

OPEN CALL

spring cycle
2026

reconnect



VALLEY
OF THE
POSSIBLE



OPEN CALL Reconnect

spring cycle

40 days

March 27th - May 5th 2026

For the second year Gagel farm will open her ecosystem to facilitate artists and cultural makers who want to help us in answering the question: **How do we build upon regenerative cultures within our European context 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? 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:

- Which forgotten histories and deep roots can we find in Europe and within this local context that reconnects us to place? And how can we listen deeply and humbly to land-based (and more than human) cultures and Indigenous communities?
- How can we cultivate (new) cultures - with befitting practices, rituals, institutions, languages - that foster regeneration and reciprocity?
- How will you develop your practice as an artist to accommodate and reflect the bio-diverse and life-holding capacity of a regenerative landscape? Your response to this question can include the interpretation of the transition to regenerative (agri)culture through deep interaction, mapping and documentation of your (hyper)local surroundings and the more than human communities, to active or speculative storytelling that demonstrate the interconnectedness of ecological, cultural and history of place.
- And; how will you add something to this environment while representing the context authentically? Answering this question can involve utilizing your artistic research and practice in designing, developing and executing tailor-made (interdisciplinary) gatherings, community tables, workshops, or events that are suitable to regenerative environments, and stimulate the integration between health, art, science, food, philosophy, politics, spiritual values and cosmologies
- Your discoveries as a resident will also intend to inspire and motivate your artistic community beyond Gagel Farm, in order to address the importance of a regenerative context and planet health in the broadest sense of the word. How will you utilize your artistic practice and skills to further build reciprocity, abundance, community, and regenerative partnerships or collaborations?

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

ERF Residency Programme

ERF is a multi-year residency programme hosted by Valley of the Possible and Bodemzicht Foundation at Gagel Farm. Our mission is to facilitate the transition to a regenerative (agri)culture through the cross-pollination of contemporary residences taking place by artists, cooks and culinary professionals, farmers and scientists. ERF consists of three trajectories which each offer space for the situated entanglement of different disciplines through the exchange of embodied knowledge, theoretical knowledge, inspiration and collaboration at a regenerative farm.

EAT Cycle

March 27th - May 5th

40 days, 2 cooks-in-residence

RECONNECT Cycle

March 27th - May 5th

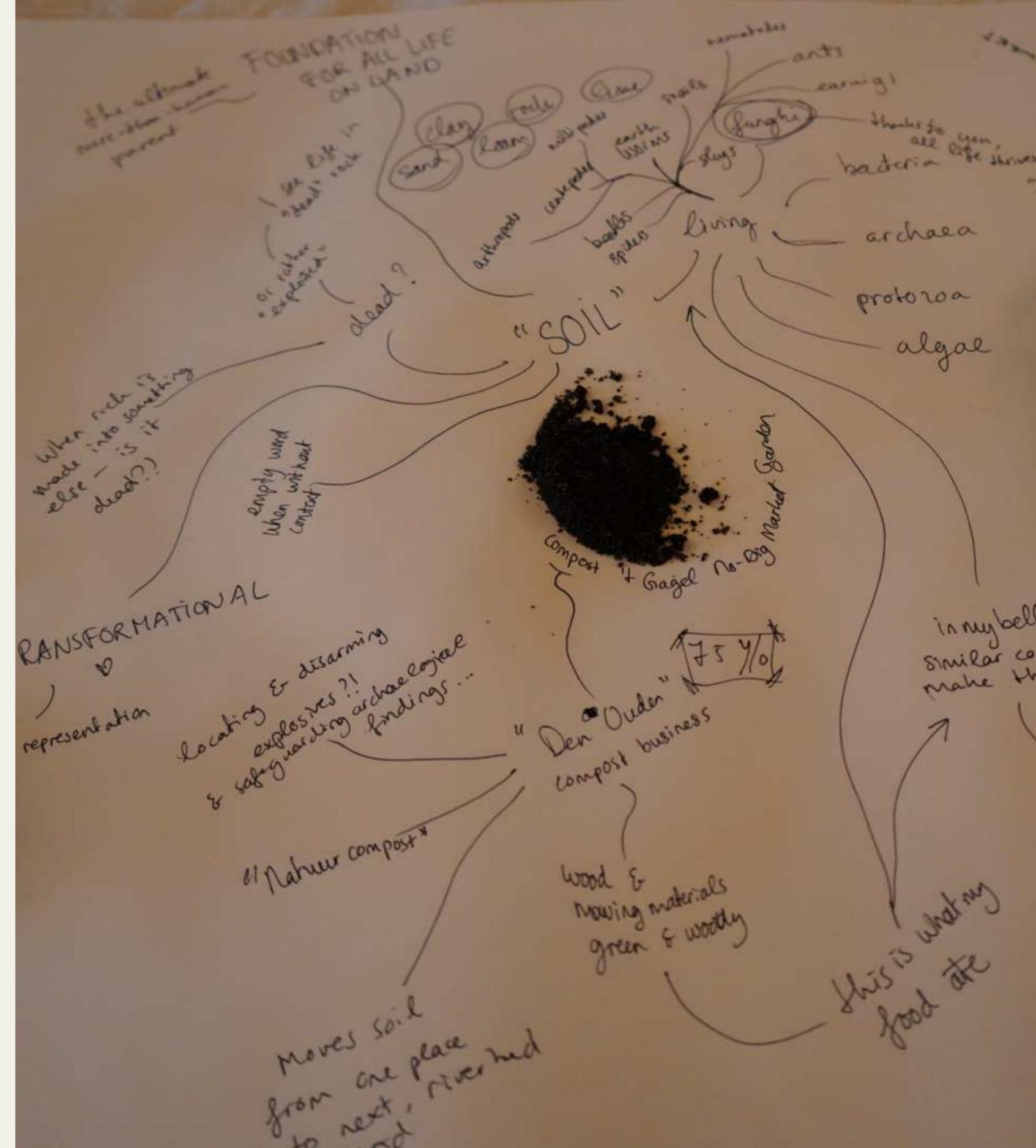
40 days, 1 artist-in-residence

FARM Cycle

March 27th - May 5th

40 days, 2 farmers-in-residence

For 40 days two EAT residents, two FARM residents and one RECONNECT resident will work collaboratively and side by side on the farm. All residents will work, cook, eat and collaborate with the entire Gagel Farm team, have designated mentors, are offered free coaching and are invited to partake in (interdisciplinary) workshops in order to stimulate cross pollination.



