

# OPEN CALL Touching Grass

We say nature heals. We say “touch the grass”. Nature softens the weight we carry, the invisible heaviness of anxiety, fear, sadness, feelings that we carry around. When you are feeling overwhelmed, down, anxious, or depressed, when everything feels too much, going into nature – touching trees and plants, swimming in the icy cold water, being away from people, disappearing – often brings relief, but it’s not just nature itself that heals and soothes us. In nature, there are no social expectations, no roles, no norms. There are no names, no pronouns, no right ways to behave. Nature offers freedom – from performance, from rules. It allows space to be who we are. Who we want to be. Who we are becoming. Who we imagine ourselves to be. A man, a woman, a person, a living body. Alone and in tune with oneself. No one needs to call a name and it’s enough to just be.

Can we become “one with nature“ again? Have we ever been separated? Do we want to be? Nature has long been seen as a healer, a parent, a caretaker, an infinite giver – do you remember the children’s story “The Giving Tree”? – but we are or can be a part of nature too – see it as our equal, a friend, a lover. Nature cares for us, can we take care of it in return? Can we meet it as our equal?

Our one-day exhibition Touching Grass will take place in the woods. Woods and forests have long been filled with mythical creatures, spirits, monsters, fairies, talking animals, and magic. Are we allowed there? Fairytales and myths from many cultures take place in the woods. What's nature's role in the city culture today? Why are we yearning to go into nature? What do we feel in the woods? What can we experience there? Let's go and find out.

The exhibition is a community-based, non-hierarchical event, taking place on **August 29th** (exact location TBA).

We welcome submissions in all artistic media. In particular, we encourage proposals for happenings, performances, lectures, and other experimental forms. Please note that as the exhibition takes place outdoors, we unfortunately cannot guarantee the full safety of physical artworks.

To apply, please send us a short description of your work or idea, along with photos or links if available. We strongly encourage all participants to be present at the event to help us find the most suitable placement for your work. If you're unable to attend, just let us know – we'll do our best to find a good solution together.

**Submissions are welcome until August 1st.**

**Please submit your application to:**  
**[touching.grass.exhibition@gmail.com](mailto:touching.grass.exhibition@gmail.com) with the subject**  
**“Open call application”.**

**Warmly,**  
**Elias & Jona**