

FOSSIL FREE CULTURE NL

ANNUAL REPORT
2023



FOREWORD

Sometimes you need to take a step back to move forward with more clarity, determination and strength. 2023 was a year of reflection and recalibration. The year brought with it a mix of experiences - some challenging, some rewarding. We started the year with a vast financial gap that needed to be filled, a significantly reduced team, and a big project that overstretched our capacity. These challenges were a consequence of the sudden departure of our project manager in November 2022 with the announcement that no new funding was secured, which put the continuation of the foundation Disobedient Futures/FFCNL at risk.

The remainder of the team and board engaged in a careful process of recalibration and restructuring, in which we created a plan to keep the organisation afloat while we strengthened the foundations.

At the same time, the team focused their energy in the first months of 2023 on realising 'Towards Post-Extractive Cultures' (TPEC), a three-day public gathering that took place 23 - 25 February 2023 at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and OT301 Amsterdam. Three days of workshops, deep conversations and storytelling, our audience and participants were of diverse backgrounds. The programme was rich and participatory and well attended.

However, after this 3-day program, it was apparent that TPEC had different needs, intentions, and audiences, which diverged substantially from those of FFCNL. It became clear that uniting the two projects under the same organisational umbrella of Disobedient Futures could potentially be more challenging than beneficial. Over the course of 2023 it was inevitably acknowledged that the best way to honour both directions (TPEC and FFCNL) was for them to function as separate organisations, enabling each respective project to thrive.

Agreement was reached that alongside the existing foundation of Fossil Free Culture NL, a new foundation Quelccaya – Towards Post-Extractive Cultures would be established in Spring 2024, about the same time as we are writing this report. We are pleased that passionate motivations exist for both directions, and that a way has been found to move forward in mutual agreement.

Unfortunately as a consequence of this process and severely limited funding, the work and projects of 2023 suffered. The group in Groningen was maintained, but now on a voluntary basis for the person responsible for the local coördination. This led also to a discontinuation of production capacity in the program and eventually the Groningen group presented only a single performance, partly utilising funding allocated by Fossielvrij NL.

As the team in Amsterdam was reduced and preoccupied with the processes after February '23, there was also a discontinuation in our work and output there. Further development of the Disobedient Art School that was initiated in 2021 by the collective, was put on hold due to low capacity among its creators, and the shift in their priorities. Despite all, workshops and training programs on artistic activism at educational institutions still went ahead.

In 2024 it was decided that the name Disobedient Futures, which had become associated with the new direction, would be released, in order to avoid further confusion about which organisation was which.

Fossil Free Culture NL now continues with the founding group's core mission: engaging in disobedient art to fight for a Fossil Free Future that is feminist, queer, anti-racist, intergenerational, diverse, and decolonial.

CORE WORK

and artwash their harmful actions. We can claim a significant degree of success in this matter, there now being only two major Dutch museums still accepting money from the fossil fuel industry: Groninger Museum and the Drents Museum.

The persistence of power structures driven by fossil fuel corporations, those we recognize as responsible for the climate crisis, and equally for perpetuating colonialism, systemic racism, and other forms of systemic oppression, is undeniable. The climate crisis is inextricably linked to all of these structural crises and must be acknowledged, revealed, and addressed. We are determined, and consider ourselves historically obliged, to contribute to this struggle.

The climate catastrophe we find ourselves in not only shapes the future of cultural heritage and our part of the world, but also the future of society as a whole. We see it as our responsibility to contribute to creating a more effective strategy to address these crises, and co-designing a transition to a different societal approach for a livable world.

Transformations

In 2022, we embarked on a transformative journey, to broaden our mission and transition from FFCNL to Disobedient Futures. The motivation for this process was to pave the way for formulating a new vision

and mission that could align with an expanded set of goals.

However, the path we found ourselves on in 2023 proved to be unexpectedly challenging. Disobedient Futures began a new project for collaboration among artists, activists, and cultural workers to build post-extractive realities. In this process, a core function of FFCNL - to be a catalyst for change, that intervenes in harmful structures with disobedient art, no longer had an integral place in the work. It became obvious after a time, that a change in our organisational structure would likely be necessary, to reflect the new situation, and to continue exercising that core function.

