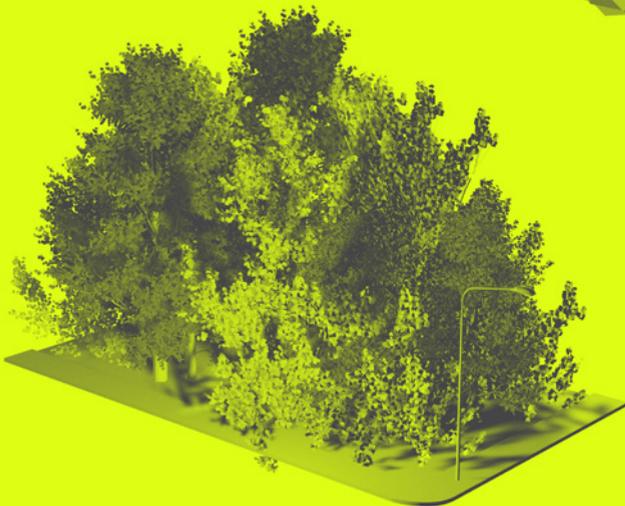
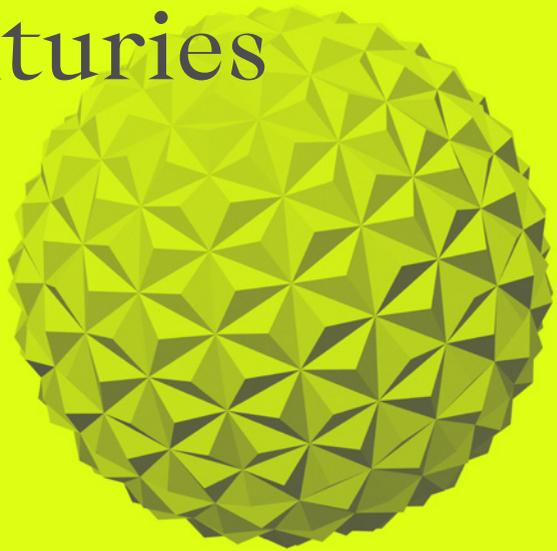


# VISUAL NATURES

## Politics and Culture of Environmentalism in the 20th and 21st Centuries



**maat**

Teaching material for schools  
Years 6 to 9  
60-90 min.



This is an application of the concept of assembly, which in its etymology refers to being together, bringing together those who are similar. We propose to work on the concepts of dialogue, negotiation, and sacrifice, in order to come to the idea of the common good and how we should position ourselves in relation to nature.

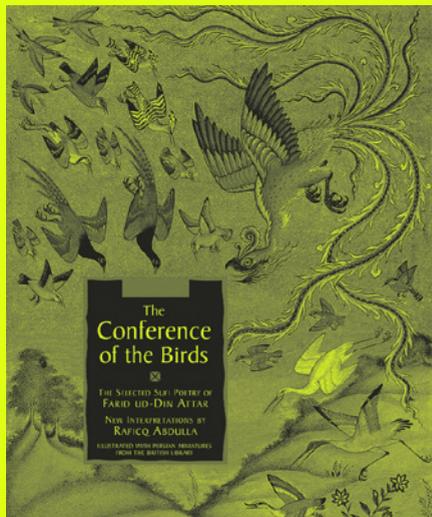
As a starting point, we suggest using the allegory narrated in the *Conference of the Birds* (12th century) by Farid Ud-Din Attar which shows us that only together and through individual concessions in dialogue can we arrive at an idea of the collective anchored in the common good. Nature being the common good that we must preserve, we propose that the activity uses the assembly device, which structures the exhibition, launching the three thematic axes: DEEP ECOLOGY, through exercises that show us the similarities with other beings; PLANETARY COMPLEX, a point at which we will become aware of the mismatch between human beings and their surroundings; MULTINATURALISM, whereby room is made for listening to the other, to other ways of seeing and thinking about climate action, such as the wisdom of indigenous peoples and feminist and **queer\*** groups.

## KEYWORDS

Assembly, Art, Deep Ecology, Ecology, Feminism, Multinaturalism, Nature, Negotiation, Perspectivism, Politics, Queer

## CONNECTED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

History, Environmental Studies, Geography, Sociology, Mathematics, Philosophy, English, Arts and Crafts, Drama.



Cover of the books *The Conference of the Birds*.

