

# Loom portfolio

English

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practice for cultural transformation

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Loom is a practice for cultural transformation.

Powered by dialogue and imagination, Loom provides reflections, propositions, rehearsals, and real-world alternatives that bring people together around urgent issues. Loom develops open, experimental formats to help find and unlock the transformative potential of people, places and organisations.

Building on years of experience and a wide-ranging expertise, Loom creates unexpected ties between independent initiatives and institutions, weaving together people and practices with roots in different worlds.

Loom facilitates conversations, conducts research, curates exhibitions and public programmes, publishes books, consults organisations and develops shared learning experiences.

To document and disseminate our work, Loom employs methodologies such as collective editing and polyvocal archiving to generate publications that spark conversation, give guidance and enable strategic, informed and long-term decision-making.

Loom is grounded in Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and links with an international network in the arts, culture, design, public policy, media and heritage, bringing together local situations and global issues.

Loom is Katía Truijen, Mark Minkjan, Michiel van Iersel, Radna Rumping and René Boer working in close collaboration with an evolving ecosystem of talented and established practitioners.

This portfolio gives an insight into our ambitions and occupations, with examples of previous projects—both self initiated as well as collaborative projects with partner organizations—in which we have played a defining role. Curious to learn more about Loom? Please get [in touch](#).

→ Come Closer was a series of public gatherings in the period 2015–22 at the Oude Kerk, Amsterdam's oldest building. In 2015 online radio station Red Light Radio contributed to the program in the context of an art installation by Tatuero Atzu on the roof, titled 'The Garden Which Is The Nearest To God'.





# Creating a common ground

↶ Workshop in the context of the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) 2016 – The Next Economy. Exhibition design by 51N4E.

↷ Come Closer, performance Ivan Cheng with Kristoffer Zeiner, Oude Kerk, 2019. Photo by Maarten Nauw.

Loom creates situations where various people and topics can meet and interact with one another. These situations are often staged in historically significant buildings and (other) heritage sites. The layered and sometimes contested nature of these locations generates fertile conditions to reflect on shared values and test new ideas and expressions.



# THE FUTURE IS ALREADY HERE

IT IS JUST NOT EVENLY DISTRIBUTED – WILLIAM GIBSON



Loom portfolio EN—2023

← Agree to all — The cities they sell us, a VR installation by a.o. Zesbaans in front of a quote by William Gibson, as part of the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) 2016 — The Next Economy. Photo by Hans Tak.

➤ Tri-colored wall drawing by Nicolas Chuard as part of the Places of Hope exhibition in the former Fries Museum in 2018, in the context of Leeuwarden-Friesland European Capital of Culture and in collaboration with the Urban Futures Studio (UFS).

## Imagining alternative futures

Loom approaches the future as the culmination of past events and present choices. Through our projects we facilitate a variety of voices and viewpoints to reflect on the past, imagine possible futures and confront contemporary challenges. The resulting stories and images provide a space for shared speculations that help us navigate between despair and hope in order to collectively create a more sustainable and just future.

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← Research and appropriation workshop by Failed Architecture and Incompiuto Siciliano on an unfinished water engineering project in central Sicily, in the context of Manifesta Palermo, 2018.





↑ Hoofdweg between Jan Evertsenstraat and Jan van Galenstraat, 1927, Stadsarchief Amsterdam, employed as part of 'Hoofdweg (a possible line)', an audio essay and mental sculpture for public space by Radna Rumping, commissioned by Welcome Stranger in 2021.

→ Detail of print designed by Rietlanden Women's Office, as part of 'Hoofdweg (a possible line)'.



# Facing humanity's impact

Loom sees infrastructure, whether it is social or physical, as an expression of the culture and the time from which it originates. We explore the lasting impact of architectural and urban plans as windows into specific historic episodes. We revisit their development, explore their current realities and investigate future potentials through grounded (artistic) practices, from field trips to sound walks and mental sculptures.





# Living with uncertainty



← Wetness Walks, a series of immersive explorations of the changing landscape between Amsterdam and the North Sea blurring the boundaries between water and land and with students from the Architecture department of the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, 2022.

