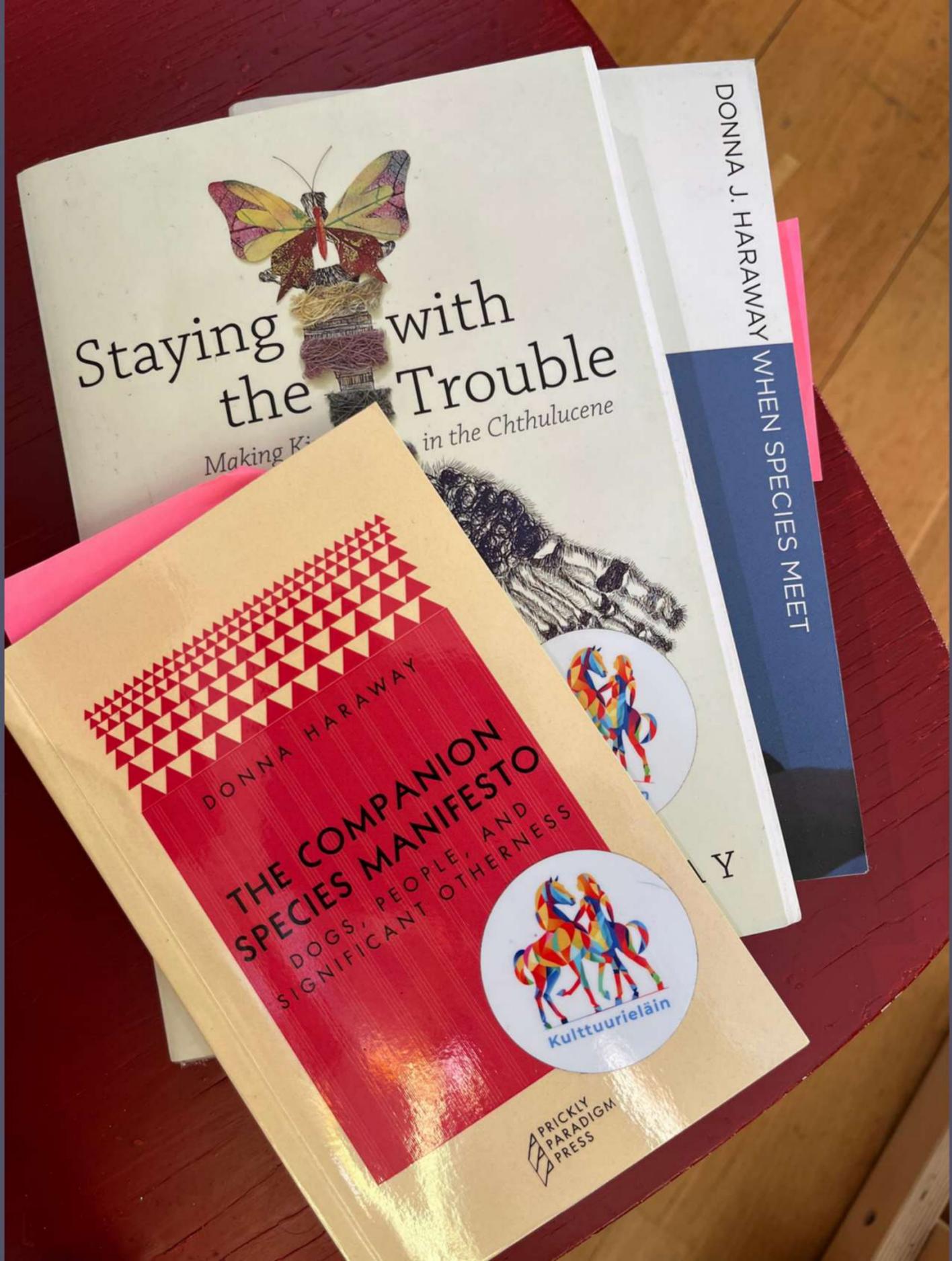


The image features a central text overlay on a light beige background. The text is in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. On the left side of the image, there is a vertical strip showing a close-up of two small, dark, textured objects, possibly made of wood or stone, resting on a mossy rock surface. On the right side, there is another vertical strip showing a close-up of a rough, textured rock surface. The overall composition is balanced and visually appealing.

