



## AEC Talk 2 — The krisis of international arts – towards a translocal mode of thought — Errol Boon

This lecture takes the recent crisis caused by the coronavirus as an occasion to reset our view on internationalisation in the arts, so that we can prepare students for the challenges of a globalised cultural sector. I argue that, in our present age, it is time to approach artistic internationalisation radically different than we have done for centuries. The **'turning point'** (κρίσις) comes down to the fact that, as a consequence of globalisation, internationalisation should no longer be seen as an ideality to strive for, but can only be adequately understood as an inescapable reality to anticipate on. Throughout this lecture, I will explain this 'turning point' (κρίσις) in three steps: from past promises to present challenges and future solutions. First, I will go into the historical promise wedded to artistic internationalisation and show how, for centuries, the value of internationalisation was ethically grounded in the ideal of cosmopolitanism. Secondly, I will show how this cosmopolitan ideal is problematised rather than realised by the present globalisation. I will do this by mapping out two groups of current challenges for artists and cultural workers: the first group I call instances of 'pseudocosmopolitanism'; the second group, the 'broken promises of the global village'. At last, in order to re-establish the justification of working abroad and to reformulate our cosmopolitan ambitions in ways that address the moral and artistic challenges of globalisation, I propose the general notion of **translocality as this new ideal**. With this broad term, I refer to various ways in which artists and cultural workers aim to **connect global ambitions with local activities** so that they are oriented to other parts of the world in and through their locality. I leave this new ideal rather open in theory so that artists and cultural workers can concretise it in practice.



**Errol Boon** is a philosopher working as a lecturer at University of Arts Utrecht, and as a researcher and curator in the cultural sector. His work is about various fundamental themes concerning art and society, mainly centring around two topics: (1) internationalisation of the arts (cultural globalisation, artistic censorship, fair international cultural cooperation, cosmopolitanism); (2) the cognitive potentiality of art (artistic truth, aesthetic cognitivism, artistic research, artistic thinking, artistic epistemology). His background is in ancient and continental philosophy. Currently, Errol Boon works as Lecturer International Arts and Research / Artistic Thinking for the Utrecht University of the Arts and as Researcher at the Cultural Participation Fund.