

Ever since I participated in the project of Chapter Freedom, I see the concept of freedom everywhere. Call it Attentional Bias, but I hear people talking about freedom all the time now. This week in class for instance, I learned about Nobel-prize winning Indian economist and philosopher Amartya Sen. About how he distinguishes several kinds of freedoms. Political freedoms, economic facilities, transparency guarantees, protective security and social opportunities. To speak quite frankly, we, participants of Chapter Freedom, could have come up with this ourselves. In fact, we did. We talked about what it means to be free politically, but also internally. We discussed individual freedom and societal freedom, and in relation to that, we spoke about the values that are important in our eyes, such as empathy, solidarity, diversity.

During those days in September, my head was full of chaos. All those topics blended into each other. I could tell you that, at the end of our stay at LaBiomista, I came to a conclusion about what freedom means to me. But that would be lying. Freedom seems an insolvable riddle, a paradox. As freedom without limitations does not exist. As it is not quantifiable. It seems to be something elastic. It can shrink and it can evaporate, it can burst even.

What I can tell you, without having to lie, is that I have learned a lot from the conversations. And even though it was chaotic, and even though we didn't come up with rigid definitions or one final conclusion, we all agreed upon the importance of education, art and dialogue.

Koen Vanmechelen tried to materialise chaos in the form of art, something that is not easy and differs from person to person. However, having this sculpture here does make us think collectively about the concepts of freedom and chaos. I hope that this encourages students to do the same challenging thinking exercise we did, to question the world they live in and to dream the best possible future.

In name of all the participants, I would like to thank the VUB and Koen Vanmechelen for this opportunity, this social experiment, that brought us closer to grasping the concept of freedom, to solving the riddle. I would like to end with the words of Angela Davis. In her book *The Meaning of Freedom*, she writes:

*Wherever I am, whatever I happen to be doing, I try to feel connected to futures that are only possible through struggle. So I want to begin by suggesting that whoever you are, whether you are a student, a teacher, a worker, a person involved in your church, an artist, there are always ways to gear your work toward progressive, radical transformation.*

Thank you.