



I lie beyond the horizon, yet somehow, I am part of your life. I am an object of knowledge yet, cannot be known. Some pretend to see me; I love to prove them wrong. When you imagine what I might look like, you think of change, hope, destiny, and sometimes, you even fear me or for me. I am all ends, all paths; I am about stories and actions, massive mobilizations and radical uncertainty, proactive design and adaptive resilience; I am about challenges and solutions, or maybe, only better questions.

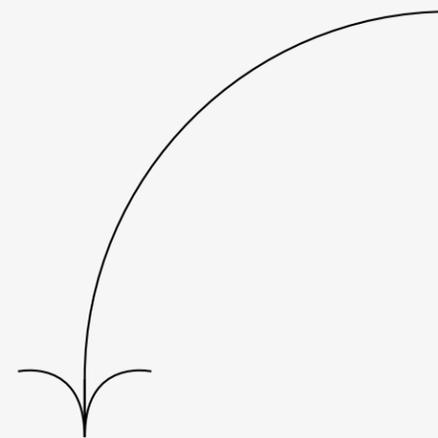
I am this word, future.



## Future

What does this word mean to you?

This call is not about describing how the future should be, but about what (if anything) the word “future” means to you. You might think about it, or not. You might prepare or expect it, or not. Do you have a relationship to it? How do other cultures and communities use it? Who has a voice about what it should be, and how could it be extended? Is this word plural or singular?



## U+ZINE

is a cycle of short thematic explorations for alternative futures and change, through the lens of arts and fiction. Each month, one theme, one call for contributions, one meeting and one publication.

Open to all!

How does it work? Every month, we will send out a call around a theme and gather a small curatorial committee to exchange around it. The theme interests you? Get in touch, send us examples of your work and join the conversation!

## CURATORIAL COMMITTEE

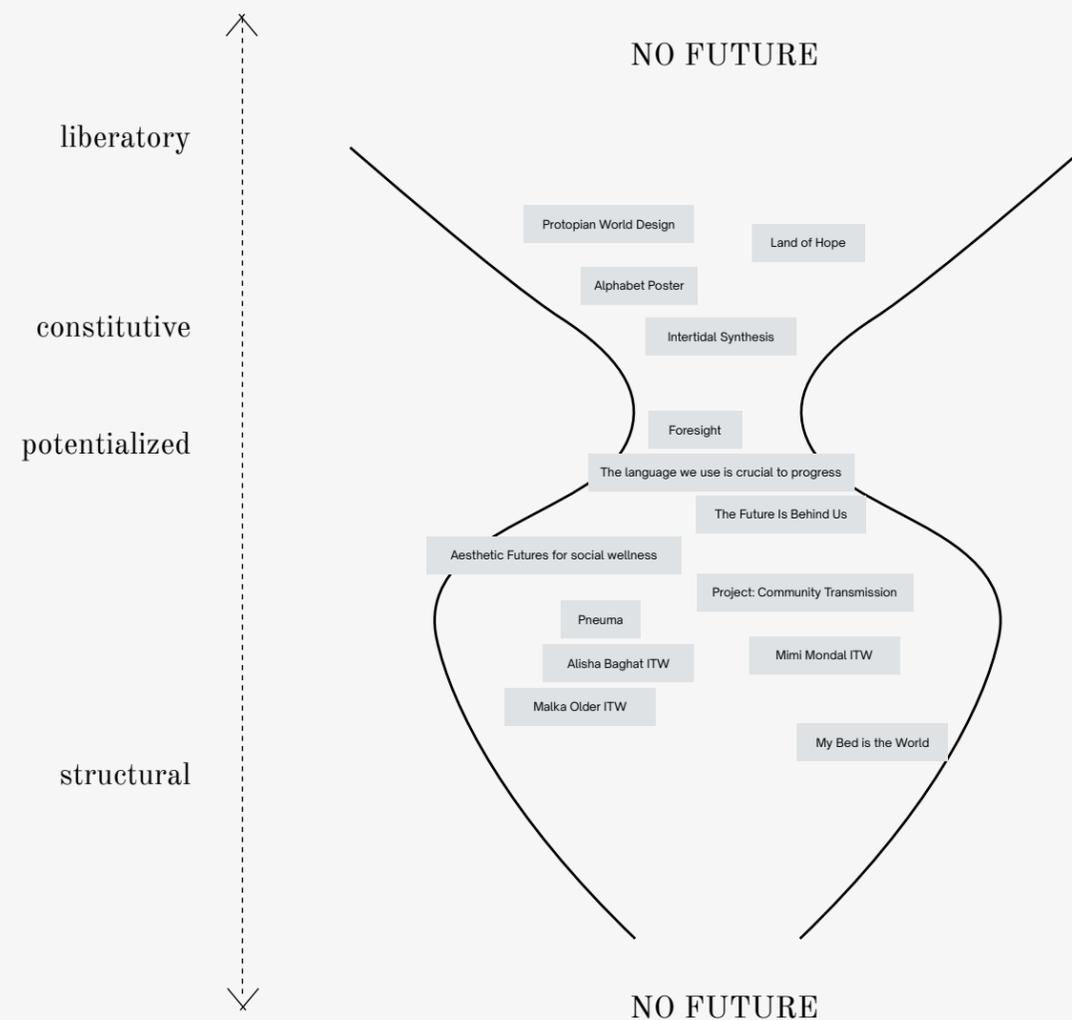
This edition of U+Zine introduces a new collaborative curation process. U+’s interested members and publics participated with us in exchanges on how to read and spatialize the diversity of contributions received. It is understood that our perceptions of what comes next are as multiple as our ways of getting there (wherever “there” is). On the next page, you will find a few maps offering different paths to navigate through the contribution we have received around “Futures- what does this word mean to you”. At the end of this edition, you will find a list of questions to help you reflect on your personal relation to this word.

