

# The Common Room

“How can dialogue help us make sense of the current state of creative labour and production in context of an economy in crisis under digital capitalism and allow us take control of our own futures as we cope with these conditions?”

Woolf's extended essay describes the limiting conditions within which women were able to engage in creative pursuits. One must be able to afford a room of their own, have money, access to opportunities, networks and education.

## **A Room of One's Own (1929)**

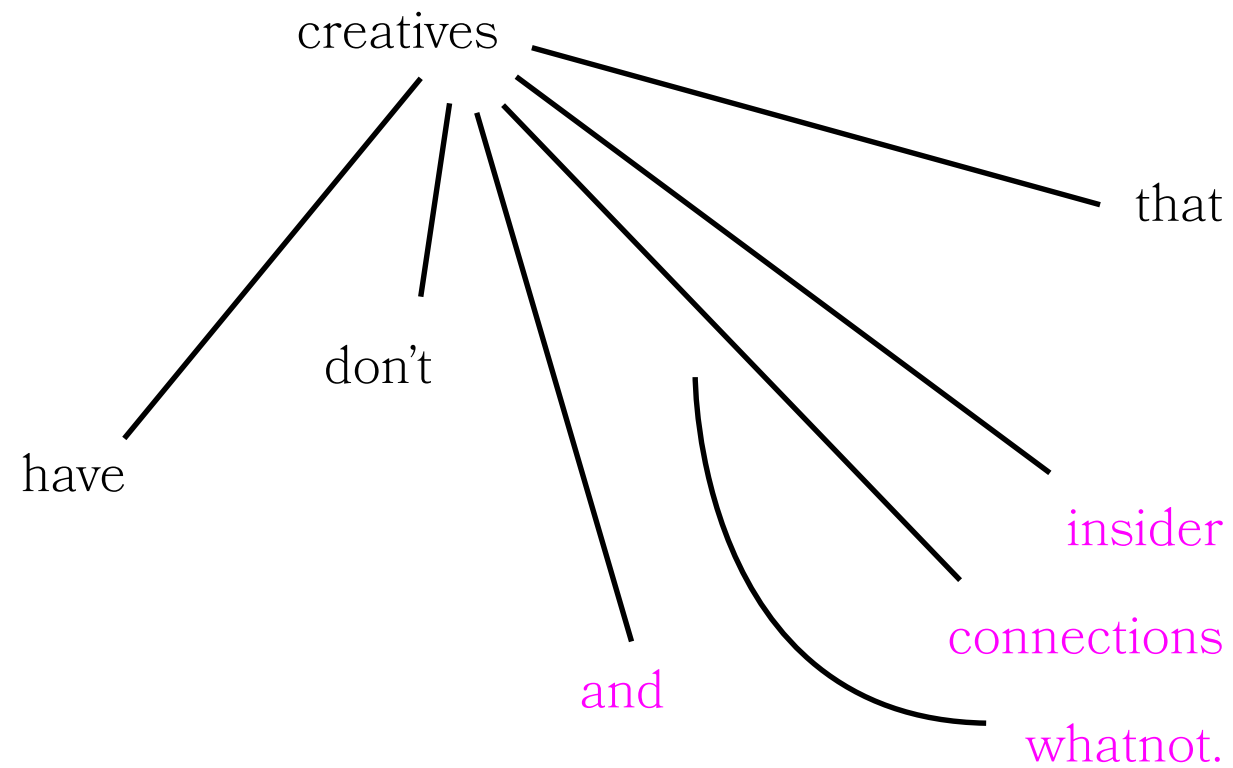
*Virginia Woolf*

*'A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction.' (ibid.)*

The barriers to following creative  
pursuit are only **getting steeper.**

“

As the material conditions continue to deteriorate around us, it really feels like a Cinderella moment or chance or luck is the last bit of hope for a whole lot of



”

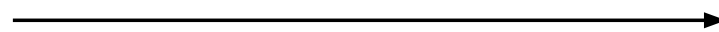
The Individual



The Common

Only in dialogue with one another might we realise that some of **the issues we face aren't our own, but are symptoms of a system of labour and capital that does not benefit us.**

