

THE KELP CONGRESS TIMETABLE

Thursday 19 September

	13:00 – 13:45	KELP MEDAL OF HONOUR CEREMONY by Signe Johannessen Svolvær Town Square
14:00 – 17:00		THE KELP MEDAL OF HONOUR Public Maker Lab by Signe Johannessen Svolvær Town Square (wet weather location: Sentrumsgården)
19:00 – 21:30	15:30 – 17:00	ARTISTIC RESEARCH SHARING KELP CURING & KELP DIAGRAM COLLECTIVE Starting point Svolvær Film Theatre for <i>Kelp Curing</i> . The Old Second-Hand Shop for <i>Kelp Diagram Collective</i>
	17:00 – 19:00	DINNER Food served and the bar opens The Former Lofotposten Building
	19:00 – 20:00	ARTISTIC RESEARCH SHARING COAST, LINE The Former Lofotposten Building
	20:00 – 22:00	KELP GATHERING A gathering in The Former Lofotposten Building (warm weather alternative: Bonfire on Svinøya)

Friday 20 September

*extended opening hours of the LIAF 2019 exhibition (12:00 – 22:00)

12:00 – 14:00	THE KELP MEDAL OF HONOUR Children’s Workshop by Signe Johannessen Svolvær Town Square (wet weather location: Sentrumsgården)
14:00 – 17:00	THE KELP MEDAL OF HONOUR Public Maker Lab by Signe Johannessen Svolvær Town Square (wet weather location: Sentrumsgården)
16:00 – 18:00	REGISTRATION FOR THE KELP CONGRESS The Former Lofotposten Building
18:00 – 18:15	INTRODUCTION TO THE KELP CONGRESS Thon Hotel Conference Suite (10th floor)
18:15 – 19:00	PLANETARY SPECULATION: CULTIVATING CURIOSITY, CONCERN AND CARE, COLLABORATIVELY Keynote by Cecilia Åsberg Thon Hotel Conference Suite (10th floor)
19:00 – 22:00	KELP KITCHEN Seaweed inspired food served and the bar opens The Former Lofotposten Building
19:30 – 22:00	INTERTIDAL SHELTER PART II Artistic Intervention by Devil’s Apron (Kåre Grundvåg & Trond Ansten) The Intertidal Zone beside The Former Lofotposten Building

Saturday 21 September

*extended opening hours of the LIAF 2019 exhibition (12:00 – 22:00)

10:00 – 11:15	SO TIRED, THE SEA... Recorded Keynote by Prof. Astrida Neimanis. Moderated Q&A by Dr. Marietta Radomska Svolvær Film Theatre
11:30 – 12:00	COMMON NOTIONS (CONFUSION RESUMES OUTSIDE A FEW SQUAREMETERS) Performance Lecture by Sabine Popp Svolvær Film Theatre
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH Svolvær Film Theatre

THE KELP CONGRESS

The Kelp Congress at LIAF 2019 explores the artistic and cultural dimensions related to kelp and other macroalgae. Stemming from the investigations of three artistic research strands, the event considers the lesser explored artistic and cultural dimensions related to kelp and other macroalgae. It emerges with a curiosity in the current discourse surrounding seaweed within the industries of energy, food, nutrition, agriculture, cosmetics, and medicine, and will settle instead on a consideration of the performative, narrative, conceptual, and material approaches towards kelp. Throughout the Kelp Congress, seaweed will be promoted as a protagonist and collaborator within artistic and curatorial ways of making, and as a partner for cultural response within current and future ecological and environmental discussions. Events include presentations of artistic research processes, keynote lectures, talks and discussions, and kelp-related artistic performances.

The working language of the Kelp Congress is English. All times and locations subject to change. Please check www.liaf.no for up-to-date information.

ARTISTIC RESEARCH STRANDS

Between 17 and 20 September, three Artistic Research Strands conduct exploratory engagements with kelp, seaweed and other macroalgae in different regions of Lofoten.

Coast, Line navigated by Futurefarmers + guests in Digermulen and Svolvær considers the politics of seaweed as a “newly promised bio-economy” through an exploration of the ephemeral movements and forgotten histories and politics of the sea – with Janice McEwen, Janna Holmstedt, Sergey Kostyrko, Alexander Kozachek, Julia Lohmann, Julia Parks, Alexander Rishaug, and Danni Zuvela.

