

EKA TO CUMULUS



As a representative of Estonian Academy of Arts (EKA), I wish to bring to the CUMULUS organisation my competence and love for design. Since my own studies of industrial design through the years of working as a design teacher, until my current position of the Vice Rector in our academy, I have always fought for improvement of design education. EKA is the leading art and design university in Estonia, always growing and leading the way in innovation. In CUMULUS board I wish to stand for:

1. Small and evolving

EKA has strong relationships in the Baltics and the whole Eastern Europe. We wish to represent the fresh voice of this part of Europe in CUMULUS.

2. Sustainable and strong

We have been strong in holding high the flag of Fashion and Textile working group in CUMULUS. Our professors Nithikul Nimkulrat, Kristi Kuusk, Tanel Veenre, Piret Pupart and Reet Aus have been running this initiative together with colleagues from all over the world. The working group's research publication "Soft Landing" under CUMULUS Think Tank series was published in 2018 for the Paris conference.

3. Positive action in the border areas in every sense of the word

I wish to stand for bringing distant spaces and options closer to the heart of CUMULUS. Our academy has an exciting artist-in-residence space in Narva, the easternmost city of EU, on the border of Estonia and Russia. We wish to offer a chance for connection and dialogue between cultures for all CUMULUS members.

4. Ties between smaller networks and CUMULUS

EKA has a strong presence in Nordic-Baltic networks such as CIRRUS, Nordic-Baltic Academy of Architecture, EDDA and KUNO. I wish to develop closer ties between CUMULUS and these networks.

5. Dialogue between society and academia.

We as design educators must constantly re-define the meaning and importance of design for ourselves and the others. We must lead the way in design thinking and doing, having a spot-on sense on how a better future could be achieved through sustainability and responsible development of technology. Estonia as a country has a strong experience in this field.

6. Playfulness

Last, but not least, we must keep an open mind and playful spirit, even in solving the most difficult of wicked problems. I will stand for this in all activities carried out under CUMULUS umbrella.

Anne Pikkov

Vice Rector of Estonian Academy of Arts