Individual

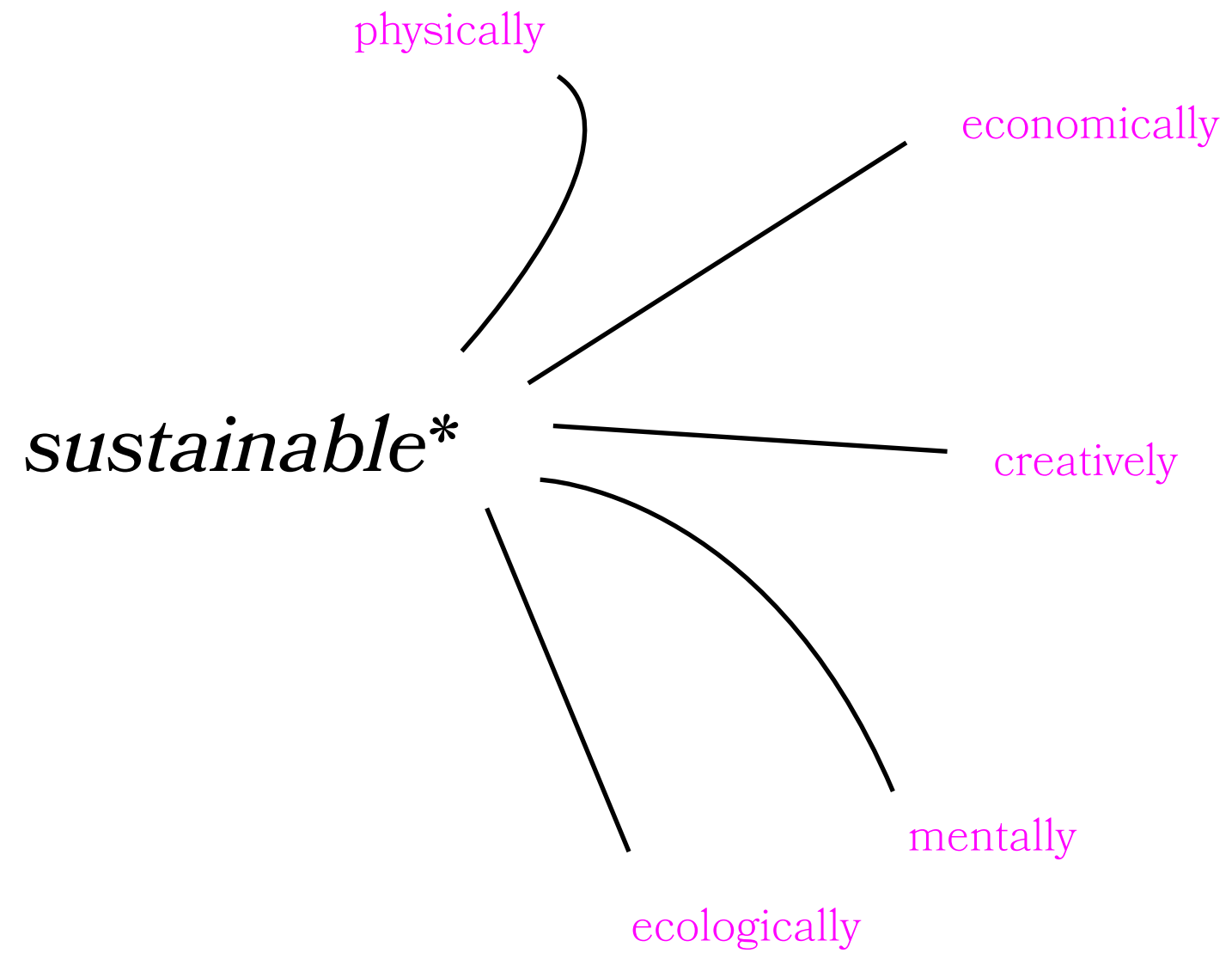


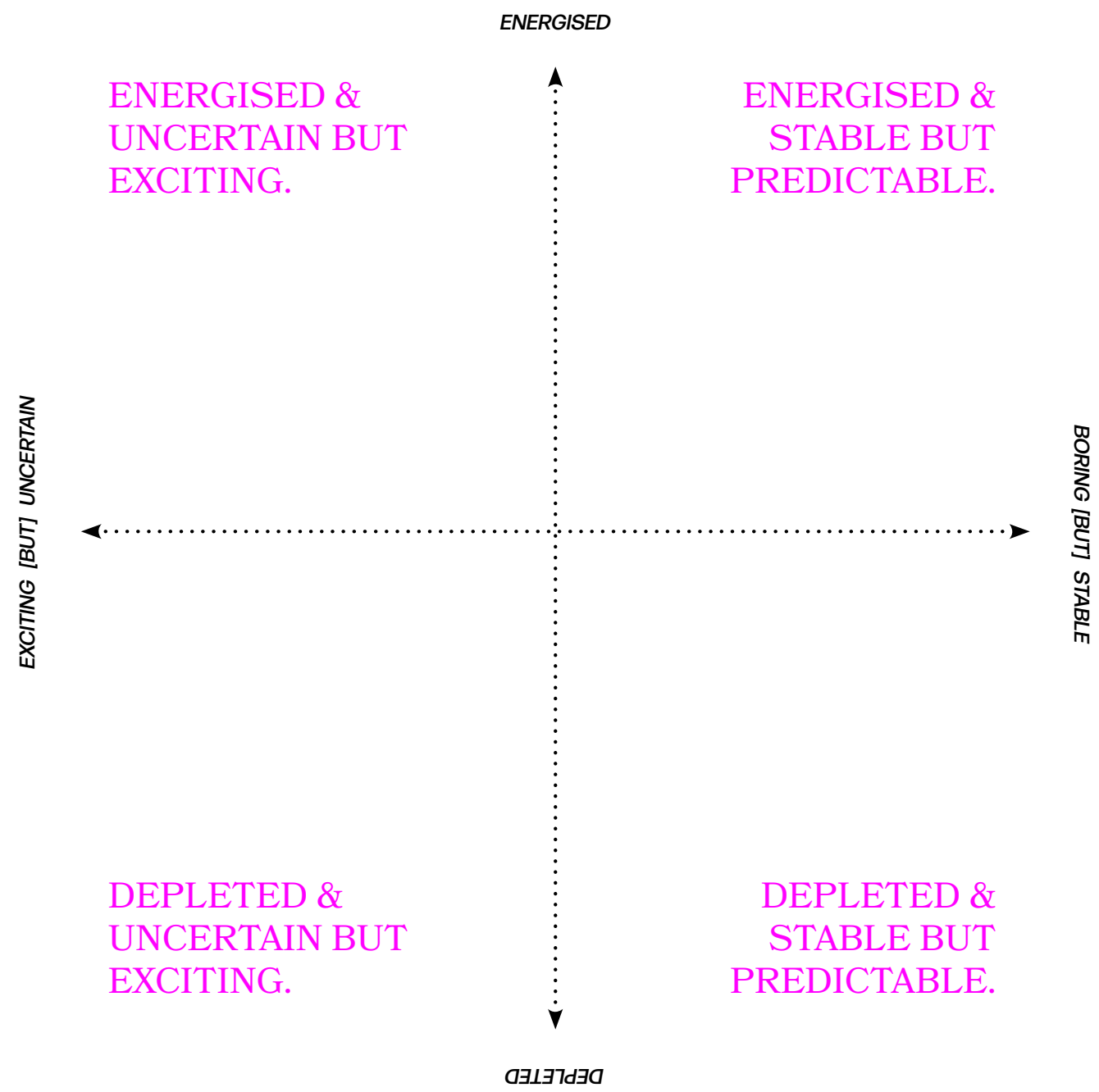
**Systemic**

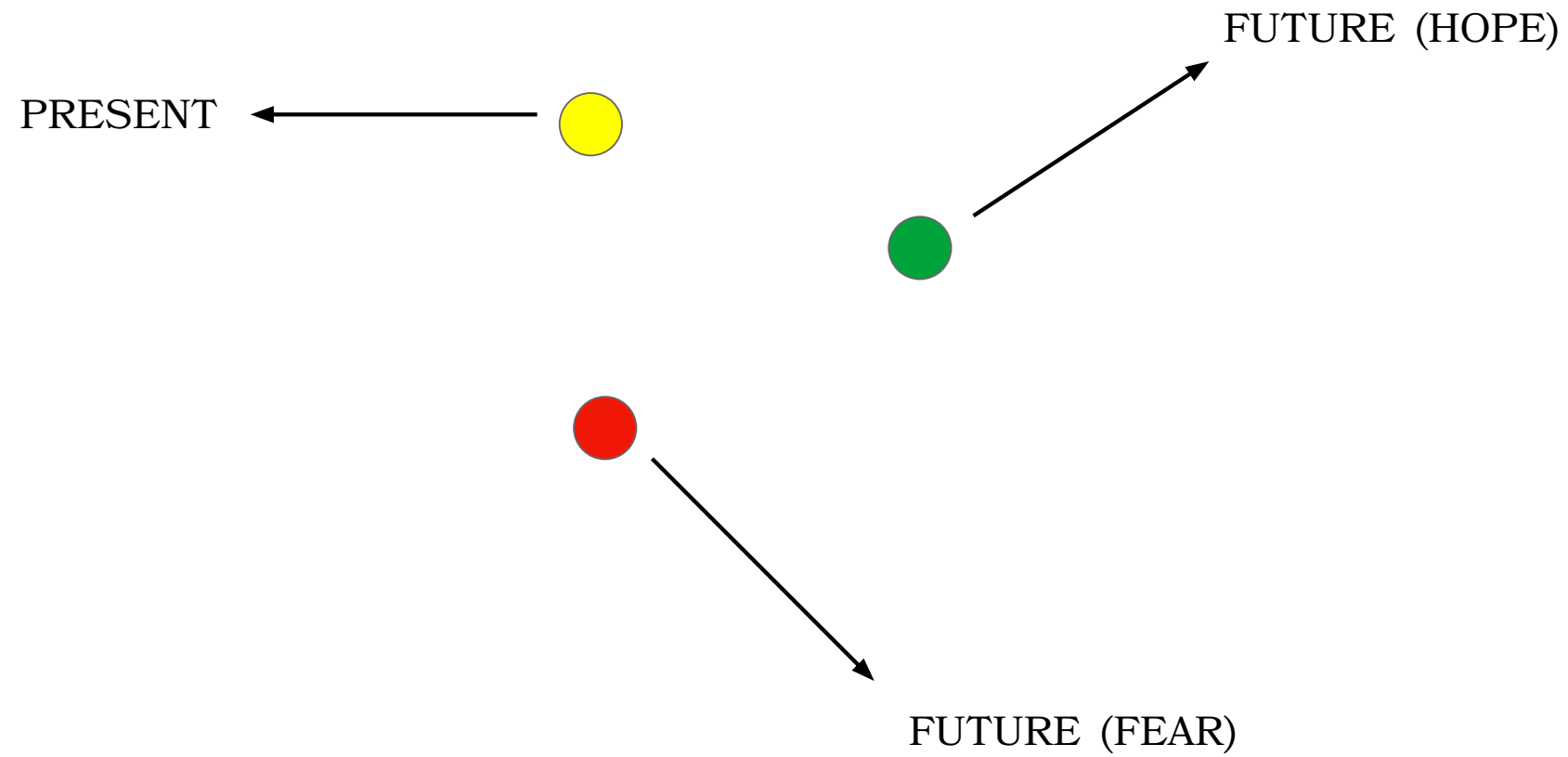
Perhaps connection and conversation might help us to cope? And allow us to be mutually supported, heard and maybe imagine alternatives to our current state of being?

How do we create spaces, common rooms of our own, with the limited resources we actually have access to? A room that can enable *sustainable*\* creative pursuit.









*\* DON'T FORGET TO MAKE NOTES ON THE WORKSHEET TO  
EXPLAIN YOUR PLOTTING!*

ENERGISED &  
UNCERTAIN BUT  
EXCITING.

ENERGISED &  
STABLE BUT  
PREDICTABLE.

*Lets discuss?*

DEPLETED &  
UNCERTAIN BUT  
EXCITING.

DEPLETED &  
STABLE BUT  
PREDICTABLE.

**1.**

READ YOUR EXCERPT.  
REFLECT & MAKE NOTES.