↑ Uncertainty Seminars, an interdisciplinary programme at Stroom Den Haag embracing doubt and hesitation as a cultural strategy. In 2019 four seminars were co-curated by Ilga Minjon (Stroom) and Radna Rumping around different forms of knowing and understanding, in a setting designed by The Rodina. Photo by Eline Benjaminsen

Our world appears to revolve around binaries: left and right, north and south, for and against, young and old, cities and countryside. Instead, Loom embraces gradients, ambiguities and the uncertainty that comes with a sense of feeling lost, not knowing and being in between. We actively engage with topics and environments that are in flux, deploying methods that allow us to navigate instability and cope with change.







# Keeping history alive

↑ Collective listening exercise with Pamela Jordan in the Academiehuis/Grote Kerk in Zwolle, in the context of Winterlab 2023, commissioned by ArteZ University of the Arts.

➤ Stilstaan bij de Oude Kerk, Open Monumenten Weekend, 2013.

Heritage preservation and historiography are often synonymous with conservatism and elitism. Loom wants to give our past a future by opening it up to different perspectives and new uses. Instead of perceiving the past as something that needs to be protected at all costs, we help people to appropriate and reactivate it, thereby giving it new meaning and relevance.



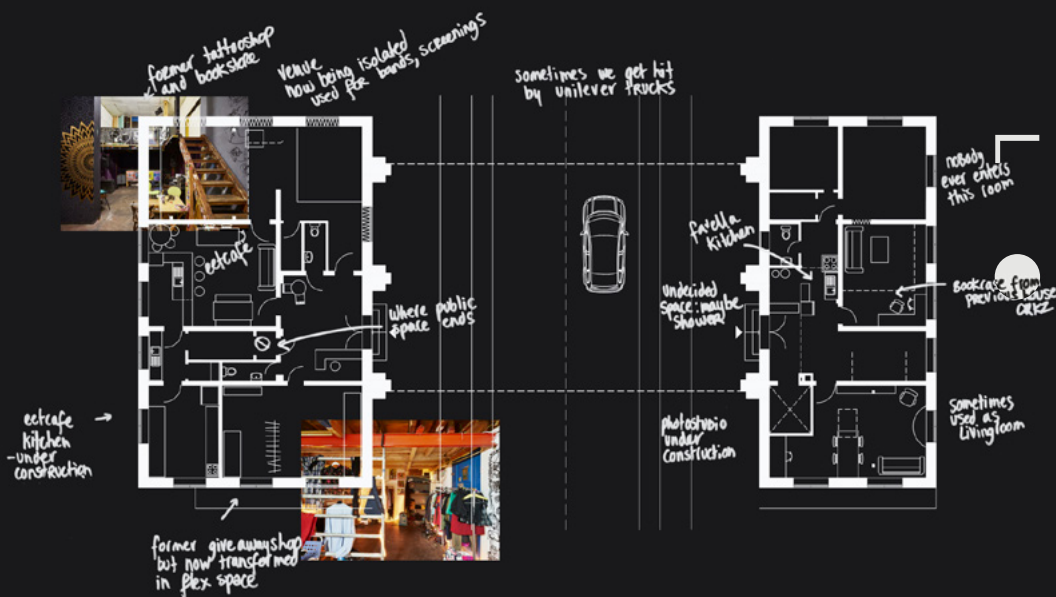
➤ Photo of Wijde Heisteeg 7 by Johannes Schwartz, in the context of Architecture of Appropriation, a research and archival project, series of exhibitions and publication in collaboration with Het Nieuwe Instituut, edited by René Boer, Marina Otero Verzier and Katia Truijen, and in collaboration with the communities of ADM, Landbouwbelang, Plantage Dok, Poortgebouw, Vluchtmaat and WH7 in the period 2017–21.



← Architecture of Appropriation. On Squatting as Spatial Practice, edited by René Boer, Marina Otero Verzier and Katia Truijien, Het Nieuwe Instituut, 2019.

