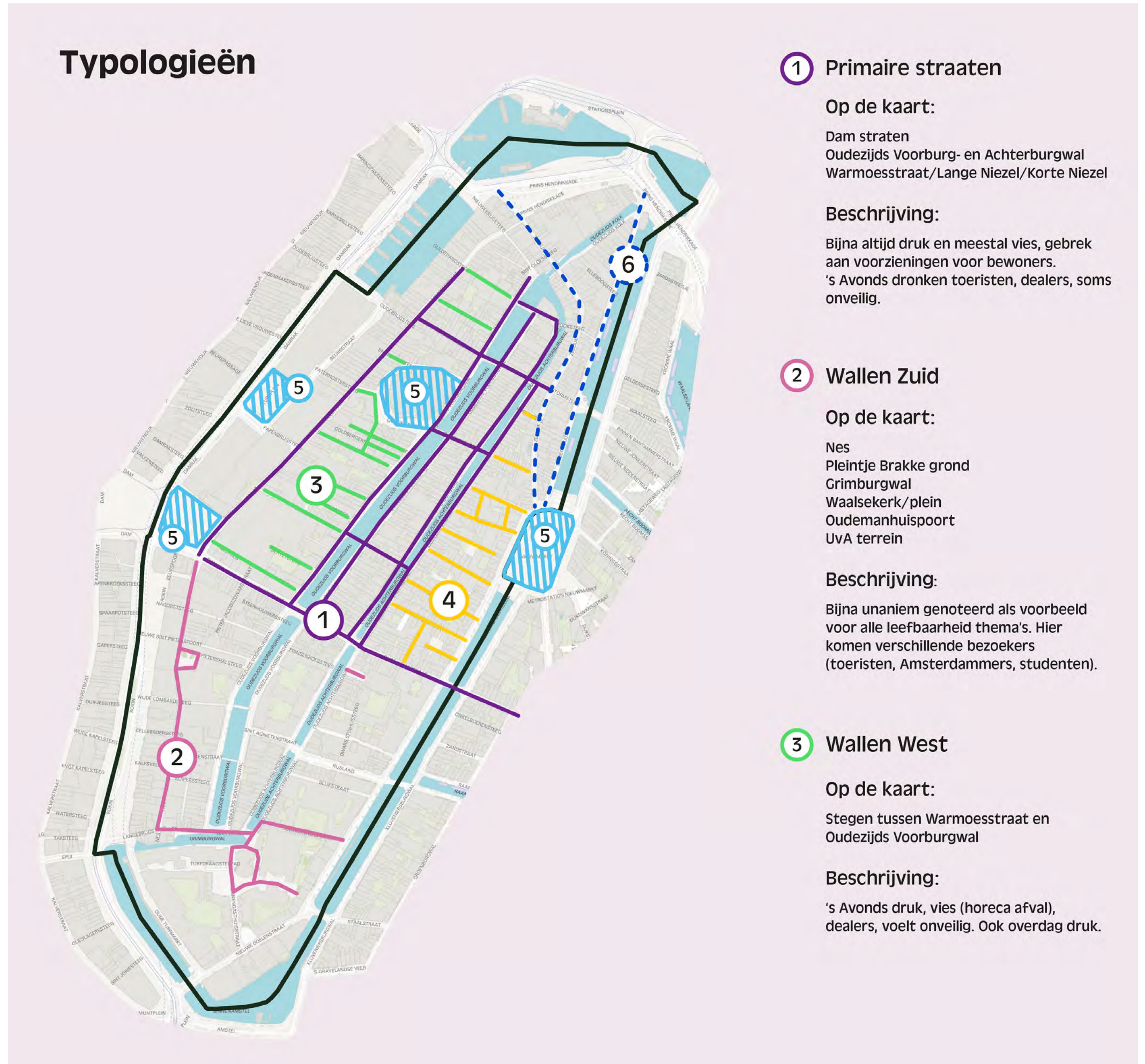
Context Mapping

Leefbaarheidspanel

Wallengebied (2022)

The City of Amsterdam's Leefbaarheidspanel Wallengebied was a two-year project in which civil servants work with residents and business owners to co-develop new policies and urban designs that address tensions in Amsterdam's Red Light District.