Thank you to the Future Curatorial Committee: Brigitte van der Sande, Maya Van, Tom Bieling, Brendan Mapes, Lauren Klein and Nicole Loeser for trying this out with us!

# Alphabetical order

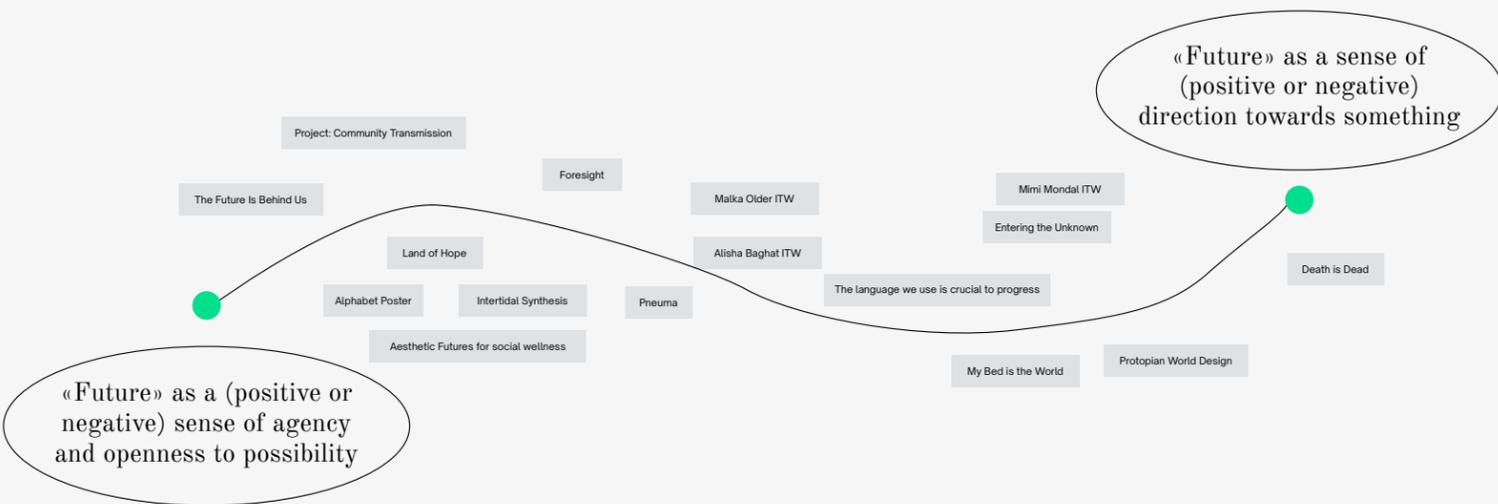
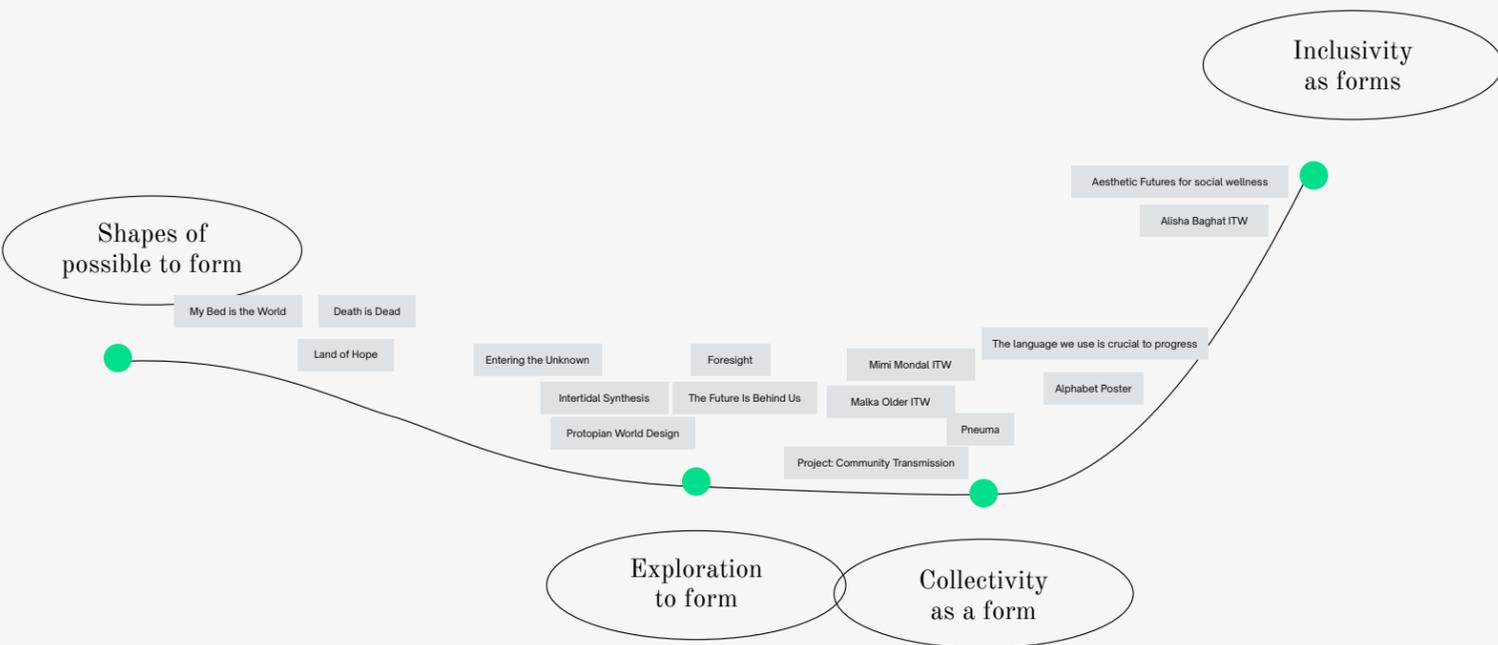
Aesthetic Futures for social wellness, Lauren Klein	46
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Malka Older, ITW, « Writing Globally to Show the Future Globally »	30
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Mappings  
 Here are the maps drawn by the curatorial committee, offering different ways to navigate through the contribution. You can choose to follow them, or not...



