



Three-lingual artistic research project

Pondering with Pines – Miettii Mäntyjen kanssa –

Funderar med furor

2022-2024

As visiting researcher at Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Helsinki Supported by Arts Promotion Centre Finland

https://www.uniarts.fi/en/projects/pondering-with-pines/



#### Two artistic research projects:

Performing with Plants – Att uppträda med växter (2017-2019) <a href="https://www.uniarts.fi/en/projects/performing-with-plants/">https://www.uniarts.fi/en/projects/performing-with-plants/</a>

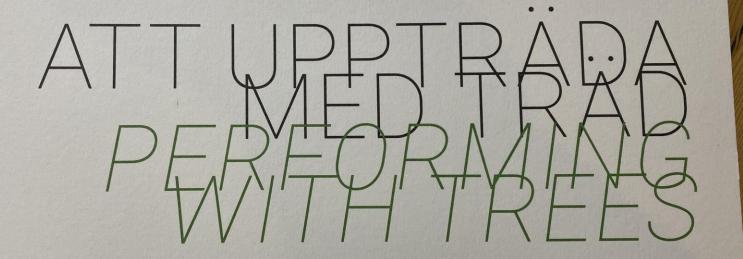
Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees (2020-2021) <a href="https://www.uniarts.fi/en/projects/meetings-with-remarkable-and-unremarkable-trees/">https://www.uniarts.fi/en/projects/meetings-with-remarkable-and-unremarkable-trees/</a>

#### Books based on performing with trees in those projects:

Att Uppträda med Träd – Performing with Trees. (picture book) X-position n 6. Stockholm University of the Arts 2019.

Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees in Johannesburg and Environs. Arts Research Africa, The Wits School of Arts, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 2020 <a href="http://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/handle/10539/30395">http://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/handle/10539/30395</a>

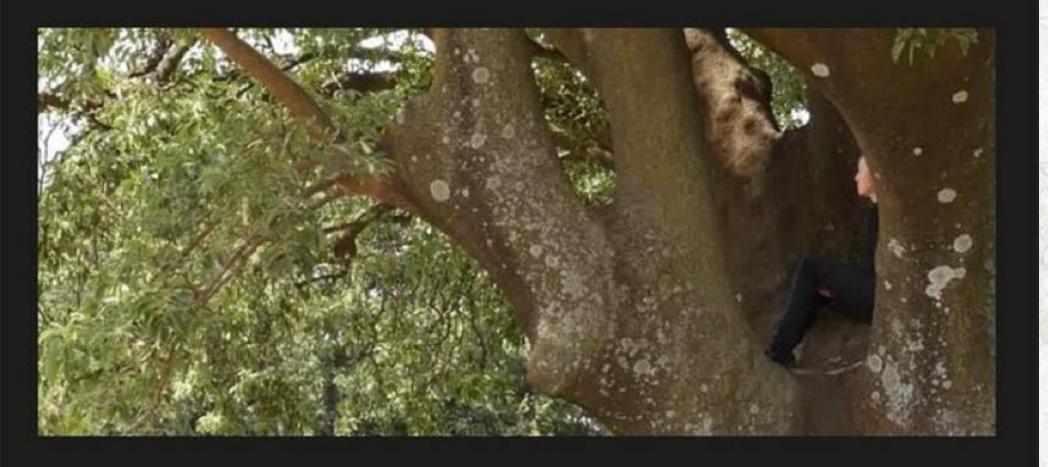
Performing and Thinking with Trees, Art theoretical writings from the Academy of Fine Art 15, University of the Arts Helsinki, 2022. <a href="https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-353-431-5">https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-353-431-5</a>



Annette Arlander

Att Uppträda med Träd
– Performing with Trees.
X-position n 6.
Stockholms Konstnärliga
Högskola 2019.

not available online, except as a proof copy, on the RC <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/316550/316551/2">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/316550/316551/2</a> 6432/30



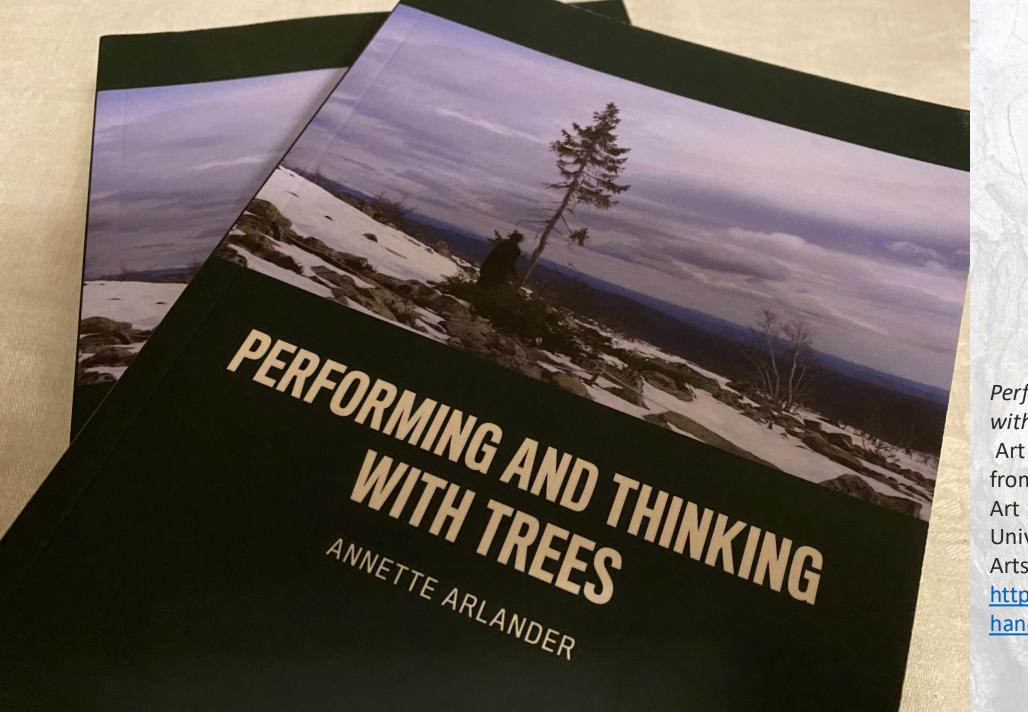
Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees in Johannesburg and Environs

Annette Arlander

Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees in Johannesburg and **Environs** Arts Research Africa, The Wits School of Arts, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 2020 https://wiredspace.wi ts.ac.za/handle/10539 /30395

Or here:

https://www. researchcatalogue. net/view/761326/ 761327/0/1710



Performing and Thinking
with Trees,
Art theoretical writings
from the Academy of Fine
Art 15,
University of the
Arts Helsinki.

https://taju.uniarts.fi/ handle/10024/7666

#### **Performing with Plants**

artistic research project by Annette Arlander

https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/ 316550/316551

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)





#### **Performing with Plants**

- an artistic research project by Annette Arlander

#### Att uppträda/samarbeta med växter

- ett konstnärligt forskningsprojekt av Annette Arlander

follow the timeline följ tidslinjen

Directly to 2018

Directly to 2019

Tidigare publikationer Previous publications

2017

Första delen av projektet sker under 2017 i Helsingfors vid forskarkollegiet Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies vid Helsingfors Universitet, finansierat av Kone Foundation.

The first part of the project takes place during 2017 in Helsinki at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies at the University of Helsinki, financed by Kone Foundation.

Andra delen av projektet sker under åren 2018-2019 i Stockholm vid Stockholms Konstnärliga Högskola, finansierat av Vetenskaprådet.

The second part of the project takes place during 2018-2019 in Stockholm at Stockholm University of the Arts, financed by Vetenskapsrådet.

Experiment i Helsingfors /
Experiments in Helsinki
(2016)

Experiment i Stockholm
Experiments in Stockholm
(2016)

Uppträdanden för kamera i Performances for camera in (2017)

> Uppträdanden för Performances for (2017)

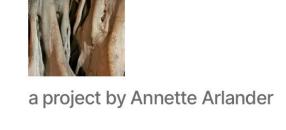


## Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees

As visiting researcher at Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Helsinki
Supported by Finnish Cultural Foundation

Project archive on the Research Catalogue <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/761327">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/761327</a>

Project blog <a href="https://meetingswithtrees.com">https://meetingswithtrees.com</a>



# Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees



#### **Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees**

For more information, see blog <a href="https://meetingswithtrees.com">https://meetingswithtrees.com</a>



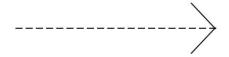
Particular Trees Encountered Previously



The Pine on Hundudden



The Oak on Galway Road



#### **Presentations:**



#### Background:

#### Performing with Plants

artistic research project by Annette Arlander 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)

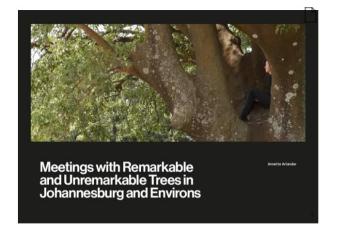




Knowledge in the Arts
Annette Arlande.
30.03.21, 15-16.

