

A misty forest scene with tall, thin trees and a ground covered in green moss and fallen branches. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey rectangle.

In the Disappearing Forest

22.10.2021 Annette Arlander





Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees

Project blog

<https://meetingswithtrees.com>

Project archive on the Research Catalogue

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/761327>

Background:

Performing with Plants

artistic research project
by Annette Arlander

[https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/
316550/316551](https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/316550/316551)

2017

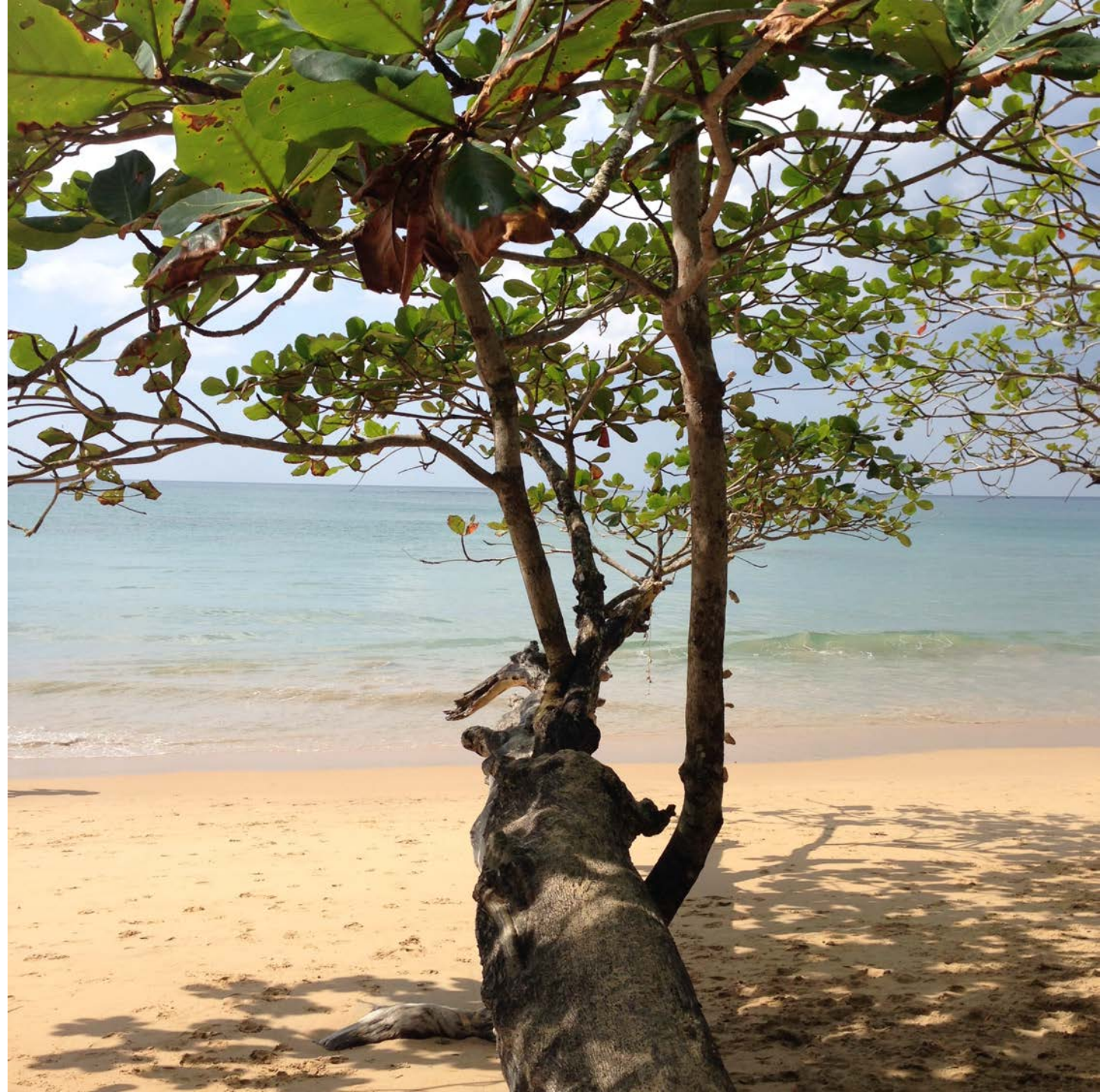
at Helsinki Collegium for
Advanced Studies,
funded by Kone Foundation