↓ Collage by Anastasia Kubrak, in Architecture of Appropriation. On Squatting as Spatial Practice.

Ground Floor



# Valuing the informal

We live in a time of rankings and ratings, of certification and canonization. That which is already established is favored over the unknown or unexpected. Loom appreciates the overlooked value of the informal, the undefined and uncategorized. By giving a platform to the things that exist under the radar, beyond the scope of popular taste and professional codes, we acknowledge their importance and expand their horizon of possibilities.





# Creating space for complexity



← Opening of a temporary installation by HOH Architecten in the alley between Herengracht 127-129 in Amsterdam in the context of Tussen-ruimte, 2013, in collaboration with Office Jarrik Ouburg and TAAK. Photo by Jordi Huisman.

↙ Kraak een Tussen-ruimte, performance by Céline Talens in the alley next to Keizersgracht 123 in Amsterdam, in the context of Tussen-ruimte, 2013, in collaboration with Office Jarrik Ouburg and TAAK. Photo by Vrederick.

As cities and landscapes become more scripted and sanitized, space for experiment disappears and diversity – of people and ideas – decreases. Learning from the fields of economy and ecology, and the evidence that monopolies and monocultures reduce the vitality of societies and habitats, Loom strives to create the much-needed physical and mental space where things can meet and flourish.

↳ Fundamental Acts, Mont des Arts, curated by Katia Truijen, Traumnovelle and humble and commissioned by Urban Brussels, 2021



# Reclaiming space

A confluence of crises, from the Covid lockdowns to the persisting housing shortage, is putting pressure on our ability to live, work and come together in (public) space. Loom is developing new ideas and experiments on how to curate spatial transformations which reorganise existing power structures, center people's needs and desires and provide a fruitful ground for alternative ways of coming, being and living together.





← Poster with drawings by Anne Dessing, as part of Global Kiruna, a project by Iwan Baan, Anne Dessing and Michiel van Iersel in the context of Kiruna Forever at ArkDes & Konstmuseet i Norr, 2020/21.

# Seeing the bigger picture

Overwhelmed by the continuous barrage of images and opinions it is easy to drift off and lose sight of the systems and dynamics that shape our world. Loom aims to connect the dots and understand how small and seemingly insignificant actions contribute to major events, and how major events impact everyday realities. Zooming out and back in, patterns start to emerge that allow us to position ourselves—not as passive spectators, but as actors in an interconnected world.



κ Photo by Iwan Baan of LKAB iron ore mine in Kiruna, as part of Global Kiruna, a project by Iwan Baan, Anne Dessing and Michiel van Iersel in the context of Kiruna Forever at ArkDes & Konstmuseet i Norr, 2020/21.



HEADER

text

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↑ Waddenkelder, installation by Bruno Doedens (SLeM) as part of Places of Hope, de Kanselarij, Leeuwarden, 2018, in the context of Leeuwarden-Friesland European Capital of Culture.

## WHO WE HAVE WORKED WITH

Over the years, the people behind Loom have worked with and for amongst others:

ArkDes  
Academy of Architecture Amsterdam  
CANactions Kyiv  
Canadian Centre for Architecture  
City of Amsterdam  
CLUSTER (Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research)  
Oude Kerk Amsterdam  
Het Nieuwe Instituut  
Gerrit Rietveld Academie  
Harvard Graduate School of Design  
If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution  
Independent School for the City  
International Architecture Biennale of São Paulo  
Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK)  
MO Museum Vilnius  
Rewire  
Rijnland Regional Water Authority  
Royal Institute of British Architects  
ruangrupa/Gudskul  
Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam  
Stroom Den Haag  
UNESCO  
Urban Brussels  
Urban Futures Studio  
VI Per Gallery Prague  
Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik (ZK/U) Berlin



## WHAT WE HAVE INITIATED

Over the years we have initiated, in close collaboration with others, the following projects:

De Verdieping  
Failed Architecture  
//\ hoekhuis  
Ja Ja Ja Nee Nee Nee  
mistral  
Queers for Climate  
Tussen-ruimte

## WHAT AND WHERE WE HAVE PUBLISHED

Members of Loom have co-edited a number of books and smaller publications, including (a.o.)