\* Discover all the NEW WORDS at the end.

maat Education and Public Programmes  
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## IN CLASS

This exercise will work on the concepts of attention and, to this end, we propose that the students carefully observe what is around them on their way from home to school and make a list of the natural elements they find.

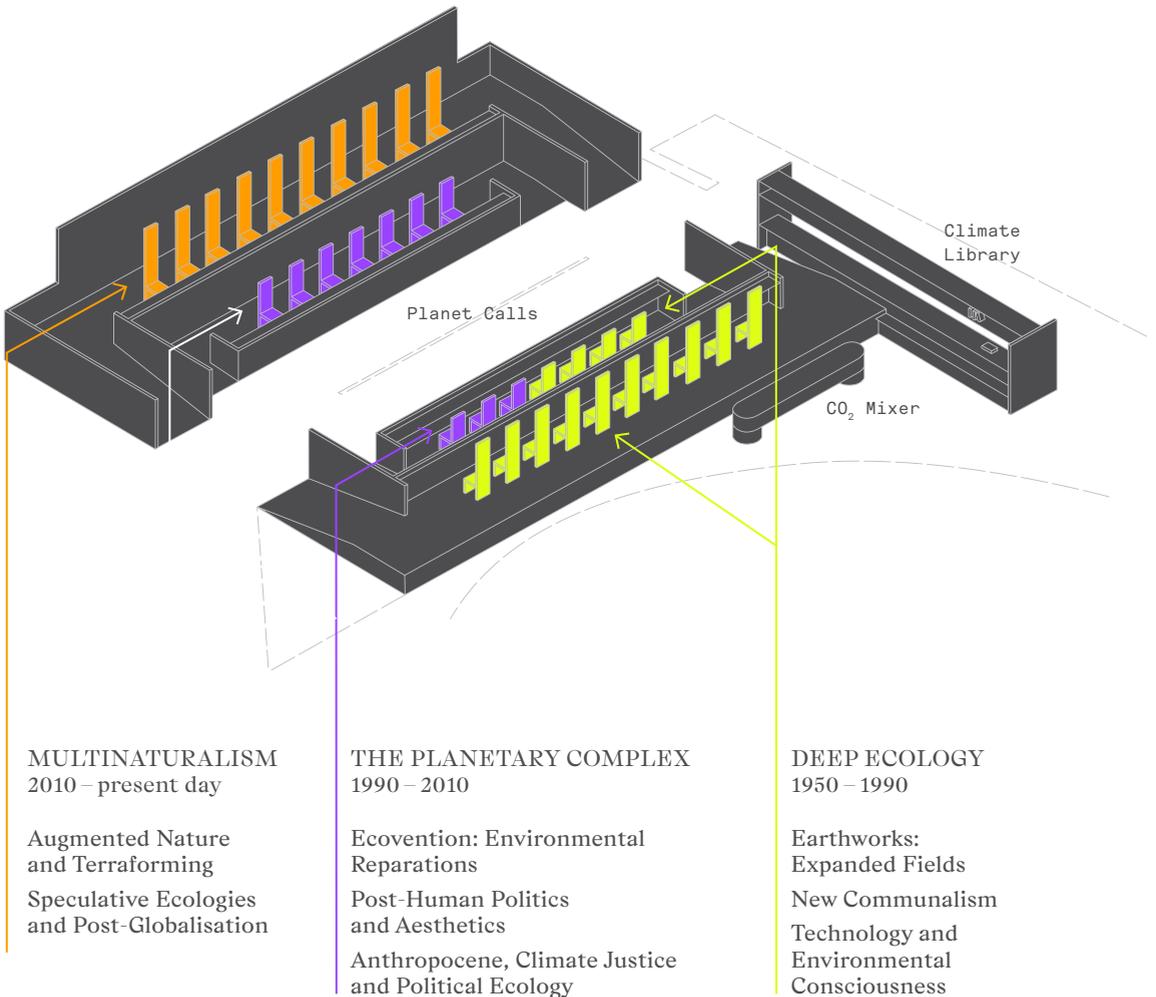
In class, the students are asked to divide themselves into groups (max. five elements in each group), discuss what they have seen and, together, come up with collective proposals for the environmental improvement of public space, bearing in mind the respect for other natural elements.