# MAKING KIN WITH MATERIALS

**Oona Tikkaaja**

**19.2.2026**

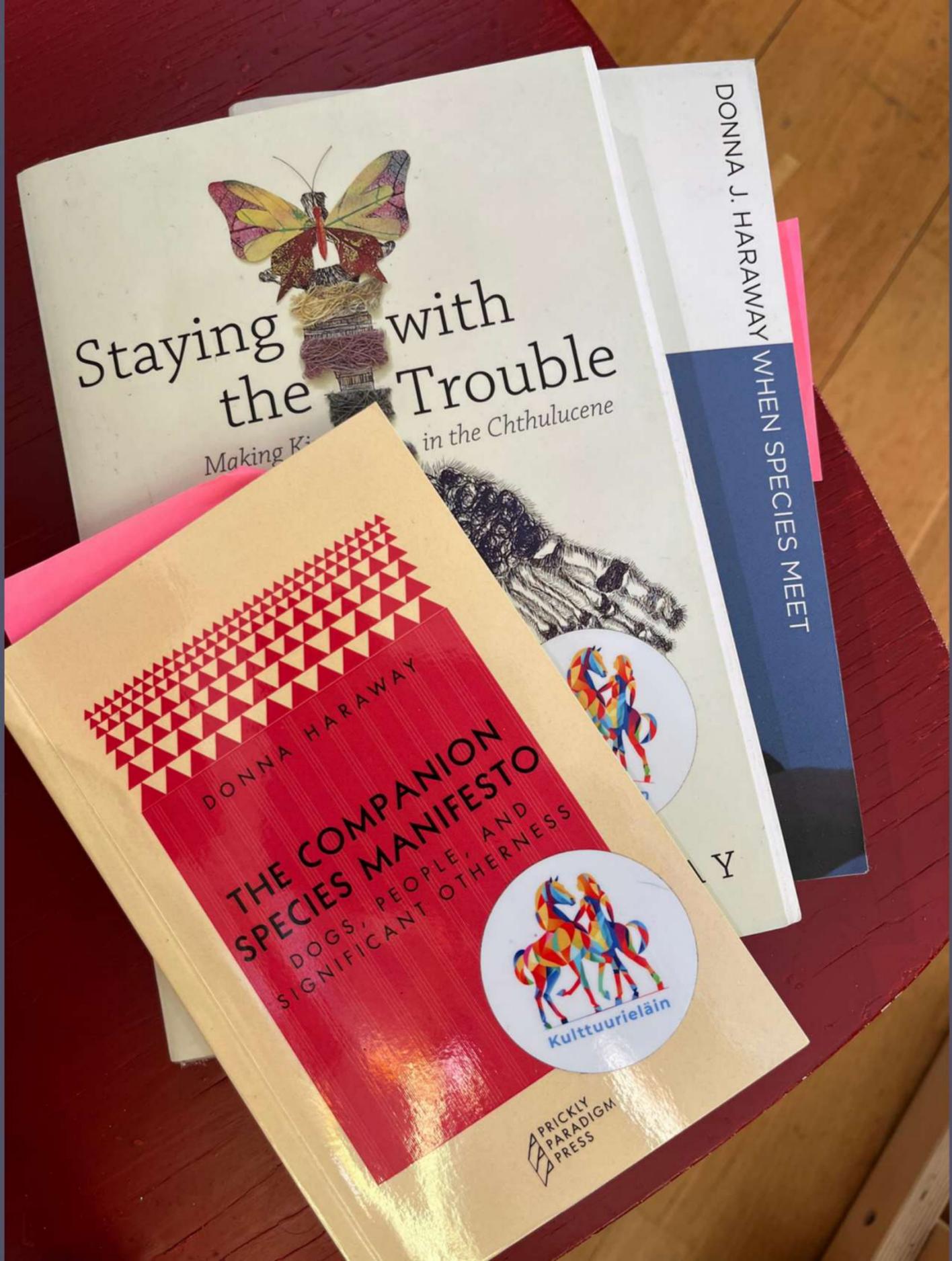


Donna Haraway

# MAKING KIN

"The task is to make kin in lines of inventive connection as a practice of learning to live and die well with each other in a thick present."

