

Loom portfolio

practice for cultural transformation

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Loom is a practice for cultural transformation.

Loom mobilises people around urgent societal issues. We depart from the belief that art and culture can help us imagine and shape a different world. Through imagination and wonder, we catalyse lasting change. Building on years of experience and our self-developed transformation model, we connect people, communities, and organisations from different worlds. In doing so, we create space for new perspectives, shared values, and collective action.

Through self-initiated projects and in collaboration with partners and clients, we engage with the defining challenges of our time. Collective artistic experiments go hand in hand with thorough research and strategic planning. This way, we make change tangible and enable informed decision-making.

Operating from Amsterdam and Rotterdam, we connect local and global issues with an international and multidisciplinary network of leading creative practices. By joining forces, we create the conditions for meaningful transformations.

Our work spans a wide range of domains, from reinventing urban renewal in Amsterdam's historic center and climate adaptation in the informal areas of Cairo, to developing new ways of dealing with water in the Rhine River Delta, and a natural landscape where art and ecology reinforce each other.

Loom is Katía Truijen, Mark Minkjan, Michiel van Iersel, Radna Rumping, and René Boer. We combine our expertise in the fields of art, architecture, heritage, urban development, media and beyond, with a keen curiosity about developments shaping today's world.

Are you interested in working with us to transform together? Have a look at our portfolio or contact us directly.

This portfolio gives an insight into our ambitions and occupations, showing a selection of previous projects—both self-initiated as well as collaborative projects with partner organisations—in which we have played a defining role.



Opwallen



↑ Prototypes for the project have been developed by Bureau LADA, HOH Architecten, Studio Anna Torres, Studio Ard Hoksbergen and studio ventura, which were presented as part of a public pop-up exhibition and publication.

← Photo of Zeedijk 111 by Anna Odulinska. This project was developed in close collaboration with the Municipality of Amsterdam, in particular Stadsdeel Centrum and civil servants of various departments, and a wide range of local stakeholders and property owners, most notably local and social property management companies such as NV Zeedijk and Stadsgoed NV.

A design research initiative that explores how underused spaces above existing buildings can create affordable housing and new public amenities in Amsterdam's historic Wallen area. By working closely with designers, local stakeholders and the municipality, the project demonstrates how small interventions can collectively shape a more inclusive city centre.

Opwallen

In autumn 2025, four selected Amsterdam based design teams explored possible ways to fill the gaps. Their proposals and visualisations offer a creative yet realistic spectrum of ideas They provide inspiration for specific sites, as well as concrete design solutions and technical and financial possibilities that could bring multiple gaps to life. Model by Studio Ard Hoksbergen Photo of exhibition by Adriaan de Groot.)





↑ Experiment during Rhine River Rehearsal research trip

↗ Presentation of Rhine River Rehearsal research and publication at Goethe-Institut Niederlande. The project was developed in collaboration with Goethe-Institut Niederlande, the Lectorate Art & Spatial Praxis at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Borderland Residencies and Campingplatz Grietherort, who also supported the project. It has resulted in public presentations, walks, lectures and reading groups, among others at the Sandberg Instituut, Goethe-Institut Niederlande, University of Kassel, Tilburg University, Istanbul Bilgi University, Tagebau Hambach (as part of Borderland Residencies), Buurtwerkplaats Noorderhof, and the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture. The research also led to the audio tour Leaky Turns – Stories from Amsterdam's Waterlands, commissioned by the Climate Imaginaries at Sea consortium. The publication Rhine River Rehearsal: Reimagining a river in five acts is available via our website: www.loom.ooo

Rhine River Rehearsal



An artistic research project that approaches the Rhine as a living landscape shaped by ecological, cultural and political forces. Through walks, conversations and public programmes, it questions conventional understandings of rivers, borders and climate adaptation and offers alternative imaginaries.



➤ **Rhine River Rehearsal**

During the Rhine River Rehearsal research trip, Loom followed and deviated from the river, while engaging with the multitude of communities occupying its banks, its soil, water and non-human habitats.