2018-2019

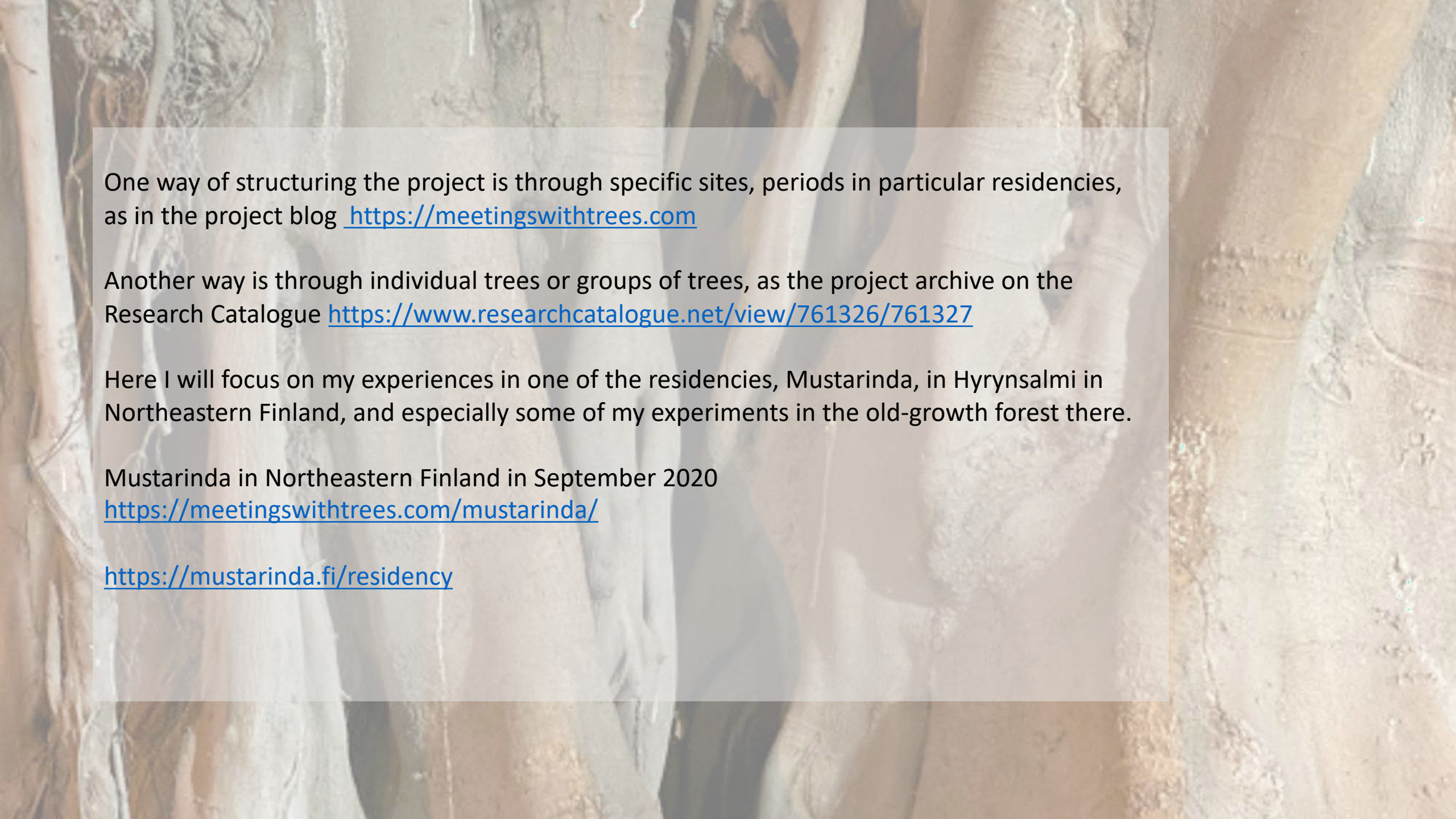
at Stockholm University of the Arts (SKH)
funded by Vetenskapsrådet
(The Swedish Research Council)

Summary of outcomes

[https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/
316550/709778](https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/316550/709778)







One way of structuring the project is through specific sites, periods in particular residencies, as in the project blog <https://meetingswithtrees.com>

Another way is through individual trees or groups of trees, as the project archive on the Research Catalogue <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/761327>

Here I will focus on my experiences in one of the residencies, Mustarinda, in Hyrynsalmi in Northeastern Finland, and especially some of my experiments in the old-growth forest there.