Haraway (2016) *Staying with the Trouble*, p.1



# STAYING WITH THE TROUBLE

One possibility is that we simply cease to exist as a species, but if we don't want to make such a dramatic choice, we must "stay with the trouble" and examine the effects of our actions critically.

> and act responsibly

# KINSHIP VS. RESOURCE USE

**Building an accountable relationship  
instead of one-sided utilization**

**> How kinship thinking could  
benefit circular transition?**



# TAKING SERIOUSLY OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

**Our current crisis stems partly from breaking kinship ties with the more-than-human world.**





# WHAT KINSHIP WITH MATERIALS MEANS?

- **Entanglement**
- **Obligation and reciprocity**
- **Listening to the material**

# ENTANGLEMENT

**You're never working alone.**

**Every material connects the maker  
backward and forward through  
webs of relationship.**



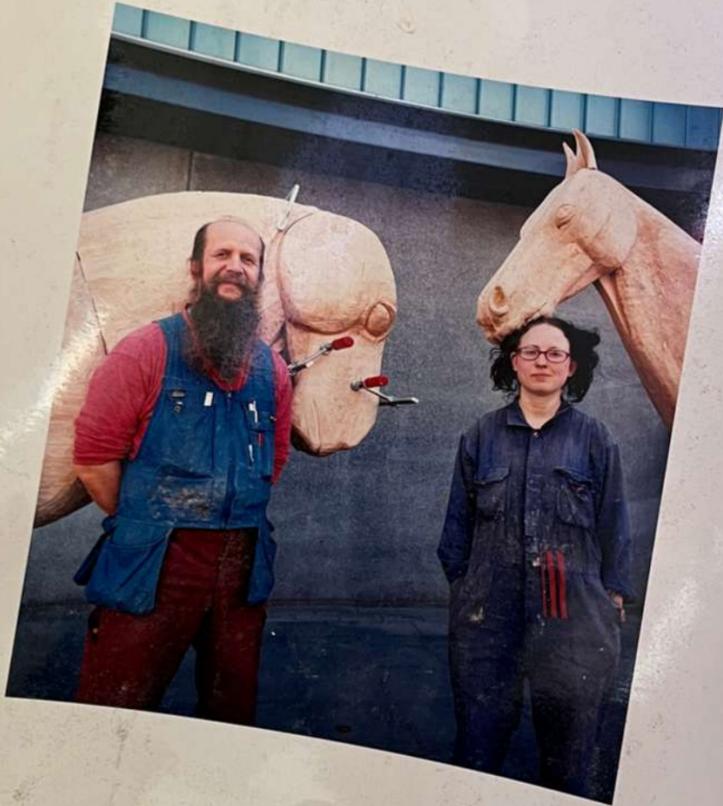


# WOUNDS IN MATERIALS

conflict minerals, stolen Indigenous knowledge, plantation systems...

**Kinship means facing these histories, not abstracting them into "supply chain issues."**

# OBLIGATION & RECIPROCITY



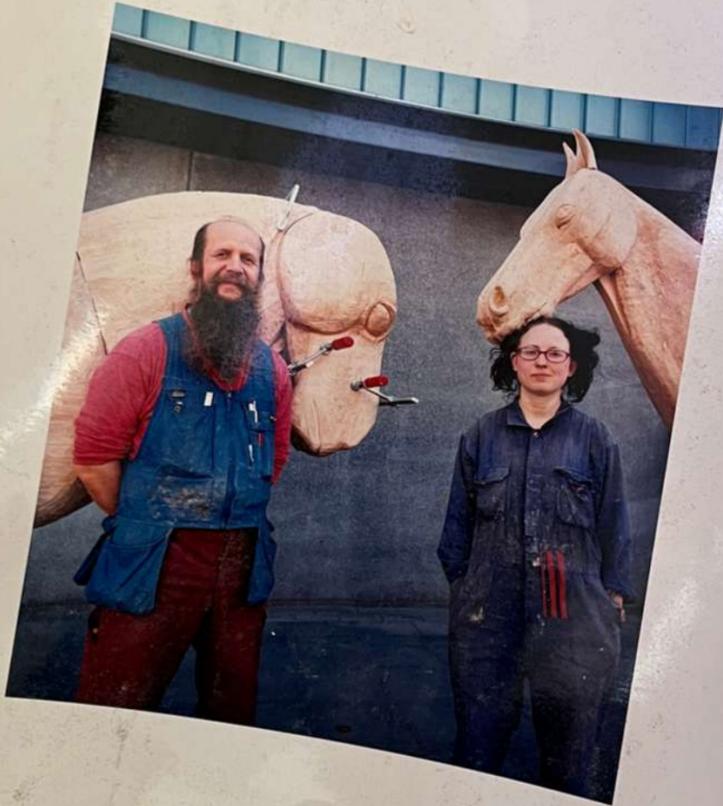
**Kinship means being there when it's inconvenient. It means obligation across time.**