**5 MIN**

**2.**

TAKE TURNS TO DISCUSS YOUR EXCERPT  
WITH YOUR DIALOGUE PARTNER.  
MAKE NOTES.

**15 MIN**

**3.**

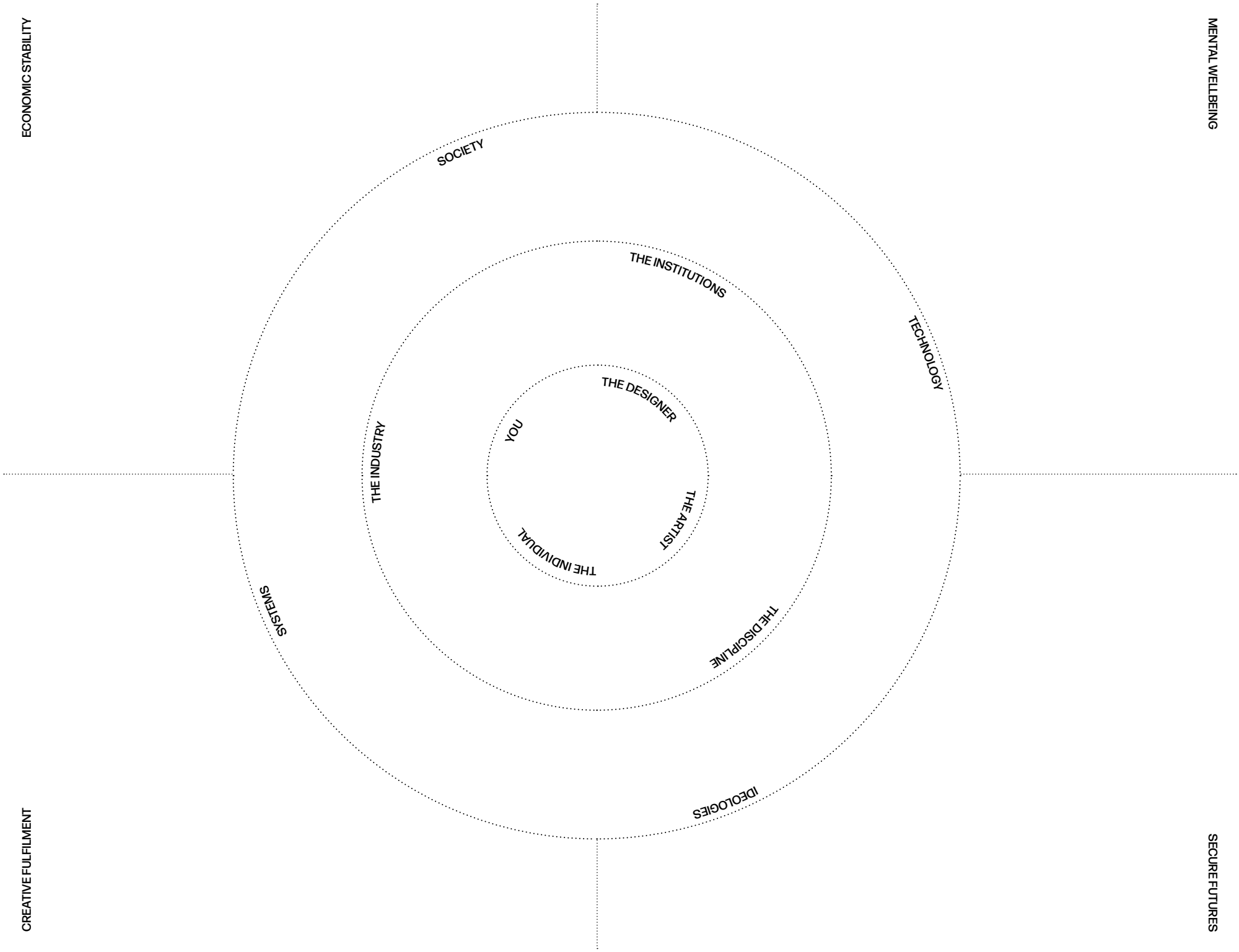
SHARING WITH THE GROUP.

**10 MIN**

***\* DON'T FORGET TO MAKE NOTES ON THE WORKSHEET TO  
HIGHLIGHT YOUR REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS!***

This task is all about creating a manifesto. One that allows you and a community of creative people, artists and designers around you to sustainably\* follow creative pursuit.

