

# VALLEY OF THE POSSIBLE

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## VALLEY OF THE POSSIBLE

*Refugio for Art and Research, La Araucanía Andina, Chile*

Valley of the Possible is an independent Dutch cultural nonprofit founded in 2018 that offers artists, scientists and other thinkers and makers a place to reconnect with nature, and to provide time and space for research and artistic development.

Valley of the Possible fosters new perspectives on the relationship with our planet through interhemispheric and interdisciplinary exchange, and seeks to develop an artist- and community-led model for nature conservation.

Our physical location is in Cañon del Blanco, a remote and secluded valley in La Araucanía Andina in Southern Chile, surrounded by spectacular volcanic landscapes with a high level of biodiversity.



## **OPEN CALL FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**‘THE POSSIBILITY OF A VALLEY’ // 30 DAYS // 26 APRIL - 26 MAY 2019**

Valley of the Possible seeks adventurous artists, scientists and other creatives for a research pilot program in the valley of Cañon del Blanco. For 30 days between April and May 2019 (autumn in the southern hemisphere), we will set out on expeditions (as a group and as individuals) to discover and articulate the ecological, social and cultural complexities of the valley, its history, its ecosystems and its community. The goal of these research expeditions is to connect new and old territories of knowledge with methods from field science and the arts, which will contribute to a holistic insight into the valley. This deeper understanding will help to shape the future of the residency and the co-creation of an on-site refugio for art and research.

Some questions we ask participants to consider are:

- In what ways can this residency contribute to the valley and what do (future) participants need?
- How can it function as a platform for interdisciplinary research and as well cater to interhemispheric perspectives and values?
- What role can the future residency play in fostering a dialogue with the community?
- How can we incorporate Indigenous knowledge and traditional practices into a shared sustainable future?
- What are ways of collectively thinking and working towards an artist-and community-led conservation effort of this valley?
- How can a communal space function for the residency? Where does it fit in the valley considering its complexities?

We ask the participants to be flexible and open-minded. It's important to us that you are curious about the needs of the (Indigenous Mapuche) community and realize your active role in co-creating and designing the future of the refugio/residency. Good physical fitness and a basic knowledge of Spanish is an advantage, though not required.

### **PROGRAM**

Valley of the Possible will organise a tailor-made program for the duration of the pilot research. This program consists of various trips (approximately one per week) into the valley as well as the surrounding areas, national parks and reserves, guided by ecologists and specialists from local universities. It also features guest lectures by conservationists, Mapuche leaders, Chilean artists and community spokespeople. Halfway through the period, we will initiate an appropriate form for a dialogue with the community. We will screen relevant documentaries about regional nature, Mapuche and Chilean culture, as well as supply a small range of relevant books.

Apart from the program, there is time and freedom to reflect or work on your own projects and to go on explorative trips in the area. From the grounds of the accommodation, participants have direct access to native forest, hot springs, geysers, and the Rio Blanco, with mineral water that springs from the adjacent Sierra Nevada volcanic mountain range. Private paths lead over the Sierra Nevada into Conguillío National Park, accessible with a guide.

In addition to the program, we offer access and introductions to a broad network of art and science institutions and universities in Chile, Latin America and The Netherlands.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Participants are hosted in a mountain lodge on a small farm located on several hectares of privately owned land. The lodge provides five basic rooms (private or shared), with comfortable beds, linens and towels, small working desks and heating in each room. Bathrooms are shared. The lodge also offers a communal kitchen, living room with fireplace and a collection of books. A fogón (traditional Chilean communal fireplace), a café and sandwichería, stables, laundry room and a primitive barn are also part of the property. There is free access to the local thermal hot springs.

### **THIS RESEARCH PROGRAM INCLUDES:**

Accommodation, local transfers to and from the airport, various expeditions, lectures and research trips and unlimited coffee, tea and water. There will be two group dinners and breakfasts provided per week. The participants are responsible for other meals for the rest of the residency period. We will facilitate regular trips to buy groceries and connect to good internet in the town of Curacautín (20 minutes by car).

### **THIS RESEARCH PROGRAM DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

International travel costs and expenses, visa cost, production budget, individual trips, additional snacks or alcoholic beverages. There is very limited phone signal and NO WIFI at the accommodation.

### **DATES:**

26 April → 26 May 2019

### **COSTS:**

The fee for this program is 1800 euros per participant\*, to be paid in advance and non-refundable. Valley of the Possible will provide support to accepted participants seeking external funding. This support includes help with finding international funding bodies, reviewing applications and letters of support and information. However, Valley of the Possible cannot guarantee any type of funding.