#### **Publications:**











Three-lingual (artistic research) project

Pondering with Pines – Miettii Mäntyjen kanssa –

Funderar med furor

2022-2024

As visiting researcher at Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Helsinki Supported by Arts Promotion Centre Finland

Project blog

https://ponderingwithpines.wordpress.com

Project archive on the RC

https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/1589526

Podcast *Talking with Trees* on Soundcloud <a href="https://soundcloud.com/user-90370389/sets/talking-with-trees-pine">https://soundcloud.com/user-90370389/sets/talking-with-trees-pine</a>

#### Presentation

This artistic research project focused on pine trees is a further development of previous projects **Performing** with Plants (2017-2019) and Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees (2020–2021). Pine trees (Pinus) form the core of this project; besides the common pine in the Nordic countries (Pinus sylvestris), other pines will be engaged with when possible. The main concern is how to develop ways of recognizing and engaging with the subjectivity of life forms such as trees, which we tend to consider as wholly 'other'. How to develop acts of thinking, reflecting, pondering or speaking with trees, next to them or in some form of collaboration with them. How to consider historical, cultural, material and local aspects when encountering specific trees. How to develop imaginative and poetic ways of encountering pine trees and engaging with them.

...

One of the starting points is the practice of performing for camera with trees and of addressing trees in writing developed during the previous project. Thus, questions related to language and translations – human language and plant language, visual languages and the verbal languages used (Finnish, Swedish and English) – are at the core of these explorations, in addition to the main purpose of finding ways to share time and space, including the image space, with the pine trees. Questions related to agency, the agency of trees as well as of the technology used (in video recording, sound recording, editing, dissemination and display) are entangled with these explorations. What possible ways of collaborating and communicating could be developed between trees and non-trees, like humans.

## Open approach (funded as art), no formal research plan

- focus on pine trees (rather than trees in general)
- focus on pondering (rather than performing in general)
- talking recorded on site (rather than writing, and recording later)
- experimenting, gathering material (rather than creating specific works)

#### Main problem:

- what does it mean to ponder with pines?
- how can it best be undertaken?

...

Ongoing documentation, everything openly shared online

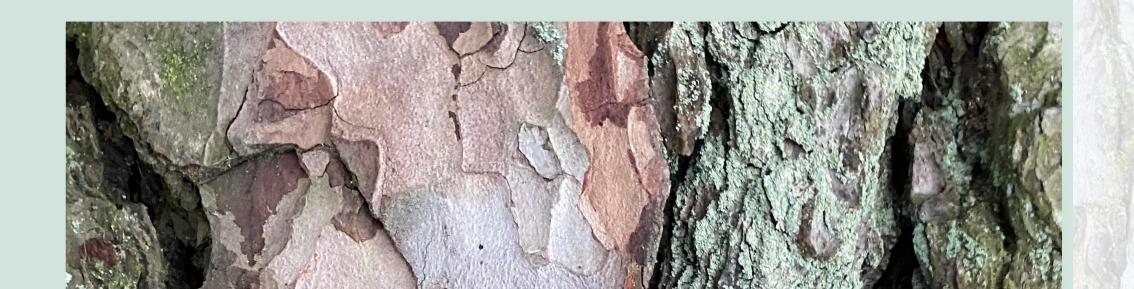
- Blog as project website (three languages)
- Research Catalogue as an open online archive still images of videos, or low-resolution videos, 'ponderings', transcriptions of spoken text, conference
  - presentations etc. all stored and shared online immediately
- Podcast *Talking with Trees* as ongoing public outcomes <a href="https://soundcloud.com/user-90370389">https://soundcloud.com/user-90370389</a>

#### PONDERING WITH PINES - MIETTII MÄNTYJEN KANSSA - FUNDERAR MED FUROR

This is a tree project in three languages by Annette Arlander

Briefly – Lyhyesti – Kort Now Nu Nyt Wood Art Residency Bodafors In Light of Plants – Saari

Mazzano Romano Öres



### Pondering with Pines - Miettii Mäntyjen Kanssa - Funderar med Furor

See three-lingual project blog here

the podcast Talking with Trees - Puhetta Puille - Talar med Träd here

supported by:







Taiteen edistämiskeskus Centret för konstfrämjande Arts Promotion Centre Finland











## Considerations on documenting and sharing the process on the RC

#### Format of RC archive (and type of editor)

- Timeline, horizontal grouping, vertical chronology
- Pages for a repeated activity, or for each site, or event, or tree
- linking to journal in blogposts or adding transcripts on RC
- recorded or written notes
- all activities or selected highlights only

#### Online documenting and archiving as a method – but why share it publicly?

- What parts of this material will be useful in the future, as part of exhibitions, or submitted to the Finnish Distribution Centre for Media Art?
- What parts am I going to write about or compile video essays of?

One way of structuring a project (rather than one specific work or series of works) is through specific **sites**, periods in particular **residencies**, as in the project blogs <a href="https://ponderingwithpines.wordpress.com">https://ponderingwithpines.wordpress.com</a>

This I use for "other experiments" in the project later.

Another way is through individual **trees or groups of trees**, as the project archives on the Research Catalogue (RC) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/1589526">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/1589526</a>
This I use for work involving repeated visits, mostly only one image per tree.

A third way is through **chronology**, as in the project archive on the RC, and in presenting the three project years in the following.

A fourth way is through articulating the various **strategies or approaches or techniques** utilized in encountering the trees, which I use here to begin with.

But where do you start? How much of background to include? Here I have chosen to limit the examples from previous projects to **pine trees only**.

## Various strategies

- <u>Year-long time-lapse videos</u> with specific trees (usually once a week), a further development of recording the landscape on Harakka Island in the series Animal Years (2002-2014)
- A day with a tree (usually every two-hours or every three-hours) based on experiences from *Animal Days* and *Nights* on Harakka Island (2002-2014), often with journal notes after each session
- Posing with a tree <u>daily for a month</u>, usually the two-legged tree pose
- Writing <u>letters to trees</u> next to the trees
- <u>Talking to trees</u>, real time recordings, also as podcast episodes
- Revisiting trees, often trees visited repeatedly before

#### Background: Year-long time-lapse videos with pine trees

Year of the Dog – Sitting in a Tree <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=134462">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=134462</a>

Shadow of a Pine I-IV <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=1098702">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=1098702</a>

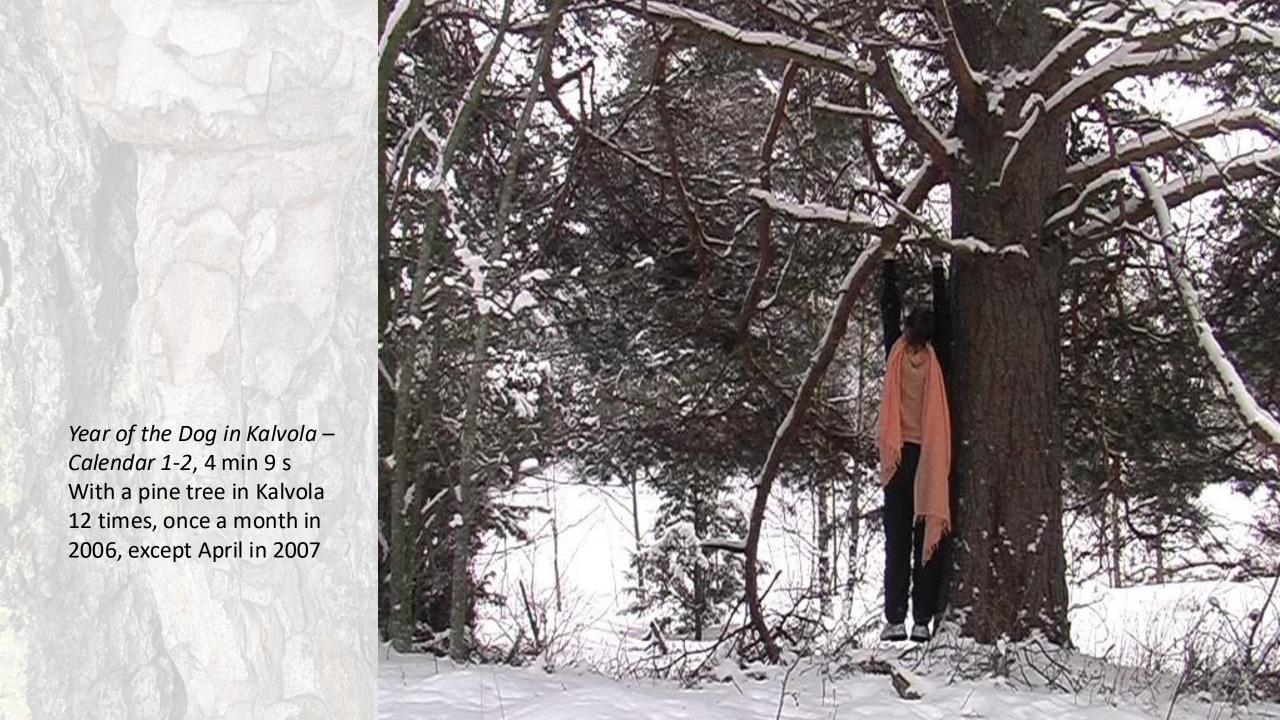
Year of the Dog in Kalvola – Calendar 1-2 <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=1097773">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=1097773</a>

Year of the Dog in Lill-Jan's Wood (Sitting in a Pine) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=652999">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=652999</a>

Swinging in a Pine <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=709462">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=709462</a>

Year of the Dog – Sitting in a Tree With a pine tree on Harakka Island, 54 times between 7.1.2006-11.2.2007.

