

Independent Study Program Research lines

The research lines of this pilot program respond to the work carried out at TBA21-Academy since its foundation in 2011. They are organized along the following lines:

● Collective intelligence

To transform the ways humans inhabit the planet, which are responsible for the ecological crisis we are experiencing, requires involving multiple and diverse actors, with different cognitive approaches and forms of intelligence, in the design of systems and processes that organize life on Earth. Implementing collective intelligence should be a structural foundation for configuring new scenarios based on protection, respect, justice, and redistribution; an essential mechanism for a collaborative articulation of the commons that can open paths to regeneration. How can we formulate possible futures of coexistence defined by perspectives that are critical of the hegemonic reasoning of the Global North? This is an investigation on models to enable the integration of diverse actors, the composition of multiple forms of knowledge, and the preservation of the local, as opposed to the homogenizing tendencies of Western development. Thus, it seeks to embrace complexity in pursuit of a collective, interdisciplinary, and multi-scalar intelligence.

● Convivial conservation

Organismo follows TBA21-Academy's approach concerning the idea of conservation, framed as a practice of regenerating ecosystems in an integrative, communal, and systemic way. This perspective argues that environmental recovery should be approached from the lens of diversity and climate justice, shifting from protection to connection. The concept of conservation is applied not only to the environment and the question of biodiversity, but also to reflections on heritage conservation and artistic practices. A critical examination of the links between modern standards of environmental and hygienic conditions with the parameters regulating the ecologies of art institutions, can serve as a starting point for speculating on new approaches to collecting that are committed to global issues and articulated from a position of social and environmental responsibility.

● The rights of more-than-human

Organismo continues TBA21–Academy’s experience developing practices that advocate for the so-called rights of nature, seeking to grant legal status to ecosystems. What legal mechanisms and other forms of governance can generate transformations that would make inclusive and just ecological formulations possible? The practice of collective intelligence and working with interdisciplinary assemblies will be the foundation for exploring ways to incorporate sensitivities and entities that have traditionally not been represented in legal and government systems. The imagination and practice of possible forms of multispecies communication will be crucial for this initiative, allowing for different types of relationships and connections to facilitate observation, listening, recognition, understanding, attention, and, consequently, protection and respect among different species.

● Liquid intelligence

How can we move from prediction to action? One argument this line of thinking leads to is defending the hypothesis that creating empathy is essential to generating commitment. Organismo aims to delve into the paradigm of a “liquid intelligence,” which recognizes different forms of intelligence in the realms of the organic and inorganic, connecting experience, life, and knowledge creation as a way to test forms of agency and political commitment that can be articulated through artistic practice. Building on the work done at TBA21–Academy, Organismo continues to explore the idea of an “oceanic futurism,” conceptualizing the Ocean as a space of recognition and care, an emancipatory context to stimulate positive action. This would involve exploring and addressing some issues that are crucial to the health of the Ocean, such as acoustic pollution, deep-sea mining, as well as a critical approach to the rise of the blue economy.

● Ecology of technologies

To understand technology within the complexity of all its interweaving dimensions would lead to conceiving it as something beyond an artifact and seeing it as a process, practice, medium, or system shaped by social and cultural agreements. This perspective serves as the basis for approaching the study of technology, paying attention to the direct relationships that can be traced between crises of civilization and technological urgencies. Organismo proposes investigating the dependencies and infrastructures in which technologies are created, organized, and exist as a means to question our governance systems. Approaching concepts and proposals for technological openness may enable speculation about alternative scenarios for plural coexistence within the paradigm of technodiversity. Sidestepping the dialectical logic of binary oppositions between the physical and the digital may be the path to enhancing interconnections, collaborations, and forms of coexistence that make possible the development of other assemblies that are more sustainable, just, and diverse.