



Annette Arlander is an artist, researcher and a pedagogue, one of the pioneers of Finnish performance art and a trailblazer of artistic research. She is educated as theatre director, Master of Arts (philosophy) and Doctor of Art (theatre and drama). She was the first to be awarded a doctorate from the Theatre Academy, Helsinki (in 1999). In 2001 she was invited as professor of performance art and theory to create the MA program in Live Art and performance studies, which she led until 2013. In 2007-2009 she was head of Performing Arts Research Centre (Tutke) at the Theatre Academy. At present (until 31.8.2016) she is visiting professor at Stockholm University of the Arts and professor of artistic research at University of the Arts Theatre Academy. She is a member of the editorial board of JAR and Ruukku.

Arlander's research interests relate to artistic research, performance-as-research, performance studies, site-specificity and the environment. Her artwork is focused on performing landscape by means of video or recorded voice, moving between the traditions of performance art, video art and environmental art. <https://annetearlander.com>

Quote from the press release for the Avek Prize in 2014:

Annette Arlander's (b. 1956) influence on art has been long-standing and varied. Arlander's artistic activity has been significant for artists beyond artistic definitions. According to the jury, Annette Arlander is a person whose educational activities and research have been eye-opening and rewarding for everyone employed in the field of performance and recording.

Annette Arlander's subtle video art raises great questions about perception, understanding, and the image of reality. The artwork depicts a landscape along with its individual parts, with the inclusion of human beings as one of these. They force the viewer to face their expectations and the learned norms of the displaying and watching moving image, and slowly give them up in order to understand the works and see what they allow the viewer to perceive.

According to the jury, Annette Arlander's works form something akin to gates, through which we can see and understand the image of our reality differently. The artwork opens up an opportunity to step into an area, which is with us, but has been cut out from being displayed.



Year of the Snake – In the Swing (2014) video still

Previous works and publications relevant for the research proposal

In my previous art works and articles trees and plants have often figured as collaborators in some form, although they rarely have had the main role. The works with plants can be divided into four categories:

1. Video works where trees have played a part, although the main focus has been on depicting time passing and the co-operation with plants has been rather unconscious. Some examples:

Year of the Snake – Swinging Along (mix) 2014 (3 min 30 sec.) HD 16:9
<http://www.av-arkki.fi/en/works/year-the-snake-swinging-along-mix/>

Year of the Rabbit – With a Juniper 2012 (20 min 10 sec) HD 16:9
<http://www.av-arkki.fi/en/works/year-of-the-rabbit-with-a-juniper/>

Holding Hands with Junipers – Ibiza 2012 (15 min 6 sec) HD 16:9
<http://www.av-arkki.fi/en/works/holding-hands-with-junipers-ibiza/>

Under the Spruce I-III 2008 three-channel video installation DV 4:3 (28 min)
<http://www.av-arkki.fi/en/works/under-the-spruce-i-iii/>

Year of the Dog – Sitting in a Tree 2007 (8 min 10 sec) DV 4:3

<http://www.av-arkki.fi/en/works/year-of-the-dog-sitting-in-a-tree/>

Day and Night of the Dog 2007 (4 min) DV 4:3

<http://www.av-arkki.fi/en/works/day-and-night-of-the-dog/>

Year of the Dog in Kalvola – Calendar 2007 (4 min 10 sec) DV 4:3

<http://www.av-arkki.fi/en/works/year-of-the-dog-in-kalvola-calendar/>

2. Co-performances with participating spectators, and projecting an image on the site of its making. Some attempts are documented on vimeo:

Swinging in Moonlight (mini) 9.8. 2014. <https://vimeo.com/103242549>

Swinging Together 29.8.2015. <https://vimeo.com/137770819>

3. A series of site-specific audio plays, *Trees Talk*, monologues written, performed and recorded by me, is documented on the Research Catalogue: <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-exposition?exposition=62946> The earlier works are in Finnish only, the latest works are tri-lingual:

The Hazel (Pähkinä – Nöt – Nut). Tri-lingual monologue FIN, SWE, EN. Duration à 11-12 min. Hidden Art environmental exhibition in Pori, Finland at the location N61*29.515,EO21*48.001 13.5.-31.8.2016

Oraihilajan varjossa – I Skuggan av Hagtornen – In the Shadow of the Hawthorn (4 x 5 min.) Living Room 306, 4 km² festival in Turku, Finland 2.-5.6.2010.

4. Some articles where I discuss works including plants or trees are listed below. Especially “Working with a Witches Broom” (2015), which references Michael Marder’s ideas of plant thinking, is important. In “Becoming Juniper” (2015) I describe the experience of trying to cooperate with a juniper in more concrete terms. “Performing with Trees – Landscape and Artistic Research” (2010) presents some previous experiments and the book *Performing Landscape – Notes on Site-specific Work and Artistic Research. Texts 2001-2011* (2012) provides a more general background to the problem of performing landscape.

