

# Open Call for Feral Creative Practices at the CreaTures Track, Uroboros festival 2021



The CreaTures project (<https://creatures-eu.org/>) calls for experimental art and design practices that creatively engage with current socio-ecological challenges, to be co-produced and showcased at the project's *Feral Creative Practices* track at the Uroboros festival (<https://www.uroboros.design/>) in May 2021.

The Feral track theme refers to creative practices that are *experimental, more-than-human, foraged & rummaged, regenerative, edible & compostable, seen & unseen, slow-fashioned, down-to-earth, slimy, rural & miscellaneous, stray, wilfully wild*.

We are looking for creative projects that are feasible for a physical or online showcase at the Uroboros festival and that actively involve audience participation – from workshops to performative events and more. Authors from all countries are encouraged to submit their projects. The CreaTures project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 870759 and funding terms must be agreed to with all receivers of funding.

Please note the two key contexts of the open call:

**Uroboros: Designing in Troubling Times** 🐉 is an annual festival of experimental design & research that explores what and how we can design in the current times of socio-ecological crises to support positive change. The hybrid festival takes place online and simultaneously at the DOX Center for Contemporary Art in Prague.

**CreaTures (Creative Practices for Transformational Futures)** is a practice-based research project that explores the potential of creative art and design practices in supporting socio-ecological transformation. The project involves a series of creative experimental productions of diverse scales and formats that are developed, researched and evaluated collaboratively.

The selected projects will be included in and supported by the CreaTures practice-based research infrastructure and publicly showcased at the CreaTures track the Uroboros 2021 festival. The following sections provide detailed information about the scope and forms of involvement.

## Open call details:

### Scope of involvement

The call is open to individuals and groups. The selected authors will work on their experimental projects in close collaboration with the CreaTures research team through a series of meetings between January 2021 - August 2021 (see tentative schedule below to be agreed upon selection). These sessions are expected to happen in a hybrid format; mostly online but also in person where possible.

This collaboration will involve several types of activities:

- involvement in a joint project planning
- showcase of the project at the Uroboros 2021 festival
- documenting the project throughout the production and showcase stage (including e.g., taking pictures and recordings; self-reflective journaling; observation notes)
- participation in project-related research activities led by CreaTures throughout the project duration (e.g., interviews, observations, short qualitative surveys, internal co-creative sessions)
- collaboration on accompanying engagement activities (e.g.: workshop, panel, and talk)

The conceptual scope of proposed and accepted projects remains under the primary oversight of the projects' authors. The CreaTures team will work closely with selected authors on the development of their projects, conduct research and evaluation, and provide recommendations where desired.

### Tentative schedule

The joint collaboration on accepted projects is expected to begin in January 2021.

A tentative production and showcase schedule include:

- Jan 2021 - May 2021 – Production stage: including 2-3 production sessions and 2-3 research sessions with the CreaTures team (to be scheduled with the accepted authors)
- May 2021 – project showcase at the Uroboros 2021 festival
- May 2021 - August 2021 – Evaluation stage: 3 research sessions with the CreaTures team (to be scheduled with the accepted authors)

### What do we offer

- A flat fee of 3000 Eur
- Feature in the online CreaTures Laboratory collection of sustainable creative practices
- Promotion of the project and author through CreaTures communication channels
- Inclusion of the project's outcomes in CreaTures dissemination materials, such as research publications
- Further presentation opportunities, as the CreaTures team is actively trying to promote and present CreaTures-related creative productions in arts and design festivals and other leading outlets
- Work with the fun and collaborative CreaTures project team that has diverse expertise and experiences, including transdisciplinary research and practice and impact evaluation centred around creative practices.

### Submission requirements

If you are interested to be considered for the CreaTures Feral program, please submit in one PDF:

- a short project proposal (500 words & 5 images max) responding to the theme Feral Creative Practices (detailed description of the theme is available below),
- a CV and/or professional portfolio demonstrating experience in the area (groups can submit their collective CV/portfolio OR CV/portfolio of each co-author individually - whatever is suitable)
- Submit no later than **November 15th 2020, 12am EET by sending an email to [marketa.dolejsova@aalto.fi](mailto:marketa.dolejsova@aalto.fi)**

NOTE: it is important that you are able to commit for the whole program duration Jan-August 2021 and have time flexibility to follow a schedule that will be defined jointly at the outset of the collaboration (we are flexible too)

### Selection Criteria

- Alignment of proposal with the Feral track theme
- Alignment with CreaTures research aims and scope (<https://creatures-eu.org/>)
- Technical and financial feasibility of the proposal
- Originality and rigor
- Availability to work and collaborate with the research team

### Main Contact

For potential queries reach out to Markéta Dolejšová [marketa.dolejsova@aalto.fi](mailto:marketa.dolejsova@aalto.fi) or Cristina Ampatzidou, [cristina.ampatzidou@rmit.edu.au](mailto:cristina.ampatzidou@rmit.edu.au).

### **CreaTures Feral Creative Practices Track @ Uroboros 2021**

Acknowledging the complexity of current socio-ecological challenges, the theme proposes that, as a starting point, such challenges can be approached through co-creative art and design experiments that are carefully intertwined with more-than-human ecosystems. Such experiments involve down-to-earth collaborations with and around everyday materials like soil, dirt, food, compost, wood, and microbial cultures and are performed on the scale of our bodies – the scale at which we operate, think and easily imagine. Beyond just a sensory feast, these willfully wild collective practices become a locus for critical thinking and situated experimental action that can help us grasp current socio-ecological troubles and propose recipes for sustainable futures. We invite individual authors as well as (more-than-human) collectives to submit their creative proposals for feral, experimental, imaginative interrogations of current socio-ecological issues with the intention to support sustainable transformations.

### **About the CreaTures project**

CreaTures (Creative Practices for Transformational Futures) is a three-years H2020 project that explores the potential of creative art and design practices in supporting socio-ecological transformation. The project involves a consortium of 11 partners working closely together while combining their expertise from sustainability-oriented art, design, research and policy. Starting from the proposition that creative practices hold immense potential in supporting sustainable transformations but their impact is largely under-utilised, the consortium conducts a systematic practice-based interrogation to demonstrate the power of arts to move the world towards sustainability. Through direct engagement and co-creation, our Observatory, Laboratory, and Evaluation procedures bring together diverse creative projects and develop insights allowing them to focus their efforts more effectively. Drawing on evolving outcomes, we provide recommendations for policy-makers and implementers to help them see the merit of employing creative techniques.

### **About Uroboros Festival**

Uroboros: Designing in Troubling Times is an annual festival of experimental design & research that explores what and how we can design in the current times of socio-ecological crises to support positive change. The hybrid festival takes place online and simultaneously at the DOX Center for Contemporary Art in Prague and invites experimental works of design researchers and practitioners of diverse social, cultural, and professional backgrounds.