

**INLAND -
CAMPO ADENTRO
RESEARCH-CREATION
EVALUATION**



Research–Creation and Territorial Impacts

Transformative Territories Programme (2024–2025)

Host organisation: Inland

Site: Inland Village, Northern Spain

Type of territory: Atlantic rural/mountain context under land–use pressure (forestry monocultures, fire risk) and agro–pastoral transition

Research–Creation projects evaluated:

1. THINK A FOREST – Regenerative System 2 (Sergio Bravo, May–June 2025)

2. From Mountain to Mountain (Martha Fely, November 2024)

1. Project Overview and Territorial Context

Within Transformative Territories, Inland delivered two complementary research-creation residencies in 2024–2025 at Inland Village, designed to interweave artistic inquiry, environmental sciences, and situated local knowledge. Both projects addressed the territorial question of ecological transition in rural contexts, but through distinct entry points: (1) forest ecology and land-use governance under monoculture pressure; (2) pastoralism and cheesemaking as living knowledge systems for territorial resilience.

THINK A FOREST – Regenerative System 2 by designer-researcher Sergio Bravo focused on the ecological and socio-political challenges associated with eucalyptus monoculture and the heightened risk of forest fires. The residency culminated in the construction of a Forest Pavilion, conceived as a mountain-hut-like structure for learning, observation, and ecological imagination. Bravo's practice bridges participatory design, critical making, and community-based research; he is a PhD candidate at Umeå University (Institute of Design) and has a background in design education and architectural thinking.

From Mountain to Mountain by artist-shepherdess Martha Fely centred on reciprocal knowledge exchange rooted in pastoralism and local cheesemaking. Through immersion in the Food Lab / Dairy at Inland Village, she explored how Pyrenean techniques and French mountain pastoral knowledge could converse with local practices, illuminating the cultural and ecological value of rural know-how in transition. Fely graduated from ESAC Clermont-Ferrand (2023) and develops a materially attentive practice translating agricultural skills and land-based techniques into artistic research.

Both residencies were funded within the allocated work package resources. While the available framework was sufficient to deliver both projects successfully, Inland identifies the need for additional resources in subsequent phases to consolidate continuity—particularly because the time-horizons of forest regeneration and rural knowledge transmission extend well beyond the residency format.

2. Timeline, Methodology, and Territorial Diagnosis

The two residencies were intentionally positioned within Inland's longer territorial engagement (notably through the Shepherds School and ongoing rural alliances). This continuity enabled the projects to operate not as isolated artistic "insertions," but as iterative contributions to an existing ecology of practices.

2.1 SERGIO BRAVO (MAY–JUNE 2025): DIAGNOSIS THROUGH FIELDWORK AND CROSS-EXPERTISE

Bravo's diagnostic entry point was the eucalyptus forest surrounding Inland Village, a monoculture with documented ecological impacts and a complex political history (including expansion through past forestry policies). The diagnostic approach was not a purely technical assessment; instead, it mobilised multiple forms of evidence and attention:

- field research and observation in the forest,
- collaboration with forestry engineer Álvaro Poo,
- exchanges with artist-researcher and designer Lily McCraith,
- ethnobotanical mapping and attention to local species/practices,
- review of existing land-use dynamics and policy logics.

A key methodological feature was the deliberate blending of scientific analysis, local knowledge, and participatory design inquiry—translated into learning situations and hands-on experimentation through Inland Academy sessions. The diagnosis therefore became an embodied and shared process rather than an expert report.

2.2 MARTHA FELY (NOVEMBER 2024): DIAGNOSIS THROUGH SOCIO-TECHNICAL IMMERSION IN FOOD INFRASTRUCTURES

Fely began with texts and reports on the territory (including the history of relationships between the National Park and shepherds), followed by field visits to summer pastures and conversations with locals about the challenges of maintaining a productive landscape across multiple land uses. Her primary “reference space” was the Food Lab / Dairy, where she worked within an existing lactic culture and production infrastructure, and connected it to her own pastoral knowledge from French mountain contexts.

