

In 2018 we opened with the idea that Shimmer could be a place where we could bring artistic conversations and experiments into the public sphere. We saw Shimmer as a place to show artworks and develop our curatorial methods, which needed time and breathing room. Our idea was to curate small, minimal, and gestural shows alongside working on our own projects (we would save some of the space as a studio for making objects). It was meant to be a 'now-and-again' thing. Once we opened our first exhibition, 'Ever-' we quickly found that artists and our audience were also looking for something, a place to belong and risk with and supported by a curatorial position that had a similar position. Artists who we admired for years found us interesting and were willing to lend us their work. Museums, institutions, art-platforms, and studios also found we were creating new models (or revisiting old ones) and were willing to work with us. But also older friends of artists no longer with us, those collections of friendships of ongoing memory became available to us.

We thought of certain audiences when bringing our shows together and in return, they would spend hours talking with us about what those shows and what the events meant to them. After working with many, many practitioners over these years we feel a silkiness to the practice of curating. Silkiness, like a deftness or a fluidity that experience provides, but more soft, fragile, and shimmering like silk. But despite the shininess, Shimmer is, at times, a real 'effing' slog, a grind of trying to keep up with what we think Shimmer should be, what it could be, or maybe how it could be. We have made mistakes and doubted often whether we should continue. Here we are, 5 years later, both tired and energized.

It looks like love. Don't stop now.

We celebrate the five years of Shimmer by launching, *SHIMMER: A MANUAL OF UNDOING* in which we present 48 hand-developed black and white medium format photos of Shimmer's exhibitions in progress. The photographs were taken during the unpacking, the unwrapping, and the decision-making, depicting the often invisible labor of the arts worker. We had been undecided on how to make room for these images, which seem to not fit into

*It looks Like Love (Don't stop now)*  
Shimmer 5 year anniversary party

Opening: Saturday 11 February  
Exhibition dates: 11 - 26 February  
14:00 - 18:00

*We've got it now*

*Feels good*

*It looks like love*

*Don't stop now*

- *It looks Like Love*, Goody Goody  
(Vincent Montana, Jr.) 1972

conventional forms of contemporary art presentation and documentation. They arrived long after the moment of their generation, finally finding their home in this book's unsettled and unbound pages. It is in the lag and the linger - that we define as our studio method. We take analog photos because of the delay between what is in front of us and what emerges long after the fact. We think 'making' only occurs when we have the moment to stop creating and look at what we've done. Taking time away from making, crucially, is making.

Through the viewfinder, we would be able to savor the time we had with the artist and their work. By taking the photo we momentarily pause the process, like a cigarette break that affords us time to think about what we are making and curating with the artist, and about the afterlife of the exhibition. This is not about making images, optical impressions, but about releasing us from particular moments in order to reassess, reconfigure, adjust, separate and come back again.

Every aspect of exhibition-making, curating, and running an organization is, for us, a creative act. Even the shitty parts are implicated, mopping the kitchen, scrubbing floors, installing lights, and writing grants are curatorial enactments. If we want to change the color of the walls, it's us who do it, if we want to build a wall, we do it, and so on. That direct contact with the work (and support structures) feels urgent, a relief from the scroll, a method of resisting the feed, a un-manual of working together.

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Celebrating Shimmer as a studio in which experimentation is our aim, our archival presentation includes a collection of flowers kept and dried through these years. Flowers have always been an important aspect of our curating and hosting. We kept the flowers by chance without a plan (like the film images), archiving each week that we were open, or able to afford a bouquet. In a conversation recently with Anne Boyer, she most eloquently said (and we're paraphrasing), to write for and about flowers is to join the community of all those that did exactly that before us.

Accompanying our archive is our 'ultimate' *On The Waves With...* playlist which includes a song (or two) from each playlist that has been made for the program. This project now boasts over 50 playlists compiled by friends, friends of friends, strangers that became friends, and friends that became strangers. We started the project as a way of connecting to studios and private workspaces. How the playlister chooses to approach the playlist varies from selecting songs that they listen to while working, making, reading, thinking, writing, cleaning, or moving that are influential to their practice. Also, we asked the contributors to invite another person to make a playlist thereby expanding the aural, joyously unrestrained, beyond our community and into new possibilities. Our ultimate playlist is really more of a penultimate playlist as new ones will be made and added in the following years.

We once heard that someone came to visit us from another country, and on their journey to us, they listened to the back catalog of the playlists, turning off the music when they arrived at the show. Ebbing, unfolding, and undoing is a curatorial method, part authorship, part participation, but mostly rhythm.

