



Upstream Algae - Artist Collective

Kathrin Köster - Daniel Kupferberg - Carolin Seeliger

Upstream Algae is a participatory art project that invites people to engage with algae as living knowledge carriers.

Bridging art and science, the project explores algae not as resources or nuisances, but as co-actors and mentors—opening space for sensory, symbolic, and material encounters.

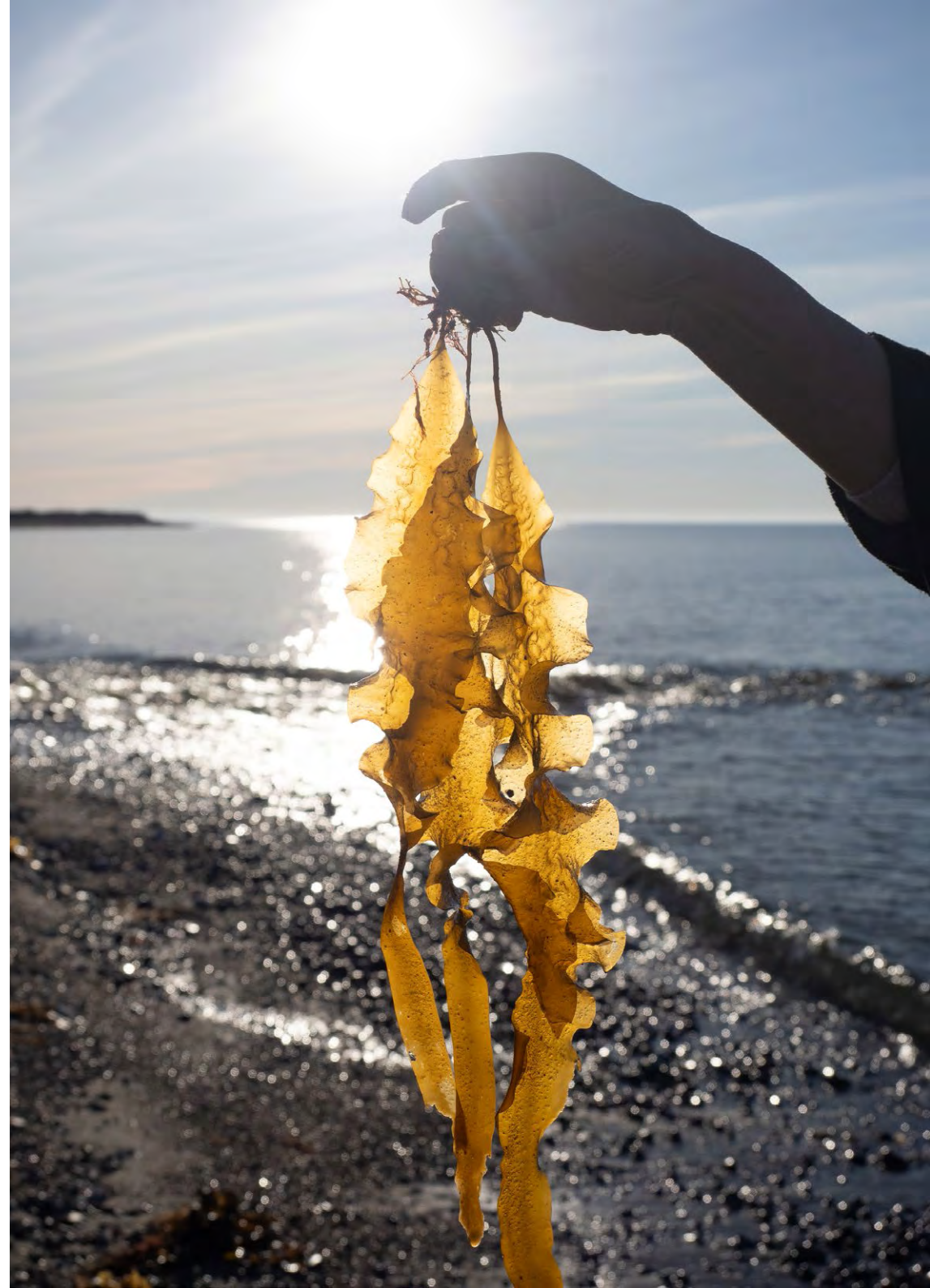
Together with scientists and local communities, Upstream Algae investigates how algae can shape new narratives about coexistence, adaptation, and ecological intimacy. What can we learn from their biology, resilience, and role in our common planetary systems?