A two bridge solution

Due to internal struggles and a subsequent state of incapacitation, the majority of the funds granted and budgeted for 2023 remained unspent. In the second half of 2023, we secured an amount of new funding that alleviated our financial strain and allowed us to pay the basic structural costs of the organisation. However, we remained fractured and unable to reconcile our differences or rally the support needed to move forward.

Recognizing the need for recuperation, restoration, and reflection on our chosen path, we granted ourselves a period of respite to

prevent a further deepening of the crisis we were in. This reflection resulted in a process of carefully building two bridges: one Towards Post-Extractive Cultures and the other to a reinvigorated Fossil Free Culture NL.

The separation included a division of resources between two entities: the new entity with its own platform and foundation, and the original entity maintaining the existing foundation, along with its root mission, original name and existing audience.

Mediation sessions with the board were scheduled, and a plan was drafted. A team of deeply engaged volunteers and a former core group member were recruited in the name of Fossil Free Culture NL, to formulate a new vision for the Disobedient Art School and ensure the continuation of Disobedient Art Performance work from previous years.

Contact was initiated with our funders to request permission to carry over the funds granted for 2023 into 2024. Additionally, a plan was developed to distribute the funding received between the two organisations.

The separation and establishment of a new foundation, along with the return of Fossil Free Culture NL, will be finalised in 2024.

The core of our work is to blend art and activism into the practice of 'disobedient art' to generate lasting social change: activism aims to alter the material conditions of reality, while art is instrumental in reshaping the immaterial conditions - the collective imagination.

Our primary current focus is ending fossil sponsorship of public cultural institutions in the Netherlands, which the fossil industry uses to buy social licence for their activities,

WE RISE AGAIN

Vision

We envision a fossil free future that respects the equality of all races, genders, species, ecosystems and beings. We believe art has an essential role in shaping societies and therefore in helping create this future, by sculpting its image into people's minds.

Mission

Our founding mission is to terminally erode the fossil fuel industry's 'social licence' to operate. We believe that eradicating fossil sponsorship from the public cultural sector is a necessary step towards making space for, and concretely starting to build a fossil free future.

Fossil Free Culture NL, believes that artists and activists have a core role to play in exposing and communicating the catastrophic social and ecological impacts of fossil corporation operations, and their culpability for a collapsing global climate, and the other entangled crises. We consider it a duty to free the arts from the influence of those profoundly unethical corporations. We are committed to use our skills as artists and researchers and our determination as activists to create persistent and audacious artistic performances to expose and terminate these toxic relationships still residing at the heart of the cultural sector, in prestigious institutions still accepting fossil sponsorship.

Background

In 2016 the grassroots collective Fossil Free Culture NL was founded by a group of artists, activists, researchers and cultural workers committed to severing the ties between fossil fuel companies and public cultural institutions. Since then, we have practised disobedient art in order to eradicate fossil sponsorship from the cultural sector in the Netherlands.

Our efforts have yielded significant results which are echoing throughout the Dutch cultural sector and beyond. The Van Gogh Museum terminated its sponsorship agreement with Shell in 2018, followed by the Concertgebouw in 2019 and NEMO in 2020.

Several other major public cultural institutions – Mauritshuis, Museum Boerhave, and the RijksMuseum – cut ties with fossil corporations of their own accord during the period of our intense campaigning, possibly motivated by their fellow museum's experiences. The Amsterdam public cultural sector is now fossil free. Other cities are following.

Since 2020 we have expanded our reach beyond Amsterdam, and beyond the province of Noord-Holland: we founded a second FFCNL group in Groningen –

targeting the Groninger Museum, urging it to sever ties with GasTerra and GasUnie. In 2023 the Groninger group delivered its sixth call upon the complicity of the Groninger Museum.

In 2022 and 2023 we began an expansion to align with our newly broader vision of a disobedient future: continuing to work inside the public cultural sector, but also directing our attention to ways in which we could build healthy new societies in general.

This rapid broadening of perspectives, however, ultimately led to a core split in the second half of 2023. By the year's end, the process of a division had begun: one part of the founding group would establish a new foundation, and direct its efforts toward envisioning post-extractive cultures. The other part would remain committed to the mission of disobedient art, and dismantling the influence of the fossil fuel industry on our cultural sector.