Think of this as a framework of values, guiding principles, demands, affirmations and goals that you - and perhaps others in The Common Room - can aim to work towards.



**COST OF LIVING CRISIS.**

THE COMMON ROOM : TASK 3

**INFINITE PROFIT GROWTH AS SOLE  
MOTIVATOR FOR PROGRESSION.**

**DEALING WITH BURNOUT.**

**MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES.**

**CREATIVE BLOCKS.**

ECONOMIC STABILITY

MENTAL WELLBEING

**CORPORATE DIGITAL PLATFORMS  
SUPPORTING THE FREELANCE  
ECONOMY**

**FORCED FREELANCING**

**HIGH UNIVERISTY FEES**

**PEER COMMUNITY, SUPPORT,  
MENTORS AND NETWORKS.**

**UNCERTAIN AND LIMITED ACCESS  
TO CREATIVE FUTURES**

**AUTOMATION, AI AND CREATIVE  
LABOUR**

**EMPLOYER EXPLOITATION &  
STAGNANT WAGES.**

**ART EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS RUN  
AS CORPORATE BUSINESSES.**

**FUNDING CUTS IN ARTS AND  
HUMANITIES**

**UNCERTAIN FUTURES. ECOLOGICAL  
COLLAPSE. WW3. ECONOMIC  
COLLAPSE. PANDEMICS.**

**IT'S EITHER COMMODIFICATION  
& SURVIVAL OR INNOVATION &  
FULLFILMENT. NEVER BOTH??**

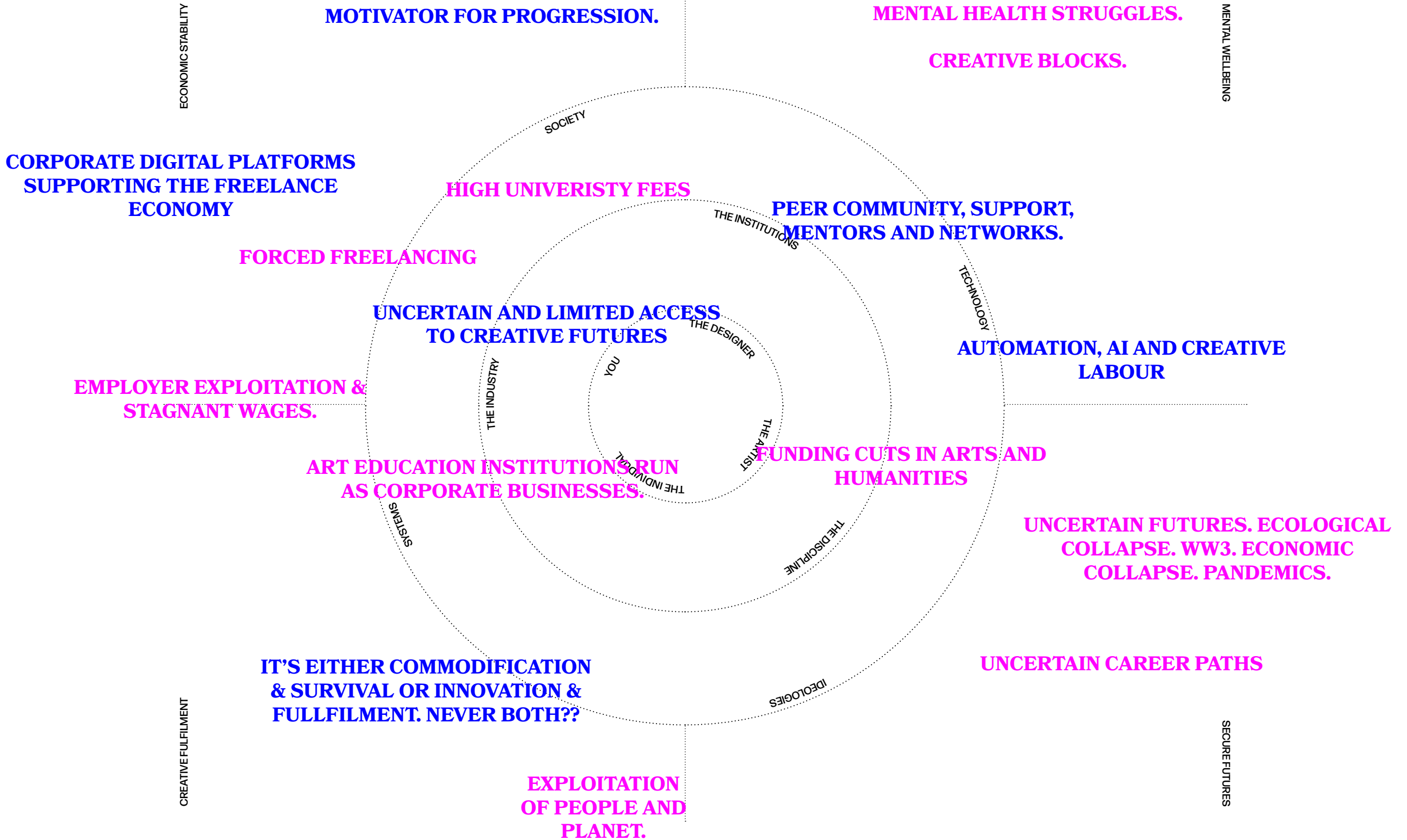
**UNCERTAIN CAREER PATHS**

**EXPLOITATION  
OF PEOPLE AND  
PLANET.**

CREATIVE FULFILMENT

SECURE FUTURES

THE MANIFESTO WORKSHEET





You will also find a collection of various manifestos alongside your worksheet. Choose three to four of these manifestos that resonate with you.

And perhaps even look for a couple of points that you disagree with?

Use them as a starting point. Don't lift points word for word. Think of this as a word collage. Combine, edit, cut, rephrase, re-write, subvert, contradict, oppose, replace, add, subtract, collate and paste.

Of course you can even make up your own points too! Maybe something from the discussion earlier prompted a thought?

Use the b&w worksheet as your rough collage surface. Once you've finalised your manifesto collage, copy your final points onto the riso worksheet.

Try to create between 3 to 5 manifesto points.

This task is all about creating a manifesto for yourself. One that allows **you and a community of creative people, artists and designers around you to sustainably\* follow creative pursuit.**

**Think of this as a framework of values, guiding principles, demands, affirmations and goals that you - and perhaps others in The Common Room - can aim to work towards.**

### General questions and prompts to get you thinking . . .

*What are your goals, ambitions and priorities?*

