

# TOOLS FOR UNCERTAINTY

By The Editors

**W**ords have power – they can define, they can hurt, and they can compel action. Words can also have meaning and function beyond their intended use - like using a lighter to open a bottle. In these ways, words are tools. Inspired by Beta-Local’s exploration of the concepts of “common wealth” and “common debt,” we developed a set of “tools” central to the ideas of a commonwealth -- common words that unlock, intrigue, and challenge our thinking. By exploring the depth and power of these words, we deepen our understanding about what we all have in common.



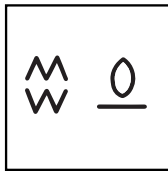
COLONIZE



RESOURCES



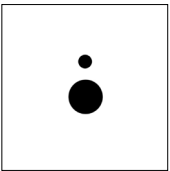
POWER



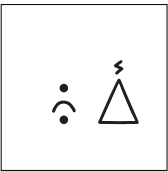
PAYBACK



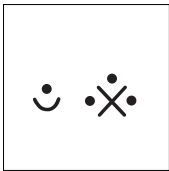
WATER



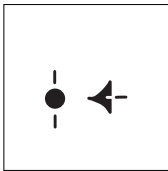
SPACE



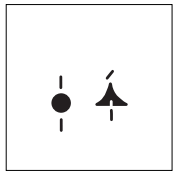
ACCOUNTABILITY



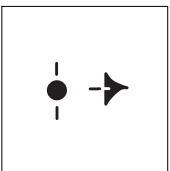
ENERGY



PAST



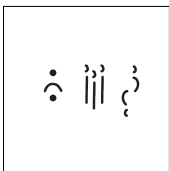
PRESENT



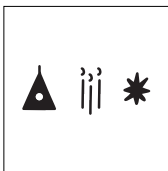
FUTURE



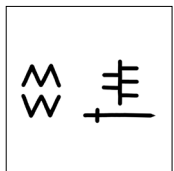
PUBLIC



INTERDEPENDENCE



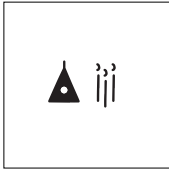
GENERATION



RESISTANCE



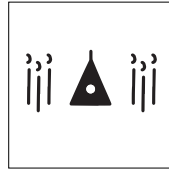
RECONCILE



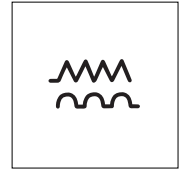
COLLECTIVITY



WEALTH



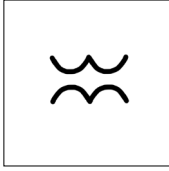
NEIGHBORS



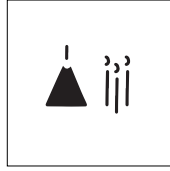
CURRENTS



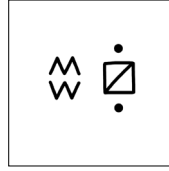
CURRENCY



COMMON



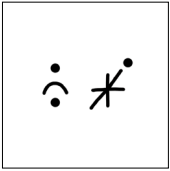
BANDA



DEBT



INDIVIDUAL



EDUCATION



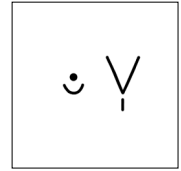
CRACK / FISSURE



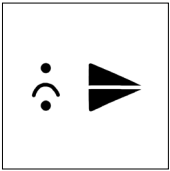
TRACE



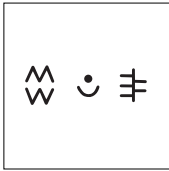
EMPATHY



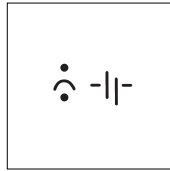
SUDOR



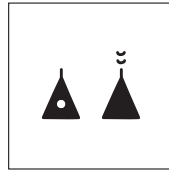
ACCESS



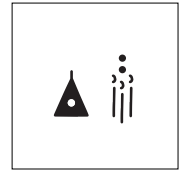
WEAPONS



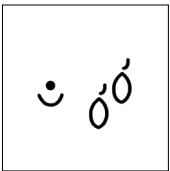
BOUNDARIES



COMMUNITY



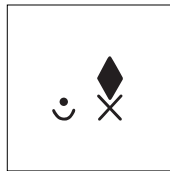
FAMILY



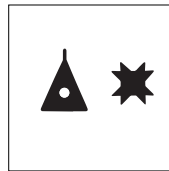
FOOD



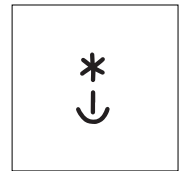
GENTRIFICATION



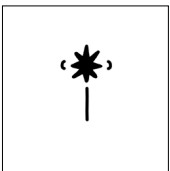
INFRASTRUCTURE



INSTITUTIONS



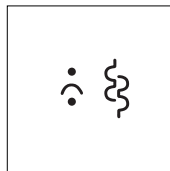
KNOWLEDGE



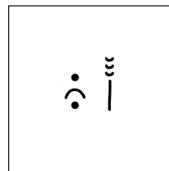
LOVE



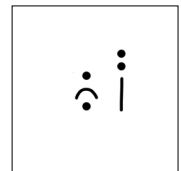
PEOPLE



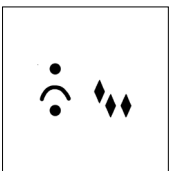
SAFETY



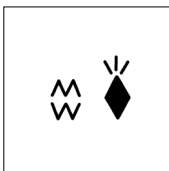
MEMORY



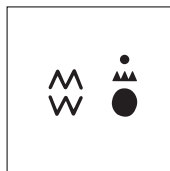
EXPERIENCE



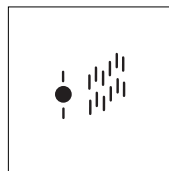
VALUES



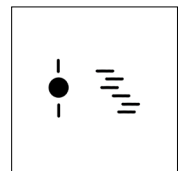
PROMISE



SOVEREIGNTY



PERMANENT



TEMPORARY



**SUSTAINABLE**



**IMAGINATION**



**SHADOW**

*Commonwealth* is organized and curated by Beta-Local co-directors Pablo Guardiola, Michael Linares, and nibia pastrana santiago and former co-director Sofía Gallisá Muriente; ICA at VCU Chief Curator Stephanie Smith; Noah Simblist, Chair of Painting + Printmaking at VCUarts; and Kerry Bickford, Director of Programs, Nicole Pollard, Program Coordinator and Nato Thompson, Sueyun and Gene Locks Artistic Director at Philadelphia Contemporary.

COMMONWEALTHS.ART

