



# COOPERATIVE LABORATORY FOR ARTISTIC AND ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

Marseille  
Lisbon  
2025



O GABINETE DE MADAME THAO  
lisboa



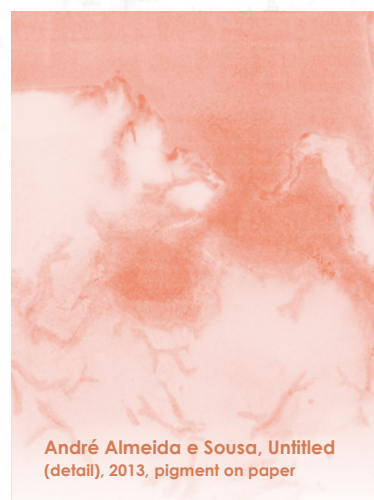
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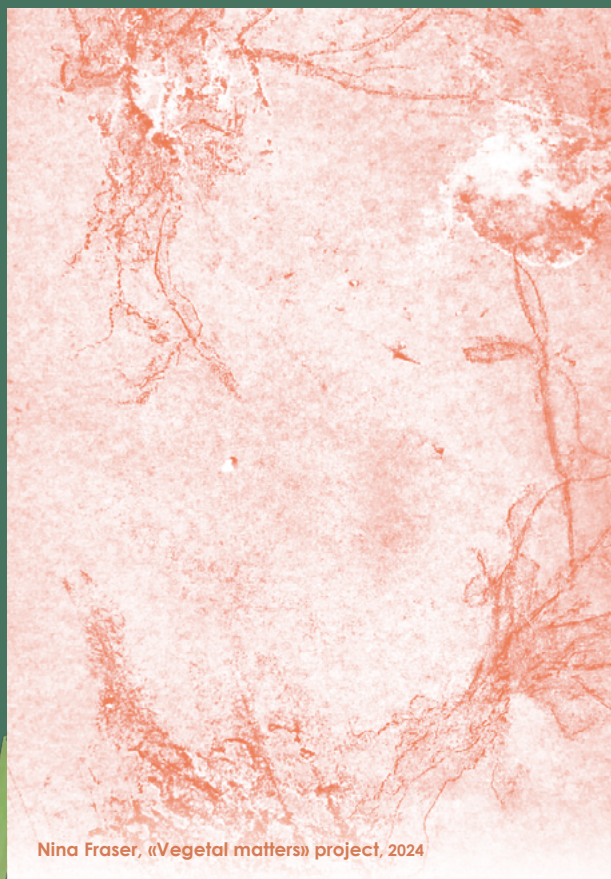
## Cooperative Laboratory for Artistic and Ecological Practices Marseille – Lisbon

The Cooperative Laboratory for Artistic and Ecological Practices is an informal training framework for adults, artists, and art professionals designed to foster the acquisition of ecological knowledge applicable within the context of artistic practice workshops. These workshops are aimed at children and adults, with a particular focus on «priority» audiences.

LABECO is supported by the European Union and carried out by DDA CONTEMPORARY ART, based in Marseille, in collaboration with O Gabinete de Madame Thao, based in Lisbon.



André Almeida e Sousa, *Untitled*  
(detail), 2013, pigment on paper



Nina Fraser, «Vegetal matters» project, 2024



Aurore Pélisson, *Living banquet*





## IMPLEMENTATION

LABECO promotes the exchange of best practices and learning through mobility, with trips scheduled to Lisbon from February 2 to 8, 2025, and to Marseille from May 11 to 17, 2025.

Artists from France and Portugal participating in the program will explore their respective fields of action and experimentation, and visit specialized initiatives.

They will engage in workshops focused on materials and share ideas about methods for transmitting knowledge to their audiences.

A public meeting with experts will take place in Lisbon on February 7, emphasizing experimental practices and research involving natural and ecological materials.

Another public meeting with experts will be held in Marseille on May 16, focusing on a more theoretical and scientific approach to biomaterials research and its sociological implications.