Shadow of a Pine I-IV, 16 min 10 s on Harakka Island 51 times, between 7.11.2006 - 11.2.2007





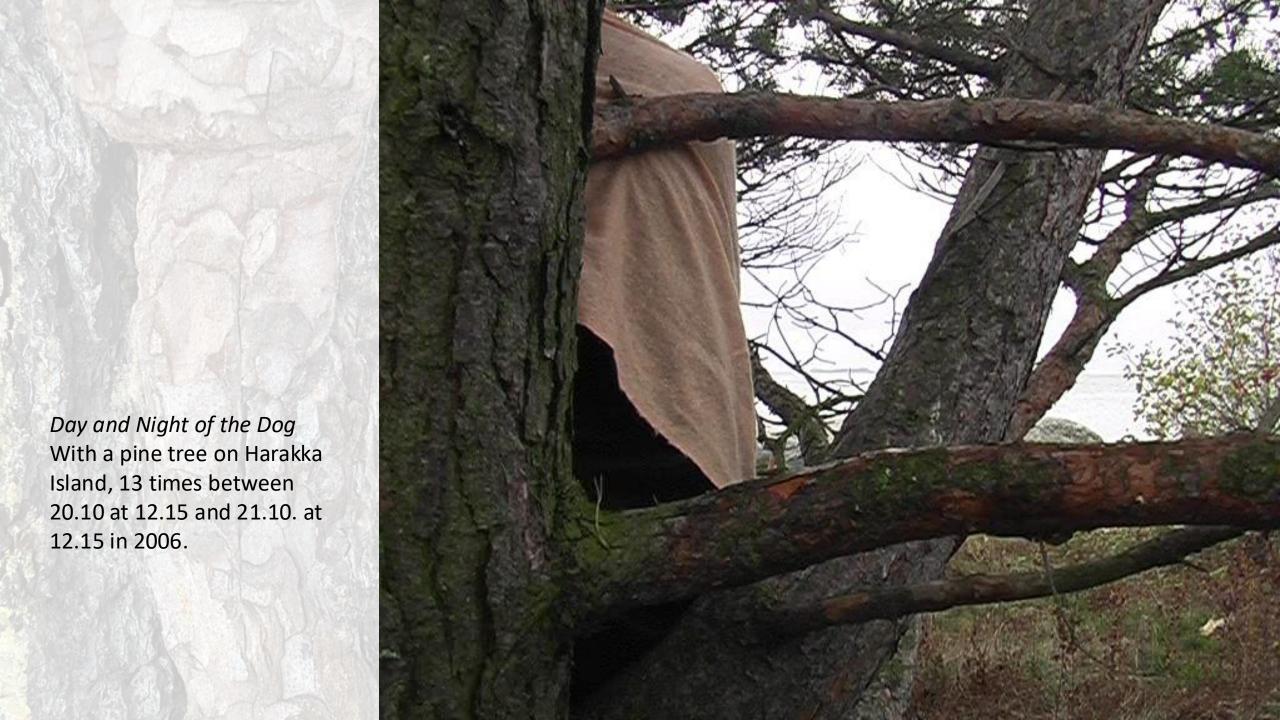


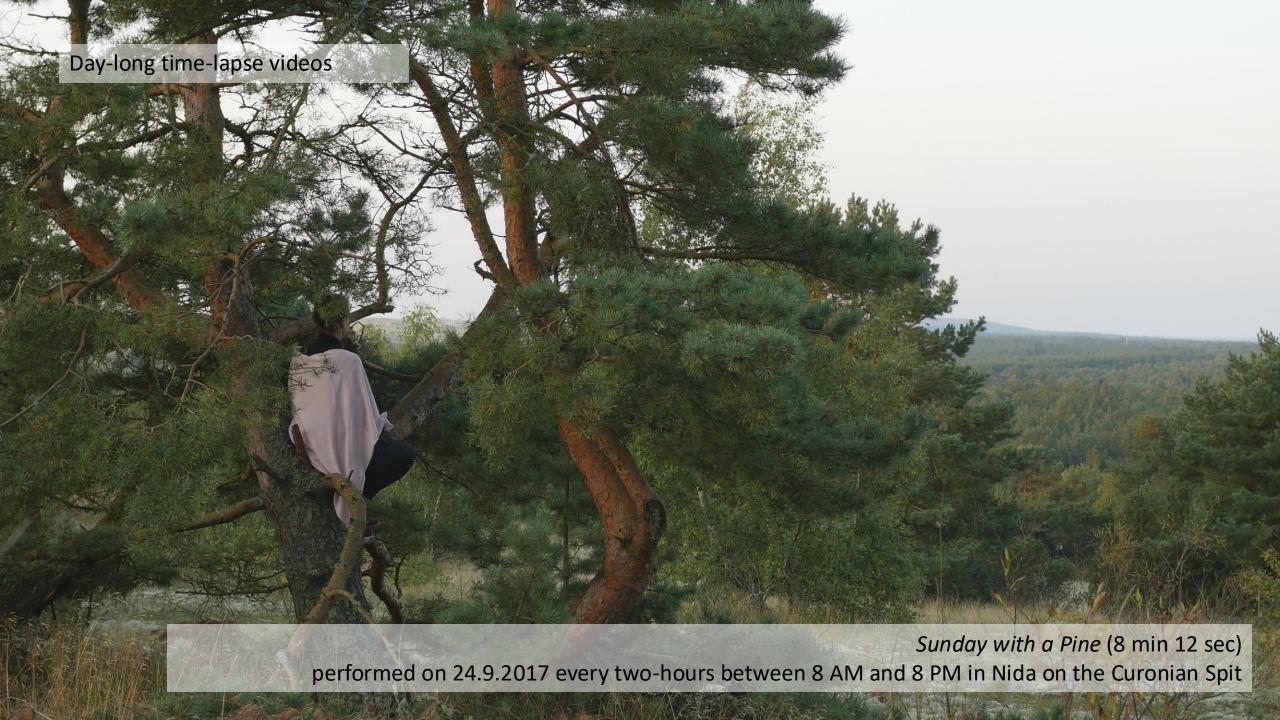
Background: Time-lapse videos of days with trees (every hour or every two-hours)

Day and Night of the Dog <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=133068">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=133068</a>

Sunday with a Pine <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=410375">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/show-work?work=410375</a>

Day with a Pine, Another Day with a Pine (Örö) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1044218/0/0">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1044218/0/0</a>









Background: Becoming Tree exercise (two-legged 'tree pose' daily next to a pine tree, often for a month)

July with a Pine (on Harakka Island) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/944410">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/944410</a>

The Pine's Apprentice (in Örö) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1034899">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1034899</a>

The Pine on Skifferholmen II (in Helsinki) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1102386">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1102386</a>

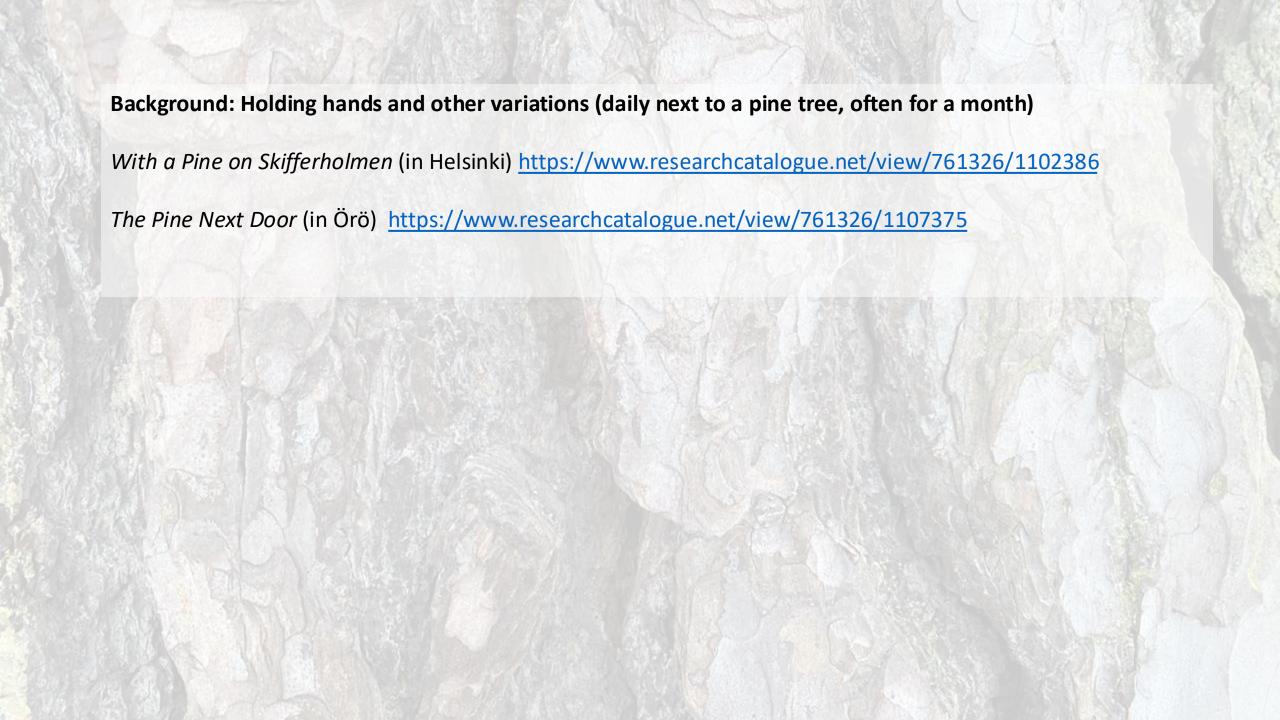
Practicing with a Pine (in Hailuoto) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1219495">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1219495</a>















