

# THE MELTING PLATFORM: MATERIAL INTERACTIONS

## HELSINKI DESIGN RESIDENCY 2019

### Curatorial Statement

Substantive to the 21st century condition is the experience of a world in a state of liquefaction, both in the literal catastrophe of increasing global temperatures and in the decomposition of principal methodic, institutional, symbolic and contractual bases through rapid and incisive technological transformation.

However differently aligned, the forces of this dual crisis cross in a common center at the base of civilization: The re-mobilization of material as a sensitive, unstable actor and reactor. After centuries as a logistically homogenized and ecologically passivated resource in the domain of industry, the natural and practical substance of our world is no longer inert support, but a destabilizing variable that once again places human practice together with its technical instruments and natural surroundings in a single web of consequential entanglement.

The Helsinki Design Residency 2019 invites practitioners with working focuses in design, architecture, urbanism and neighboring fields to critically and practically study material as a sensitive and agentive force in all media and scales between the geological and digital.

Possible research stimuli may include, but are not limited to:

- Material as willful actors and the role of material symmetries, leverages, inertiae, viscosities, granulations, speeds, etc. in shaping notions of time, space, process or participation
- Approaches to design emphasizing reciprocity over solution
- Convenience, bias and habit as material deformaters of human practice
- “Dematerialization,” the intangibility of material and the sensuousness of virtual things
- Intermateriality and transmateriality in the hybrid zones of digital experimentation