

## Letter of Motivation Cumulus Executive Board by Dr Marc Boumeester

Dear Members of the Cumulus Executive Board,

It is my strong belief that the role of art and design in the formation of our (immediate) future is crucial in countering the effects of a long-standing paradigm of unequal human interference in social, cultural, ecological environments. It is the duty and privilege of our profession to be able to transform abstract patterns of thought into pragmatic shapes and systems, and it is for this reason that I would like to aid the transformation of the archaic reign of *the egologic* to the crucial and imminent paradigm of *ecosophy* by putting my qualities in the service of the Cumulus organization.<sup>1</sup>

Within the construction of education, I emphasize the importance of making clear distinctions between history, theory and philosophy, albeit with very fuzzy boundaries. Practicing philosophy demands a position, developing theory demands testing and writing history demands making choices. It is for this reason that any paradigmatic historical shift cannot be facilitated without a clear choice, a firm ontological position and proper testing. These qualities can all be found in any good school of art and design, yet the output of these assets is often predominantly measured in terms of its internal values. It is obvious that these processes can be made accessible for far more diverse purposes in social dynamic terms with a clear sense of relevance, albeit the discussion on how to exert this often exceeds the priorities of individual academies.

For these reasons, the discussion on the role of art and design in the shaping of our future should be held in large, intercultural networks to prevent social-economic biases and local 'dogmatics'. The Cumulus network has played a role in this for many years, and it would very exciting to contribute and add to these discussions, whilst simultaneously search for ways to permanently update the discourse to uphold its relevance.

As a 'theoretician gone practitioner and back', I have had the opportunity to develop multiple insights on which to build many types of education within the fields of arts and design and in this capacity I have contributed to a number of Cumulus conferences in the past. Inspired by the communal 'goal-setting' and willingness to share, I have deepened many relations and developed several new during Cumulus events. My personal style has been described as "dynamic, networking, future-sighted, gregarious, creative, intellectual, people-centered, dedicated, loyal" and although this might be true (...), it humbles me.

On the brink of the massive extrapolation of fourth/fifth industrial concepts and constructs, I feel it as a personal obligation to maximize the potential of our type of education and research to endorse a future constructed within an integrated, inclusive, participatory and emancipatory framework. As designers we are used to 'chisel' away possible dimensions to create an optimal form within a determined framework, now it is time to create a new framework all together. I can offer my cerebral analytical skills, theoretical and philosophical understanding, managerial toolsets and plain pragmatic enthusiasm to support the goals and mission of the Cumulus organization.

I hereby would like to express my interest to be elected as a member of the Cumulus Executive Board.

Yours truly,

Dr. Marc Boumeester

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<sup>1</sup> "Without modifications to the social and material environment, there can be no change in mentalities. Here, we are in the presence of a circle that leads me to postulate the necessity of founding an "ecosophy" that would link environmental ecology to social ecology and to mental ecology." Felix Guattari 1992