

Cosmic Dune: A Rhyme for Despair

How can we be heard across the galaxy?

Hosted by: Joost van de Loo

Project Information (EN)

Testing our Emotional Resonance Object at DDW 2026

On May Day 2027 we will work with youngsters, musicians and one scientist to send a heartfelt emergency signal into space - from the island of Terschelling in the Netherlands,

To prepare for this moment we are entering a DEMO Residency at Dutch Design Week 2026 focused on prototyping a device that sits at the heart of our Cosmic Dune experiment.

Designed by Edwin Dertien, creative roboticist at University of Twente, this Emotional Resonance Object aims at the stars and emits a powerful SOS signal once the surrounding crowd achieves a state of rhyme.

During the residency we will journey into the festival and perform SOS-to-Space-Jamsessions with people we meet. Each Jamsession gathers people around the Object and invites them to join in a musical moment of guided improvisation. As participants express their feelings about the state of the world, the device springs into action when optimum resonance happens.

Will we be able to touch the earth and pierce the heavens?

A Cosmic Bet on One Powerful Call for Help

Why a Rhyme for Despair?

The world is in deep trouble and it would be foolish ignore the possibility of outside help, assuming that extraterrestrial life exists.

However, the quality of help that might arrive could be influenced by the manner of our asking for it. A lovely and resounding call may draw an equally lovely response.

Can we strike the right note by caring less about technology, and more for emotional resonance?

At DDW we plan to conduct small experimental jam sessions of profound and beautiful whimsy. And then next year, on May Day, we will place a cosmic bet on one powerful call for help.

Projectinformatie (NL)

Image List

Filename	Caption	Credit
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de-boschplaat_1788210121.jpg	Dark Sky Park de Boschplaat at Terschelling	Hans Jellema
cosmic-dune-a-rhyme-for-despair-pic-2-ddw-2026-small_1788511777.webp	Cosmic Dune on the island of Terschelling	Joost van de Loo
we-are-here-overview-effect-long-distance-space-cosmic-dune-2026_1788511893.webp	We are here	
cosmic-dune-emergency-signal-into-space-2026_1788512663.webp	A heartfelt emergency signal	

The images above are included in the ZIP under /images.