DISOBEDIENT ART PERFORMANCES PROGRAM

Unlike previous years, 2023 was a year of near invisibility for our organisation, a fact that we sadly acknowledge. While the Groningen satellite group had a bold and brilliant year in 2022, 2023 saw the realisation of just one performance, entitled 'Complicity.'

This period of limited visibility can be attributed to several factors that affected our operations, particularly within the Disobedient Art Performance team. Throughout the spring and summer of 2023, our team in Amsterdam underwent a period of contemplation, reflection, and reorganisation. This internal process was necessary for reassessing our goals, strategies, and structures in light of the challenges we faced.

The latter half of 2023 witnessed the functional division of the organisation and the subsequent reallocation of resources. This transition period, coupled with the significant gap in finances at the start of the year, resulted in a lack of resources for producing Disobedient Art Performances. From being unable to cover the production costs of the performances to lacking a locally paid coordinator, various factors contributed to the group's reduced visibility and capacity to carry out its planned activities.

The situation was particularly challenging for the Groningen group, which found

itself without the necessary leadership and coordination for the entire year. Despite these obstacles, we are immensely proud to see that the Groningen core group persevered through this crisis period and remained steadfast to their cause, despite an absence of resources. This resilience demonstrates their dedication to combating artwashing by Gasterra and GasUni at the Groninger Museum, and is a beacon for the wider organisation.-

Next page: Complicity advertising printed on the perfume sample packaging.



**Join those who take
what they desire.**

Complicity promises you the dream of eternity. With its addictive scent of power, wealth, and luxury, Complicity encapsulates the force of destruction. Opening with a burst of bright aldehydes, followed by brooding metal and dirt, the scent ultimately gives way to the lingering base note of sulphur.



Complicity

June 10, 2023
Groninger Museum
Performance

In June 2023 Fossil Free Culture Groningen reminded the Groninger Museum that a beautiful facade is not enough to cover up the odour of troubling associations. Interested passersby could smell the art collective's new fragrance, called Complicity, or take small sample bottles of the fragrance at FFC Groningen's yellow stand, which mimicked the museum's facade.

The luxurious bottles contained a sulphurous smell of gas. Complicity is described as an "addictive scent of power, wealth, and luxury" that "encapsulates the force of destruction", contained in a beautiful bottle that radiates luxury and elegance at first glance. But with its foul scent it quickly evokes the sense that something is deeply wrong. The museum's collaboration with Gasunie and Gasterra works in the same way: the museum provides a thin veneer for what ultimately is a dirty business.

As one of the few remaining museums still accepting fossil sponsorship in the Netherlands, the Groninger Museum is contributing to a status quo in which the fossil industry can continue to exert their devastating influence.





TOWARDS A POST-EXTRACTIVE CULTURE

In 2022, Disobedient Futures initiated the project “Towards Post-Extractive Cultures,” designed as a collaborative platform for researching and critically examining the paradigms of extraction and exploitation ingrained within our culture. Throughout 2022, conversations were held with different collectives and potential partners to carefully cultivate collaborations rooted in trust, generosity and shared purpose. Partnerships were formed with Post-Extractive Futures collective, Global Tapestry of Alternatives, Weaving Realities, Entre-Rios, and Gira Holanda (the collective that organised the visit of the Zapatista delegation to the EU in 2021).

Together, these partners co-created the inaugural public gathering titled “Towards Post-Extractive Cultures: A Gathering of Souls Dreaming and Building a World of Many Worlds.” The event took place from February 23rd to 25th, 2023, at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and OT301 Amsterdam. The program was participatory and included workshops, deep conversations, ceremonies, ritual performances, and other forms of knowledge exchange.

The gathering aimed to challenge the conventional conference model, which often controls and gatekeeps knowledge, creating barriers between the audience and knowledge carriers. The programme was tailored to offer different sensory

experiences: music, storytelling, movement, dance, ritual, film, audio, and kinetic experiences.

The event was experimental in the way it was envisioned and programmed. It was shaped as a space to sit in ceremony, ask questions and have in-depth conversations, break consumption habits, meet each other in humility, exercise solidarity and relationality, and dream visions for the future together.