Mappings

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1. Futures in the Now: Real Spaces to Activate Change

- A. Land of Hope
- B. The Language We Use
- C. Aesthetic Futures for Social Wellness
- D. Pneuma

2. VISIONING to lead the way

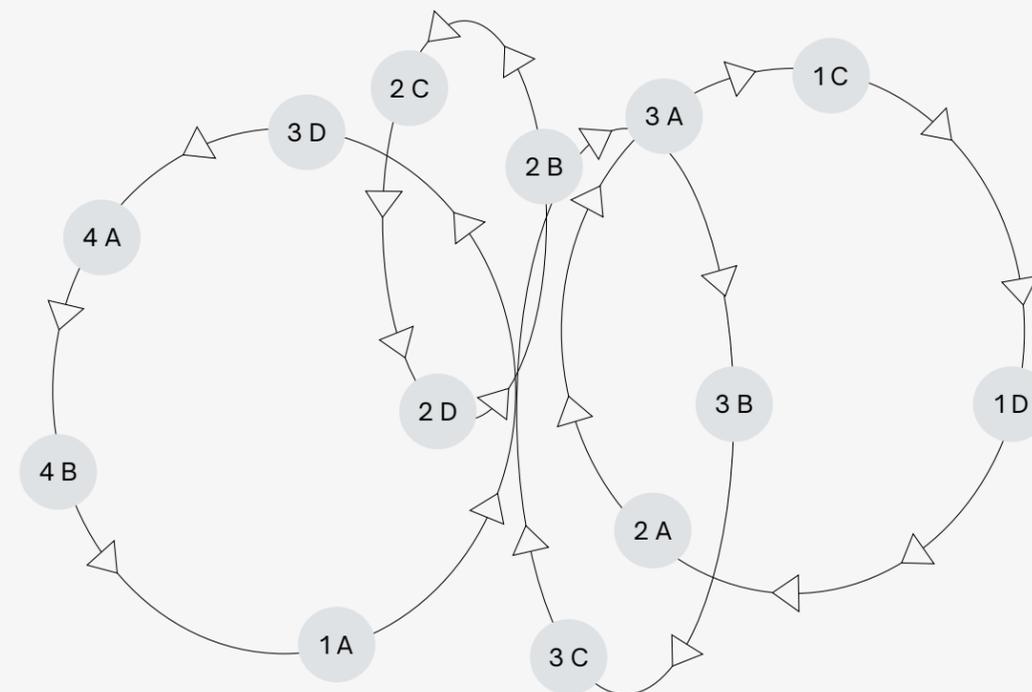
- A. TheFuture is Behind Us
- B. Protopian World Design
- C. Mimi Mandal, SF, India
- D. Intertidal Synthesis

3. Theory and Futures Literacy

- A. Interview Project
- B. Alphabet Design
- C. Foresight
- D. Enter the Unknown - Community Tansmissions

4. Examining the Present:

- A. The Continuum of History
- B. My Bed is the World



## LAND OF HOPE, Studio Hartzema, Netherlands

In the light of climate change and debasement of local economies for the sake of globalization and free trade, capitalism has almost exhausted its own source of subsistence: Nature.

Going beyond the widespread myth that humans act as destructive agents of the pure and delicate nature, instrumentalizing the landscape to support production models has always been the way to build human economies and societies. The moment of crisis started when fragmented versions of smart cities, wind parks and solar farms were offered generously by design agencies, municipalities and governance institutions without realizing the gap between high-level planning and processes of self-organization. Our lands and soils now suffer from salinization, ground subsidence and contamination and are perceived as calculated forms of utility, fitting our current production model.

Taking the case of the Randstad in the Netherlands -one of the first countries to disappear when sea level rises rapidly-, its landscape is not perceived anymore as something outside of the city, but as an entity that lies within the metropolis, mainly occupied by agricultural land and grasslands. Predominantly used for milk and meat production, these lands have recently started to lose their economic base due to their heavy environmental impact and additional urbanization pressures and with that, the only substantial reason for safeguarding their empty expanse.

