

# Sandberg Instituut

تصاميم مجرّدة من فلسطين

DISARMING DESIGN FROM PALESTINE

## DISARMING DESIGN TEMPORARY MASTERS PROGRAM

**Disarming Design is a two-year Master's programme at the Sandberg Instituut Amsterdam committed to design practices in situations of oppression acting on the overlap of design, crafts and politics – starting september 2020. It derives from the long-term collaboration between the Design Department and the thought provoking design label 'Disarming Design from Palestine'.**



Building upon the relations and involvements of the full team, we aim to define what is needed to enhance the social, political and emancipatory impact of design. We will explore how design can be a vehicle for political resistance and solidarity and how to counteract oppression and injustice through the act of design. We are interested in what ways design practices can inform strategies to set up sustainable positions in politically and geographically violated societies. In parallel, we want to experiment with educational models that stimulate such practices, and set up alternative platforms that reinforce the artistic, experimental and economic independence of designers.

With an indispensable input of the participants in shaping the programme, we build collective methods of mutual learning and exchange, develop vocabularies, ideas and common projects. We aim to equip the participants of the temporary Master's programme with the tools to develop community driven platforms for organizing and learning. The programme focuses on the artistic work of the participants in finding tools and strategies for resilient, collaborative and sustainable positions, with the aim to establish alternative educational platforms for design.

### Students

We are looking for a diverse group of practitioners with a design background, radical imagination and educational interests. We encourage people to apply with non-canonical practices and those who have lived under the weight of structural oppression and are determined to counteract it. Applicants have an ability and interest in collaborative work, situated learning, crafts, poetry and in creating politically driven, experimental practices dedicated to use the space of design as a multiplier of interventions where they are most needed today.

#### Duration:

September 2020 – July 2022

#### Head of programme:

Annelys de Vet (NL/B)

#### Coordinator:

Francisca Khamis (CL/PS)

#### (Guest) Tutors:

Ghadeer Dajani (PS), Flavia Dzodan (AR/NL), Foundland Collective (Lauren Alexander (ZA) & Ghalia Elsrakbi (SY)), Rana Ghavami (NL), Pascal Gielen (B), Raed Hamouri (PS), Jeanne van Heeswijk (NL),

Lara Khaldi (PS), Yazan Khalili (PS), Nat Muller (NL), Shayma Nader (PS), Marina Otero (ES), PING (Agustina Woodgate (AR), Miquel Hervás Gómez (ES), Sascha Krischock (DE)), Bahia Shebab (EG/LB),

Huda Smitshuijzen-Abifares (LB/NL), Jonas Staal (NL), SulSalSol (Hannes Bernard (ZA), Guido Giglio (BR)), Julien Thomas (CA), Petra Van Brabandt (B) and others

## STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

**DISARMING DESIGN** aims to define what is needed to enhance the social, political and emancipatory impact of design and challenges the designer's role in oppressive power. The programme will explore how design can be a vehicle for political resistance and solidarity and how to counteract oppression and injustice through the act of design. The program will equip the students with tools to develop community driven platforms on design learning. They will be introduced to a rich network of engaged creative actors and cultural institutes, to invest in long-term networks that help to establish new progressive educational platforms in respectful



*Disarming Design, Sandberg Instituut Open Day, 6 February 2020*

### Independent environment

The course provides an independent environment for study, practice and research. It offers space for selflessness, vulnerability and unpredictability. The programme is set up as a studio-space led programme where you work on both collective as individual projects and get feedback by the tutors on your practice. The curriculum evolves on the initiatives, collaborations and developments of the students; they are actively involved in organising and leading different parts.

### Structure

**Classes**, events and crits are scheduled on tuesday, wednesday and thursday on a weekly basis. Some tutors are present weekly, some monthly and others via concentrated workshops. In addition there will be site visits and excursions. The year consists of two semesters, each ending in a final presentation and collective feedback sessions. At the beginning of the course, more emphasis is placed on projects and subjects proposed by the department (by means of guest-lectures, specific opportunities and workshops), during the end of the first year the focus will be on the projects initiated by the participants. In the summer period students are invited to set-up summer schools in Palestine and other locations. During the first semester of the second year participants write their essay and experiment with workshop and platform models, in line with their own practice. During the second, final semester the graduation projects will be developed and guides, which should continue and lead to new initiatives to be continued after the masters course, supported by the **network gained during the studies**.