It also consciously broke with the habits of traditional curation practices. The programme emerged through long-term nurtured relationships and conversations among partners and contributors. Each partner invited collectives and groups from their networks, including collectives from the so called ‘Global South’, first and second generation diasporas in Europe from former colonies, Indigenous communities, local groups resisting on the frontlines of extractivism, and those enacting alternatives to living otherwise. See the full programme here.

During the three-day encounter, participants navigated complexities, tensions and paradoxes, striving to transform them into learnings, insights and fertile ground for fostering stronger collaboration and accountability. The reflections and lessons learned were shared and documented during many conversations among the partners and

collaborators. These conversations will be compiled into a publication slated for release by the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam in 2024.

Under the newly founded organisation, partners will reconvene in 2024 to kickstart the research process anew and organise a second iteration of “Towards Post-Extractive Cultures.”

Next page: Towards a Post-Extractive Culture event on 23rd February 2023 at Stedelijk Museum.



ORGANISATION

2023 began with a significantly reduced core team of two individuals in the organisation, under the name of Disobedient Futures. Two artistic directors (both 4 FTE) both immigrant women and/or Queer, were actively involved on a weekly basis, one administration manager (volunteer), and one Groninger coordinator (volunteer). By March of 2023 both artistic directors had started to work in a voluntary capacity as well.

The organisation's financial crisis in November 2022 left its traces, but we managed to regain financial strength during 2023. However, given the uncertainty about the future of the organisation, a decision was made not to utilise the funds.

In the summer of 2023 three volunteers stepped up to support the organisational transition and take roles in the new core team that would build on the founding project of Fossil Free Culture NL. Unfortunately, in this same period, the Groninger coordinator had to withdraw due to health challenges, and the administration manager, also a volunteer, announced her departure from the project for work reasons.

Despite these challenges, the dedication of our remaining team and new volunteers has laid a strong foundation for future growth, and we remain optimistic about the resilience and impact of Disobedient Futures as it continues to evolve.

Board

We established the Fossil Free Culture NL Foundation in December 2017 to support the activities of the collective. The board is composed of:

Liset Meddens - Director Fossilvrij NL
Lianne Hooijmans - Humans Rights Lawyer at the Dutch Council for Refugees

Shila Ishwardat - Analyst, trainer, educator, speaker and writer who specializes in topics related to politics, ethics, diversity & inclusion and sustainability.

Stijn Verhoeff - Artist, writer, activist

Shailoh Phillips - Artist, educator, researcher, community organizer

Partnerships

Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten

Code Rode Groningen

Decolonize Groningen

Feminist Network

Fontys School of the Arts

Fossil Vrij NL

Fridays for Future Groningen

Greenpeace's Fossil Free Revolution Campaign

International Socialist Groningen

The Laboratory of Insurrectionary Imagination

Platform BK

XR Groningen

Funders

Guerrilla Foundation

Mama Cash

Stimuleringsfonds

Tides Foundation

Urgent Action Funds

Vrienden Loterij Fonds

Workshops

'Towards Post-Extractive Cultures' presentation on October 24 at Dutch

Design Week, Eindhoven hosted by

Stimuleringsfonds

'Disobedient Art' course on art and activism,

held on 1st to 3rd November at Master

Performing Public Space, Artez in Tilburg

'Climate and Gender' Justice, workshop at

the youth climate weekend on April 1st

Articles

[A 'post-conference' on post-extractive culture](#)

MetropolismM by Ilaria Obata

[Fossil Free Culture: Cleaning Museums of Fossil Fuel](#)

Sculpture Network by Sietske Roorda

CONTACT

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[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCUWKm2sBz0lp_KhCfcqnGlg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUWKm2sBz0lp_KhCfcqnGlg)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023

A. BALANS PER 31 DECEMBER (in euro's)

	2023	2022
ACTIVA		
Materiële vaste activa	249	249
Vlottende activa		
Vorderingen		
Belastingen en premies	35.099	27.459
Overige vorderingen	1.128	0
	36.227	27.459
Liquide Middelen	119.908	24.057
	156.384	51.765
PASSIVA		
Eigen vermogen		
Algemene reserve	28.968	28.844
Kortlopende schulden		
Crediteuren	0	0
Overlopende passiva en overige schulden	127.416	22.921
	127.416	22.921
	156.384	51.765