A series of mapping exercises led to the identification of specific typologies in the neighbourhood that were previously unknown to the government. Working in granular detail allowed the Panel to address the specificities of the area on a street-to-street basis.



Uw Buurt en Windmolens (2021)

Uw Buurt en Windmolens was a spatial participation method developed for the City of Amsterdam's Regional Energie Strategie.

Through maps, questionnaires and texts, 270 participants contributed hopes and concerns for the future of their neighbourhood in relation to wind energy production within city limits.

The final report Onze Stad en Windmolens was presented to City Council as a proposal for future co-design activities with citizens.

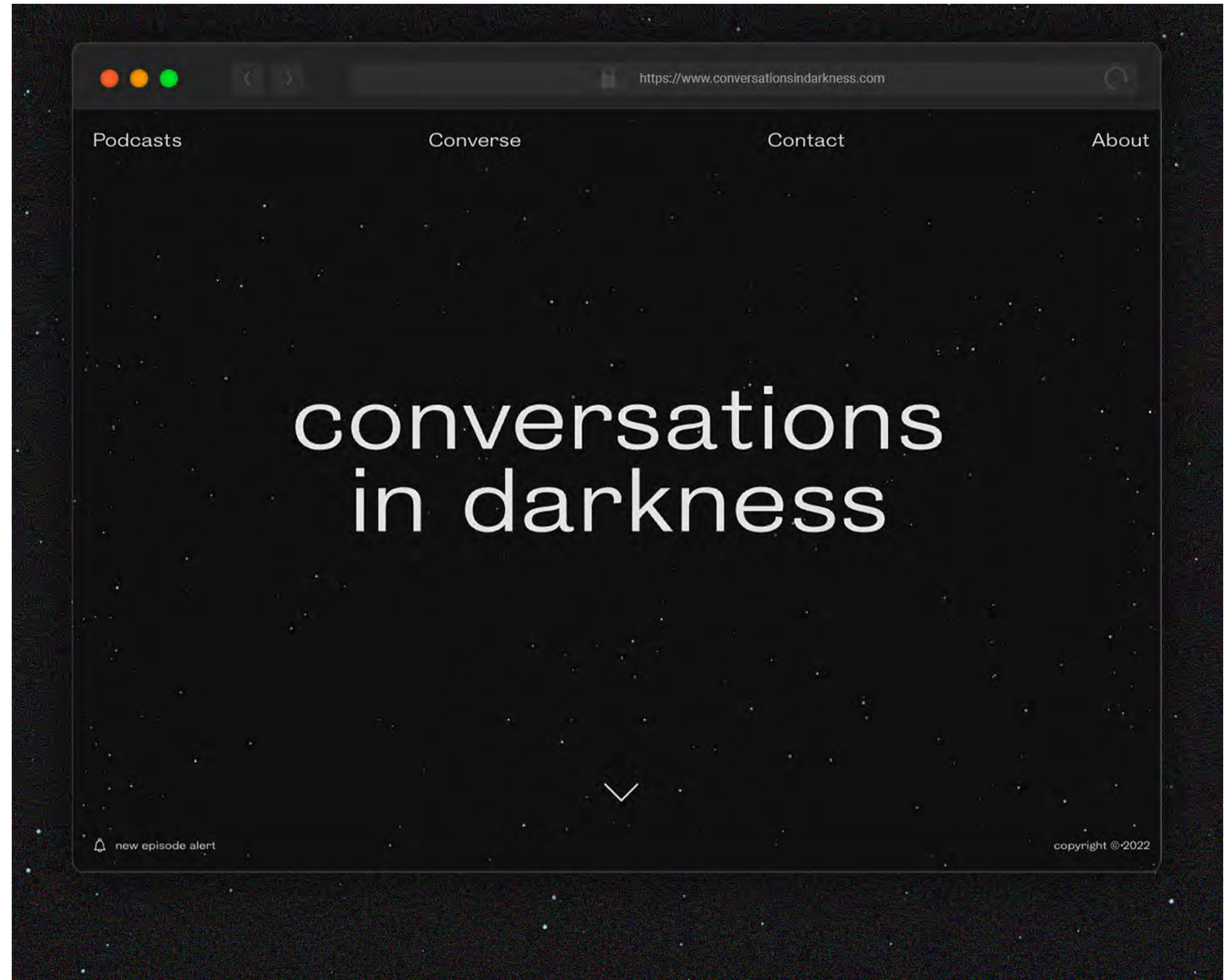


Conversations in Darkness (2021)

Conversations in Darkness is a web application that hosts spatialised conversations. The voices of others appear directionally - coming from the side or in front - so that participants feel as if they are sharing physical space together. The project was initiated as a response to social distancing regulations during COVID.