### Programme

The programme will start with a workshop in the Belgium farm of ANNELYS DE VET. With the full group of students we will live, eat and stay overnight together for several days. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know each other in a way that is totally different from the educational infrastructure and context. Designer JULIEN THOMAS, who is also technical assistant at the wood-workshop at the Sandberg Instituut will develop and build furniture with the students for their educational space, and invest in questions as to how a space influences the way we relate to each other.



*Introduction week Belgium countryside*

Typographer HUDA SMITSHUIJZEN ABIFARÈS will set up collective workshops on design and identity, and invest in roman and Arabic typography. Artist YAZAN KHALILI will invite the students monthly at the RijksAkademie where he is a participant for the coming two years and



explores institutional models as artistic practice — like he did in Ramallah while heading the Sakakini Cultural Centre. Curator LARA KHALDI will guide the students more on an individual level on their artistic development. Cultural critic FLAVIA DZODAN will focus on decolonial theories from South America and how they unveil patterns of oppression that provide a broader understanding of the colonial structures of the Arabic world and in particular Palestine. Feminist philosopher PETRA VAN BRABANDT will discuss the politics of artistic production and imagination, through the perspective of feminism, racism and post-colonialism. Artist Jonas Staal will share his broad experience as a politically engaged artist in setting up cultural debates and learning platforms from the position of suppressed voices, during regular classes. Artist JEANNE VAN HEESWIJK facilitates the creation of dynamic and diversified public spaces in order to ‘radicalize the local’ by combining performative actions, discussions, and other forms of organizing to assist communities to take control of their own futures. And there will be monthly reading and writing sessions with researcher RANA GHAVAMI, **with a special focus on poetry.**



*PUB (now PING) Radio with radioee.net, Istanbul Design Biennale*

### **Publishing platform**

Together with the PING platform a new publishing platform will be established in Palestine (summer 2020) with local partners, and this platform and library of situated knowledge which will be activated, co-developed and used in the masters course. It will allow a continuous exchange of knowledge, experiences, lectures and other opportunities to experiment with publishing platforms. Spring 2021 we will set up a specific and collaborative symposium on design learning in occupied context in Antwerp (B) with the University of Antwerp (PASCAL GIELEN) and Sint Lucas School of Arts (PETRA VAN BRABANDT).

### **Collaborations within Sandberg**

Within the Sandberg Instituut we will actively collaborate with other departments and initiatives. Amongst

others we will be joining activities of UNSETTLING and DECOLONIAL FUTURES, we will set up joint activities with the DESIGN DEPARTMENT like the THE ONE-MINUTES video workshop, we will join lectures of the CRITICAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT, set up joint classes with F IS FOR FACT and other departments. Additionally we will engage the facilities of the workshops in our program, such as workshops for wood, textile, printing etc., and the library. Throughout the course there will be guest classes and workshops by visiting tutors as the FOUNDLAND COLLECTIVE, SULSALSOL, NAT MULLER, BAHIA SHEBAB, MARINA OTERO and **many others.**



*Summer school Palestine, 2019*

### **Collaborations with partners**

In addition there will be collaborations with the Prince Claus Fund, the city of Amsterdam, the Palestinian Mission to the Netherlands, the Rabbani Foundation, Nieuw Dakota, het Nieuwe Instituut and others; to understand cultural, political and economic structures and to establish possibilities for long-term collaborations. During the summer students are invited to set up a summer school in Palestine with our partners there. During the second year the students will develop proposals for platforms and programmes that they will continue after their masters education and we will support them in their initiatives, and stimulate them in collaborative practices.

### **Final program**

Most importantly, the programme will get its final shape with an indispensable input from the students, they will build collective methods of mutual learning and exchange; develop vocabularies, ideas and common projects. They will be equipped with the tools to develop community driven platforms for organizing and learning. The programme focuses on the artistic work of the participants in finding tools and strategies for resilient, collaborative and sustainable positions, with the aim to establish alternative educational platforms for design.

# Sandberg Instituut



As the postgraduate programme of the Gerrit Rietveld Academie Amsterdam, the Sandberg Instituut offers Master Programmes in Fine Arts, Interior Architecture and Design.