Is it reversible? In an era of Google domi-

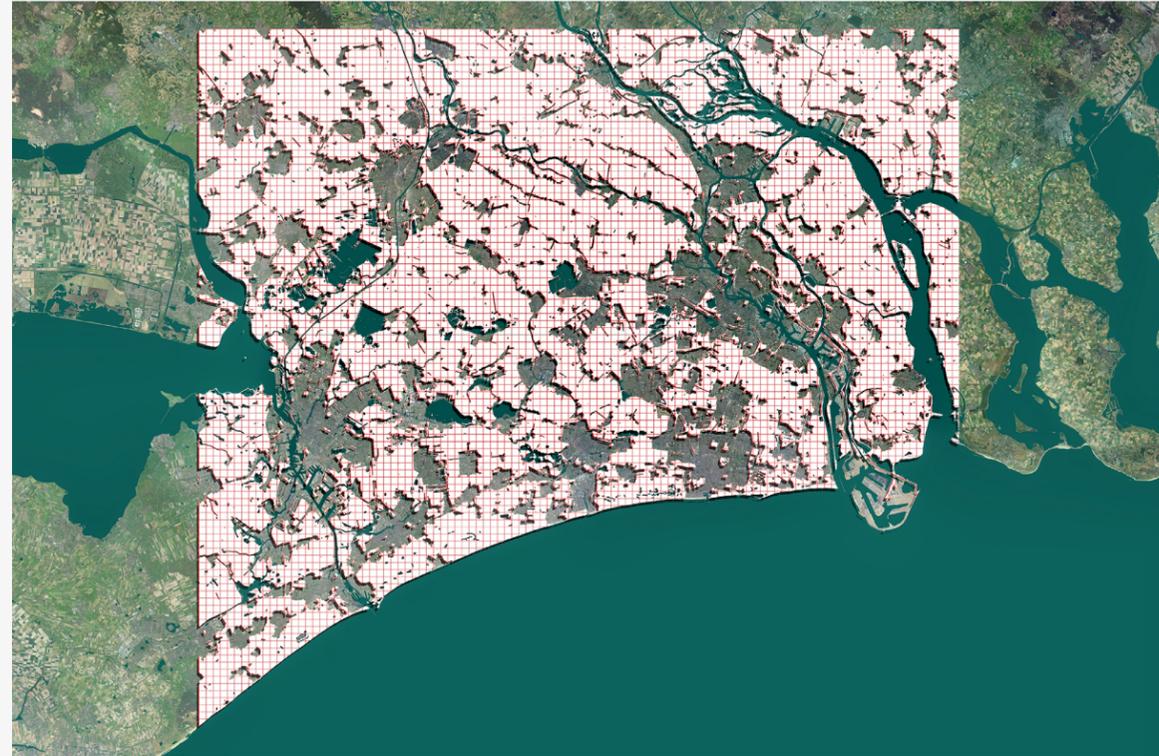
nance, abundance of data and unlimited access to facts and “fake news”, there is a lack of space for critical reflection, projective approaches and unbiased thinking. Inhabiting the sphere of the imaginary can be a way to reflect on the aftermath of our current socio-spatial actions and what will be the future if we do act and design the transition soon.

By addressing unbuilt space as a promiscuous Land of Hope, Randstad’s unbuilt land is seen both as a shared object between collaborating cities as well as a collective resource for projective scenarios [reforestation, energy production, new land uses]. The grid becomes a tool to neutralize space, eradicate any pre-existing conditions and stress the need to explore the intersection between global abstraction and local specificity.