↑ Loom was appointed to lead the development of Art Landscape Herlaar. Together with the two co-initiators and a large group of experts from different domains, we developed a vision and approach to integrate contemporary art and artistic research into the evolving landscape of Bossche Broek Zuid, around the historic castle and farm Oud-Herlaar. A key challenge was to bring together two very different organisations who co-initiated the project: Het Noordbrabants Museum, a museum for art and history, and Brabants Landschap, a regional nature preservation organization. (Photo: Loom)

→ In collaboration with artists, designers and the Ministry of the Future, a series of seasonal try-outs was organised, including performances that made the landscape tangible and informed a long-term vision. During one of the try-outs artist collective De Onkruidenier allowed participants to literally get a taste of the landscape, by offering them edible plants and syrup. Other artists included Giulia Pompilj, Müge Yilmaz, Lucas Lenglet, Elmo Vermijs and Venus Jasper. (Photo: Maarten Nauw).

Art Landscape Herlaar

A long-term artistic programme that integrates contemporary art into the evolving landscape of a historic nature reserve. Through collaborative research, seasonal experiments and stakeholder dialogue, it explores new relationships between culture, ecology and heritage.



➤ **Art Landscape Herlaar**

Art Landscape Herlaar is a new artistic programme in a nature reserve around the historic castle and (later) farm Oud-Herlaar, just outside of the city of Den Bosch in the South of The Netherlands. (Photo: Maarten Nauw)

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← At the 12th UN World Urban Forum (WUF12), CLUSTER (Cairo) and Loom hosted an alternative programme. Bringing together practices from a.o. Amsterdam/Rotterdam, Tunis, Tanger, Johannesburg, Addis Abeba and Cairo itself, the programme featured an exhibition, roundtables, and urban tours to showcase grassroots, community-led solutions for cities. Additionally, a panel discussion was organized as part of the official programme of WUF12 with representatives of international organisations. The alternative convergence during the World Urban Forum in Cairo was developed in collaboration with the Creative Industries Fund in The Netherlands.

Grounded Urban Practices network

An international network of locally rooted urban initiatives in a.o. Amsterdam/Rotterdam, Berlin, Tunis and Cairo who all experiment with more just, inclusive and context-sensitive forms of city-making. Initiated and coordinated with the Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research (CLUSTER).



➤ **Grounded Urban Practices network**
In parallel to the World Urban Forum in Cairo in 2024, Loom and CLUSTER organized an alternative programme, bringing African and European participants in the Grounded Urban Practices network together in the city itself instead of the convention center.



Winter- and Summerlab

↑ Start of Winterlab 2023 in the Academiehuis in Zwolle. In the 2023-2024 period Loom developed the concept and programme for the Winter- and Summerlab at ArtEZ University of the Arts in Zwolle. Working closely with the team of ArtEZ we invited artists and designers to develop workshops, or Labs, for the 400 participating students. We coordinated the curation and communication of the weeks, supported the students and workshop hosts and provided a context programme consisting of lectures, gatherings and radio broadcasts that created possibilities for exchange and resonance between students and guests.

An interdisciplinary educational programme for art school ArtEZ, bringing together hundreds of art students from different disciplines through collaborative workshops and creative labs. Loom developed the overall framework and public programme, creating space for experimentation, exchange and artistic collaboration.



Winter- and summerlab

The Needle in the Haystack, a workshop by Narges Mohammadi during Summerlab 2023. Students were invited to work collectively on one object and decide together on what to make and develop methods, theories and approaches that would allow them to execute their ideas.

→ The project was commissioned by and developed in close collaboration with the Urban Futures Studio at Utrecht University. After the premiere at the Pathways to Sustainability Conference at Tivoli in Utrecht on 4 April 2023, iterations of the project traveled to the International Sustainability Transitions Conference (Jaarbeurs, Utrecht), the InnovatieExpo, (Van Nellefabriek, Rotterdam), the Deltacongres (Martiniplaza, Groningen), and was presented as part of the exhibition Designing the Netherlands. 100 Years of Past & Present Futures at Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam. (Photo: Loom)

↓ Each iteration centered around (a recording of) a text by Jibbe Willems, which brings together a wide range of voices and sounds that together question dominant notions of time and the idea of progress. (Photo: Loom)



Time Troublers

A series of immersive installations serving as a travelling gathering space that challenges dominant notions of time, progress and the future. Combining art, performance and dialogue, it invites audiences to experience and discuss alternative temporalities in response to today's planetary crises.



