

# SATELLIET GROEP

*Contribution during Littoral 2014 in Klaipeda, Lithuania:  
Interactive performative workshop 'The Eridanos Expedition'  
by philosopher Bram Esser and designer Francois Lombarts.  
Part of the long term collaboration of Satellietgroep (NL) and Nida Art Colony (LT).*

## Planning of the workshop:

First session during the conference on September 23 or 24, marked Workshop in the Conference Program;

Second session as part of the excursion to the Curonain Lagoon, as planned on September 24 15.30 - 20.00 in the Program.

## Aim of the workshop:

The scientific input of the participants is regarded as essentially valuable for the development of the project Expedition Eridanos and the collaboration between Satellietgroep, based in The Netherlands, and Nida Art Colony in Lithuania. In exchange this workshop will offer the participants of Littoral 2014 new approaches of the coastal transitions both countries experience.

Participants of the workshop will be taken 'outside' and approach the world as an undiscovered place where mystery lurks and adventure awaits you.

Participants will be asked to experience, develop and present their own 'view', through which you perceive the coastal landscape. The workshop will aim to combine these different perceptions of the landscape, into one portrait or multi dimensional viewing experience.

During the scientific coastal conference Littoral ' Facing Present and Future Coast Challenges' philosopher Bram Esser and designer Francois Lombarts engage the expert conference audience in the interactive performative workshop called 'The Eridanos Expedition'.

This special contribution is part of the international arts collaboration of Satellietgroep (NL) with Nida Art Colony (LT). During 2014 and 2015 both organizations exchange contemporary artistic research and insights on coastal transitions. The central theme of this collaboration is the shift from holocene (nature driven) to anthropocene (human driven). Both coasts of The Netherlands and Lithuania are perceived as natural coastal landscapes but are dynamic cultural coastal landscapes. Exchange between science, arts and society contributes to raising awareness of general and expert audiences on coastal transitions that transcend local and national boundaries.

As part of the Dutch-Lithuanian collaboration and as an ongoing project Esser and Lombarts retrace the route of the ancient north European river called the Eridanos. Their expedition is based on the geological theory that draws links between the Baltic Sea and The Netherlands. The Eridanos flowed from northern Lapland through what is now known as the Baltic Sea towards the North Sea where it had its drainage basin. Here it deposited the white sands that shaped the foundations of The Netherlands.

Lombarts and Esser use the theory of the Eridanos as a method to explore the coastlines of the North Sea and Baltic Sea. With 'Expedition Eridanos' they seek to navigate through the northern European coastal landscapes and look beyond histories or statistics as physically and directly as possible. They follow *on foot* the riverbed of the Eridanos to its origins and connect to local communities and

scientists along the way to reflect on the constantly evolving coastal relationships. These landscapes not only consist of physical layers and material interactions of water, stone, sand and clay, but also of culture as a composition of superimposed experiences, events and different ways of use. They seek to understand and unlock the coastal landscape, not by unraveling myths, but by creating new ones. By collecting and combining different stories and images about personal and professional relationships with northern European coastlines Esser and Lombarts act as metaphysical geologists.

Bram Esser: [www.bramesser.com](http://www.bramesser.com)

Francois Lombarts: [www.francoislombarts.com](http://www.francoislombarts.com)

Expedition Eridanos: <https://www.facebook.com/ExpeditionEridanos>

Nida Art Colony (LT)

[www.nidacolony.lt](http://www.nidacolony.lt)

Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts (NAC) is a non-profit organization based in Nida on The Curonian Spit at the Baltic Sea coast with main office in Vilnius. NAC is running artist-in-residence program (with 50 artists per year) as well as educational program (with 700 participants per year) and takes care of production of contemporary art exhibitions and publications. Its unique location helps to initiate site-specific questions and in cooperation with Satellietgroep NAC organized the 'Inter-format Symposium on Sand and Aquatic Ecosystems' to share actual topics and find productive ways out.

<http://www.nidacolony.lt/en/projects/symposium/inter-format-symposium-2014>

[http://www.satellietgroep.nl/collaboration\\_nida\\_art\\_colony/1/liminal\\_imaging\\_of\\_nature](http://www.satellietgroep.nl/collaboration_nida_art_colony/1/liminal_imaging_of_nature)

Satellietgroep (NL)

[www.satellietgroep.nl](http://www.satellietgroep.nl)

Satellietgroep (The Hague, 2006) explores through arts the social and ecological impact of the sea and coastal transitions on people, communities and environments in The Netherlands and abroad. Our aim is to enhance public and professional awareness on coastal transitions. Long term projects are 'Badgast'- artist in residency program at urban surf community F.A.S.T. at The Hague - Scheveningen since 2009 - and 'Now Wakes The Sea', the international exchange residency program in collaboration with international cultural partners since 2012.

In the programs of Satellietgroep artist in residencies are used as a research method to enable artists and scientists to do fieldwork and to work on site with local partners, coastal communities and experts in order to map out and research the current status of coastal transitions and to generate new narratives and perspectives. The programs function as an alternative source for collecting. Satellietgroep collects the intangible local knowledge derived from the artistic and scientific projects. During these residency programs new concepts and works are developed that we connect and contextualize with existing works for public events like traveling film festivals, exhibitions, workshops and presentations at expert conferences. By interconnecting coastal communities, arts and science we share local knowledge on global level to gain sustainable insights on coastal transitions that transcend local and national issues.

Building on the experiences of 5 years 'Badgast' and 'Now Wakes The Sea' starting september 2014 Satellietgroep extends the area for artistic coastal research to the Sand Engine (Zandmotor) south of The Hague, in collaboration with Nida Art Colony in Lithuania.

After building dams and dikes for centuries as coastal protections - now called 'building against nature' - in The Netherlands we recently made the newest contemporary cultural statement of the anthropocene era we now live in. This phenomenon is called the Sand Engine (Zandmotor, 2011), a man-made sand peninsula in front of the Dutch coast south of The Hague. 'Building with nature', as we more or less invite the sea as a partner to help shape coastal protection by putting huge amounts of sand on the foreshore. The result is a dynamic extension of the coast, 'a new controlled wilderness' that now slowly transforms into a spit and lagoon – similar to the Curonian Spit and

Lagoon at Nida in Lithuania. But the Sand Engine is designed to dissolve in the sea around 2021. It is a time machine that transports us from the holocene (directed by nature) into the anthropocene era (directed by mankind).

Satellietgroep was keynote speaker on 'Culture and Coastal Transitions at Littoral 2012 in Belgium.

If you are interested to share your knowledge and participate in the artistic researches and expeditions please contact [satellietgroep@gmail.com](mailto:satellietgroep@gmail.com)