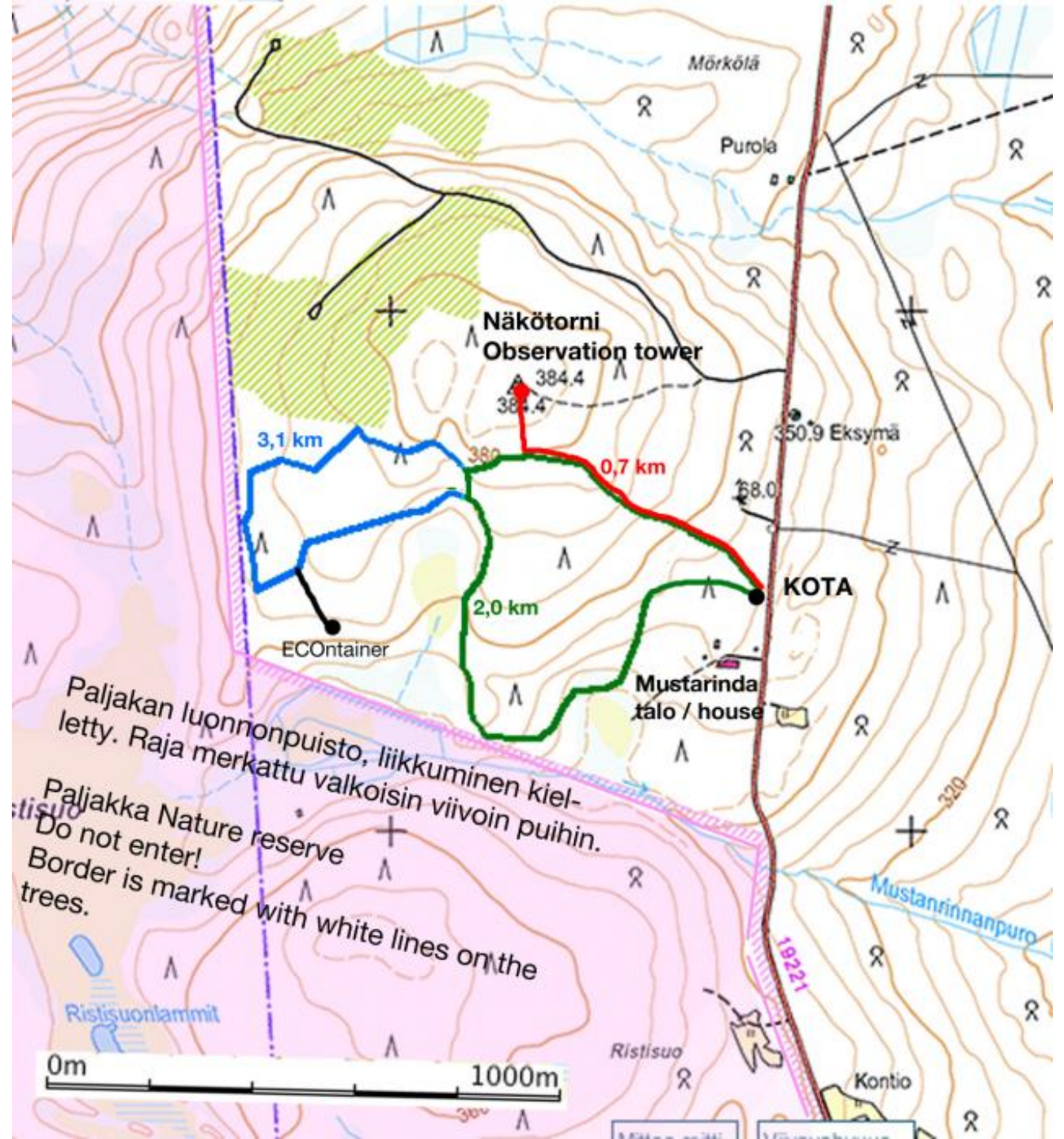
Mustarinda in Northeastern Finland in September 2020
<https://meetingswithtrees.com/mustarinda/>

<https://mustarinda.fi/residency>

Magazine

Blog
Residency
Program
News
House
Info
Path

[https://mustarinda.fi/
residency](https://mustarinda.fi/residency)





Metsähallitus – fostering natural values responsibly across generations.



