

Linn Obrestad (Independent artist / artistic researcher, Telemark (Norway)) and Hilde Iren Dølheim (Independent artist / artistic researcher, Telemark (Norway)).

Staying with the Extractive Trouble: Artistic Research in Contested Landscapes.

Abstract. Extractions Forward is an artist led Norway/Brazil collaboration addressing the cultural and ecological consequences of rare earth mining. Rooted in a threatened forest at Fensfeltet, Telemark, and extending to Minas Gerais, Brazil, home to one of the world's largest mineral reserves, the project asks how art can sustain attention and complexity where industrial and economic narratives dominate.

Our method, complexity-sensitive activism, combines film, text-based interventions, and performance with ecological science, local voices, and Indigenous knowledge. Rather than reducing conflicts to "jobs versus nature", we develop civic infrastructures for dialogue: collective fieldwork, living archives, and performative interventions. This process is grounded in reciprocity and co creation with Brazilian and Norwegian partners, and art and research emerges collectively through shared practice.

We frame this approach as quiet resistance: art that resists not through spectacle but through slow presence, listening, and relational practice. By treating art as infrastructure rather than representation, the project opens spaces for community, cultural critique, and alternative imaginaries within contested landscapes.

At AR@K we propose a 20-minute performance/lecture, blending spoken presentation with excerpts of video and fieldwork material, followed by an open discussion.

Linn Obrestad, Independent artist / artistic researcher, Telemark (Norway)
<https://www.linnobrestad.org/>

Hilde Iren Dølheim, Independent artist / artistic researcher, Telemark (Norway)
<https://www.hildeirendolheim.org/>