



# OPEN CALL RECONNECT



VALLEY  
OF THE  
POSSIBLE



# Open Call: Reconnect

**30 DAYS**

**JUNE - NOVEMBER 2025**

For the first time, Gagel farm will open her ecosystem to facilitate a residency for artists to help us in answering the question: how do we become native to place, within European contexts of the 21st century?

We live in a time of crises. The climate crisis, social injustice and loss of life are all apparent and accelerating. If you look closely, they are also interconnected. They all point to a crisis in our culture. In the global north, for centuries people have cultivated colonial extractive cultures that are inherently destructive. This now dominant worldview in modern Western society is based on separation – separating nature from culture, individual from collective, humans from other living beings. Separation causes disengagement with and abstraction from our surroundings. The more we get disengaged, the easier we refer to extraction and destruction.

Regeneration could offer an alternate pathway: one which reconnects us to place, each other and life (in the broadest sense of the word). To regenerate is to ask yourself with every action and decision you make whether it will result in more life. This question arises from a reciprocal worldview and builds on the understanding that taking care of others – plants, animals, microbes and people – is the same as taking care of ourselves. Indigenous cultures all over the world have known for centuries that we live in an interconnected world. In fact, they almost all perceive all life forms as sacred and honour the wisdom of the heart and hands as much as the mind.

This begs the question of how we, when disconnected, can get back in touch. How do we build a regenerative culture, with its own rules, sacraments, languages, institutions and rituals that facilitate life? How do we become native? And what would that even look like in a 21st century European context?

These urgent cultural questions are at the heart of Gagel farm RECONNECT residency. Here we invite talented cultural makers – such as artists (of all disciplines), scientists, policy makers – to start working on exploring, imagining and building a culture that cares, connects and heals.



"All flourishing is mutual"  
– Robin Wall Kimmerer



Some core questions participants could engage with are:

- How can we cultivate new cultures - with befitting rituals, institutions, languages - that fosters becoming native to place?
- Which forgotten histories and deep roots can we find in Europe to reconnect to in order to become native?
- How can we listen deeply and humbly to land-based cultures and Indigenous communities to reconnect ourselves to place?

We ask the participants to be flexible and open-minded. It's important to us that you are curious about the needs of the farm and more-than-human communities and realize your active role in co-creating and designing the future of the residency. Good physical fitness and a basic knowledge of Dutch is an advantage, though not required.

# Context

At Gagel farm, we focus on regenerating our 45-ha landscape by growing food and building habitat for all life that resides in and/or passes through our bioregion. Additionally, and certainly no less urgent, we focus on facilitating the transition to a regenerative (agri)culture in a broader sense. Within the regenerative perspective, holistic management and decision-making is central. None of the following three dimensions can be overlooked and all should somehow benefit from the choices you make: the ecological, the economic and the social.

**"What fungi have shown me is that we can't, and we don't have to do, anything alone. They question the limits of individual existence."** – Giuliana Furci

Regeneration thrives on transparency and awareness of the feedback we receive from all life that surrounds us, both human and more-than-human. Thus, by applying and partaking in the residency, you are opening yourself up to receiving feedback from different, human and more-than-human, communities on the farm.

**"Becoming native to a place comes with the give and take between living there, if you're going to live there, and be gifted with the gifts of that place, that you then return your gifts to that place."** – Robin Wall Kimmerer

Gagel farm invites artists to work from this mindset and allow the reality on the ground at our farm to inspire you and be a guide to your work. We encourage cross-disciplinary projects, self-aware processes and collaborative spirit.

**"Landscape restoration does not only change ecological function, it changes the socio-economic function and when you get down to it, it changes the intention of human society."** – John D. Liu

# What we offer

A tiny house with a double bed, a small kitchen, a regenerative library and a small space for desk work.

A complementary budget with a maximum of €4.000 including the artist fee and taxes.

Access to the vegetable garden at Gagel farm and a regular supply of climate eggs from our grazing chicken flock.

The possibility for artists and scientists to collaborate and cross-pollinate with (student)cooks and (student)farmers.

Bi-weekly check-in sessions with creative coach Olaf Boswijk to help guide you in your personal growth and the specific needs of your creative practice.

Grounded guidance at the farm on regeneration and holistic management by Anne van Leeuwen

# Dates & conditions

**A minimum of 4 weeks during the months of June – November 2025**

Gagel Farm & Valley of the Possible will provide support to accepted participants seeking additional external funding. This support includes help with finding international funding bodies, reviewing applications and providing letters of support.

## **This research esidency includes:**

Accommodation, €4.000 budget (based on research proposal and incl. taxes), local transfers to and from Amsterdam Schiphol airport or local trainstation, various public lectures and on site events at the farm and access to the vegetable garden and eggs. Bi-weekly coaching by Gagel founder Anne van Leeuwen and Valley of the Possible founder Olaf Boswijk.

Residents will have access to a bike, a little on-farm shop and we can facilitate trips to the local grocery store in Lochem.

## **This research residency does not include:**

International travel costs and expenses, all meals and beverages, visa costs, production or materials budget, nor a production space or atelier and individual trips.







# Candidates

We welcome professionally established as well as up-and-coming artists from all disciplines and backgrounds. We also welcome curators, 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.