Time Troublers

Presented as a 1:1 scale prototype of an immersive clock, and later as an artificial garden with rugs, fake trees and rocks, the objects, sounds and texts confront you with a continuous stream of colliding and mutually reinforcing speeds and rhythms.



← Veranderland (a combination of the Dutch words for 'change' and 'land') is the title of an exhibition and research project at Het Noordbrabants Museum in Den Bosch. It allowed visitors to experience the constantly changing landscape of Brabant, a province in the south of the Netherlands. Starting point of the exhibition was a selection of landscape paintings by such artists as Vincent van Gogh and Piet Mondrian, and recent video works by a.o. Semâ Bekirovic, Margit Lukács and Persijn Broersen, Erik van Lieshout and David Claerbout. (Photo: Het Noordbrabants Museum)

→ Loom co-developed the concept of Veranderland with the team of the museum, and created specific elements of the exhibition, including a printed travel guide and an extensive audio essay inviting visitors to explore the nearby Bossche Broek nature reserve and ask themselves questions about their relationship with the natural environment. (Photo: Loom)

→→ The Veranderland Lab served as a space for public gatherings and workshops, including a 'harvest festival' on the final day of the exhibition, bringing together artists, curators, farmers and others who are dealing with landscapes in flux. (Photo: Ben Nienhuis)



An exhibition and research project that examines how our relationship with landscapes has evolved over the past two centuries through art. Loom expanded the exhibition beyond the museum by developing an audio essay, travel guide and public research programme that invited visitors to imagine future landscapes.

Veranderland



➤ Veranderland

Veranderland at Het Noordbrabants Museum provided a critical journey through two centuries of art that explores the relationship between mankind and our environment, from the romantic view on so-called 'wild lands' to periods of clearing and subjugation, followed by environmental crises and the need for new roads to explore. The scenography and visual identity of the exhibition was developed by Koehorst in 't Veld in close collaboration with landscape architect Joost Emmerik. (Photo: Ben Nienhuis)

← Commissioned by the Board of Government Advisors (CRa) and the Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE), this project explored new futures for monumental farmhouses in Oldambt, Groningen, that have lost their agricultural function amid wider social, economic, and environmental challenges. In collaboration with ANA ROCHA architecture and Studio Anne Dessing, and in close partnership with local authorities, farm owners, and experts, we developed adaptive reuse scenarios that moved beyond conventional restoration approaches.

↓ Starting from an existing farmhouse in ruins, we co-created spatial and functional strategies through workshops, role-play, interactive models, and the guide Beyond Monumentality. The project advocates for phased, flexible interventions that embrace functional diversity and position cultural heritage as a catalyst for socially, ecologically, and economically resilient transformation.



Beyond Monumentality

Mogelijk scenario



A research by design project that develops adaptive reuse strategies for monumental farmhouses as catalysts for resilient rural transformation beyond material preservation.

➤ **Beyond Monumentality**
One of the dilapidated farms in
Oldambt, a region in the
province Groningen in the
northeast of the Netherlands.



← Anders Werken aan Wonen (Working Differently on Housing) was a multi-year design research programme initiated by the Creative Industries Fund NL, in which coalitions of designers, municipalities, housing corporations, builders and research institutions explored alternative models for affordable, suitable and sustainable housing. As critics-in-residence, Loom followed the programme from beginning to end, reflecting critically on the individual research trajectories and distilling overarching insights on how design research can transform housing systems. Loom's role resulted in two published essays, a reference study, and contributions to a traveling exhibition presenting all design research projects to a wider audience. More information via www.denieuweruimte.org. (Photo: Kaka Lee)

Anders Werken aan Wonen

A multi-year research programme examining how design research can contribute to more affordable, sustainable and inclusive housing systems. As critics-in-residence, Loom reflected on projects across the Netherlands and distilled broader lessons for housing policy and practice.