It looks like love.  
Don't stop now.

Thank you to the following people for their support over the years:

Our house designer Christophe Clarijs has been part of Shimmer since before we opened and has always been our biggest behind-the-scenes supporter, we've learned a lot from Christophe. Also Dongyoung Lee for also designing some of our beautiful publications.

Our participants in exhibitions, music program, event program, online program and publications:

AA Bronson, Abdullah Qureshi, Ada M. Patterson, Adelaide Bannerman, Alaa Abu Asad, Alessandro Bava, Alexandra Phillips, Alireza Abbasy, Amalle Dublon, Andrius Arutiunian, Antye Guenther, Arin Rungjang, Aris Mochloulis, Ash van de Esch, Aude Christel Mgba, Ayo, Baha Gorkem Yalim, Bart van de Heide, Bas Hendriks, Bea McMahon, Becket MWN, Bettina Korintenberg, Bergur Thomas Anderson, Bert Scholten, Çağlar Köseoğlu, Cengiz Mengüç, Charlotte Posenenske, Cissie Fu, Clotilde Viannay, Dagmar Bosma, Damon Zucconi, Danny Giles, Dean Bowen, Dehlia Hannah, Dora Economou, Edward Zammit, Elena Narbutaitė, Élisabeth Lebovici, Elizabeth Boon, Ellen Gallagher, Eric Shuster, Fabienne van den Ierssel, Faith Mkwesha, Fayen d'Evie, Fiontan Moran, Flis Holland, Florence Bonnefous, Francesca Hawker, Francisco Salas, Franck Balland, Francois Piron, Folke Janssen, Furtado Melville, Gordon Hall, Grace Ndiritu, Gwenneth Boelens, Harm van den Dorpel, Heman Chong, Himali Singh Soin, Ian Kiaer, Ioanna Gerakidi, Jack Underwood, Jason Page, Jill H. Casid, Jo-ey Tang, Joseph Grigely, Joshua Leon, Joshua Samuel George Sweetman, Karima Boudou, Kate Newby, Katie West, Kira O'Reilly, Katinka van Gorkum, Kornkrit Jianpinidnan, Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann, Lara Almarcegui, Laurel Schwulst, Laurent Sanguinetti, Lawrence Weiner, Lee Kit, Liesbeth Bik, Lisa Tan, Liu Chao-tze, Livio Casanova, Logan February, Louwrien Wijers, Lynda Tay, Ma Qiusha, Magali Reus, Maike Hemmers, Malin Arnell, Mandus Ridefelt, Mar Fjell, Marcel Duchamp, Mariana Cánepa Luna, Marina Otero Verzier, Marianna Maruyama, Martín La Roche, Matt Hinkley, Matthew Stadler, Max Andrews, Max Thomas Sanderson, Maya Tounta, Maziar Afrassiabi, M'barek Bouhchichi, Melvin

Moti, Mercedes Azpilicueta, Mia You, Miyeon Lee, Monika Kalinauskaitė, Moosje Moti Goosen, Natalia Sorzano, Nick Axel, Nick Korody, Nico Dockx, Niko Hallikainen, Nina Vaisman, Octavius Neveux, Oth Blom, Phillip van den Bossche, Pris Roos, PUBLICS, Rabin Huissen, Radna Rumping, Raqs Media Collective, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Rosa de Graaf, Ruth Buchanan, Sharmyn Cruz Rivera, Sandra Wazaz, Sarah Rifky, Sasha Huber, Sekai Makoni, stanley brouwn, Stephen Lichty, Sofia Caesar, Sofia Lo Bianco, Susan Gibb, Taiki Sakpisit, Theo van Doesburg, Toon Fibbe, Veronica Olivotto, Willem de Rooij, Yehwan Song, Yin Yin Wong, Yoeri Guépin, Zarouhie Abdalian, and Zoe Scoglio

Our founding board members are Jos van der Pol, Kris Dittel, Milou van Vijmen, and Mia You. They were the ones who first made us visible in the world as a foundation, and stuck their necks out in founding the board.

Our current board members are Kris Dittel, Suzanne Wallinga, and Sophie Mak-Scham.

Our tax lawyer and past board member is Nil van Lingen.

Our assistants over the years were Honey Kraiwee, Antonio de la Hera, Lucie Draai, Fay van Blitterswijk, Martina Farrugia.

Our volunteer hosts over the year were Honey Jones Hughes, Antonio de la Hera, and Pascale de Graaf.

Our current hosts are Babette Kleijn, Fay van Blitterswijk, Bojana Rankovic, Meghan Clarke, and Trân Tran.