Photo: Minna Koramo (Iivaara)

[Homepage](#) / [Lands and Waters](#) / [Protected Areas in Finland](#) / [Nature Reserves in Finland](#) /
Old-growth Forest Reserves

[Suomeksi](#) [På svenska](#)

Old-growth Forest Reserves





Luonnonmetsää Suomussalmella hakkuiden jäljiltä 13.10.2021. Kuvaaja: Anton Verho / Greenpeace.

“We cannot afford to lose any more natural forest. The state must stop such felling immediately” says the forest responsible of Greenpeace Matti Liimatainen on site in Suomussalmi, Karttimojoki

“Meillä ei ole varaa menettää enää yhtään luonnonmetsää. Valtion on lopetettava tällaiset hakkuut välittömästi”, sanoo Greenpeacen metsävastaava **Matti Liimatainen** paikan päällä Suomussalmen Karttimonjoella.





Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees

Old strategies or techniques utilized:

Time-lapse videos of days with trees (every hour or two-hours)

New strategies or techniques developed:

Becoming Tree (two legged tree pose) with trees, daily for a month

Variations (either repeated practices or singular poses)

Inviting other people to present and perform with trees important to them

Writing letters to trees by the trees (which I focus on here)

A tall, slender birch tree stands prominently in the center of a forest. The tree has a light-colored, textured bark and a dense canopy of green leaves. A person is standing at the base of the tree, their arms raised, suggesting they are participating in an exercise. The forest is composed of many other trees, including several tall, dark evergreens. The foreground is filled with tall grasses and wildflowers. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

Becoming Tree exercise

The Daily Birch (September in Mustarinda) (60 min 20 sec & 14 min 10 sec)
Performed daily 2. 30. 9. 2020 with a birch near Mustarinda house.

Day-long time-lapse videos

Day with a Bog Birch (with text) (52 min 17 sec & 20 min)
on 23 September 2020 every hour between 7 AM and 7 PM with a birch near Mustarinda.



The tall spruce in Paljakkavaara



With The Spruce in Paljakka, 3rd meeting 7.9.2020



Looking at the Spruce 1
Performed with the spruce in Paljakka 9.9.2020



Looking at the Spruce 2
Performed with the spruce in Paljakka 9.9.2020



Looking at the Spruce 1 & 2
Performed with the spruce in Paljakka 9.9.2020



With The Spruce in Paljakka I
Performed with the spruce in Paljakka 13.9.2020



With The Spruce in Paljakka II
Performed with the spruce in Paljakka 13.9.2020



With The Spruce in Paljakka III
Performed with the spruce in Paljakka 13.9.2020



The Reclining Birch
Performed with a birch 8.9.2020



Rowan on Crutches
Performed with a rowan 11.9.2020



Listening with an Aspen (in Rain)
Perfomed with an aspen 20.9.2020



With a Goat Willow 3
Performed with a goat willow 21.9.2020

Writing letters to trees

Dear Spruce – Rakas Kuusi (20 min 15 sec & 5 min 47 sec)
performed 25.9.2020 with a spruce near Mustarinda