➤ **Anders Werken aan Wonen**
Traveling exhibition presenting all design research projects to a wider audience. Exhibition design by Bruno Vermeersch. (Photo: Kaka Lee)



Wetness Walk with Architectural Design students from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie.

WHO WE HAVE WORKED WITH

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

ArkDes
Academy of Architecture Amsterdam
Board of Government Advisors (CRa)
Brabants Landschap
CANactions Kyiv
Canadian Centre for Architecture
City of Amsterdam
CLUSTER (Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research)
Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE)
Gerrit Rietveld Academie
Goethe-Institut Niederlande
Harvard Graduate School of Design
Het Noordbrabants Museum
Independent School for the City
International Architecture Biennale of São Paulo
Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK)
MO Museum Vilnius
Nieuwe Instituut
Oude Kerk Amsterdam
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
Grounded Urban Practices network
//\ hoekhuis
Ja Ja Ja Nee Nee Nee
mistral
Queers for Climate
Tussen-ruimte
Opwallen
Rhine River Rehearsal



WHAT AND WHERE WE HAVE PUBLISHED

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

Further Listening: On Adventurous Music and Sound, Page Not Found and Rewire, 2026
Opwallen, New space for the old city, Loom, 2025
Rhine River Rehearsal, Reimagining a river in five acts, cahier, Loom, 2025
Shaky Ground (Stubborn Material), Radna Rumping, 2025
Epistemic Imaginaries – Learning as Festivity, Errant Bodies Press, 2025
Smooth City: Against Urban Perfection, Towards Collective Alternatives, René Boer, Valiz, 2025
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 Architect, De Volkskrant, Domus, Het Parool, De Groene Amsterdammer, Harvard Design Magazine, Metropolis M, NRC Handelsblad, The Guardian, Time Out Magazine



➤ Loom partners (from left to right):
René Boer, Mark Minkjan, Radna Rumping,
Michiel van Iersel and Katia Truijen.
(Photo: Liza Wolters)

René Boer works as a critic, curator and organiser in and beyond the fields of architecture, design, heritage and the arts. He is passionate about articulating new perspectives on spatial conditions and facilitating fertile ground for imagining and materialising alternatives. As achieving lasting change requires a structured approach, he is keen to further develop and practice Loom's self-developed methodology for cultural transformation.

From a background in Urban Studies and with roots in various forms of urban activism, René developed a multifaceted practice spanning different roles, organisational forms and geographies. Alongside Loom, he is part of the transnational platform Failed Architecture and affiliated with various urban social movements as well as art, architecture and design schools in Amsterdam and beyond. A key part of his practice is situated in the Egyptian capital Cairo.

In the last ten years, he developed a wide range of research projects, public programmes, exhibitions, educational experiments and political positions, often in close collaboration with a network of likeminded institutions, movements, practitioners and friends. These include Contemporary Conflict with Framer Framed (Amsterdam), Architecture of Appropriation with Nieuwe Instituut (Rotterdam), Contemporary Commoning with the Gerrit Rietveld Academy (Amsterdam) and Terraforming Indonesia/Lahan Becek with ruangrupa/gudskul (Jakarta).

In 2023, he published 'Smooth City' with Valiz Publishers.

Mark Minkjan is an urban geographer and architecture critic. He sees spatial habitats as products of cultural and material histories, and as carriers of possible futures.

At Loom, he brings this critical and research-driven sensibility into the practice. He is drawn to the point where analysis becomes proposition: where reading a phenomenon or a place carefully opens up what it might yet become.

Mark writes, edits, does research, and makes public formats in the form of books, exhibitions and conversations. Outside Loom, he is coordinator for CoLA, the Dutch national network of local architecture centres, and a programmer and curriculum designer for the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture. These roles keep him close to the schools and institutions that shape spatial culture in the Netherlands on the national and local level.

Mark was a co-founding editor of Failed Architecture and has contributed to publications including The Architectural Review, VICE and The Guardian. He has edited several books, including Rewriting Architecture – 10+1 Actions for an Adaptive Architecture (Valiz, 2020) and has taught at various institutions including the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, TU Delft and the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture. He received the Geert Bekaert Award for architecture criticism in 2017.

