

Imaginary Properties: Thinking Through (The) Manipulation(s)

Lecture-Demonstration by Joa Hug

The lecture-demonstration consists of two parts: In the first part, I will introduce the topic of my doctoral artistic research, and I will explain my approach to the subject of investigation. In the second part, I will present results of the first practical exploration of my doctorate that recently took place in Berlin.

Part One

In the first part, I will talk about my research interest and motivation: the issue of change and alteration of perception. I will suggest that it is in the enactment of the relationship between sensing, perceiving and reflecting that the process of change and alteration can take place. I will contextualize my investigation in the field of artistic research, more particularly in the debate about epistemological and methodological issues of performance as research, and introduce a number of research questions that link my own artistic engagement with the recent theoretical discourse. I will indicate possible conceptual entry-points before speaking in more length about the artistic approach to my investigation and how it is embedded in *Body Weather*, a training and performance practice that emerged from *Butoh* in Japan in the late 1970's. Following a brief depiction of the history of *Body Weather* and my personal involvement in it, I will introduce in more detail and supported by video material one of the core elements of this training and performance practice: the *Manipulations*. I will suggest that the *Manipulations* provide a useful entrance to practically approach my investigation into the relationship between sensing, perceiving and reflecting, and that an analysis of its operative concepts and the strategies that are employed in the *Manipulations* contributes to our understanding of the knowledge that is created in and through artistic practice, more generally. I will round-up this first part with a brief summary that aims at integrating the description of my practical approach to the investigation based on the *Manipulations* with the conceptual entry-points that were pointed at earlier.

Part Two

In the second part of the lecture-demonstration, I will explain how, recently, I further developed the *Manipulations* as an experimental site of research. Building on research that I have conducted previously, I worked on a newly developed research score that expands the original practice of the *Manipulations* into a medium for thinking through and reflecting on its own linguistic and conceptual premises. I will contextualize how this research practice relates to the overall subject of my doctoral investigation and perform the research score in front of the audience. One of the goals and results of this recent research was to create a (so far non-existent) *glossary* of frequently used terms in *Body Weather* practice that can be offered to non-experts and novices of *Body Weather* in order to get some idea of what is at stake in this training and performance practice. The *glossary* will be presented to the public in the form of a spatial installation and handed out on a paper. (See attached Version 1)

Questions & Answers

The total duration of the lecture-demonstration is approximately 50 minutes. Afterwards, there will be time for the examiners, as well as for the audience, to ask questions to the presenter.