*Rewriting Architecture 10+1 Actions for an Adaptive Architecture*, Valiz, 2020  
*Architecture of Appropriation: On Squatting as Spatial Practice*, Het Nieuwe Instituut, 2019  
*Grounded Urban Practices – Cairo and Amsterdam/ Rotterdam*, in collaboration with CLUSTER, 2019 and *Grounded Urban Practices – Berlin*, in collaboration with Z/KU and Cluster, 2020  
*Misericordia: in search of new mercy*, Oude Kerk Amsterdam, 2017

The work by members of Loom has been published in (a.o.)

APRIA Journal  
The Architectural Review  
De Volkskrant  
De Groene Amsterdammer  
Harvard design magazine  
Metropolis M  
NRC Handelsblad  
The Guardian  
Time Out Magazine  
Volume



# BIOGRAPHIES

**Katía Truijen** is a media researcher, writer and musician based in Rotterdam. Her work is concerned with bringing people together around practices of listening, archiving, and rehearsing alternative urban, technological and ecological futures. She is part of Loom, practice for cultural transformation, co-founder of interdisciplinary platform *I\A hoekhuis*, curator of the context programme for Rewire festival, and research tutor at the Studio for Immediate Spaces (Sandberg Instituut). Between 2014 and 2021, Katía developed research projects and public programmes at Het Nieuwe Instituut. She was assistant curator for *Work, Body, Leisure*, the Dutch Pavilion at the 16th Venice International Architecture Biennale (2018), and co-editor of *Architecture of Appropriation: On Squatting as Spatial Practice* (2019) and *For the Record: On the Politics of Music Video Culture* (2021). She recently co-curated *Fundamental Acts* (Urban Brussels, 2021), *Housing Futures* (Independent School for the City/Het Nieuwe Instituut, 2022), *RITUAL* (Rewire festival, 2022) and *MUTATION* (FIBER festival conference, 2022).

**Michiel van Iersel** works as an urbanist and curator working at the intersection of the arts, architecture, urban transformation and ecology. He started his career working as a curator for several (visual) arts organisations, before co-founding cultural collective Non-fiction in 2008. In addition Michiel co-founded De Verdieping (2010–15), a temporary space and programme for experimental culture as part of club and restaurant TrouwAmsterdam, and the ongoing research platform *Failed Architecture*. In 2016 he was a member of the Curator Team of the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) and in 2018/19 he became a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He is currently combining his work with Loom with a

position as Program Lead of the Chair of Architecture and Urban Transformation at ETH Zürich. Michiel has more than two decades of experience advising and (re)activating a wide variety of smaller and larger (public) institutions, including UNESCO, the City of Amsterdam and various cultural institutions. In addition, he teaches, writes and publishes on a broad range of topics, including *Rewriting Architecture 10+1 Actions for an Adaptive Architecture* (Valiz, 2020).

**Mark Minkjan** is an architecture critic and urban geographer. He is a co-founding editor of *Failed Architecture* and has written for publications including VICE, The Guardian and The Architectural Review. He is the co-editor of various books, including *Rewriting Architecture 10+1 Actions for an Adaptive Architecture* (Valiz, 2020). Mark taught at various design and architecture schools, including the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, TU Delft and the Academy of Architecture in Amsterdam and received the Geert Bekaert Award for architecture criticism in 2017. He curated programmes and exhibitions, including *The Right to Build: Self-build between Dreams and Reality* at the Amsterdam Centre for Architecture. He curates a public programme of live conversations and podcast interviews about alternative building culture and spatial practice at the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture.

