



Cumulus Newsletter • February 2022

President's Message

Upholding our Cumulus Values

The world around us has turned increasingly dark. The breakdown of diplomatic efforts with the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the threat to its sovereignty is producing shockwaves of international condemnation at a scale we have not seen in a long time.

As Cumulus we are a global community fundamentally aligned with the United Nations charter. We have been coming together across borders to share knowledge, to acknowledge our plurality, and to work through our commonalities and our differences for more than thirty years now. Our association's values are about cooperation, dialogue and the aspiration to shape a better world through the multiplicity of our creatives practices and the agency of art and design education and research. These values are ingrained in the DNA of Cumulus since its founding. They keep us true, they keep us inspired, and they keep us together.

In her classic text "Reflections on Violence" (1969), Hannah Arendt, one of the most influential philosophers of the 20th century, wrote that *"all practice of violence, like all action, changes the world, but the most probable change is a more violent world."* Today, this is a more violent world we are living in, one where we are bracing for more pain and for more conflict.

To all of our Cumulus member institutions who are affected by this war, and especially colleagues and students unwillingly and directly impacted, we extend along with our Secretariat team and my colleagues in our Executive Board, sincere wishes for strength. May everyone be sustained by the support and friendship of our global family.

Peace to all,

Mariana

Mariana Amatullo, PhD

President, Cumulus

Associate Professor, Strategic Design and Management, Parsons

Vice Provost for Global Executive Education and Online Strategic Initiatives,

The New School