Katía Truijen is a media researcher, curator, educator and musician, working and living in Rotterdam, Amsterdam and The Hague, and often taking the train. Her work is concerned with bringing people together around practices of listening, archiving, and rehearsing alternative urban, technological and ecological futures. She develops public formats – from public programmes and performances to publications – always situated and in collaboration with others.

Katía is part of Loom, practice for cultural transformation, and co-founder of interdisciplinary platform //\ hoekhuis. She curates context programmes for Rewire festival and Ultima festival, and is editor of Further Listening. On Adventurous Music and Sound (2026), co-editor of Epistemic Imaginaries – Learning as Festivity (2025), For the Record: On the Politics of Music Video Culture (2021), and Architecture of Appropriation: On Squatting as Spatial Practice (2019).

Katía has published about digital culture, artistic research, architecture and design for among others Sonic Acts, Boekmanstichting, V2_, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Virtueel Platform, Institute of Network Cultures, IDFA DocLab, WhyNot, Frascati and FIBER. She holds an MA in New Media and Digital Cultures with her thesis Urban Dialogues (2012-2013) and graduated cum laude from the BA in Media and Culture with a Minor in Aesthetics (2008-2011) at the University of Amsterdam. She also completed the Art & Research Honours Programme at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie (2009-2010).

Radna Rumping is a curator, artist and advisor with over 15 years of experience in contemporary art and culture. She builds bridges between artistic practices and the structures that shape everyday life, engaging with public space, radio broadcasting, experimental archiving, forms of gathering, and conditions of (in)visibility — with a particular interest in sound and performance art.

Radna has a deep understanding of the Dutch cultural landscape, from self-organised collectives to larger institutions and cultural policy, and applies this knowledge to strategy in wider fields such as urban planning, social affairs and ecology. Alongside developing concepts and curating exhibitions and performances, she is also a maker, working with text and sound, and an experienced moderator of public programs.

Next to Loom, Radna is co-founder of the artistic radio platform Ja Ja Ja Nee Nee Nee. She is an experienced advisor on art in public space, having served on the advisory committee for the City of Utrecht and, since 2019, as a member of the Stadscuratorium for the City of Amsterdam.

Radna holds a BA in Journalism and was a resident at the post-academic research centre Van Eyck Academie in Maastricht, where she developed her voice in writing and recording. In her spare time, she tends her garden and joins the New Logomotion Lab workshops — to move, speak, improvise and embrace complexity.

Michiel van Iersel works as a curator, writer, facilitator and educator at the intersection of the arts, architecture, heritage, ecology and related fields. He has more than two decades of experience initiating cultural transformation processes and working with a wide variety of smaller and larger (public) institutions. His main interests revolve around the need to develop new mental frameworks and everyday practices that open up new ideas and enable positive change. In his work he combines research, writing, drawing, public speaking, and moderating, with more experimental methods, such as bodily exercises and role plays. Energy and enthusiasm are his strengths.

Alongside Loom, Michiel holds a parttime position at the NEWROPE Chair of Architecture and Urban Transformation at ETH Zurich. He is the initiator, facilitator, and collaborator of various interdisciplinary platforms, including ongoing research platform Failed Architecture, and has (co-)curated many exhibitions and public programmes, amongst others the International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam. He writes and publishes on architecture, culture and transformation and has taught at art and architecture schools around the world.

Michiel lives in Amsterdam's Eastern Docklands neighborhood and loves to swim, draw, cook, spend time in nature, travel and work across cultures and countries. In recent years he was involved in projects in a.o. Albania, Switzerland, the Arctic Circle and the United States. Largely self-taught, he was formally educated at a range of different universities, including the Erasmus University Rotterdam and Harvard University, where he is a Loeb Fellow.





➤ Veranderland pop-up exhibition
(Photo: Adriaan de Groot)

CONTACT

Follow us on [Instagram](#) or sign up for our [newsletter](#).

Website www.loom.ooo
E-mail info@loom.ooo

Postal Loom
Oostelijke Handelskade 44-B3
1019 BN Amsterdam, NL

Visit Loom
WG-Plein 33C
1054 RA, Amsterdam, NL

KVK Loom.ooo VOF
85473367
VAT 863635325B01