*What motivates you? What are your main intentions and beliefs?*

*What are the issues you are most frustrated by and hope to address through this manifesto?*

*What are the major obstacles you hope we might overcome?*

*What changes do you hope to see as a result of your point of view, demands, and goals being adopted?*

*Who else, apart from yourself, can this manifesto be relevant to?*

*What systemic and institutional powers do you hope to challenge, if any?*

*This doesn't have to be entirely positive. What is realistically achievable?*

*What are some limitations that need to be acknowledged?*

*What are some thing you absolutely reject? What are some things you inevitably must accept and work around?*

### Questions and prompts specific to creative pursuit . . .

*How do you prioritise between fulfilment and survival? How do you prioritise your mental well-being?*

*What are the conditions that lead to creating your best work? How do we achieve these conditions?*

*Do you think it is important to develop a critical practice? What are the barriers to pursuing critical practice? How do you balance the critical with the commercial?*

*Does creative practice have political value? In what capacity might it be able to create tangible change?*

*Is community important to creative practice? If so, why? Which communities do you hope to engage with / involve / collaborate with through your practice? What is the most effective way to involve others?*

*What is your position on the intersection of creative practice and Artificial Intelligence?*

*Employment vs. Freelance? Stability vs. Freedom?*

*What are the biggest threats to our future? WW3? Climate Collapse? Economic Collapse? What the fuck can we do about that through creative practice though?*

Take your postcard. On the back I would like you to write your name and a message to your future self.

What would you like to say to yourself a year from now? Where do you hope you will find yourself in a years time? What would you like to speak to your future self about?

I will take this message, and email you a copy of it exactly one year from now.

## THE COMMON ROOM



THE COMMON ROOM CONTINUES ... ?