## **Background: Writing letters to pine trees next to the trees**

Tallen på Hundudden 1-4 (The Pine on Hundudden) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/771644">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/771644</a>

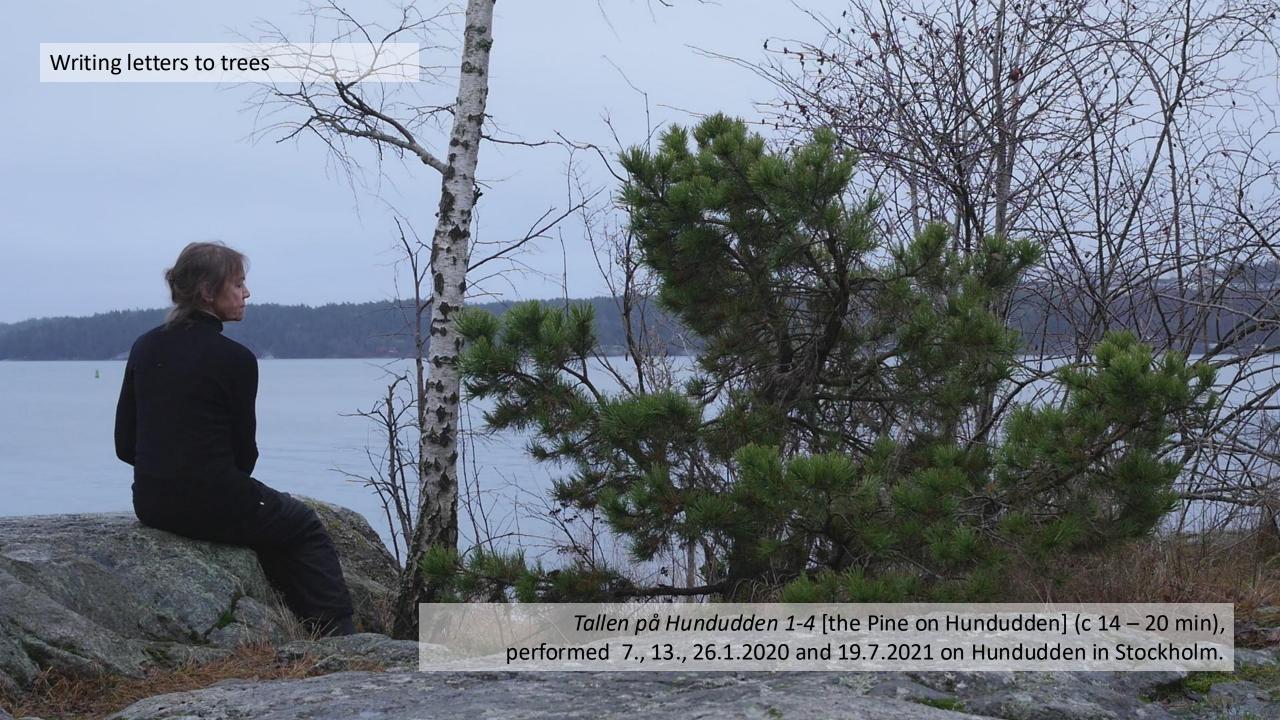
Dear Pine – Kära Tall <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/831544">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/831544</a>

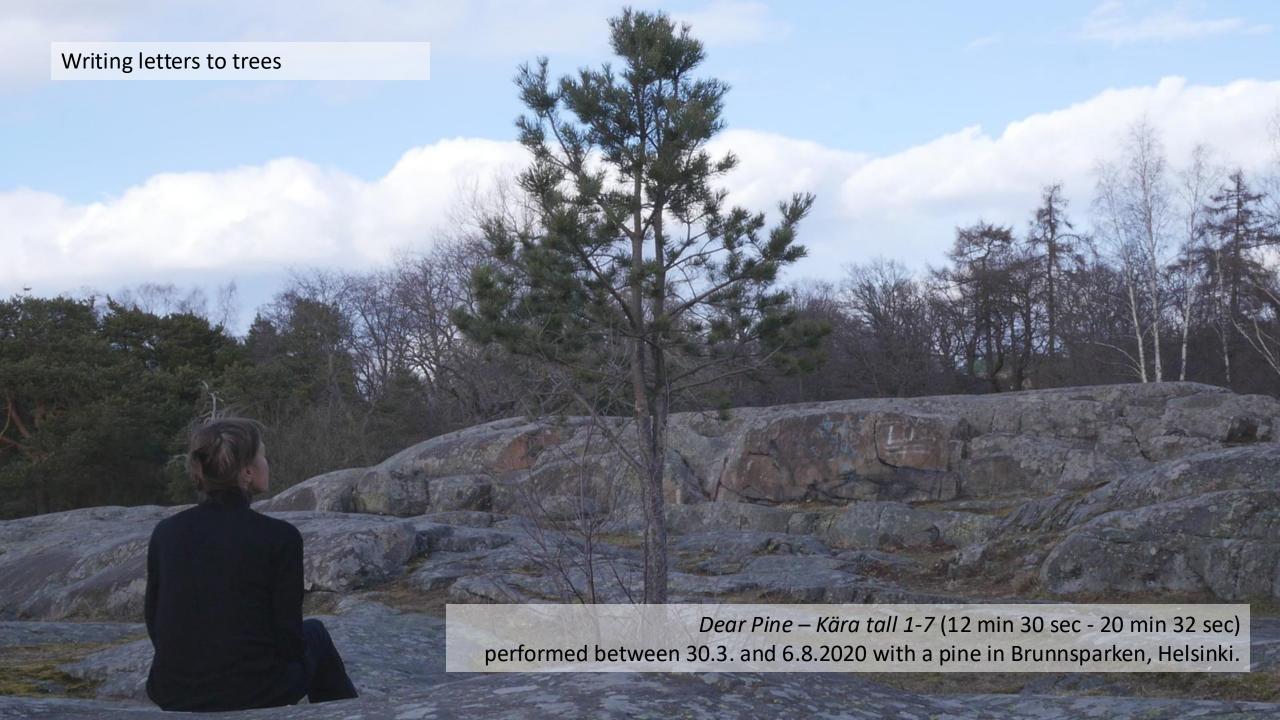
Writing with a Pine, Writing in a Pine <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1036306/182/2455">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1036306/182/2455</a>

Dear Pine, Pines by the Path <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1036306/182/2455">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1036306/182/2455</a>

Dearest Pine, Esteemed Pine Tree <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1165222">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1165222</a>

Esteemed Tarri Pine <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1225961">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1225961</a>









