

Annette Arlander:

Performing with Plants

The two split-screen videos shown here form one part of the outcomes of the artistic research project “Performing with Plants” funded by the Committee for Artistic Research of the Swedish Research Council at Stockholm University of the Arts Research Centre. The project is documented and archived on the Research Catalogue <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/316550/316551>

The two split-screen videos are perhaps interesting in exemplifying two different editing strategies. In the first one, editing follows movement, and the two videos are synchronized only regarding the total length. In the second, each clip of the videos is synchronized.

Swinging – Hanging in a pine

This video is part of "Year of the Dog in Lill-Jan's Wood" performed and recorded in Stockholm between 16 February 2018 and 3rd February 2019. The split-screen version consists of "Swinging in a Pine" (15 min 28 sec) and "Hanging in a Pine" (15 min 28 sec.).

Year of the Dog in Lill-Jansskogen 2-1 (On a Spruce Stump) B

This video is part of "Year of the Dog in Lill-Jan's Wood" performed and recorded in Stockholm between 16 February 2018 and 3rd February 2019. The split-screen version consists of "Year of the Dog in Lill-Jan's Wood (On a Spruce Stump) mini" (16 min. 50 sec.) and "Year of the Dog in Lill-Jan's Wood 2 (On a Spruce Stump) mini" (16 min. 50 sec.). They are combined in two ways 1 & 2 (A) and 2 & 1 (B). Here you see (B).

The “mini”-versions shown here, with 10 second clips of each session, are made for screening and academic contexts. The versions with 1-minute clips of each image, "Year of the Dog in Lill-Jan's Wood (On a Spruce Stump) 1" and "Year of the Dog in Lill-Jan's Wood (On a Spruce Stump) 2" (1 h 40 min. 10 sec.) are made for exhibitions.

Abstract

The abstract of my research plan from 2016 can serve as background to the videos:

“Performing with plants” is an artistic research project aiming to investigate the question "how to perform landscape today?". A post-humanist perspective prompts us to rethink the notion of landscape, and to realize that the surrounding world consists of life forms and material phenomena with differing degrees of volition, needs and agency. What forms of performing landscape could be relevant in this situation? One possibility is to approach individual elements, like singular trees, and explore what could be done together with them.

The most important inquiries to be explored are: 1) How to collaborate with nonhuman entities like plants? 2) How to further develop experiences from previous attempts at performing landscape? 3) How to create actions with plants, in which humans can be invited to participate? An overarching research topic is: How to perform landscape today by collaborating with trees and other plants, with an awareness of the insights generated by post-humanist and new materialist research? The aim of the project is to develop techniques generated during previous work by the applicant, i.e. the twelve-year project *Animal Years* (2002-2014), where focus was on showing changes in the landscape over time, rather than collaboration with the trees. By collaborating with plants more sensitively and ecologically, sustainable modes of performing can be developed, in order to serve as inspiration and provocation regarding ways of understanding our surrounding world.