Kelp Curing navigated by Sarah Blissett in Svolvær, consists of collective foraging, walking, writing, storytelling and movement practices connected to seaweed and the intertidal zone – with Aoife Casby, Tinna Gumundsdóttir, Tiina Arjukka Hirvonen, Anne Cecilie Lie, Paola Ruiz Moltó, Øyvind Novak Jenssen, and Cecilia Åsberg.

Kelp Diagram Collective navigated by Sabine Popp with Lofoten Seaweed and Michael Pantalos (SALT) in Napp and Svolvær, focuses on subsurface observation, correspondence, and encounter with “the other” in artistic and scientific processes – with Anne Louise Blicher, Robin Everett, Heidi Hart, Marcellus L. and Francisco Beltrame Trento.

The Public Programme of the Kelp Congress provides a platform for the sharing of the *Coast, Line, Kelp Curing*, and *Kelp Diagram Collective* research strands. Here, the focus rests on the discoveries and insights that have emerged throughout the week’s programme, with these sharings taking a number of different forms.

SYMPOSIUM (20 September – 22 September)

PLANETARY SPECULATION: CULTIVATING CURIOSITY, CONCERN AND CARE, COLLABORATIVELY

Keynote lecture by Cecilia Asberg.

Prof. Cecilia Åsberg delivers a keynote lecture entitled “Planetary Speculation: Cultivating Curiosity, Concern and Care, Collaboratively” which explores the sense of belonging to the ecologies of this planet, and strives for a closing of the emotional gap between values and actions through environmental feminism, swaying our ways and habits in more sustainable directions.

SO TIRED, THE SEA ...

A recorded keynote video lecture entitled “So Tired, the Sea ...” by Prof. Astrida Neimanis. Undersea video footage courtesy of Dr Adriana Verges and Dr Derrick Cruz of www.OperationCrayweed.com, video footage of “Collapse” courtesy of Dominique Baron-Bonarjee and video compilation by Siouzi Connor.

Beginning with a lesson in symbiotic sleep management, this talk explores deep sea circadian rhythms, tidal pull, stars, undersea forests, fall out, and falling out together, all as a way to figure fatigue as an ethical and political affect. Below the waves, gravity works differently, and queer energies circulate. What kinds of refugia will the undersea offer, what new rhythms will emerge? What can the sea, so very tired, still teach us about making relations in times of fatigue?

Following the screening Astrida will take part in a live-streamed Q&A moderated by Dr. Marietta Radomska.

KELP CONNECTIONS

A panel discussion centred on working and collaborating with kelp, algae, and seaweed in different contexts. Those in conversation will be participants from the Kelp Congress research strands, local actors working with seaweed, and Kelp Congress Partners.

KELP NETWORK DISCUSSIONS

This element of the programme encourages reflections, informal discussions, and networking meetings between representatives of the partner organisations and all attendees of the Kelp Congress. As a shared space for speaking and listening, the emphasis will be on looking to the future and how to remain connected through kelp.

ARTWORKS

The Kelp Medal of Honour by Signe Johannessen centres on the story of how the artist’s relatives were saved from battle by hiding underneath kelp in the intertidal zone during WWII.

Intertidal Shelter Part II by Devil’s Apron (Kåre Grundvåg and Trond Ansten) is a sculpture intervention that explores how we can facilitate an intimate meeting between life within shallow water and us humans.

Common Notions (confusion resumes outside a few squaremeters) by Sabine Popp, conceived as an experiment or game, exploring an examination of the performativity of algae, objects, and bodies in instances of observation.

Sea Ceremony is a performance by designer Julia Lohmann, inspired by the Japanese tea ceremony tradition. A time for collective sharing and reflection on algae – organism, habitat regenerator, superfood and sustainable material – a ritualistic closing event with seaweed.

CREDITS

LIAF 2019, together with Annette Wolfsberger, initiated the Kelp Congress with input from several artist-run organisations and research centres based in the Nordic countries and Northwest Russia – ArtLab Gnesta, Fridaymilk, Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology, Mustarinda, Posthumanities Hub, Skaftefell – Center for Visual Art, and The Department of Seaweed.

LIAF 2019 is curated by Hilde Methi, Neal Cahoon, Karolin Tampere and Torill Østby Haaland

Design of the Kelp Congress Map: Ilse Solleveld-Toim

Cover Image: Amy Franceschini

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