



Liam Young & Kate Davies - Rare Earthenware, 2015. Photo: Toby Smith

TRANSITIONING TO A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

THE SOCIAL LICENSE TO OPERATE FOR MINING AND RECYCLING OF CRITICAL METALS

WED 21 FEB – 9:30 - 18:00 – STUK, LEUVEN, BELGIUM

A one-day symposium on the Social License to Operate with respect to critical metals.

The paradox between the importance of critical metals for the transition to a low-carbon, cleantech-based economy on the one hand and the negative image of the primary mining industry on the other hand prompts us to ask:

How can the primary mining sector clean up its act in and outside Europe? Is responsible mining a pipe dream? How can mining companies obtain and maintain a Social License to Operate? Which interaction is required between industry, policy makers, civil society and local communities? What is the relation between primary mining of critical metals and recycling of End-of-Life products? Which policies are required in Europe to support the recycling industry and how does this relate to the Circular Economy vision? Should we look at our industrial landfills in Europe to recover critical metals from previously dumped, critical metal-containing mining waste and industrial process residues (i.e. Enhanced Landfill Mining)?

This symposium takes place in the context of the exhibition and festival Artefact 2018: *This Rare Earth – Stories from Below* and will offer the participants the opportunity to also experience the unique, rare-earth related artwork that will be exhibited.

With keynotes by a.o. **Egbert Lox** (Umicore & EIT RawMaterials) and **Leida Rijnhout** (Friends of the Earth Europe) and panel contributions by a.o. **Bart Blanpain** (KU Leuven), **Kostas Komnitsas** (EU METGROW+) & **Karel Van Acker** (EIT RawMaterials). Moderated by **Dirk Draulans**.

Registration required – More info soon.

ORGANISED BY: STUK, SIM² KU LEUVEN, KU LEUVEN CULTURE OFFICE, I-CLEANTECH VLAANDEREN, EIT RAWMATERIALS, EU METGROW+, LEUVEN 2030 – AN INITIATIVE OF THE PROVINCE OF FLEMISH BRABANT