**It means you can't just walk away when something's no longer useful to you.**

# DIGNITY

**In an era of disposability kinship means treating materials with dignity.**

**There's dignity also in endings when there's been relationship.**

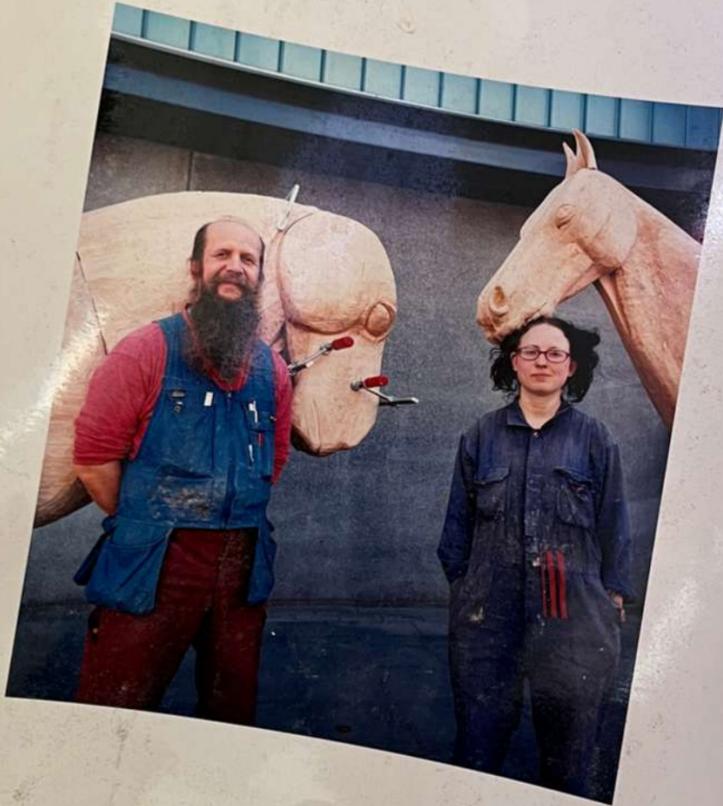


# COMPLICITY AND CONTRADICTION

**Even in careful practice, one is part of extractive systems.**

**Kinship doesn't mean purity.**

**It means staying in relationship despite knowing you can cause harm.**



# LISTENING TO THE MATERIAL

**Listening as epistemology**

**Way of knowing  
that treats the material as having**

- **agency,**
- **character,**
- **history worth attending to.**



# THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

**Although one can learn to "read" materials, translation is always imperfect. There's mystery and otherness that persists.**

**Kinship doesn't mean total understanding — it means staying in relationship despite not fully knowing.**





**COULD KINSHIP  
THINKING BE THE  
PHILOSOPHICAL  
REVOLUTION  
CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY NEEDS?**



# KINSHIP DOES NOT SCALE

- Real kinship requires staying small enough to maintain relationship**
- > Mass-production might not be possible.
  - > What could this look like in practice?



**But it can offer**

# **RECONNECTION**

**Industrial work has alienated workers from their skills and customers from products.**

- > Fostering meaningful relationships between makers & products & customers**
- > What could this look like in practice?**

# THANK YOU!

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