The diagnosis, here, was situated within everyday practice: understanding constraints, rhythms, and tacit know-how embedded in cheesemaking and pastoral organisation. The residency's research question became practical: how can reciprocal exchange across mountain cultures help re-value and regenerate territorial practices under transition?

3. Transformative Intention and Intervention (R / P / S)

Across both residencies, Inland's intent was to produce effects that are simultaneously symbolic (imaginaries, language), practical (gestures, routines), and structural (coalitions, new cooperation channels), in line with the Transformative Territories framework.

3.1 THINK A FOREST – REGENERATIVE SYSTEM 2 (SERGIO BRAVO)

Transforming representations:

Bravo's work reframed the eucalyptus forest from a “background landscape” into a contested ecological and political assemblage—making visible the links between monoculture, fire risk, biodiversity loss, and institutional/economic logics. By translating scientific and local knowledge into collective learning situations, the project shifted how participants perceived the forest: not as a static resource but as an arena of choices, histories, and possible futures.

Transforming practices:

Through Inland Academy-linked workshops and experiments (e.g., guided forest walks; material processes such as papermaking; chromatography; sample collection and pigment testing), participants enacted alternative ways of relating to the forest—observational, investigative, and speculative rather than extractive. A particularly notable practice was the transformation of a policy document (Forestry Policy Annual Plan) into handmade paper pulp, turning policy into material inquiry and opening discussion about governance and land-use narratives.

Transforming structures:

The Forest Pavilion constitutes a durable infrastructural trace and a structural lever: a space embedded in the forest that can host future workshops, stays, and collective sessions on forest transition. While not a governance reform, it functions as an enabling device that stabilises a long-term learning public around forest regeneration—a key requirement given that forest transformation unfolds over 20–30 years.

3.2 FROM MOUNTAIN TO MOUNTAIN (MARTHA FELY)

Transforming representations:

By treating cheesemaking and pastoralism as knowledge systems rather than folklore, Fely's work strengthened recognition of everyday agro-pastoral practices as crucial to ecological transition. The residency reframed the dairy not merely as production infrastructure but as a site of cultural memory, technique, and territorial negotiation.

Transforming practices:

Fely engaged in several stages of local cheesemaking, working with Inland team member Guillermo and food policy researcher Seanna Johnston to rethink recipes and processes through cross-mountain exchange. The intervention took the form of edible experimentations: cheese productions that were later tasted and shared across Inland's social contexts. Here, the "work" was inseparable from doing—learning in the act, adjusting through feedback, and translating technique into shared experience.

Transforming structures:

Although more subtle than in Bravo's case, structural effects lie in the reinforcement of Inland's Food Lab as a platform for ongoing collaboration with rural actors and partner organisations. The circulation of the cheeses beyond the residency (e.g., shared with partner gatherings) indicates that the work can function as a relational object sustaining alliances and narrative continuity across territories.

4. Publics, Co-Creation, and Territorial Alliances

Both residencies aimed to activate co-creation, but with different publics and intensities.

4.1 Sergio Bravo: a collaborative research space (≈20 participants)

Bravo's residency explicitly took the form of a collaborative research environment within Inland Academy at Inland Village. Approximately 20 participants engaged across multiple days and exercises. Participants spanned artists, seed savers, forestry engineers, and local actors. Public moments included:

- a guided forest walk and conversation with native forest regeneration advocates,

- workshops in papermaking and chromatography,
- collective construction of the Forest Pavilion (≈20 people involved).

This format aligned with a Deweyan conception of the public: participants were not audiences but co-investigators formed around the shared issue of “How to think a forest?” The process produced not only outputs but a temporary coalition of competence.

Alliances were strengthened with local actors central to the ecological transition question, notably Proyecto Roble, a grassroots association working on fire risk and rural resilience. The collaboration functioned as mutual reinforcement: Proyecto Roble contributed situated practice and legitimacy; Bravo brought critical inquiry and design methods that opened a reflective space for shared strategic imagination.