B. STAAT VAN BATEN EN LASTEN OVER HET BOEKJAAR (in euro's)

	Realisatie 2023	Realisatie 2023
BATEN		
Subsidies	34.500	103.663
Opbrengsten	21.942	53.085
	56.442	156.748
ACTIVITEITENLASTEN		
Materieel	5.881	5.519
Personeel	39.605	136.921
Publiciteit	1.813	5.239
	47.299	147.679
Saldo uit projecten	9.143	9.069
Organisatiekosten	9.019	8.981
Non Programma lasten	9.019	8.981
Exploitatieresultaat	124	88
Financiële Batens	0	0
Exploitatieresultaat	124	88

D. TOELICHTING OP DE BALANS PER 31 DECEMBER (in euro's)

	2023	2022		2023	2022
ACTIVA			PASSIVA		
MATERIËLE VASTE ACTIVA			EIGEN VERMOGEN		
Waarde per 31 December	249	249	Algemene reserve		
VORDERINGEN			Stand per 1 januari	28.844	28.756
Belastingen en premies			Resultaat boekjaar	124	88
Omzetbelasting			Stand per 31 december	28.968	28.844
Te vorderen over 2023	2.751	0	KORTLOPENDE SCHULDEN		
Te vorderen over 2022	0	12.123	Handelscrediteuren		
Te vorderen over 2021	0	4.720	Waarde per 31 december	0	0
Terugbetalingen, saldo	32.348	10.616	Overlopende passiva		
	35.099	27.459	Nog te betalen projectkosten	0	0
VORDERINGEN			Vooruit ontvangen subsidies	21.121	21.121
Overige vorderingen			Vooruit ontvangen subsidies, Stichting DOEN	60.000	0
Paypal en credit card	1.083	0	Vooruit ontvangen subsidies, Mama Cash	44.000	0
Kruisposten	45	0	Eventbrite	495	0
	1.128	0	Accountancy en administratie	1.800	1.800
LIQUIDE MIDDELEN				127.416	22.921
Triodos Bank	119.908	24.057			
Spaarrekening	0	0			
	119.908	24.057			

E. TOELICHTING OP DE STAAT VAN BATEN EN LASTEN (in euro's)

	Realisatie 2023	Realisatie 2022		Realisatie 2023	Realisatie 2022
SUBSIDIES			Activiteitenlasten personeel		
Stimuleringsfonds	0	20.000	Uitbesteed werk meerdere personen	4.749	5.990
Stimuleringsfonds	5.000	10.000	Productie fee	14.270	22.785
Stichting DOEN	0	25.000	Uitbesteed werk K. Poltz	0	35.790
Urgent Action Fund	0	13.890	Uitbesteed werk T. Borasino	12.338	37.306
Mama Cash Fund	7.000	33.200	Uitbesteed werk F. Paes Leao	5.760	32.320
BK Platform	0	1.573	Uitbesteed werk Terpstra	2.000	0
Good Move Grant	20.000	0	Vrijwilligers	488	2.730
Patagonia	500	0		39.605	136.921
Fossielvrij	2.000	0	Publiciteit		
Overige	0	0	Ontwerp	990	1.500
	34.500	103.663	Drukwerk	0	1.183
OPBRENGSTEN			Website	272	92
Sponsoring, belast met BTW	5.242	50.261	Representatie en catering	0	1.114
Geleverde prestaties	4.983	650		1.813	5.239
Vrijgestelde omzet	942	88	Organisatiekosten		
Omzet buiten EU	9.044	0	Bureaunkosten	1.519	1.170
Donaties	1.731	2.086	Huur kantoorruimte	5.731	4.887
	21.942	53.085	Kleine aanschaffingen	0	480
Totaal Bijdragen en Opbrengsten	56.442	156.748	Automatisering	0	0
KOSTEN VOOR PROJECTEN			Research	0	0
Activiteitenlasten materieel			Administratie	300	300
Materiaal kosten	218	2.019	Accountancy	1.200	1.400
Overnachtingen	2.283	0	Verzekeringen	0	431
Transportkosten	2.038	823	Afschrijvingen	0	98
Workshops	1.342	2.677	Bankkosten	269	215
	5.881	5.519		9.019	8.981
			TOTAAL PROJECTKOSTEN	56.318	156.660