The website contains a podcast series featuring conversations among artists using the software to make sense of (embodied and social) movements during the Corona pandemic.

Project by Julien Thomas,
design and website development
by Ekaterina Volkova.



conversations in darkness

[Podcasts](#)

Converse

Contact

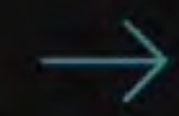
About




Episode 1

Julien Thomas with Cissie Fu, Leila Anderson and Yuri Veerman

[read more](#)



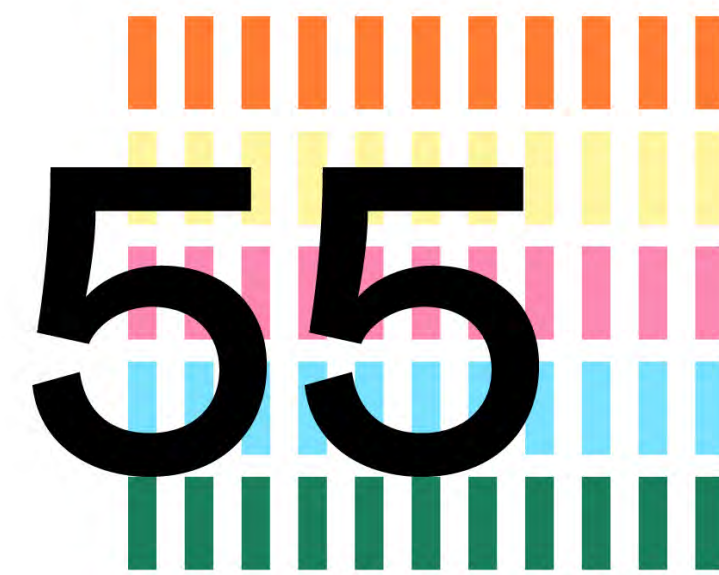
 new episode alert

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Noordzeekanalgebied's Energy Transition Co-creation Plot (2021)

A project was initiated to facilitate stakeholder engagement for the Noordzeekanalgebied's energy transition pilot, sponsored by the Dutch Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. Stakeholders shared perceptions through a mapping exercise, helping identify overlaps in activities and land uses. The resulting visual representations served to clarify potential entry points for future discussions.