A publication will be produced to share the outcomes of these exchanges with as many people as possible.



## OBJECTIVES

Our aim is to enhance the skills of participants specializing in the fields of art and culture, by learning sustainable and inclusive best practices. The aim is to pass on knowledge through workshops designed for our "priority" audiences.

The study of new materials and new fields of eco-responsible artistic expression connected to the urban, natural and digital environment will give us back the power to act.



## RESULTS

We aim to achieve positive qualitative and quantitative impacts through LABECO, based on the high-quality content we propose concerning transmission and inclusive, ecological artistic practices.

By offering tools that can be reused and accessed by a broad audience, we will be able to widely disseminate the results obtained. This will enable us to move on to a larger scale.



## DDA CONTEMPORARY ART DIFFUSING DURABLE ART

**D.D.A CONTEMPORARY ART**, founded in 2012 in Marseille, is an inclusive artistic platform dedicated to supporting contemporary art and accompanying artists. It has been developing a social action axis since 2021. It focuses its actions and reflections around questions linked to the hijacking of technologies, ancestral technologies and their mutations. Since 2019, the links between art and nature, the consideration of the living, the different types of ecology, are the axes that inspire these programmatic choices.

Since its creation, mobility, international residencies and exchange programs have been set up to promote movement as a means of breaking down barriers and developing careers on a different scale. An associate partner since 2019 at Jeanne Barret - Marseille (15th arrondissement), a 1500 m2 space for the dissemination and experimentation of art in conjunction with local residents, it is experimenting with collective governance.

DDA focuses on the place of technology in our society and, for the past 8 years, on the links between art and nature, since its dystopian research project on bees and technology. In 2019, DDA organized a debate in Istanbul around ecological practices in culture, around the 16th Biennial of Contemporary Art named "The Seventh Continent", posing the issues of the Anthropocene. Then, based on the IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in Marseille in 2020, an event called "Métaboles" was organized, which, in this era of health imbalances and compartmentalized relations to the world (both inter-human and inter-species), addressed notions of sustainability, resilience and the effects of the capitalocene on other living beings. DDA is pursuing this approach by starting to run workshops for the general public, with artists tackling these issues.

DDA accompanies visual and sound artists in their research and production projects, identifying their needs (financial, technical and human) and trying to provide concrete solutions, always with a view to opening up to the world. The artists supported are young art school graduates, mid-career and advanced artists, curators and researchers.

For the past 2 years, with these groups of artists, DDA has been giving art workshops to a "priority" audience, whether they come from priority urban districts or rural areas. They are organized in partnership with social organizations and local authorities, such as the Maisons de la solidarité and the Service Social Départemental as part of the "Ensemble en Provence" scheme, projects run by the city's Service Education Artistique et Culturelle, and "Rouvrir le Monde" supported by the DRAC (regional government).



## O GABINETE DE MADAME THAO



Exhibition «Coníferas», André Almeida e Sousa, 2024

Based in Lisbon, **O Gabinete de Madame Thao** is an independent art space aimed at a diverse audience. It hosts exhibitions, workshops, and multidisciplinary events, giving priority to human encounters and discussion.

Through the activities it offers, the OGMT team strives to make demanding and sometimes challenging art more accessible to the general public by providing context and supportive assistance. In this regard, it upholds values of proximity, simplicity, and both artistic and intellectual audacity.

O Gabinete de Madame Thao provides exhibition opportunities for contemporary artists, primarily those in the early or middle stages of their careers, with a focus on Portuguese, Vietnamese, and French creators. Through a network of fruitful connections with institutions and influential figures abroad, the OGMT team accompanies these artists on their journeys and supports them in their research through meetings, exchanges, and critic sessions.

Additionally, artist-led workshops are regularly organized for children and adults of all ages.



Meeting with Philippe Descola, 2023



Artist Talk by Bui Cong Khanh (Vietnam), 2023