**Radna Rumping** is a curator, artist and advisor on contemporary art and culture. Her work involves public space, experimental archiving practices, ways of gathering and conditions of (in)visibility. Radio and sonic explorations have run like a thread through her practice: in 2015 she co-founded Ja Ja Ja Nee Nee Nee, an online radio platform dedicated to the arts. During her residency at the post-academic research centre Van Eyck Academie (Maastricht) she developed her voice in writing and recording, which led

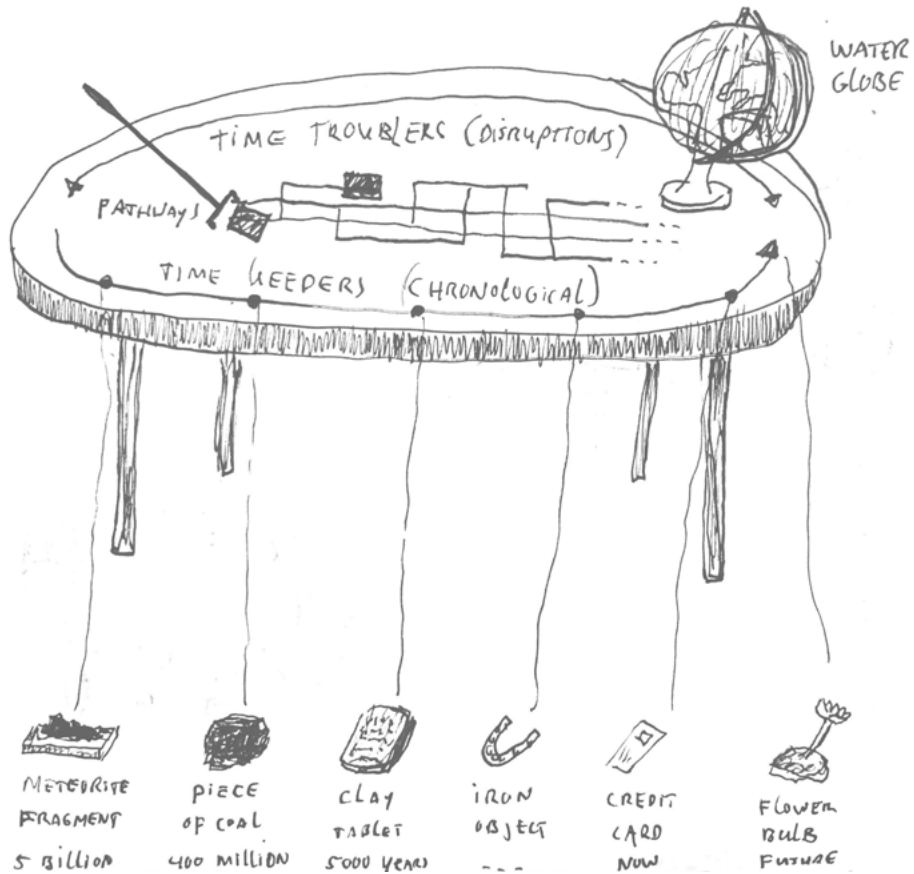
to a series of sound pieces and audio essays. Previous curatorial projects include *Come Closer*; a performance program at the 700 year old Oude Kerk in Amsterdam (2015–22), *Gift Science Archive*; a durational archiving performance in collaboration with Sands Murray-Wassink and *If I Can't Dance* (2020–21) and the series *Uncertainty Seminars* at Stroom Den Haag (2019). Radna is an experienced advisor on art in public space, previously in the committee for the City of Utrecht, and currently as part of the Stadscuratorium for the City of Amsterdam.

**René Boer** works as a critic, curator and organizer in and beyond the fields of architecture, art, design and heritage. He is based between Amsterdam and Cairo and is a driving force behind the *Failed Architecture* platform. In recent years he developed a wide array of exhibitions, public programmes and research projects, often with a focus on spatial justice, urban imaginations and queer tactics. His current projects include *Contemporary Commoning*, an experimental exploration of the relation between art and (urban) commons; *Terraforming Indonesia*, a programme investigating and reimagining large-scale land reclamations in collaboration with the *ruangrupa* collective; and *Smooth City*, a forthcoming publication on the obsession with perfection in cities worldwide.



Come Closer, Oude Kerk, 2016

# TIME TABLE



## CONTACT

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