AANTAL RESPONDENTEN



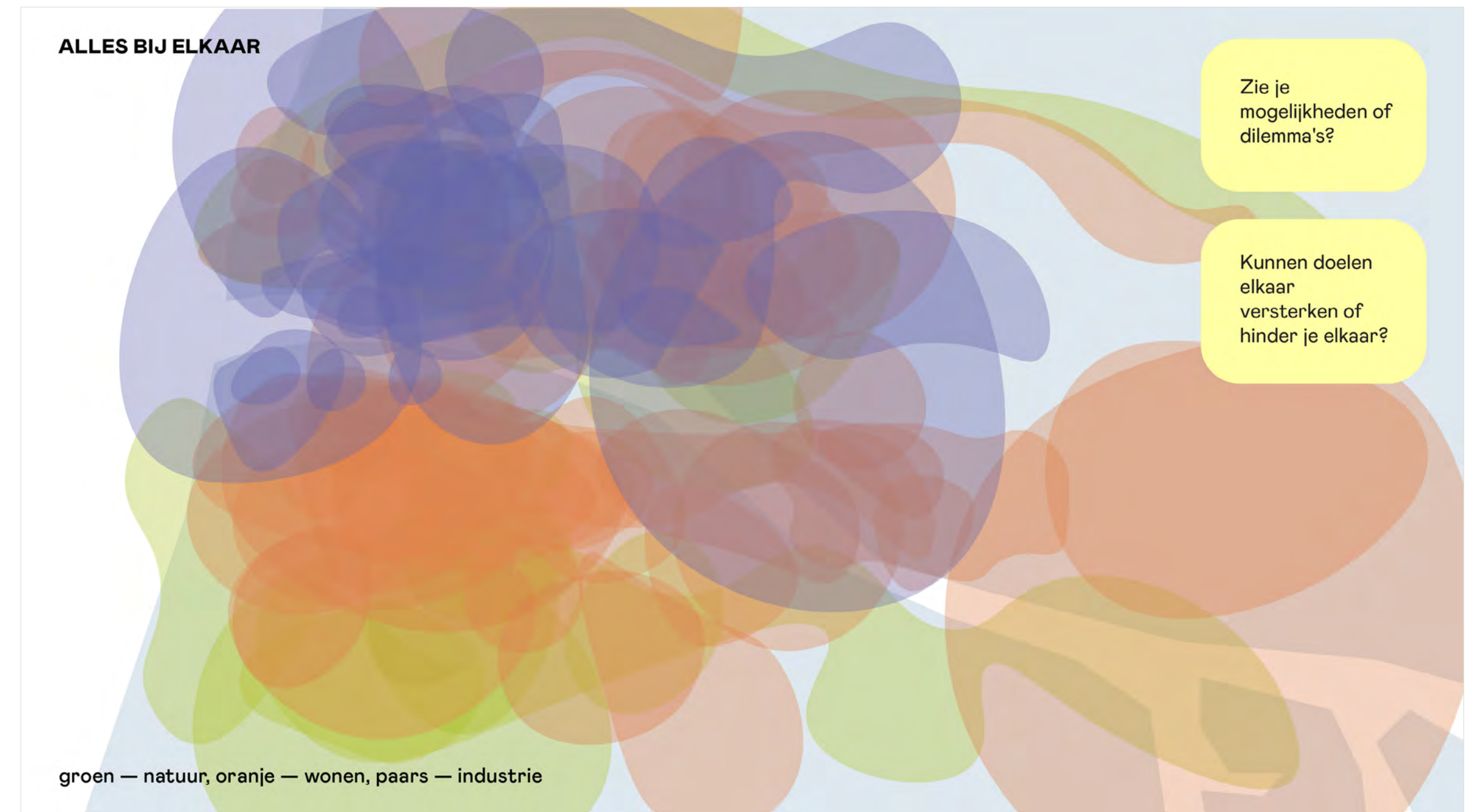
AANTAL GEÏNTERVIEWDE
ORGANISATIES



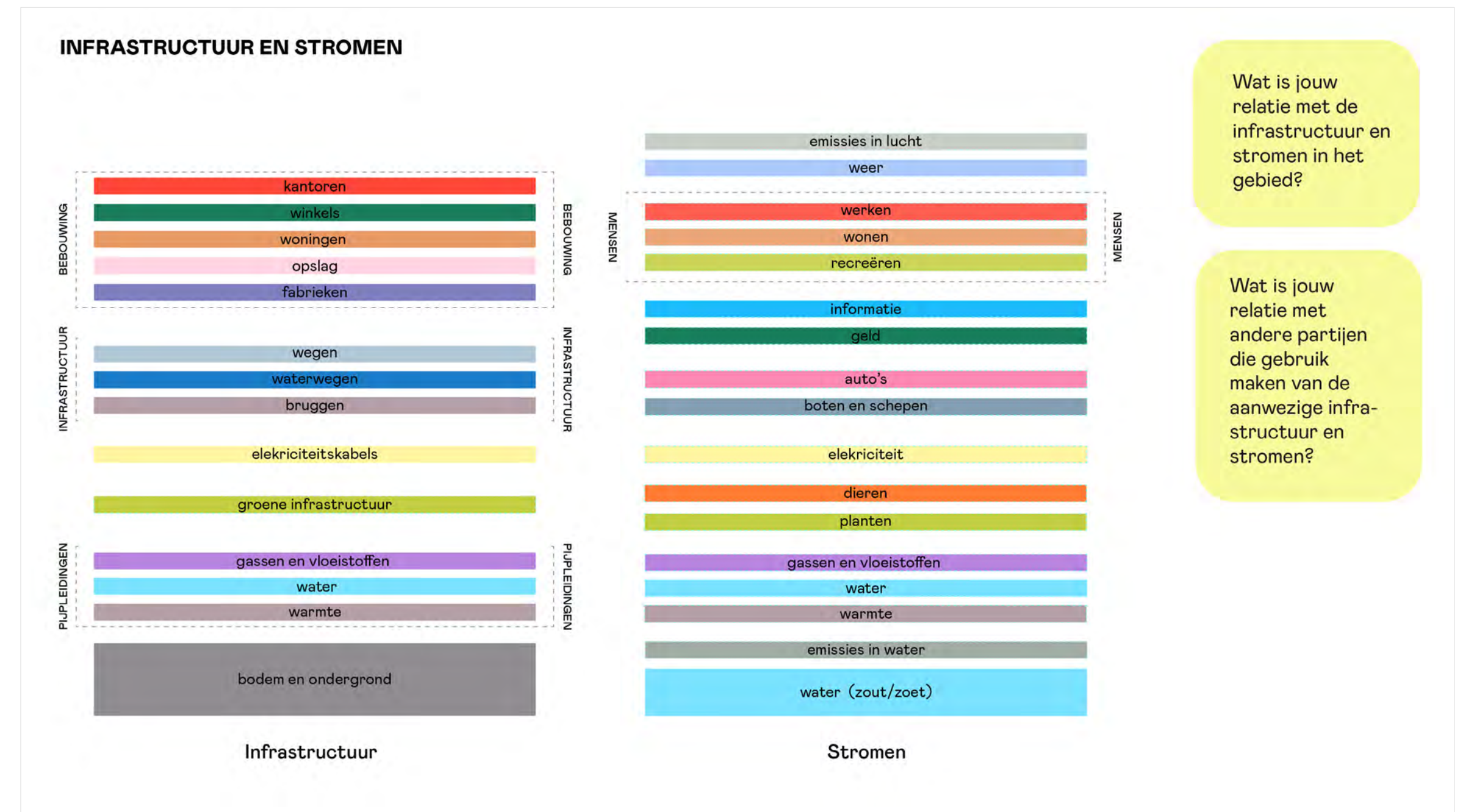
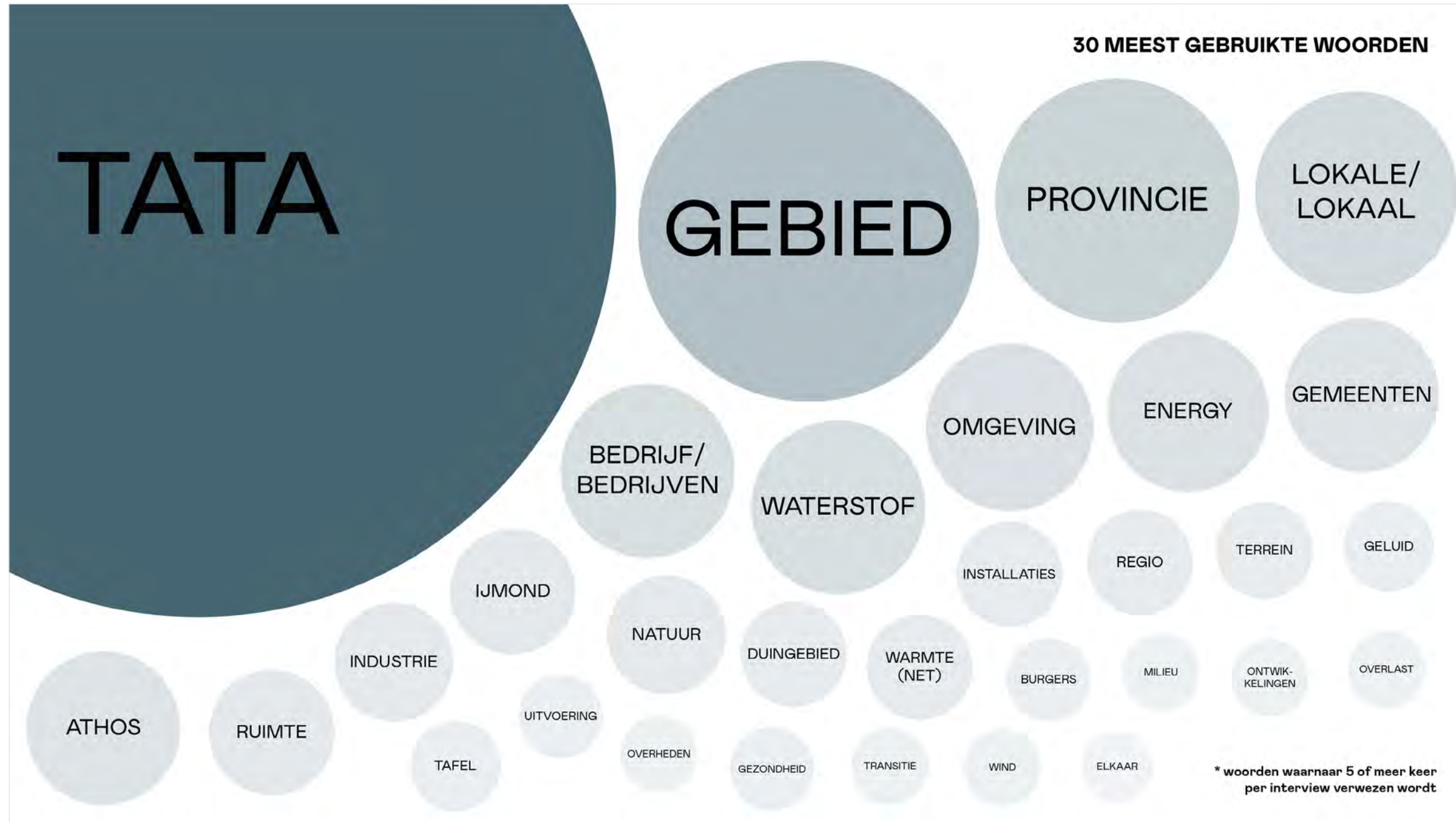
AANTAL KAARTEN



OVERZICHT



Example maps illustrating
 1) how participants imagine the physical scale of issues in the Noordzeekanaalgebied (top) and
 2) how they envision the spatial relationship between inter-related activities in the region (bottom).



Wat is jouw relatie met de infrastructuur en stromen in het gebied?

Wat is jouw relatie met andere partijen die gebruik maken van de aanwezige infrastructuur en stromen?

Infographics illustrating 1) the most used words in participant interviews (top) and 2) the various static and dynamic elements at play in the region (bottom).