previous page:

AlgaeLAB - Spring Brand(ing):

G U C C I Breeding Tank

2025





AlgaeLAB - Harvesting Event
Havmøllen AiR, 02.04.2025



AlgaeLAB - Placement. Tranfer. Merging. Senses. Seasalt. Algify.



AlgaeLAB - Wellness. Sunlight. Breathing. Skincare. Algify.
*Gently we feed our breathing tissue the nourishing, oozing
guests here on land, only to let them back into the waves.*



AlgaeLAB - Harvest, drying

Jointly we scour, jointly be comb, jointly we pick algae and further findings along the shore. Collaborating with beams of the Sun and the passing of time, through imaginative and nimble hands and minds, the variably malleable fragments transform.

crackle crackle : As it
defreezes, this salty bite
of stored sunlight
resurfaces in a
d e p h o t o s y n t h e s i z e d
state inside your drink
to get drunk
to become part of your
insides, from one
s u p e r o r g a n i s m
t o
the next, from one ocean
t o
the next, from one floor
of dancing microbes
t o
the next, from this frozen
state to unleashed energy
evaporating as you flick your
tongue your fork your eyelid and
leave a trace of time
above - on - below
the surface of this thin-skinned
s t r a t o s f u r y ,
a light that does evaporate
but not without a sound





AlgaeLAB - Spring Mobility Brand(ing) / prêt-a-portèr:
Bagged I (right) & *Bagged II* (left)
 2024 and 2025, respectively



AlgaeLAB - Spring Mobility Brand(ing):
*I will dream a Case of You (Algae on my Mind,
 Ocean on the Line)*
 2025

The carrier and the carried: Channelling Ursula K. Le Guin's Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction, the carrier-bag holds a polyphony of narratives, life stories and feelings, gently placed in opposition to a history of hero-centric, straightforwardly arched narratives. This type of vessel as an archaic form, possibly one of human kind's earliest tools, meets us today in the form of the plastic or faux leather bag, in turn symbols of mass consumption and throw-away culture, slow- and non-degradable waste problems on the flip-side of this so-called Anthropocene. - We welcome the algae bag: digestible and seamlessly capable of re-joining the tides.



AlgaeLAB - Wellness. Beachlife. Shopping. Saline. Brandify.
*Spinal sugar kelp gently imported by foot distance and
wrapped over the shoulder. A mass production franchise cut
and exported to the bottom line. What action? Joint action!*

HAVHAV M: in processu confidimus
A series of joint beach-side photographic
drawings, featuring human traces and
seaweed, where land dwellers and the sea, the
concrete and the unconscious merge.