The five Main Departments aim to deepen the practices of artists, designers and critics. In addition, the Temporary Programmes reflect on specific urgencies in society and the arts, and the Hosted Programmes focus on collaboration with other institutes. Sandberg Instituut's Main Departments are Critical Studies, Design, The Dirty Art Department, Fine Arts and Studio for Immediate Spaces. An average of only twenty students per programme allows each course to be flexible and open to initiatives from students and third parties. The course directors, who are prominent artists, designers, theorists and curators with international practices, invite tutors and guests who are able to challenge the students to critically reflect on their profession, their work and their progress. The two-year Temporary Programmes are developed according to urgent world issues.

[www.sandberg.nl](http://www.sandberg.nl)

## تصاميم مجرّدة من فلسطين DISARMING DESIGN FROM PALESTINE



Disarming Design from Palestine is a thought provoking design label for the presentation and development of contemporary design from Palestine. The products are made by designers and artists working in collaboration with local producers and artisans. Each of the designs evoke alternative narratives about life in Palestine as it is today. They are stories of perseverance and hope, dignity and strength of the Palestinian spirit.

DDFP believes that design practices function as an instrument for social change, emancipation and self-empowerment. Through the act of design, Palestinian and international practitioners engage in complex politicized realities and empower design as a way to resist oppression. All the items are made by designers and artists working in collaboration with local producers in order to contribute to a more sustainable Palestinian society and human-centered economy. During collaborative workshops they develop new products based on already existing manufacturing processes and inspired by the narratives we share. In Palestine many craftsmen are active, but because of the occupation and their often very marginalized positions they lack enough work and network. With their project they are focusing on the co-operation between contemporary design and local crafts.

[www.disarmingdesign.com](http://www.disarmingdesign.com)

## DETAILS, DATES & REQUIREMENTS

### WHY TO APPLY TO THIS COURSE?

**Disarming Design Temporary Masters Programme** offers a unique opportunity to take part in an international programme at the Sandberg Instituut. Together, we will explore how design practices can be a vehicle for political resistance and solidarity and how to engage and think through the act and impact of design in realities of oppression and injustice. The structure of the course is shaped in collaboration with the participants. The programme aims to equip the participants with the skills necessary to develop community driven platforms for organizing and learning, to be set up and run after their masters diploma, with the network they build up during the course.

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Registration is now open. The deadline to apply for 2020 entry is 1 April 2020. The Disarming Design Programme starts in September 2020. We aim to provide a decision on complete applications before 1 May 2020.

*International students who require a visa should bear in mind visa applications may take several weeks to be processed, so you should apply as soon as possible.*

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Based on the on-line application a team will review the applications based on artistic quality, motivation, background of the applicant and relevance to the programme, and select 30 applicants for an interview in May in Amsterdam (if requested, interviews can be conducted digitally). Based on the application interviews a final selection of 17 diverse students will be accepted.

### FEES

- Fee for EU/EEA students without a Dutch masters degree: € 2.640,00
- All students who followed a masters programme in The Netherlands and obtained a Dutch masters degree: € 6.396,00
- Fee for non-EU/EEA students : € 6.396,00

### FUNDING

It is important that students look for external sources of funding before applying. The course is able to provide the applicants with a list of possible opportunities. The city of Amsterdam will provide one full scholarship to a student from Palestine. The Rabbani Foundation can support the travel costs of two students from Palestine. For other travel costs participants can apply at the mobility fund of the Prince Claus Fund.

### COST OF LIVING

The eventual costs vary depending on your personal situation and individual choices. Nevertheless, it's advised to count on at least € 1.130 living expenses per month:

Rent € 350 - 600  
Energy bill € 50  
Internet € 15  
Water € 15  
Health insurance € 120  
Phone bill € 35  
Home & liability insurance € 15  
Groceries € 100 - 150  
Study material & excursions € 100  
Public transport € 50  
Leisure & personal care:  
Gym € 50  
Parties, drinks € 60  
Various (bike, hair) € 150  
Cinema member € 20

### LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All courses and communication at Sandberg Instituut are in English, occasionally in Dutch. But as a foreign student learning Dutch is not compulsory. During the interview, as a part of the admission process, your English language level will be checked. If there is doubt we will ask for proof that English can be regarded as your mother tongue (passport) or that you have followed English in secondary/high school with a positive mark on your diploma.

### PRE-EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

We can only accept you as a student when you have a valid Bachelor degree in a field relevant to our programme (ie. design, fine arts, applied arts or alike). We will ask for a copy of your diploma after you have been accepted as a student. If you are unable to provide any diploma's, please indicate so in Step 1 of the application process on the digital registration form. In that case we will evaluate your pre-education as well as your professional experience.