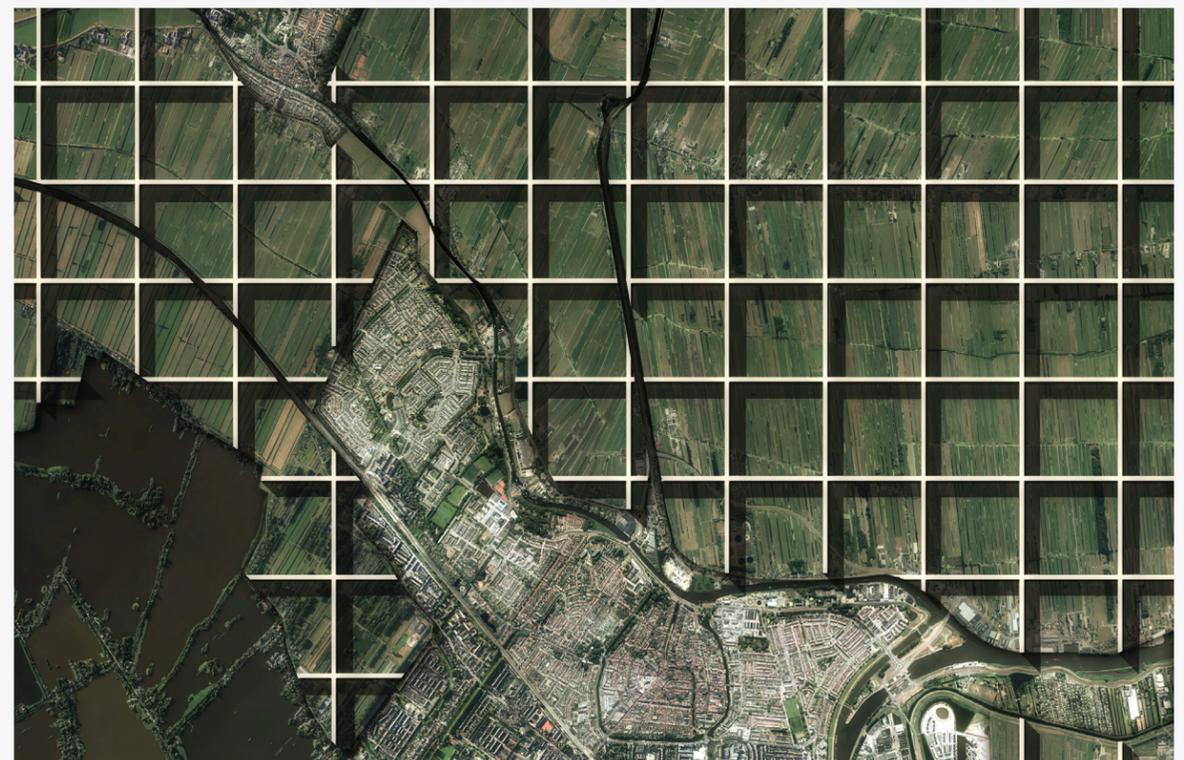
Through the psychological rethinking of the Dutch territory as a field of experimentation and not as a settled field of rules and spatial configurations we might be able to see the bigger picture and embrace radical changes. By leveraging imagination as a tool for data-driven experimentation and scaled-up thinking, our future becomes tangible and familiar.

The future lies in our imagination and awaits to emerge into reality.

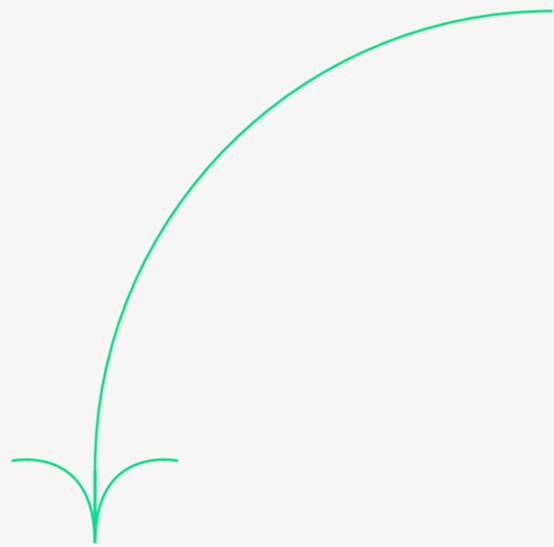
*Note: This research project is co-funded and supported by the Creative Industries Fund NL*



1. Land of Hope\_ Unbuilt land becomes Randstad's uniting field. By Studio Hartzema and FRESH.



2. Visual experiment over Gouda's unbuilt space. By Studio Hartzema and FRESH.



## TO PUSH FURTHER

Look through and add your fragments  
to our collective open-source platform :

[https://corpora.latelier-des-chercheurs.  
fr/uzine-futures-futurs](https://corpora.latelier-des-chercheurs.fr/uzine-futures-futurs)

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