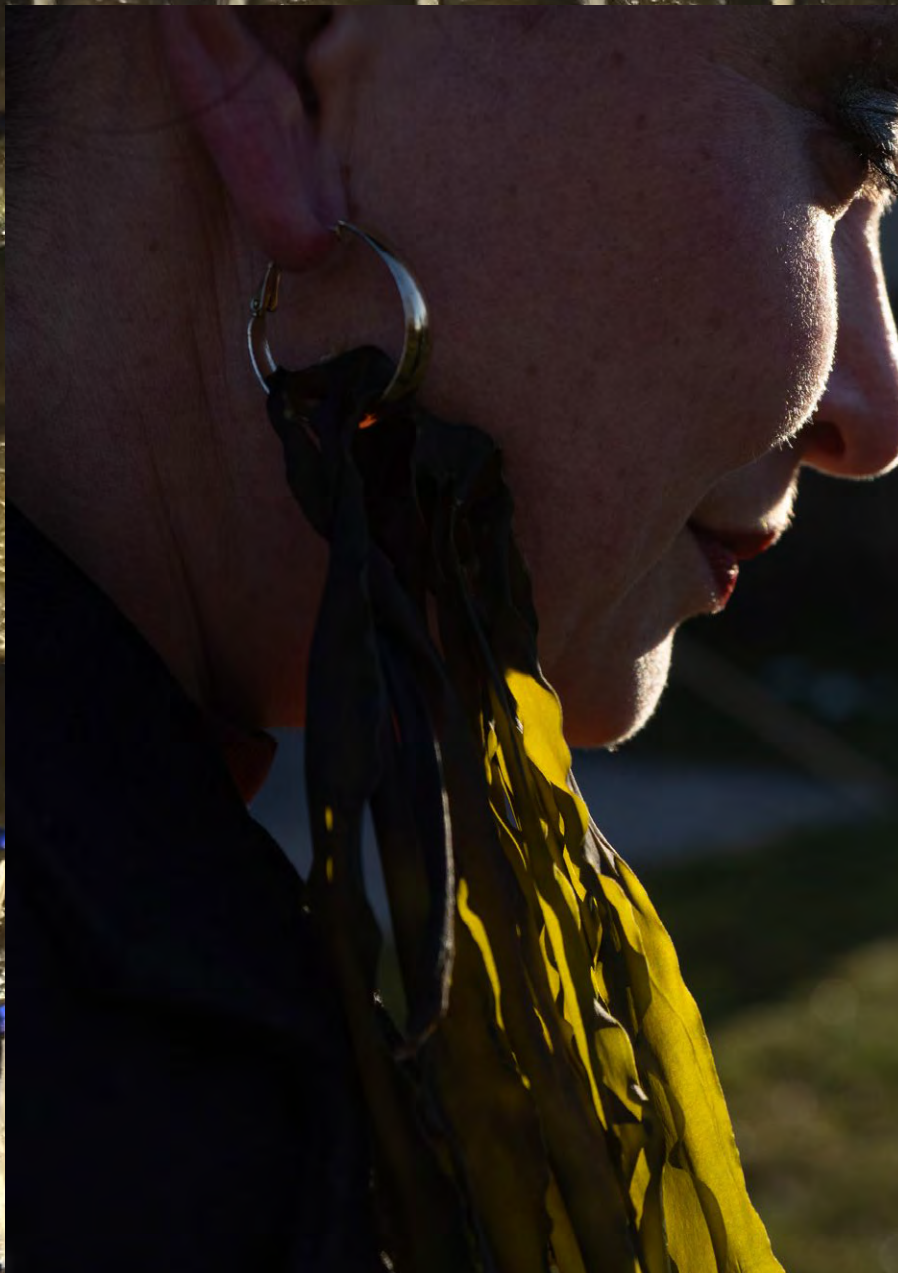




HAVHAV L
Cyanotype on cloth
2025



AlgaeLAB - Spring Brand(ing);
GUCCIMEGUCCIYOU



AlgaeLAB - Spring Brand(ing); prêt-a-portèr:
Gravitational Ear-y-ess

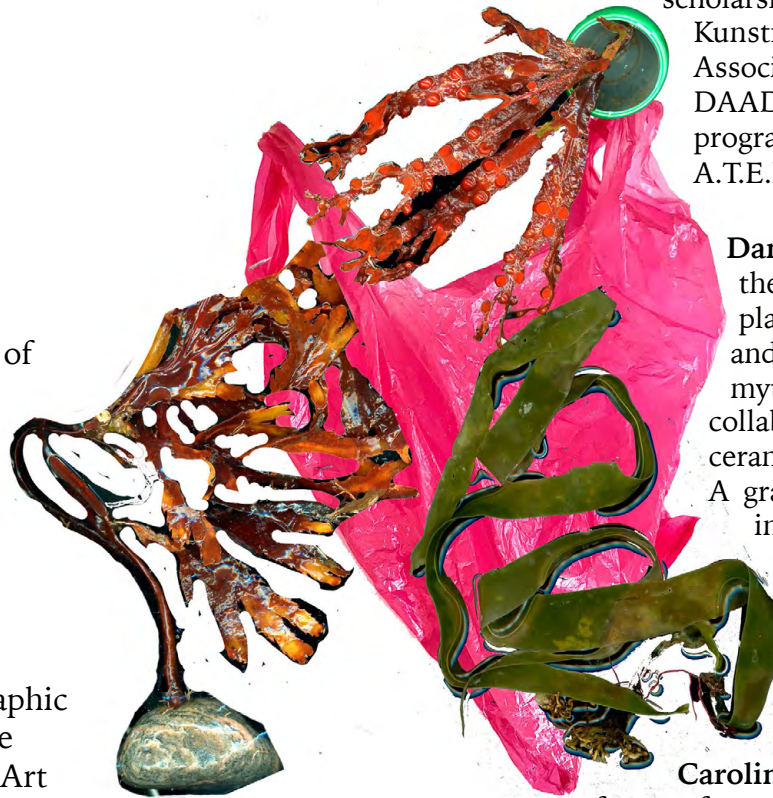


AlgaeLAB - Spring Brand(ing):
GUCCICARRYME

UPSTREAM ALGAE

joint CV

- March/April 2025 :
Havmøllen Residency in Ebeltøft (DK),
AlgaeLAB with the local community
- September 2023:
Slippery Slope
Algae text intervention, as part of the
Watermark Festival in Prieros (DE) -
Algae-based colours created a poetic web of
recipes, poetry, and commercial slogans.
- Fall of 2023:
shortlisted for the EMB artist residency
of the European Marine Board
- Fall of 2022:
2nd place of *Hackathon of Ocean Future Lab*
Cooperation partners: German Oceanographic
Museum/Stralsund, the German Maritime
Museum/Bremerhaven, The Institute for Art
and Innovation and the German Alliance for
Marine Research
Presented during the Entrepreneur Summit at the
Free University, Berlin, February 2023



November 2025

Kathrin Köster's artistic practice deals with transitions, ambivalences and the state of in-between. She works with flexible, permeable materials such as textiles, raw-fired ceramics, drawings and paintings on loose supports. Folds and their variability – the unstable and malleable – characterise her material-based approach.

After her studies at the Berlin University of the Arts (2010), she participated in the Goldrausch Künstlerinnenprojekt in 2011. She has received several scholarships, including a working scholarship from the Stiftung Kunstfonds, a studio scholarship from the Triangle Arts Association (NYC) and a residency scholarship from the DAAD for NYC (2013). In 2014, she was part of the residency programme at MeetFactory in Prague and from 2021-2023 at the A.T.E.N.A Residency in Sète, France.