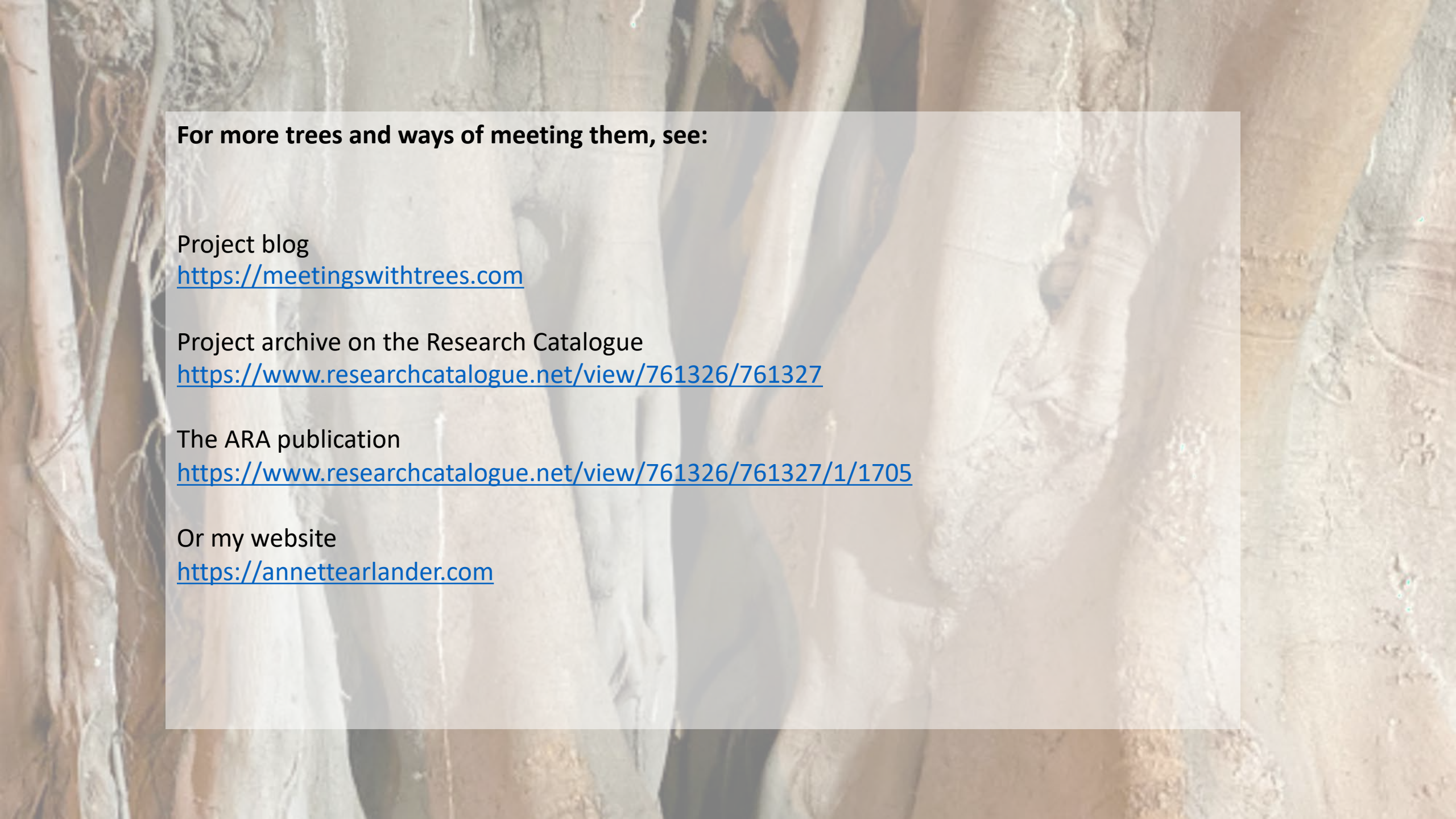
Writing letters to trees

Dear Birch – Kära Björk (20 min 15 sec & 5 min 50 sec)
performed 29.9. 2020 with a birch near Mustarinda

A person with glasses, wearing a dark jacket and pants, is sitting on a large, cut log in a forest. They are holding an open book and writing. The forest is filled with many dead, bare branches and some green evergreen trees. A large tree trunk is visible on the left side of the frame.

Writing letters to trees

Dear Deceased (20 min 15 sec & 6 min 26 sec)
performed 29.9. 2020 with a dead spruce near Mustarinda

A close-up photograph of several tree trunks and roots, showing various textures and colors from light tan to dark brown. The image is slightly blurred and serves as the background for the text overlay.

For more trees and ways of meeting them, see:

Project blog

<https://meetingswithtrees.com>

Project archive on the Research Catalogue

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/761327>

The ARA publication

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/761327/1/1705>

Or my website

<https://annettearlander.com>

References:

Alaimo, Stacy. 2010. *Bodily Natures. Science, environment, and the material self*. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