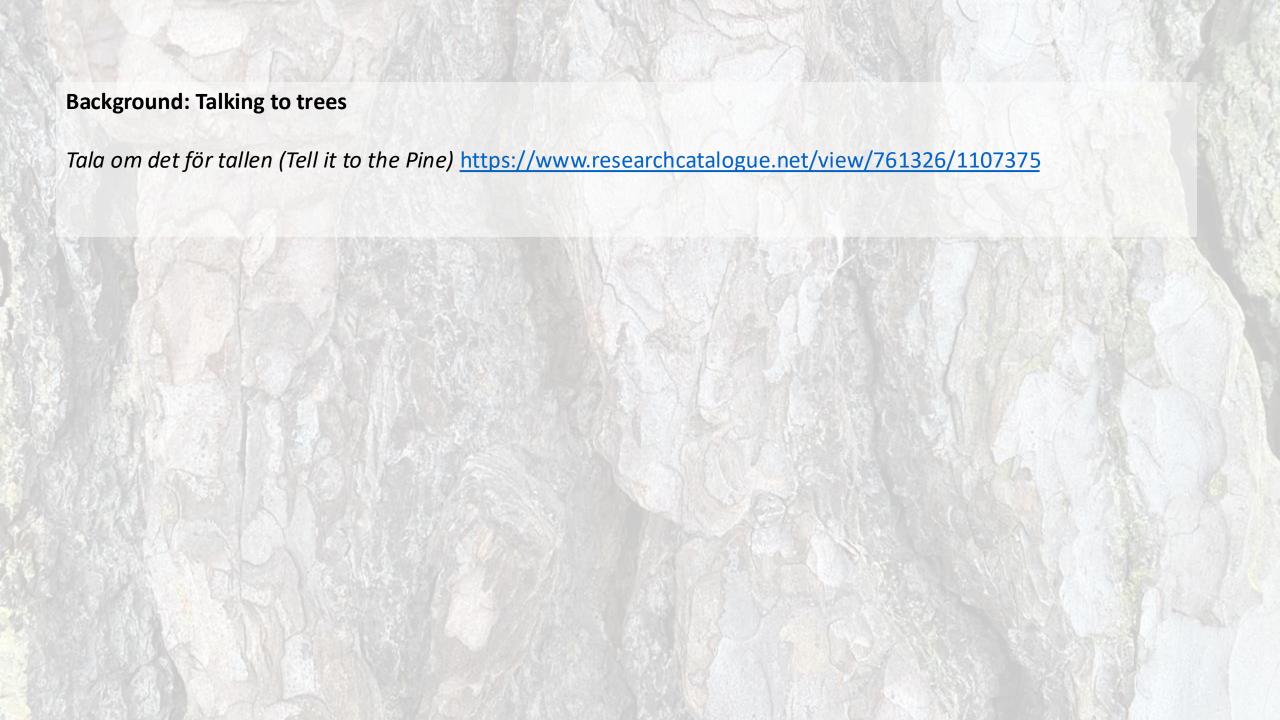




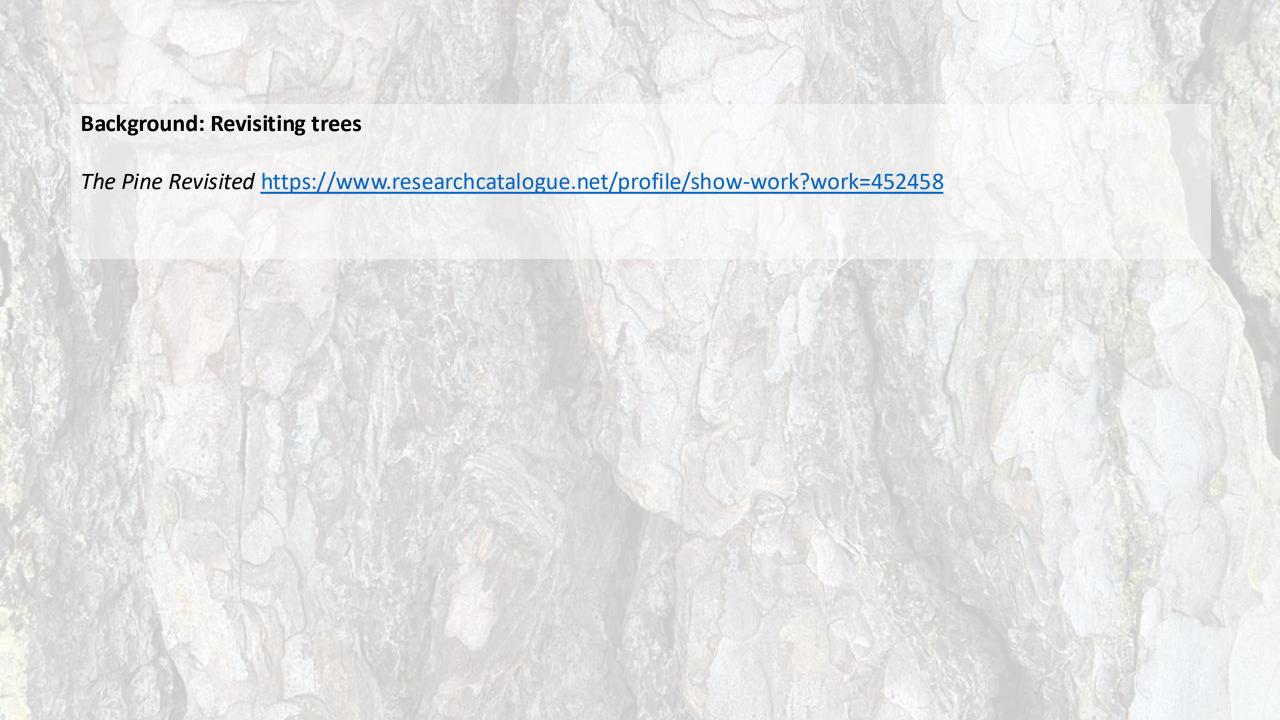


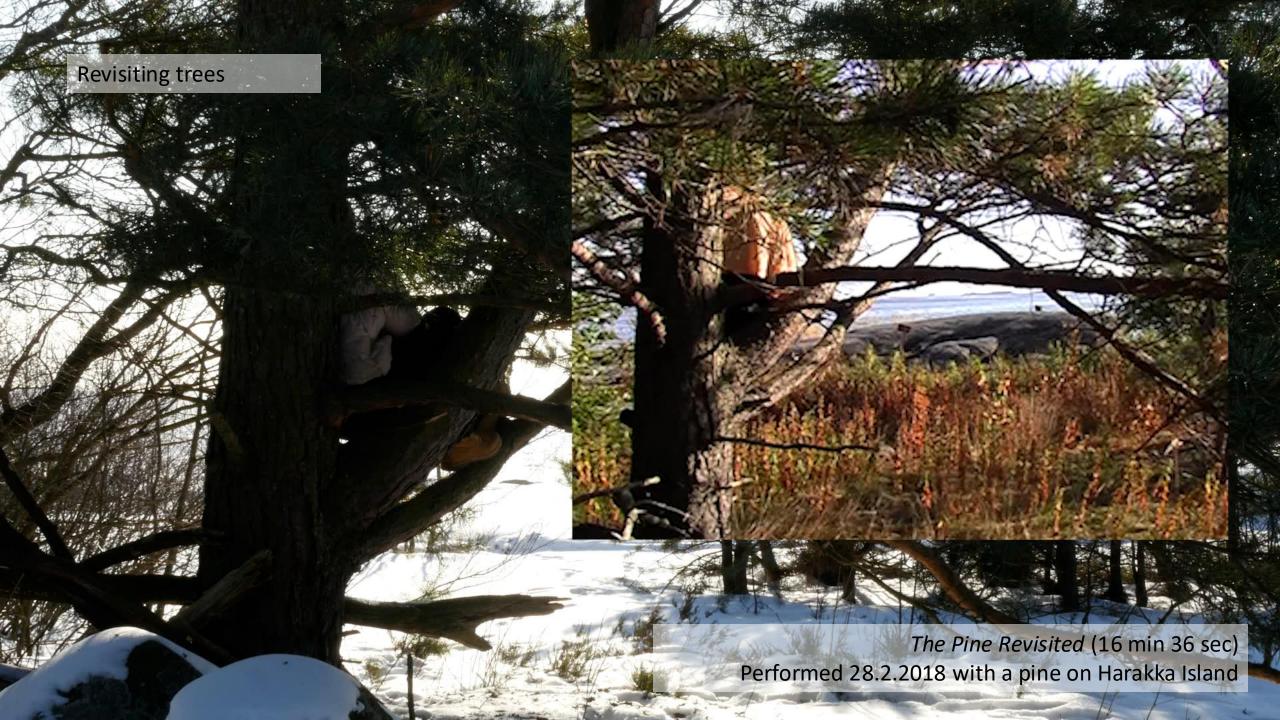


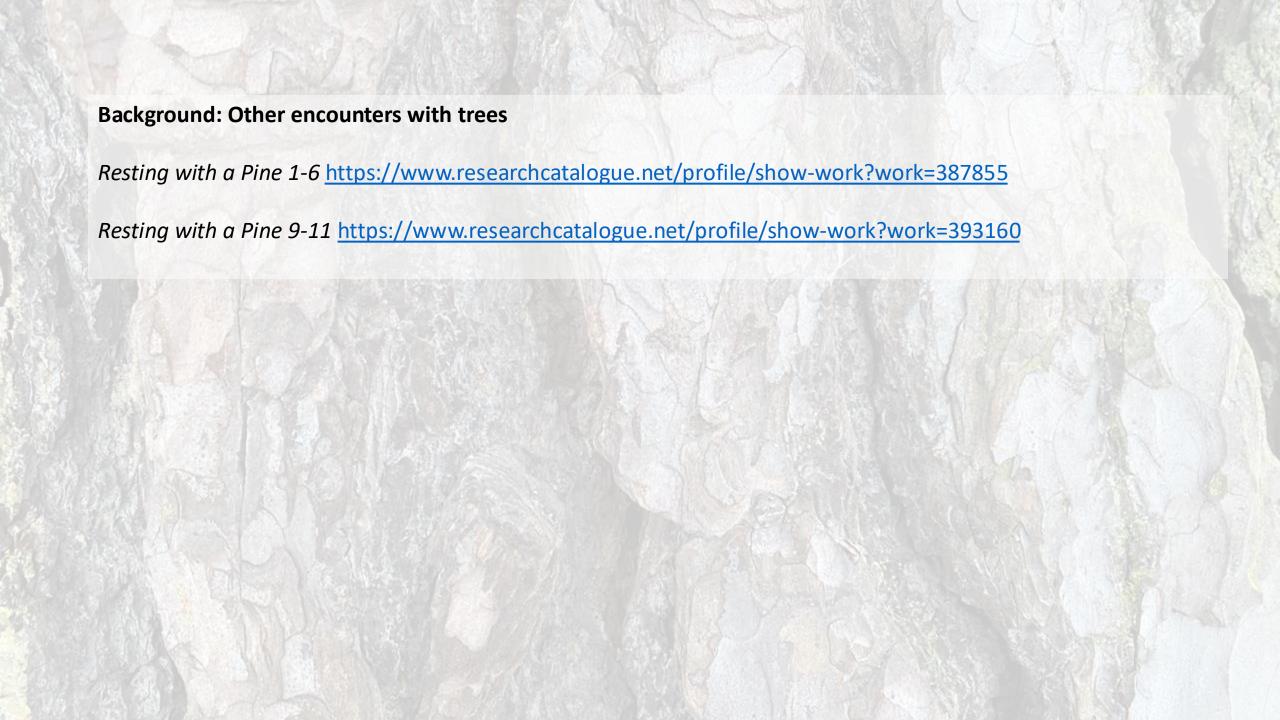


























## Pondering with Pines (2022-24)

Pines visited repeatedly 2022

Pines visited repeatedly 2023

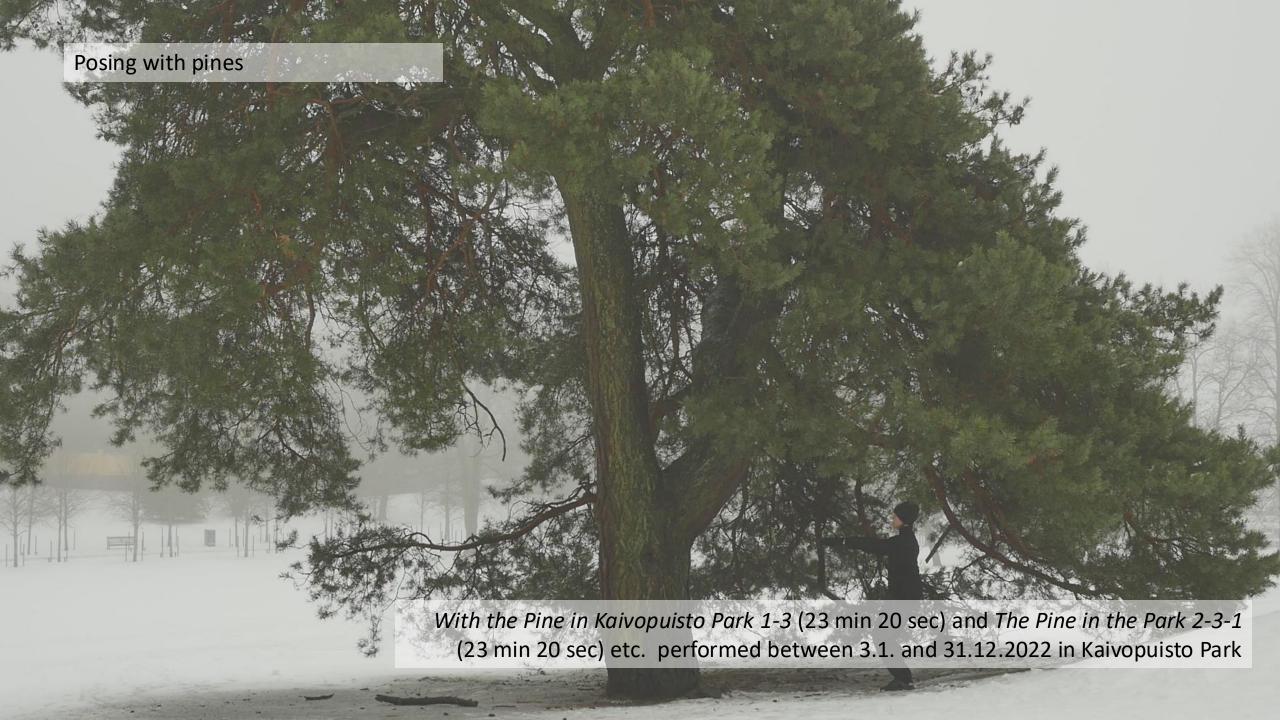
Pines visited repeatedly 2024