“Working with a Witches’ Broom / Att Arbeta med en Markvast” *Ruukku Studies in Artistic Research* 3/2015. <http://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-exposition?exposition=61895>

“Becoming Juniper – Performing Landscape as Artistic Research”. I Nivel No 5 2015, The Publication Series of the Theatre Academy Helsinki Nivel <http://nivel.teak.fi/becoming-juniper/becoming-juniper-performing-landscape-as-artistic-research-annette-arlander/>

“‘Becoming Juniper’. Landschaft performen als künstlerische Forschung” [‘Becoming Juniper’ som konstnärlig forskning]. I Erika Fischer-Lichte & Daniela Hahn (ed.) *Ökologie und die Künste*. Paderborn: Wilhelm Fink Verlag 2015, 141-157.

“From interaction to intra-action in performing landscape”. In: Beatriz REVELLES BENAVENTE, Ana M. GONZÁLEZ RAMOS, Krizia NARDINI (coord.). “New feminist materialism: engendering an ethic-onto-epistemological methodology”. *Artnodes*. No. 14, p. 26-34. <http://journals.uoc.edu/index.php/artnodes/issue/view/n14>

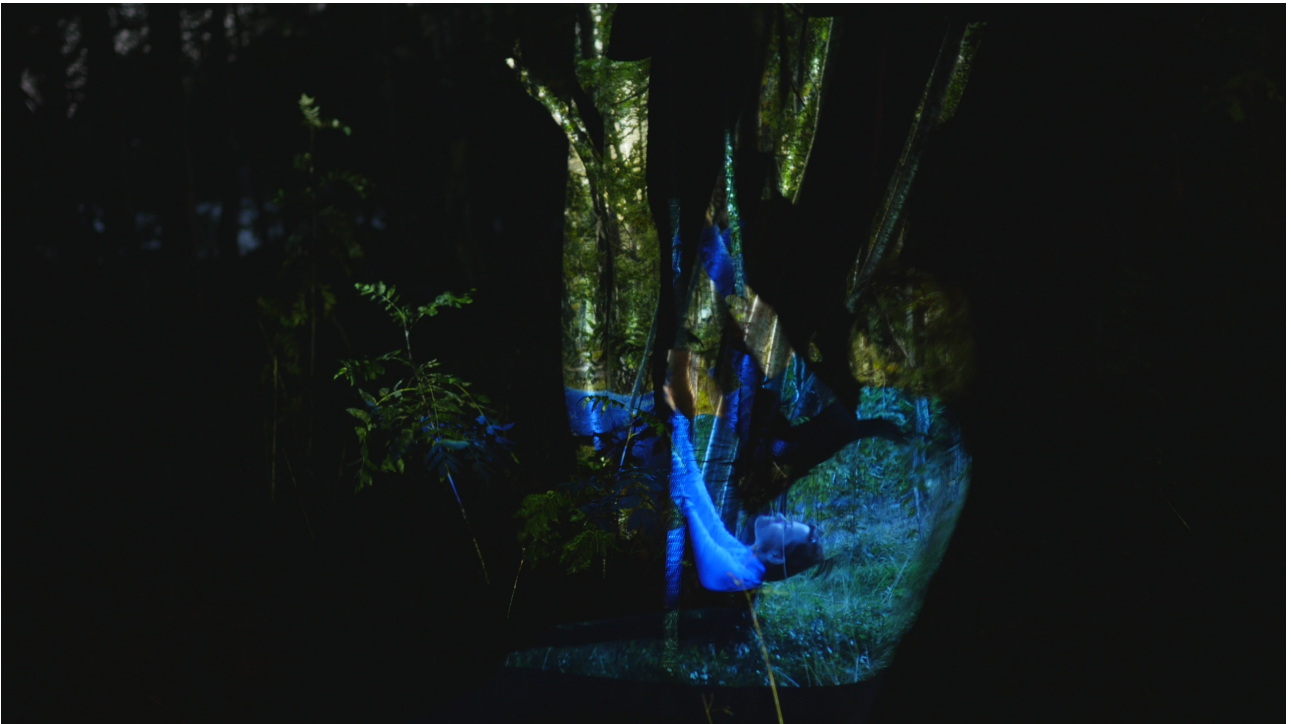
“Immediate Mediation – On the Performativity of Blogging” i Bruce Barton, Melanie Dreyer-Lude & Anna Birch (kur/red.) *Experiments and Intensities Vol 3 Mediating Practices(s) Performance as research and – in – through – mediation* 2013.

<http://www.experimentsandintensities.com/published/vol-3/immediate-mediation-on-the-performativity-of-blogging/>

Performing Landscape – Notes on Site-specific Work and Artistic Research. Texts 2001-2011. Acta Scenica 28. Theatre Academy Helsinki 2012.

<https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/37613>

“Performing with Trees: Landscape and Artistic Research” i John Freeman *Blood, Sweat & Theory – Research through practice in performance.* Libri Publishing 2010, p. 158-176.



Swinging together 29.8.2015 video still from documentation

For more art works, please see previews by AV-arkki, the Distribution Centre for Finnish Media Art http://www.av-arkki.fi/en/artists/annette-arlander_en/