4.2 Martha Fely: focused case study and knowledge transfer

Fely's residency concentrated on a more targeted public: intensive collaboration with Inland's cheesemaking practice and key individuals (Guillermo; Seanna Johnston), plus tasting/sharing moments with Inland's broader network. The public, here, is partly constituted through circulation—how cheeses, stories, and techniques travel into gatherings and partner organisations, extending impact beyond the immediate residency period.

Inland's long-term territorial work (including the Shepherds School and young shepherds gatherings) provides an existing alliance infrastructure through which Fely's contributions can become a point of departure for future programming (e.g., the continuation of gatherings and knowledge exchange in 2025).

5. Research–Creation Effects and Evaluation

Both residencies meet the criteria of research-creation as defined by Transformative Territories: knowledge is produced through situated practice, iterative experimentation, and cross-disciplinary exchange, with artists simultaneously teaching and learning.

Symbolic effects:

- Bravo: reframing eucalyptus monoculture as a legible ecological-political problem; generating shared perspectives and a language of transition.
- Fely: increasing the cultural and political value of agro-pastoral know-how; repositioning the dairy as a site of transition knowledge.

Relational / organisational effects:

- New collaboration channels between Inland, scientific experts, local grassroots associations, and academy participants (Bravo).
- Reinforced cooperation within Inland's Food Lab and external partner networks through circulation of products and narratives (Fely).

Material / ecological effects:

- Bravo: the Forest Pavilion physically transforms a forest site into a durable learning infrastructure and anchoring point for long-term transition work.
- Fely: cheese production activates local ecological rhythms (milk, flock, microbial cultures) and yields tangible outcomes that can circulate and maintain alliances.

Evaluation approach:

Evaluation was embedded within the process: workshops, iterative experiments, shared tastings, and collective building moments functioned as continuous feedback structures. The relevant question was not only “what was produced?” but “what capacities and alliances were strengthened?” and “what devices remain to carry learning forward?”—a framing consistent with evaluation-as-inquiry rather than audit.

6. Legacy, Continuity, and Transferability

Sergio Bravo – legacy:

The Forest Pavilion remains as a permanent micro-architectural structure within the eucalyptus forest, enabling ongoing workshops, stays, and collaborative sessions on forest transition. It offers a replicable model: a lightweight, context-sensitive “learning hut” that stabilises collective attention over long ecological timescales.

Martha Fely – legacy:

What remains is both knowledge and circulation. The residency strengthened local cheesemaking practice through exchange, and produced a food product that continued to be shared with partner organisations and gatherings after the residency. The methodology—co-producing within existing food infrastructures, valuing tacit knowledge, and using taste/sharing as a public format—can be transferred to other rural contexts seeking to regenerate territorial identity through food practices.

Transferability:

- Bravo’s approach is transferable to territories facing monoculture pressures, fire risk, and biodiversity loss: combine cross-expertise diagnosis with a durable learning infrastructure that hosts long-term publics.
- Fely’s approach transfers to rural transition contexts where artisanal food and pastoral knowledge can act as catalysts for resilience, value creation, and social cohesion.

Needs for consolidation:

Given the long duration of forest regeneration and the slow work of rural knowledge transmission, Inland identifies additional funding as a key factor to sustain continuity beyond residency timelines, maintain alliances, and expand the capacity for follow-up phases.



THE TRANSFORMATIVE TERRITORIES PROGRAMME

Transformative territories: Performing Transition through the Arts is a **European laboratory uniting a network of actors and artists who work to promote new ways of inhabiting the Earth.** Throughout the duration of the program, over a dozen field experiments combining **arts, sciences, and citizen participation, collective experiences, artistic performances, exhibitions, educational actions, training sessions, and meetings** will bring together artists, thinkers, farmers, scientists, political actors, cultural project leaders, and local and European citizens to **demonstrate the potential of culture-based solutions in transforming territories.**

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