



Why COMMONS

Initiating a Collective

The Art of Invitation

Unlearning a Letter

Learning How to Gather

Conditions – Mind Map for
Initiating a Commons

Documentation:

www.tundetoth.com/artistic-research-y-commons/

whY COMMONS

The Art of Invitation*

“I am in the process of *initiating* the setup of a collective” – I wrote in the letter of invitation.

What is the role of an *initiator*, where does it start, how far it stretches? How does it end – or rather: does it end or gently shifts and transforms into a different role?

How to be aware of the problematic nature and ambiguity of (pre)selecting people, future collaborators – and do it anyway?

How to compose a process of initiation and invitation without conveying any pressure on anyone? How to start creating *conditions* that will cultivate **inclusivity**, **mutuality** and **trust** while being convivial and inspirational?

*This title is taken from the Encounters Arts training project by the same name. <https://encountersarts.wixsite.com/legacy>

First physical meeting of
whY COMMONS

An Spéir Ark

Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

4 August 2020

A Letter of Invitation (June 2020)

I have been learning the complexities of composing and sending a letter in the slow way: through a process of exchange, feedback, response and re-editing(s).
Quotes from four ADMA tutors – referencing four distinctive viewpoints:

“[...]I really like the focus on commoners instead of the commons. Maybe this could be even more central in your letter? More using of the word of commoners instead of commons? I think this would make it very unique in a way – and more in relation to your practice: collective & collaboration in conversational art practice. That is what commoners do!” PVB

“Mentioning the Master course makes it a bit too institutional. This research program is something temporarily in the margin, for a few months it has been (and will still be for a few months longer) a reflection group. But this collective will last longer...” WM

“What is the difference between *us* and *you*? Maybe it would be interesting to use *us* since the beginning to give a sense of commonness?” LF

“One thing you don’t talk about is the solidarity that can be formed through collective groups — this is especially important to mention I think in respect of the differences inevitably present when more than one person gathers!” MS

why COMMONS



Online meeting vs physical gathering

What to Unlearn

Structural forms, expectations of what an *aim* or a *goal* is...

*“Non-physicality of meetings that tend to be focused on the verbal and in which we remain in the same standard posture; taking for granted the horizontality roundtable discussions...” Site for Unlearning (CASCO and Annette Krauss) **

Learning how to get together, how to be a group, a collective.

Visiting *An Spéir Ark*: move, walk, sense, perceive, talk and (*ways of*) *conversations*. Learning *about*, *with* and *from* (re)wilding.

* Baldauf, A.(ed.) (2018) *Spaces of Commoning – Artistic Research and the Utopia of the Everyday*, Publication Series of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Vol.18.Sternberg Press. p.173.

Unlearning a Letter

Learning How to Gather

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Conditions

Mind Map

For the Beginning of a Collective, a Commons (in times of physical distancing and social restrictions)
Y COMMONS 2020