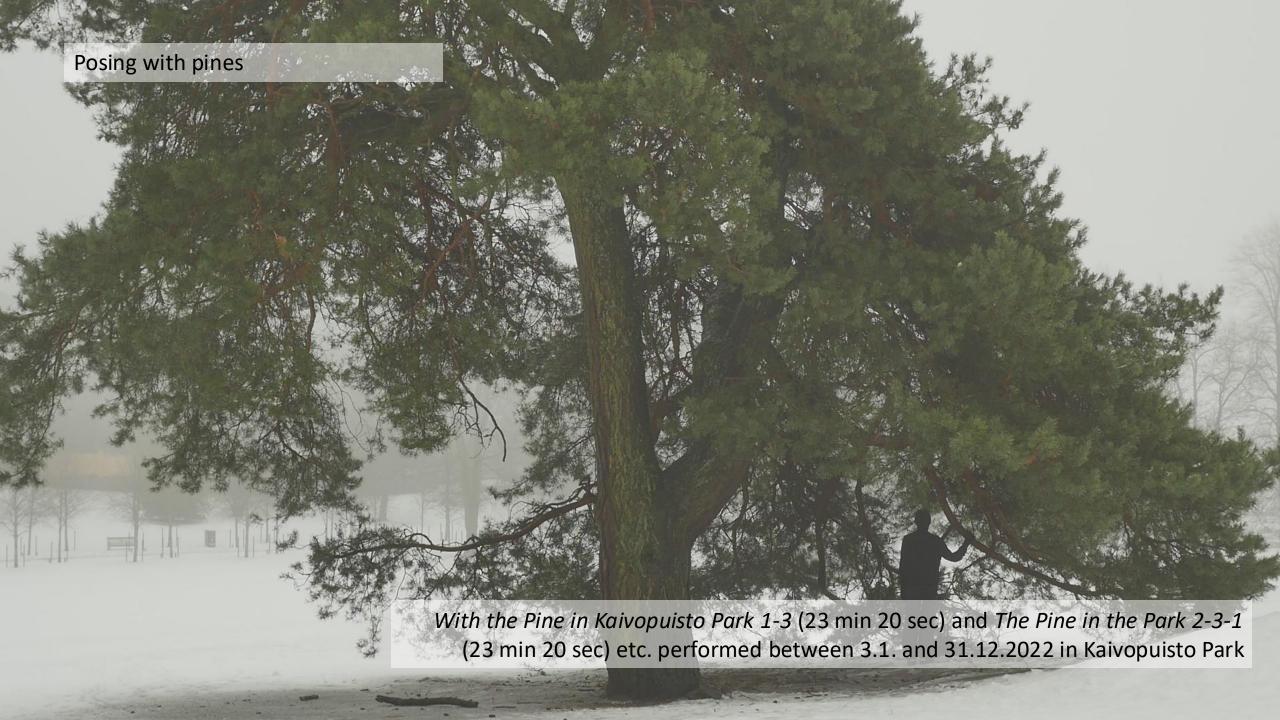
Other experiments (in various sites) 2022

Other experiments (in various sites) 2023

Other experiments (in various sites) 2024

## Pondering with Pines 2022 Pines visited repeatedly









Annette Arlander: Miettii Mäntyjen Kanssa - Funderar med Furor - Pondering with Pines 6.-18.6. 2023 12-17