Our translators are Flora Valeska Woudstra, Hannah Kalveda, and Niels Bekkema.

Our collaborators over the years were Goethe Institute Rotterdam, Poetry International, PUBLICS, The Community, Akwa Ibom, and Cookies.

Our printers are Wilco Art Books and Jason's studio laser printer.

Our funders over the years were and are Centrum Beeldende Kunst Rotterdam (CBK Rotterdam), Creative Industries Fund NL, Droom en Daad, Eloise Sweetman, Finnish

Cultural and Academic Institutes' Together Alone project, Gemeente Rotterdam, Jason Hendrik Hansma, Mondriaan Fonds, and PUBLICS. As well as artists, galleries, institutions, and platforms that loaned their work for free. Everyone who bought a solidarity2020 poster organized by Between Bridges in 2020 to keep our space running. Finally, anyone that bought a drink, a book, or a t-shirt.

Also here's a big shout-out to those who are not with us anymore, after five years we've said goodbye to some people, but who still live on in our memories.

It looks like love.  
Don't stop  
now.

## ABOUT SHIMMER

Shimmer is a curatorial studio that experiments with exhibition-making in time and space. Alongside our exhibitions is our event program Sunday Mornings With... and our online mixtape project On the Waves With. Shimmer Press is the publishing arm of the studio.

As a curatorial studio, we develop and maintain a space where cultural, geographic, bodily, and ageist borders are reconsidered and where art and community come together. We see this as the organisation's core. We do not take this purpose lightly or as a thematic for a temporary program.

We take our name from 'Shimmer, when all you love is being trashed,' a lecture by anthropologist and feminist theorist Deborah Bird Rose in 2014. Her talk champions love and sincerity in a world of greed and denigration. We seek to make experimental exhibitions and foster relations with artists, audiences, and worldly interconnections. In this way, we hope our activities gather and stretch across and over time while providing breathing room for artists, audiences, and artworks that work with us.

We see art as inherently collective, public, and social. So too are the systems, research, and conversations that spark the beginnings and endings of artworks. Through Shimmer, we believe that we can ask questions, muddlethought, and engage an active audience towards reciprocity. We see our activities flowing back and forth through the artists and audiences we engage with. In other words, Shimmer's activities are situated on the cusp of our contemporary moment where politics, economics, and social relations are shifting.

## ON THE WAVES WITH EVERYONE THAT CONTRIBUTED A PLAYLIST IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

Príncipe - DJ LYCOX - Solteiro  
On The Waves with Books@RET

Arca - Manners  
On The Waves with Martín La Roche

Meryem Aboulouafa - Ya Qalbi  
On The Waves with Katinka van Gorkum

BADBADNOTGOOD - Time Moves Slow (feat. Sam Herring)  
On The Waves with Katinka van Gorkum

Abra - Roses  
On The Waves with Rabin Huissen

Post No-Future - Tones on Tail • Performance [7" Version]  
On The Waves with Babette Kleijn

ideofoms - Windows XP Startup Sound (slowed 4000%)  
On The Waves with Trâm Tran

Four Tet - Evening Side (Oneohtrix Point Never edit)  
On The Waves with Edward Zammit

Coco - Empty Beach  
On The Waves with Martina Farrugia

Stones Throw Records - Sudan Archives - Come Meh Way  
On The Waves with Meghan Clarke

Dj Spooky + Sussan Deyhim: Azadi (The New Complexity)  
On The Waves with Karima Boudou

Say My Name (Cyril Hahn Remix) - Destiny's Child  
On The Waves with Jason Hendrik Hansma

poshisolation - Why Be - Love Thirteen (island Step)(Love Means Taking Action Mix)  
On The Waves with Octavius Neveaux

Kali Uchis - ¡aquí yo mando!  
On The Waves with Sharmyn Cruz Rivera

Halsey - I am not a woman, I'm a god  
On The Waves with Fay van Blitterswijk

DjPeterson Simoes - Pablo Vittar Todo Dia [DJ PETERSON]  
On The Waves with Sofia Caesar

Só Marcantes - IZA SHOW- METEORO  
On The Waves with Sofia Caesar

Future - Mask off  
On The Waves with Oth Blom

SUBMERGE (2013) - WMB  
On The Waves with Cengiz Mengüç

Of Saints (feat. TAYHANA) - GAIKA  
On The Waves with Ioanna Gerikidi

Hard To Love - HAMZAA  
On The Waves with Sekai Makoni

I Can Only Bliss Out (F'Days) - Laraaji  
On The Waves with Danny Giles

Mai Yamane - Tasogare - 1980  
On The Waves with Eloise Sweetman

Mortal Kombat (ft. Kari Faux) [Prod. daedaePIVOT]  
On The Waves with Danny Giles