Holistic Context

As an integral part of the ERF programme, all residents will be invited to participate in a 3-day Holistic Context course on 10, 11, 12 April, in small groups with other course participants.

During these three days at 't Gagel, you will write your own holistic context under the guidance of Anne van Leeuwen, co-founder of Gagel Farm and Ricardo Cano Mateo, Spanish biologist, regenerative designer and entrepreneuring farmer.

Writing a holistic context is widely used in the regenerative world to articulate what really drives you. In the context, you answer three questions: “What kind of world do I want to live in?”, “What kind of life do I want to lead?” and “What am I willing to do to achieve that?”.

You will take stock of where you are now and, from there, create an ultimate to-do list to get where you want to go. A holistic context provides a basis from which you can make decisions that lead you to the world you want to live in. In addition, everyone receives a 30-minute personal coaching session from Anne or Ricardo to clarify your “statement of purpose”: what gets you out of bed every day!

A context on paper gives you a decision-making framework for both small and big decisions in your life. It is not dogma: you can simply rewrite it if something changes. What it provides is clarity and transparency about a realistic regenerative path that suits you.





What we offer

Space, time and infrastructure to experiment, research and develop a regenerative artistic practice at Gagel Farm.

A 40 days stay at Gagel Farm in a tiny house with a double bed, a small kitchen, a regenerative library and a small space for desk work.

A stipendium with a total of €2000 per person per residency period and an additional artistic production and research budget with a maximum of €1.000.

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

Access to a covered outdoor resident kitchen for experiments and gatherings

Access to a communal indoor space for study and work for all residents

Participation in the '[Holistic Context](#)' course at Gagel Farm on 10-12 April, 2026 free of cost (participation is obligatory).

Informal insights into how a regenerative farm works and who grows, hatches, blooms, sleeps, flies and dies in which season.

The opportunity to cross-pollinate, through collaboration and inspiration with FARM and EAT residents.

(Group) coaching of ERF residents by Olaf Boswijk, co-founder of Valley of the Possible, to help guide you in your personal growth and the specific needs of your creative practice.

Dates, conditions & facilities

40 days

March 27th until May 5th 2026

This research residency includes:

Accommodation in a tiny house, a maximum total of €3.000 budget (based on research proposal and incl. taxes), local transfers to and from Amsterdam Schiphol airport or local train station, various public lectures and on site events at the farm.

Residents are responsible for their own meals, but have free access to the vegetable garden filled with regenerative produce grown and harvested at Gagel farm and will receive climate eggs from our grazing chicken flock.

Residents have access to a bike, to the on-farm shop and access to shopping at a local grocery store in the nearby town of Lochem.

This research residency does not include:

International travel costs and expenses, all meals and beverages, visa costs, additional 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: designing regenerative cultures, 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 proposed project - with a specification of the materials, research- or travel costs. If the total budget plan exceeds €3.000, 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
- 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 and FirstName(s)_LastName(s)_PORTFOLIO

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 application files should be attached to one email and sent to erf@gagel.nl in an email with the subject title: *Application RECONNECT residency- spring cycle 2026* **before January 9th 2026.**

Once 50 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.

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 farm and its communities
- The approach taken for working with the complexity of ecosystem relations
- Potential for mutual flourishing between residents
- The willingness to be involved in the preparation and organizing of a final communal event, consisting of a workshop and a diner, as well as a departing ritual consisting of an individual and/or collaborative presentation.

Applicants will be notified by email before February 1st 2026.

For more information about the farm and program please go to:
www.gagel.nl and www.valleyofthepossible.com
or email: erf@gagel.nl



About

Gagel Farm 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. Gagel Farm 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.

Bodemzicht Foundation disseminates and accelerates regenerative thinking and action in the Netherlands and Europe. Together with many partners, Bodemzicht Foundation is working on the question: 'How do we build a regenerative society?' The farm and Bodemzicht Foundation will continue to grow as a Lenteland farm. Daan Houwers and Roos Burger have joined Ricardo Cano Mateo and Anne van Leeuwen as entrepreneurs at 't Gagel.

Members of the Jury

- Anna Kooi - rural sociologist, food artist, chef and alumna of ERF 2025
- Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodriguez - writer, curator, researcher on art and ecology, founder gala, author of 'Let's Become Fungal'
- Helen Weeres - poet, artist, performer, Speaker for the Living
- Olaf Boswijk - co-founder Valley of the Possible, creative coach

Team

- Anne van Leeuwen - co-founder Gagel farm, initiator, strategy
- Felicia Slettenhaar- Felicia Slettenhaar- ground facilitator, central contact point Gagel Farm, back office manager
- Helen Weeres - initiator, habitat & workshop host, connector
- Mirla Klijn - co-founder Valley of the Possible, development programme, coordination and online communications
- Olaf Boswijk - co-developer, jury-member, coach



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