

Maspalomas, february 2th 2024

# “Operating Manual For Spaceship Earth”: Maintenance and security - Exchange of lubrication - Art

## Things as currency

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Three approaches speak in favour of this project:

### Things

1. are already there
2. they contain raw materials, energy and traces of time that connect us with our own everyday culture and previous users
3. they leave behind no digital data and elude scalable commercialisation interests.

The mass of things we produce has exceeded biomass. Product designers and process engineers often work on designed obsolescence. If a toaster, for example, only costs €14, then the production conditions before use, the billows of smoke from the tanker and the electrical waste afterwards are not counted in.

Things are also material witnesses, they can have sentimental value - an antithesis to the virtual metaverse. Patina is currently being imitated by "fast fashion" and "fast furniture", but does not achieve the sensual authenticity of the original artefacts.

This concept can be generalised with the help of AI. Smaller local economic cycles revitalise decaying city centres, repair sites and direct communication between local people.

### Upcycling art is a model.

In Mecklenburg, in the increasingly sparsely populated north-east of Germany, we founded the "Centre for Circular Art" and the "Circular Art Society" e.V. and networked with the international upcycling scene. To this end, we organised the 1st Upcycling Art Prize and exhibited our winner in Berlin and Barcelona, among other places - with a carpet made from shredded advertising flyers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yIBJQPsWZg>.

Extending the useful life of things can cool down the flow of goods. Give things value and currency instead of special prices and let's become more personal again! Julia Theek.