Borderline (Blood Orange Remix) - Tame Impala  
On The Waves with Lucie Draai

For Shimmer De La Cumbia Al Mapalé - Natalia Sorzano  
On The Waves with Natalia Sorzano

Ik Wil Alleen Maar Zwemmen - Spinvis  
On The Waves with Yin Yin

07 Kitty Kat (feat. Beyonce) chopped chopped  
On The Waves with Ada M. Patterson

kranky - earthen sea 'existing closer or deeper in space'  
On The Waves with PUBLICS

Sleeper & Snake - 'Flats Falling'  
On the Waves with Bert Scholten

Gülden Karaböcek - Nem Kaldı  
On The Waves with Ulufer Çelik

Vybz Kartel - Yuh Love (Interlude)  
On The Waves with Yoeri Guépin

Playlist mix Monika Kalinauskaitė  
On The Waves with Monika Kalinauskaitė

Emotions - Ariana Grande (Mariah Carey Cover)  
On The Waves with Antonio de La Hera

4 Wings - Tierra Whack  
On The Waves with Maike Hemmers

Switch - 6LACK  
On The Waves with Maike Hemmers

All I Need (ft. Xavier Omär) - Noname  
On The Waves with Pris Roos

when you sleep (my bloody valentine cover)  
PASTEL GHOST  
On The Waves with Bergur Anderson

Tatsuro Yamashita - Sparkle  
On The Waves with Marianna Marayuma

Gymnopedie No. 1 - Erik Satie  
[Re-Interpretation by Yaqui Yeti]

On The Waves with Joshua Samuel George Sweetman

ESG - Dance (Will Buck Edit) - Jerk's Re-Werks  
On The Waves with Rosa de Graaf

Tinariwen -TIN AHLLAN- Tinariwen's Live  
On The Waves with Folke Janssen

Vipers Follow You - Amon Tobin  
On The Waves with Folke Janssen

"Stand Back" - Stevie Nicks (Live)  
On The Waves with Jason Page

Mixtape for Shimmer by Andrius Arutiunian  
On The Waves with Andrius Arutiunian

Chassol - Birds Pt. I ada\_ada  
On The Waves with Clotilde Viannay

Noura Mint Seymali - Hebebeb (Zrag) - Glitterbeat Records

On The Waves with M'barek Bouhchichi (Vers ma mère vers ces peuples qui chantent)

Yasuhiro Morinaga - For "La Donnaccia" Galaverna | approaching post-digital sound  
On The Waves with Taiki Sakpisit

Comfort Zone - Borokov Borokov  
On The Waves with Christophe Clarijs

PURPLE TUESDAY (feat. Joey Bada\$\$ & Jesse Boykins III)  
On The Waves with Lynda Tay

Sahara Neb Gija - Mariem Hassan  
On The Waves with Phillip van den Bossche

Gil Scott Heron- Angel Dust  
On The Waves with Livio Casanova

Ajda Pekkan - Dününme Hiç (Orjinal Plak Kayıt)  
On The Waves with Baha Görkem Yalim

Arthur Russell - This Is How We Walk On The Moon  
On The Waves with Lucie Draai & Fabienne van den Ierssel

Devendra Banhart - Sligo River Blues (From I am the Resurrection: A Tribute to John Fahey)  
On The Waves with Eric Shuster

SOPHIE - It's Okay To Cry  
On The Waves with Susan Gibb

Easter - The Softest Hard  
On The Waves with Francesca Hawker & Mandus Ridefelt

□□□ - □□□□ (1980)  
On The Waves with Miyeon Lee

Delta 5 - Mind Your Own Business  
On The Waves with Toon Fibbe

Mouth Shut FX-ray  
On The Waves with Mar Fjell

Fragile - Naive Me - Wolfgang Tillmans  
On The Waves with Furtado Melville

MR. CYGNUS - UMFANG  
On The Waves with Stephen Lichty

Computer Works - David Soin Tappeser  
On The Waves with Hylozoic / Desires

Meredith Monk - Quarry Radio  
On The Waves with Radna Rumping

Dashti by Morteza Mahjoobi (Iran)  
On The Waves with Maziar Afrassiabi

shigeo sekito - the word II  
On The Waves with Franck Balland

Soulja Boy Feat. Paul Allen - Still Sellin Dope  
On The Waves with Damon Zucconi

Autechre - Fermium  
On The Waves with Antye Guenther

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