- If applicants require additional funds to those we can offer, they are required to apply for funding themselves and these funds will need to have been granted in advance of planning the details of their residency at Gagel farm.
- Applicants must consider the farm as a working and living place. In no way can the project proposals negatively interfere with day-to-day business on our farm, the private living spaces of people at the farm or the more than human inhabitants of the farm.
- Applicants are required to find ways to ensure mutual flourishing for themselves, the project and the farm.
- All proposed art (research) projects must include or involve the local human community in one way or another as part of the residency.
- All proposed art (research) projects must result in regenerative outcomes that will bring value to the farm in one way or another.
- All proposed art (research) projects must be presented to a public in one way or another.
- ERF welcomes all applicants who can show proof of relevant previous artistic work and/or projects. Autodidacts as well as academically trained artists are eligible to apply for a residency.
- Applicants must be aware that the complex, living ecosystem of Gagel farm and the hustle-and-bustle of farm life, community and events are part of this residency and require a level of flexibility, independence and interaction from the resident.

# How to apply

Applicants are asked to share a portfolio with examples of at least one (or up to a maximum of five) artistic project(s) they were or are a part of, and to share their CV. Additionally, they should submit a proposal for a project which they wish to realise during their residency at Gagel farm, as well as a budget plan for the project which includes a honorarium. If the budget plan exceeds €4.000, the applicant is asked to share their approach for acquiring additional funding. In their project proposal, applicants are asked to explicate:

- How they will engage with (one of) the questions stated in the open call of the residency
- The motivation behind the project
- Why Gagel farm plays a crucial role in realising their project
- How long and at which time of year they wish to stay at Gagel farm to realise their project
- What they will bring to Gagel farm and what they expect Gagel farm to bring them

The format for the project proposal are open to the applicant's preferences, however the documentation must be compiled into a PDF with a file size no larger than 10 MB titled as follows: FirstName(s)\_LastName(s)\_PP

The portfolio and CV should be sent as separate PDFs and be titled:

FirstName(s)\_LastName(s)\_CV

A budget plan should be shared as an Excel file and be titled:

FirstName(s)\_LastName(s)\_B

Links to relevant websites, video- and audiofiles should be included in the PDFs. All documents must be received by [erf@gagel.nl](mailto:erf@gagel.nl) before **Sunday March 2nd**.

Once 70 applications have been received, the open call will be closed due to the processing capacity of our organisation. After the deadline, all applications will be checked to ensure that all requirements are met. Only applicants who submitted all of the requested information in the requested format will move on in the selection process.

Applicants can join a tour of Gagel farm on February 15th between 11 and 14 o'clock to gain insight into Gagel farm and its living communities. Participating in the tour is not required for application, but it is recommended to have a better perspective of the possibilities at Gagel farm.



# Selection process

All applications are considered in relation to the following selection criteria:

- Artistic and regenerative relevance of the project in relation to the central questions of the **RECONNECT** residency
- The potential for re-evaluating, developing and researching new forms of sensitivities for connecting to place and (building) land-based cultures
- Regenerative integrity and potential of the project with regard to the ecological, the social, and the economic domain
- Feasibility of the project and budget
- Impact of the project on the the farm and its communities
- The approach taken for working with the complexity of ecosystem relations
- Potential for mutual flourishing between (artist) residents

Applicants will be notified by email before March 28th 2025.

For more information about the farm and program please go to:

[www.gagel.nl](http://www.gagel.nl) and [www.valleyofthepossible.com](http://www.valleyofthepossible.com)

or email: [erf@gagel.nl](mailto:erf@gagel.nl)





# About

Gagel is a beautiful 45ha regenerative farm operating in a holistic context in Lochem, the Netherlands. The team is creating a landscape full of life: plants, animals, microbes and people whom are all given space to grow and work together on a thriving local food system. With 9 business lines: garden, orchard, tree nursery, animals, courses, activities, camping, catering and shop, they are not only working on a resilient company with beautiful regenerative products, but also on a resilient landscape for future generations. 't Gagel brings together local, national and European farmers, citizens, scientists, entrepreneurs, artists and policy makers to meet each other in ways of regeneration.

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 regenerative and interdisciplinary exchange. After almost 5 years of working from the Cañon del Blanco, a remote and secluded valley in Wallmapu in Southern Chile, we are now returning home to the Netherlands at Gagel farm.

## **Members of the Jury:**

- Darko Lagunas León - environmental sociologist, Universiteit Utrecht
- Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodriguez - writer, curator, researcher on art and ecology, founder gala, author of 'Let's Become Fungal'
- Victoria Mackenzie - Lecturer at KABK, MA Non-linear narratives and Theory Tutor at Ecology Futures
- Anne van Leeuwen - co-founder Gagel farm, regenerative farmer
- Olaf Boswijk - co-founder Valley of the Possible, creative coach

## **Team**

- Anne van Leeuwen - initiator, jury member, strategy, contact on site
- Helen Weeres - Initiator, pre-selection candidates, coordination and development, copywriter
- Mirla Klijn - co-developer and online communications
- Olaf Boswijk - co-developer, jury member, coordination, strategy and development



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