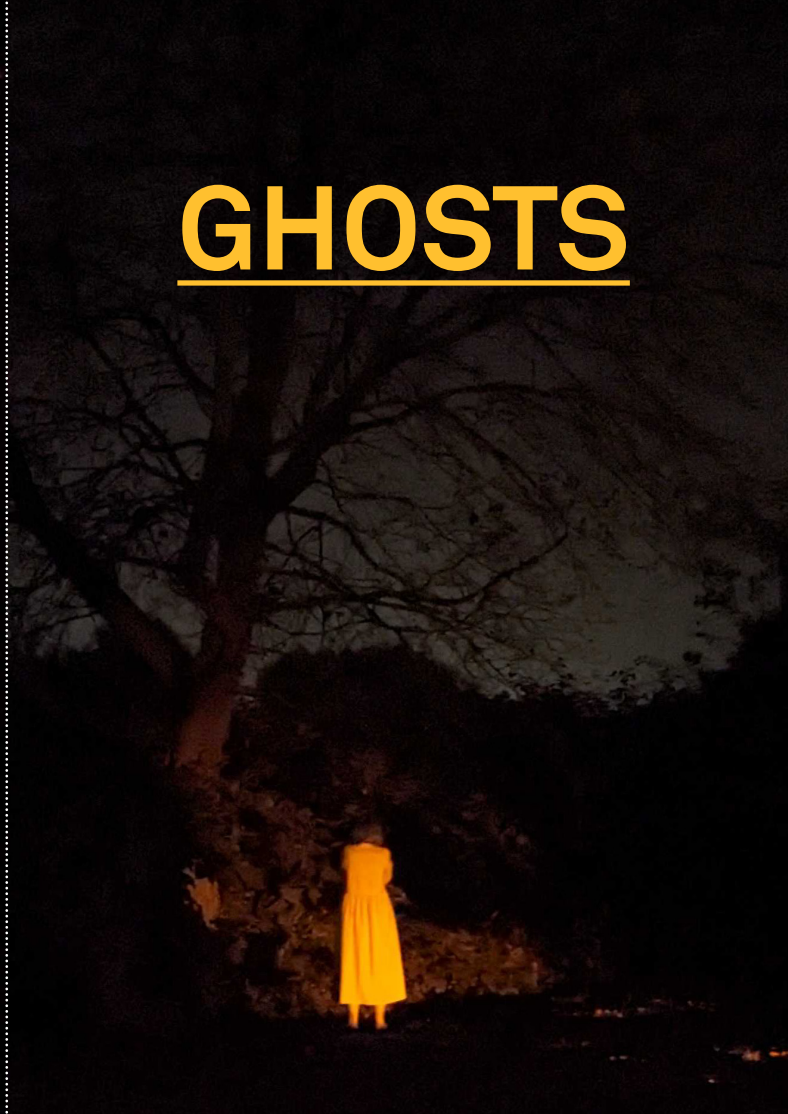


The plan is to focus on the continuity sea-to-land during the first semester, focusing on the sea and the seashore (energy, higher ocean temperatures, El Niño and climate change, fisheries, dredging, sea defence, the seashore on a historical perspective, new personas, drought, freight logistics, ...) and to dedicate the second to the interdependencies between the seashore and the polders. The fieldwork planned during the weekend of 22-24/09 is compulsory for all those enrolled in the studio. We will stay in a youth hostel in Dudzele, and use our time to have a direct experience, without filters, of the site. The transects reproduced on the reverse of this page will be used to split the studio participants into groups of 2-3 people. Fieldwork tasks will adapt to the year of education: BA3 (vernacular architecture and third landscape), MA1 (in-between scale), MA2 (long lines and threads). The studio work will be supported by a multidisciplinary team of ULB researchers recently created under the title: la Botte de Sciences.

W1: 19/09	INTRODUCTION
W1: 22-24/09	FIELD WORK
W2: 26+29/09	MAPPING
W3: 03+06/10	ASSEMBLING
W4: 10+13/10	ASSEMBLING
W5: 17+20/10	LANDING
W6: 23-27/10	INDIVIDUAL PROJECT
W7: 30/10-03/11	AUTUMN BREAK
W8: 07+10/11	LANDING
W9: 14+17/11	REFINING
W10: 21+24/11	REFINING
W11: 28/11+01/12	DEMONSTRATION
W12: 05+08/12	DEMONSTRATION
W13: 12+15/12	CHARRETTE
W14: 18-22/12	SEMESTER JURY

GHOSTS



STUDIO URBAN NATURE
2023 - 2024

The environmental crisis we undergo can be partly explained by the unresolved city-countryside dichotomy. Across the late modern period, this relationship has been based on exploiting both natural and human resources and establishing asymmetric responsibilities and capacities. And above all, on an unbroken effort to conceptualise the countryside as an underdeveloped space and resource periphery.

Consequently, everything that existed outside the cities stopped being theorised on its own. Rural territories became spaces subordinated to the metropolis. Most insidious to us now, the logic governing those rural territories contained valuable aspects that were discarded because they were seen as discordant to the productivist and industrialised norms. Think for instance of some institutions informing how resources were collectively used or practices and beliefs embedded in more-than-human entanglements.

This academic year, our work at the studio starts from the hypothesis that these territories are traversed by a pre-modern, pre-industrial layer that persists in the form of GHOSTS: the vestiges and signs of past ways of life still charged in the present. As humans reshape the landscape, we forget what was there before: our newly shaped

and ruined landscapes becoming the new reality. If we want to see more clearly, we need to learn to identify and locate those GHOSTS pointing to the past, signaling our forgetting, and providing a substrate from where to actualize our present.

Our place of exploration is the coastal plain between Zeebrugge (B) and Breskens (NL), reaching inland to Bruges (B), Damme (B), Oostburg (NL), and Schoondijke (NL). About three thousand years ago, this area was governed by natural, geological processes, like storm surges and the ebb and flow of a turbulent sea. The present-day coastal plain is the result of a combination of anthropic interventions starting over 1000 years ago, and long-term sea tidal movements carrying sediments, eroding, and altering the sea level. Hence a landscape of forever negotiation that, as late as the sixteenth century, still saw parts of it disappeared under the sea. And today a place traversed by a dense network of infrastructures aimed at controlling all possible hazards, which will be compared to other coastal locations in the context of NeRu (newruralities.eu).

Nadia Casabella, Axel Fisher, François Vliebergh
Brussels, September 2023

