

verti(E) cology

HOW CAN WE IMAGINE AND RELATE TO THE
DEEP SUBSURFACE BEYOND VERTICALITY?

JUNE 13, 2025, 2 - 6 pm



Wald Kohlsatz Hochecker, Photo: Dominika Glogowski, 2024

The deep subsurface serves as a site of aesthetic imagination and a knowledge initiator of our contemporary petromodernity. The seemingly unbreakable cycle of consumption and production projects a yearning for geopolitical strategising at both local and global levels. Given today's significant greenhouse gas emissions, even climate research increasingly supports utilising the depths as a carbon dioxide storage solution to combat global warming. The moral risk is little debated, and discourse in public hardly takes place. Does technological accessibility to the underground provide a blank check for increased production, and who will oversee any eventual misconduct? What becomes of the deep Earth when we use it as a tank for our waste, and how do we approach this concurrent dilemma? One potential approach to an integrated perspective is to define and experience our relationships with the underground as a realm of profound uncertainties and question our tendency to conceptualise in vertically linear paths of rational directionality.

The art/sci workshop *verti(E)cology* takes an initial step in this direction and, with invited scientists and artists, explores the vertical relationships between the underground and aboveground and their effects on our living environment and lived experiences. We invite you to participate in the development of an initial #blueprint that evaluates the deep layers of the Earth, interrogates the extent to which our thought processes are influenced by vertical power hierarchies and coloniality, and investigates the requirements for future frameworks of a "verti(E)cology."

Claudia Bosse
artist and choreographer

Oliver Ressler
visual artist and filmmaker

Benjamin Steininger
cultural theorist

Dominika Glogowski
concept and moderation

Reallabor Fassfabrik
Lastenstraße 19
1230 Vienna

Limited free spaces available,
subject to prior registration:
connect@flechtwerk.or.at



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