

2021 | VIRTUAL VERBIER ART SUMMIT

## RESOURCE HUNGRY

### OUR CULTURED LANDSCAPE AND ITS ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

From 29 to 30 January 2021, the Verbier Art Summit will celebrate its fifth anniversary, launching a **new virtual platform** and inviting leading artists and thinkers from all over the world to deepen the *Resource Hungry* discussion started at the 2020 Summit in Verbier, Switzerland.

The 2021 virtual Summit consists of a **two-day free digital programme**, welcoming all those with a love for art, innovation and ecology to participate. The Summit's open programme can be explored over the course of the two Summit days at leisure, with **three new talks** and **five international debates** by new and former Summit speakers. This is a time of great change and the Summit gladly offers a central role for artists and innovative thinkers to enable transformation and inspire action on the ecological crisis.



Home page of the virtual Verbier Art Summit platform.

**Jessica Morgan**, the Summit's 2020 partnering museum director of the Dia Art Foundation in New York, reflects back on the theme **Resource Hungry**, stating: *"It took a virus to halt aspects of our culture that were destroying the environment. Now is the moment to reflect on how we can evolve in response to the questions posed at the 2020 Verbier Art Summit: Can we learn from the light touch and holistic thinking of indigenous cultures that have cared for the land for generations? Can we reassess the spaces, habits, structures, and systems of culture to find new ways to operate and new ways to experience? Can we rethink our values?"*

The 2021 Summit speakers are invited by **Jean-Paul Felley**, the Summit's Academic Director and director of the EDHEA (the Valais School of Art), and include the Swiss artist **Claudia Comte**, Professor of Environmental Sciences at EPFL (the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne) **Tom Battin**, and cultural leaders **Hedy Graber**, head of the Cultural and Social Directorate at the Federation of Migros Cooperatives, and **Madeleine Schuppli**, head of Visual Arts at the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia. These interdisciplinary speakers will offer their different perspectives on a resource hungry epoch and reflect on how we can find a new way forward.

The Summit's Strategic Director **Beatrix Ruf** conceived the international debate series, moderated by the former partnering museum directors and coming from all over the world: New York, São Paulo, Beijing and London. The debates include speakers such as the artists **Andrea Bowers, Carolina Caycedo, Philippe Rahm, Naine Terena** and **Clare Twomey**, philosopher **Djamila Ribeiro**, professor **Timothy LeCain**, director of the EPFL-ECAL Lab **Nicolas Henchoz**, museum directors **Daniel Birnbaum, Elvira Dyangani Ose, Jessica Morgan, Philip Tinari** and **Jochen Volz**, as well as ecological change-makers such as **Alison Tickell**, the founder of Julie's Bicycle, a London based charity that supports the creative community to act on climate change and environmental sustainability. Each debate will be concurrently live-streamed on social media and will include a live Q&A session on the 2021 Summit days: 29 and 30 January.

A themed **art and ecology section** will further encourage Summit participants to take action: *"Repair our relationship to the land, by shifting away from endless resource extraction"* and *"begin to repair our relationships with one another in the process"*, as the Canadian author Naomi Klein described so powerfully in her book *On Fire. The Burning Case for a Green New Deal* (2019).

#### **About the Verbier Art Summit**

The Verbier Art Summit is an international platform for discourse in a non-transactional context. The non-profit Summit connects thought leaders to key figures in the art world to generate innovative ideas and drive social change. The annual in-person event in Verbier, Switzerland, will not be held in January 2021 due to current health regulations. All new Summit content will be shared on the virtual platform, bridging artistic and social distances globally.

If you are interested in learning more about the Summit's theme, the accompanying publication *Resource Hungry: Our Cultured Landscape and its Ecological Impact* edited by Jessica Morgan and Dorothea von Hantelmann, designed by Irma Boom and distributed by Koenig Books London, is now available to purchase in specialty art book stores, museum shops and [online](#).

**Free registration** for the 2021 virtual Summit and for more information on the theme, speakers and the virtual platform, please visit [verbierartsummit.org](http://verbierartsummit.org) or follow the Summit channels:

Instagram [@verbierartsummit](https://www.instagram.com/verbierartsummit) | Twitter [@verbierartnow](https://twitter.com/verbierartnow) | Facebook Verbier Art Summit

**For press accreditation for the 2021 Summit preview and the press conference on 28 January, or any further press enquiries or questions, please contact:**

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