## AT THE MUSEUM

After the visit, and after students have used the console which measures the impact of our consumption on the planet, it is suggested that the teacher divides the class into groups and they discuss the impact that collective action practices can have on a change of paradigm and on awakening the notion that the human being is also a natural element, despite having been increasingly artificialised since the industrial revolution, a time that marked the beginning of the technological instrumentalisation of nature.

# CONCLUSION

As we have seen and what we wanted to work on so far, is that the idea of assembly refers to a dialogue that can only happen in the taking of public space and in a communal way. We speak of assembly as the Greeks understood it in the agora, which had an important role in the destiny of the city and in its participatory democracy. Bringing it into the themes of the exhibition, our agora will have an important role in raising awareness that only together can we help in the decrease of climate change and respect for all beings.



# NEW WORDS

## AMERINDIAN

### PERSPECTIVISM

A term that brings together various points of view, experiences and cultures. It defends that the world is made up of many human and non-human species that are interconnected, respecting the mythological and symbolic visions of each culture.

## DEEP ECOLOGY

Deep ecology is a movement that emerged in 1973 by the Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess. Deep ecology encourages the senses and feelings towards nature and invites a true connection, the human being as an integral part of it and not as the dominator. This movement arose in opposition to "superficial ecology", which saw the environment from a human perspective, defending its conservation only because of its importance for human beings.

## FEMINISM

Social movement that defends equality and equity among all beings. It started by defending the equality between men and women and nowadays includes all kinds of gender minorities.

## MOVEMENT

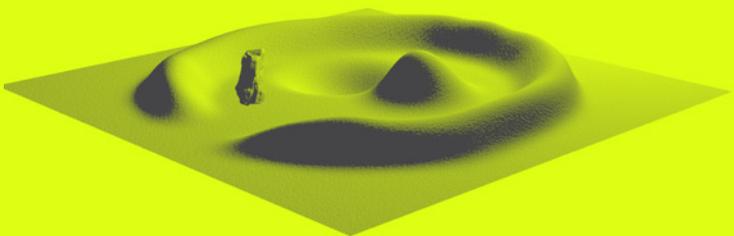
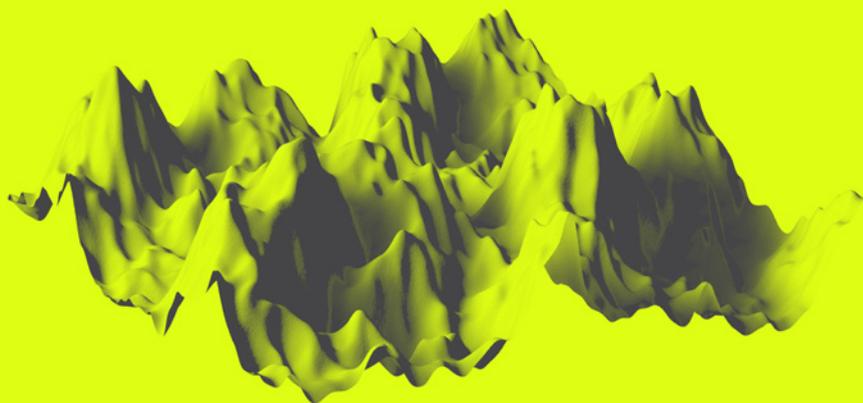
Being both a social and an artistic movement, it implies a group of people who come together for collective action and who defend a unitary idea of social defence or the promotion of a change of paradigm and vision within the scope of artistic, environmental, social, and class relations and contexts.

## MULTINATURALISM

Also known by the term Perspectivism, by the Brazilian anthropologist Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, brings the notion that different forms of life experience the world in different ways, that is to say, there is not only one unitary, essentialist, and universal look, but several ways of seeing and making the world.

## QUEER

Social movement that defends the fight for gender equality within an anti-capitalist vision. It is used to name people who do not fit into the male-female binary.



Discover more activities in  
[www.maat.pt/en/activities](http://www.maat.pt/en/activities)

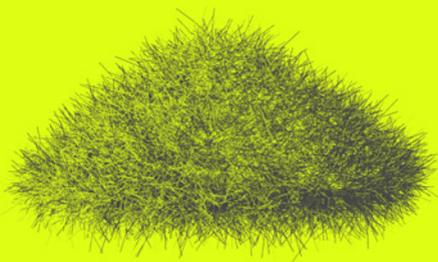
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