Daniel Kupferberg questions anthropocentric narratives and the stability of knowledge systems in an interdisciplinary play between sculpturally/sonically enhanced performance and learnings through interspecies conversation, individual mythologies, material and imaginary spaces, care work and collaborative processes, utilising text, paper, cloth, sound, ceramics, reproductions and debris.

A graduate of UdK-Berlin 2010, in recent years he has been involved in collaborative projects such as *Morning Songs* (2018-2025), *Well, Well* (2021-2023), *traces* and from 2013-2020 Adam Nankervis and David Medalla's *Mondrian Fan Club*. Currently, he is working on *0x0:Narrativer*, an auto-synthesising, multilingual, quasi-encyclopaedic, text- and image-based format.

Carolyn Seeliger explores the human impact on oceans and new forms of coexistence with the non-human world. Using experimental, often cameraless photography, she collaborates with natural elements like water, algae, and wind to create images shaped by the environment itself. Since 2019, she has worked with scientists on long-term projects about ocean plastic and algae. Recent residencies include the polar expedition ship Cape Race (2023) and the Alfred Wegener Institute on Helgoland (2024). Seeliger studied Photography and Social Work and co-directs Heit Berlin, an artist-run space for experimental practices. Her work has been shown internationally.

*An encounter between human & algae, land
& sea, sand & saltwater, co-created on-site
by human & non-human communities.*