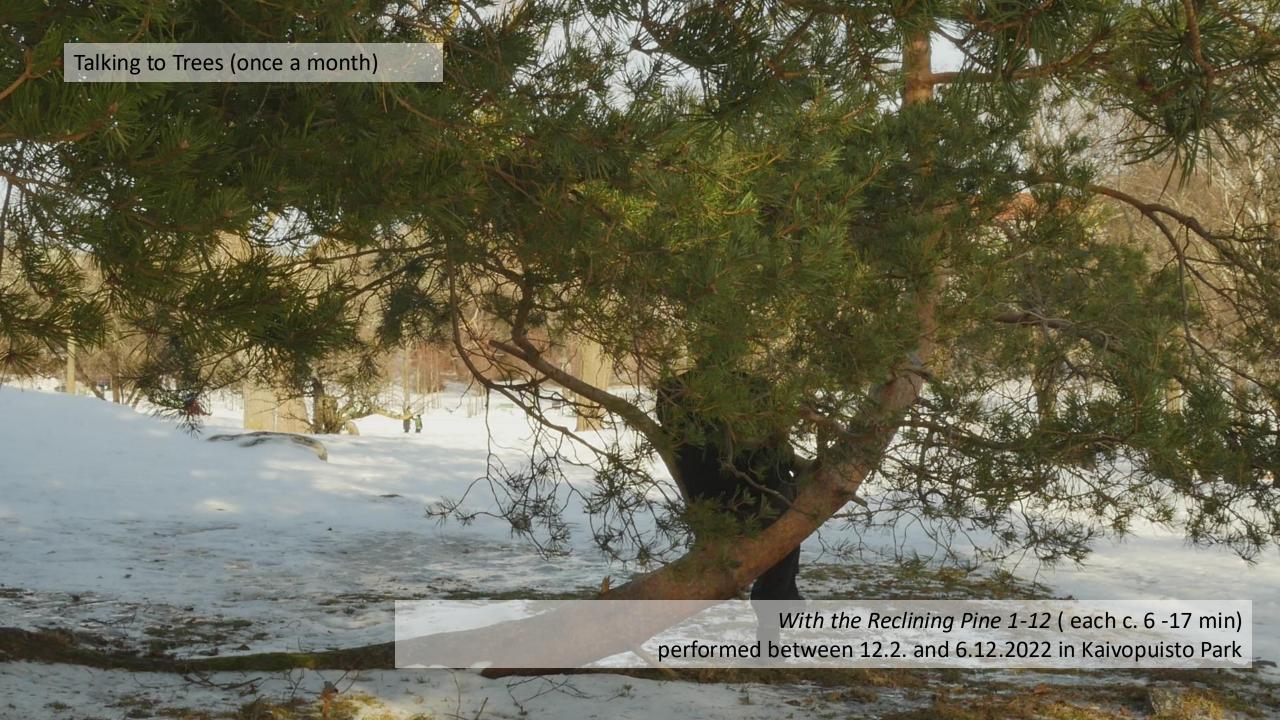






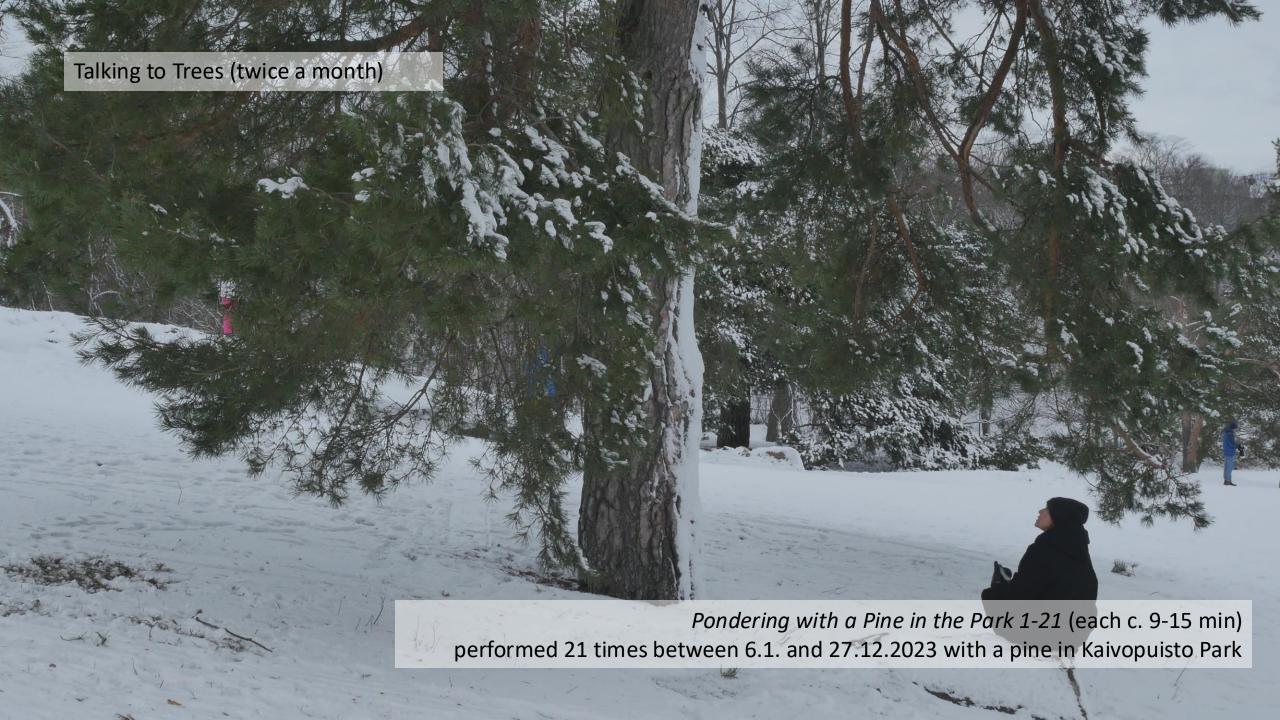








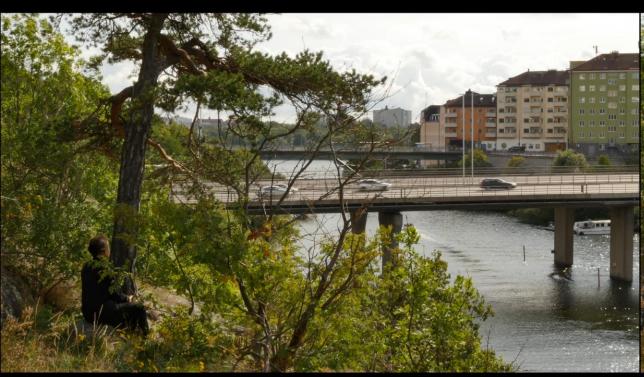
## Pondering with Pines 2023 Pines visited repeatedly







## Posing with pines





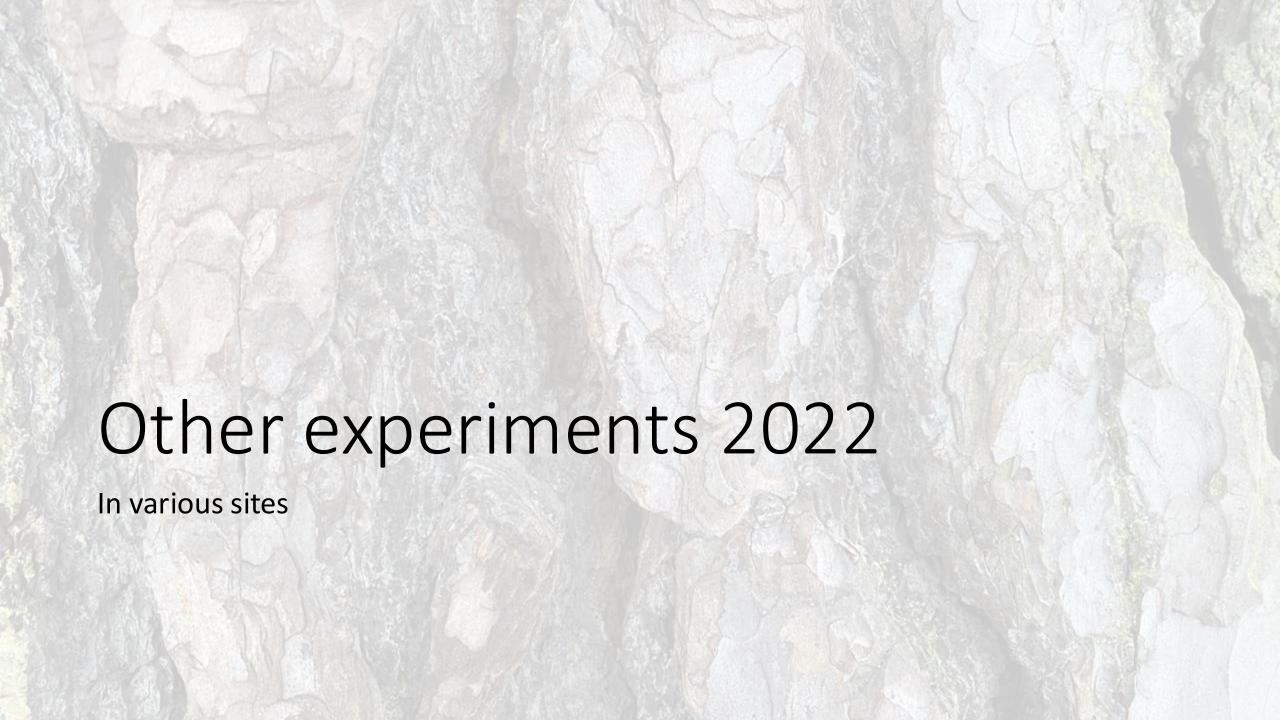
## Pondering with Pines 2024 Pines visited repeatedly