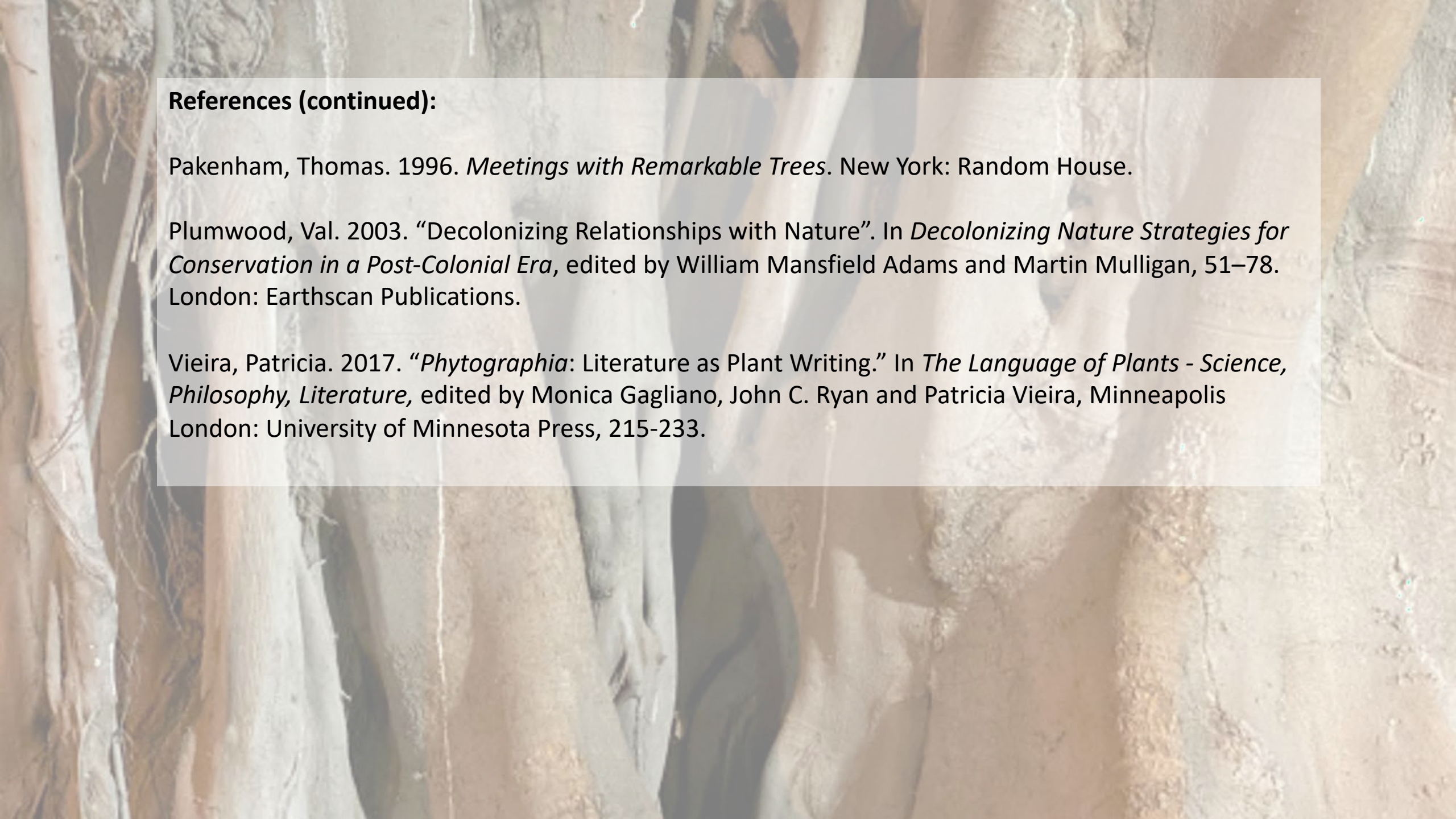
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Kovalainen, Ritva and Sanni Seppo. 1997. *Puiden kansa, Tree People*
<https://www.ritvakovalainen.com/copy-of-puiden-kansa-tree-people>

Marder, Michael. 2013. *Plant-Thinking: A Philosophy of Vegetal Life*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Marder, Michael. 2018. "A Portrait of Plants as Artists." In *The Philosopher's Plant*. Accessed May 20, 2021.
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Myers, Natasha. 2017. "From the Anthropocene to the Planthropocene: Designing Gardens for Plant/People Involution." *History and Anthropology* vol 28 No 3:297-301. Accessed May 20, 2021.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02757206.2017.1289934>


The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several tree trunks and their roots. The trunks are light-colored, possibly bleached or weathered, and show various textures and patterns. The roots are thick and gnarled, extending from the trunks down towards the bottom of the frame. The overall color palette is warm and earthy, with shades of beige, tan, and light brown.

References (continued):

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Vieira, Patricia. 2017. "*Phytographia: Literature as Plant Writing.*" In *The Language of Plants - Science, Philosophy, Literature*, edited by Monica Gagliano, John C. Ryan and Patricia Vieira, Minneapolis London: University of Minnesota Press, 215-233.

A misty forest scene with tall trees and a mossy ground. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid in the center.

Thank you for your attention!