\* the participant fee is based on the actual cost of accommodation and food in Chile and the direct costs of the program and excursions. Valley of the Possible is a starting nonprofit organization and as of yet does not receive any external funding.

### **CANDIDATES:**

We welcome professionally established as well as up-and-coming artists from all disciplines and backgrounds. We also welcome scientists, curators, chefs, architects, philosophers, researchers, art managers and other thinkers and makers with a specific interest in, or at the intersection of, the following subjects: art, ecology, Indigenous culture, natural and social science, architecture and food.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SELECTED PARTICIPANTS:**

Participants are responsible for obtaining a visa if necessary. To avoid problems with immigration, be sure to verify all visa requirements as soon as you are accepted. Every country is different, so it is best to start all visa processes as soon as you can. Upon arrival in Chile, the participant must have proof of health insurance valid for the entire residency period.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Please send a professional biography (500 words max) and a presentation of recent works or projects from the past five years (10 works/projects max). Describe the ideas behind your work in a way that helps us understand what you would like to bring to this research pilot: its themes, concerns and intentions (500 words max). For video or sound work, please post a url to the work or send a clip no larger than 10MB. All materials must be submitted in English or Spanish.

Together with your biography and presentation, submit a letter of interest, **by January 25, 2019** via email to [apply@valleyofthepossible.com](mailto:apply@valleyofthepossible.com). Compile all documentation into a single PDF file of less than 10 MB and include any relevant weblinks.

From the received applications Valley of the Possible will select a minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 participants. There are 5 rooms available for this period. If willing, there is opportunity for a collective, group or duo application, in which case one large room can be shared with up to 4 people. A transdisciplinary jury will review all applications and select participants. Participants will be notified by email before February 8th, 2019.

For more information about the program and how to apply, please go to:  
[www.valleyofthepossible.com](http://www.valleyofthepossible.com)

or email:  
[apply@valleyofthepossible.com](mailto:apply@valleyofthepossible.com)

subscribe to our newsletter:  
<http://valleyofthepossible.com/newsletter/>

We explore the imaginable, the thinkable and the potential.  
Welcome to *Valley of the Possible*.

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Valley of the Possible is an initiative by Mirla Klijn and Olaf Boswijk, both from Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Mirla is an independent documentary and film maker. Olaf was owner/founder of TrouwAmsterdam and De School, two well known clubs for electronic music and contemporary art in Amsterdam. After traveling the Americas for almost three years, their wish to start a meaningful project is taking shape: a place where we can help redefine our relationship with the Earth.

Members of the Board:

Maria Tuerlings (former founder and director of TransArtists, board member BAK Utrecht, board member Farm of the World, Netherlands)

Sarah van Overeem-van der Tholen (business coordinator at Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, board member Art Table, Netherlands)

Astrid Vargas (conservation biologist, Commonland, Tompkins Conservation, Spain/Netherlands)

Associate Curator:

Yasmine Ostendorf (Head of Jac. P. Thijsse lab for nature research at Jan van Eyck Academy Maastricht, founder of Green Art Lab Alliance, Netherlands)

Producer:

Morgan Catalina (founder of Out-of-Office, independent cultural event producer and curator, USA/Netherlands)

Valley of the Possible is endorsed by:

Dutch Embassy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Santiago, CL)

SARAS (South American Institute for Resilience and Sustainability Studies, Maldonado, Uruguay)

University of Amsterdam (Faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies, Amsterdam, NL)

Beatriz Salinas Marambio (Director of Centro Nacional de Arte Contemporáneo Cerrillos, Santiago, CL)

Prof. Marten Scheffer (Professor at Wageningen University & Research, winner of Spinoza Prize, NL)

Jan van Eyck Academy (Multiform Institute for Fine Art and Design, Maastricht, NL)

ASKXXI - Arts + Science Knowledge Building in the XXI Century (USA, CL)

Prof. Mauro E. González (Instituto de Conservación, Biodiversidad y Territorio, Universidad Austral de Chile)

Dr. Adison Altamirano (Laboratoria de Ecología de Paisaje, Universidad de la Frontera, Temuco, Chile)

Het HEM (Amerborgh International, Zaandam, NL)

DutchCulture | TransArtists (NL)

Hernan Verscheure (Director of CODEFF, CL)

ARTIS (Amsterdam, NL)

ARCA - Action Research Center of Araucanía (Universidad Católica de Temuco, Temuco, CL)

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