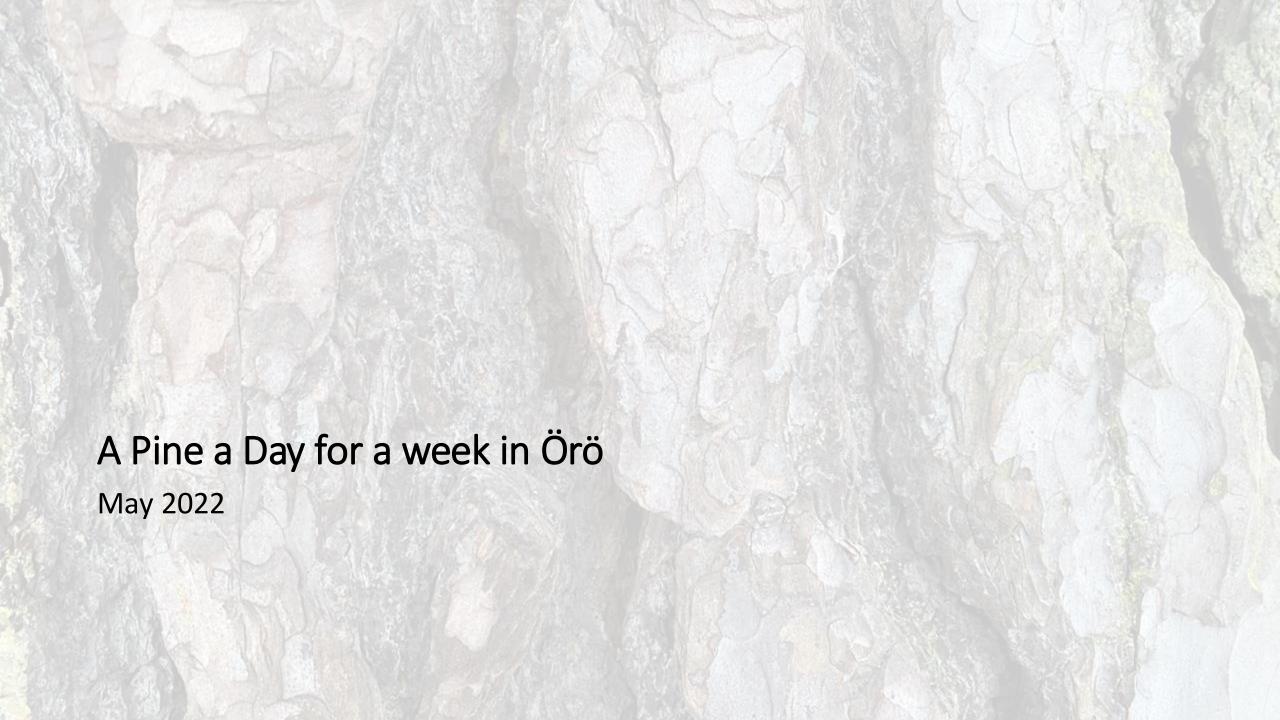














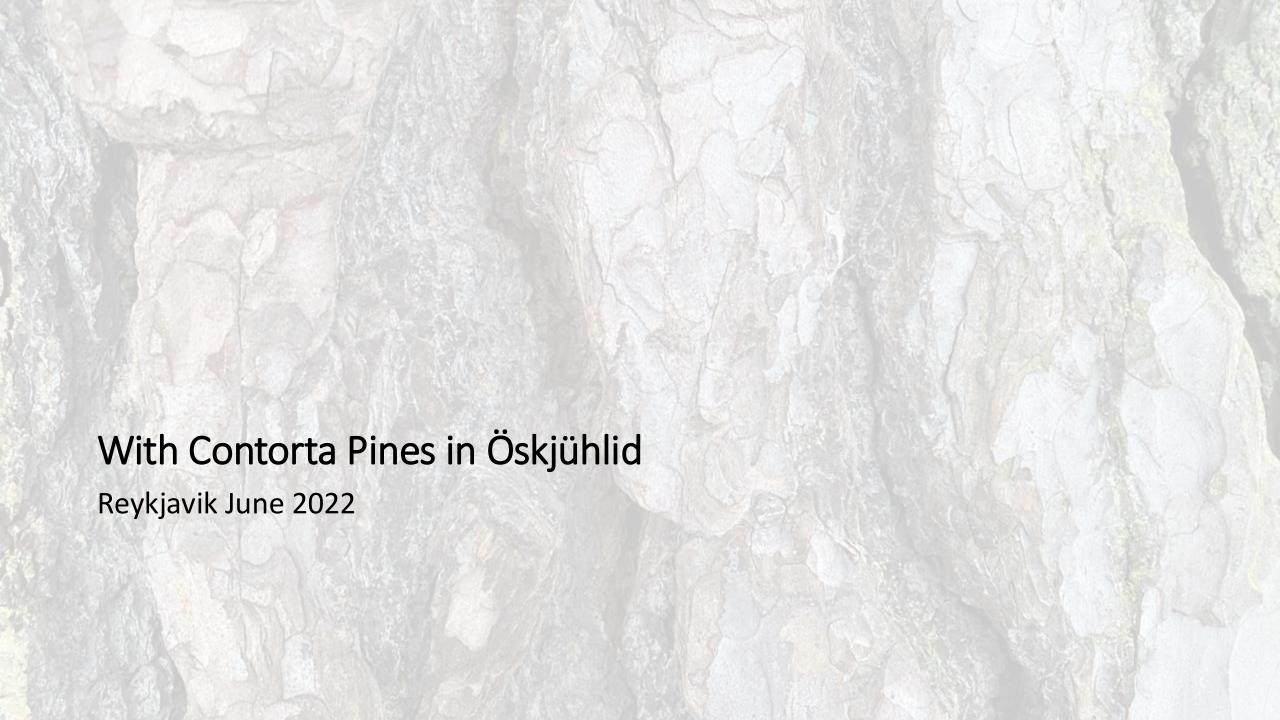




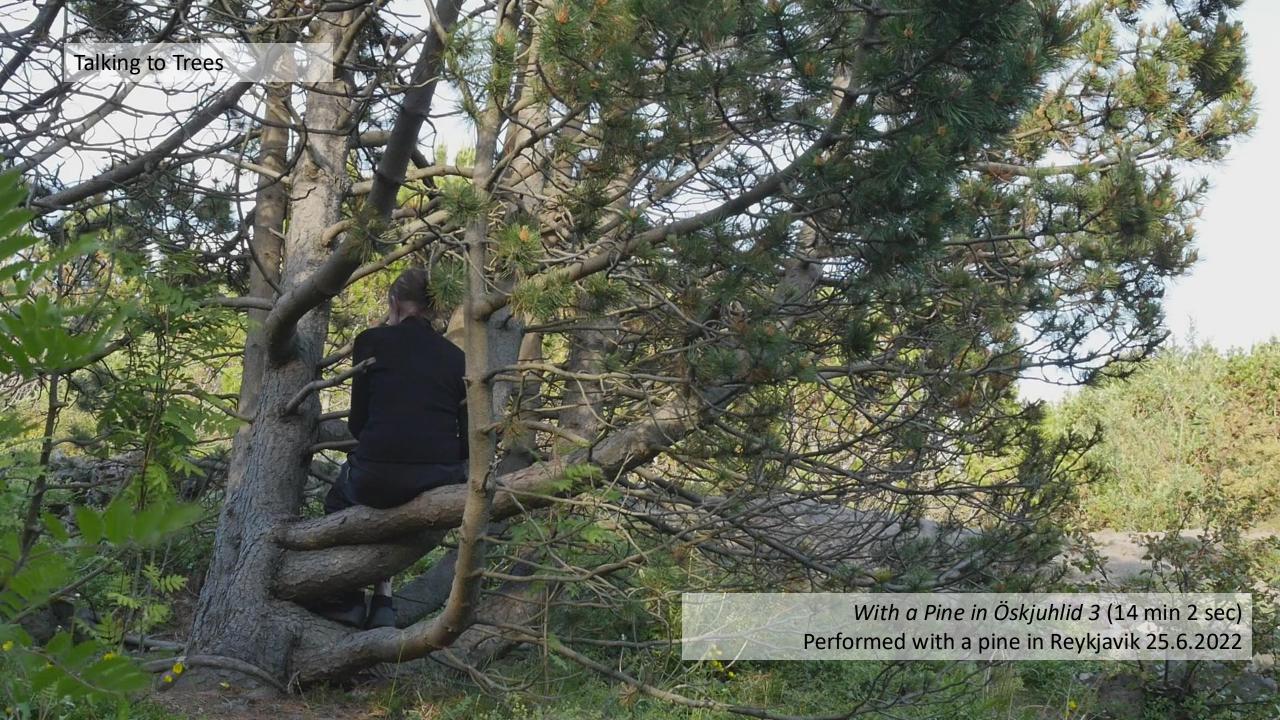






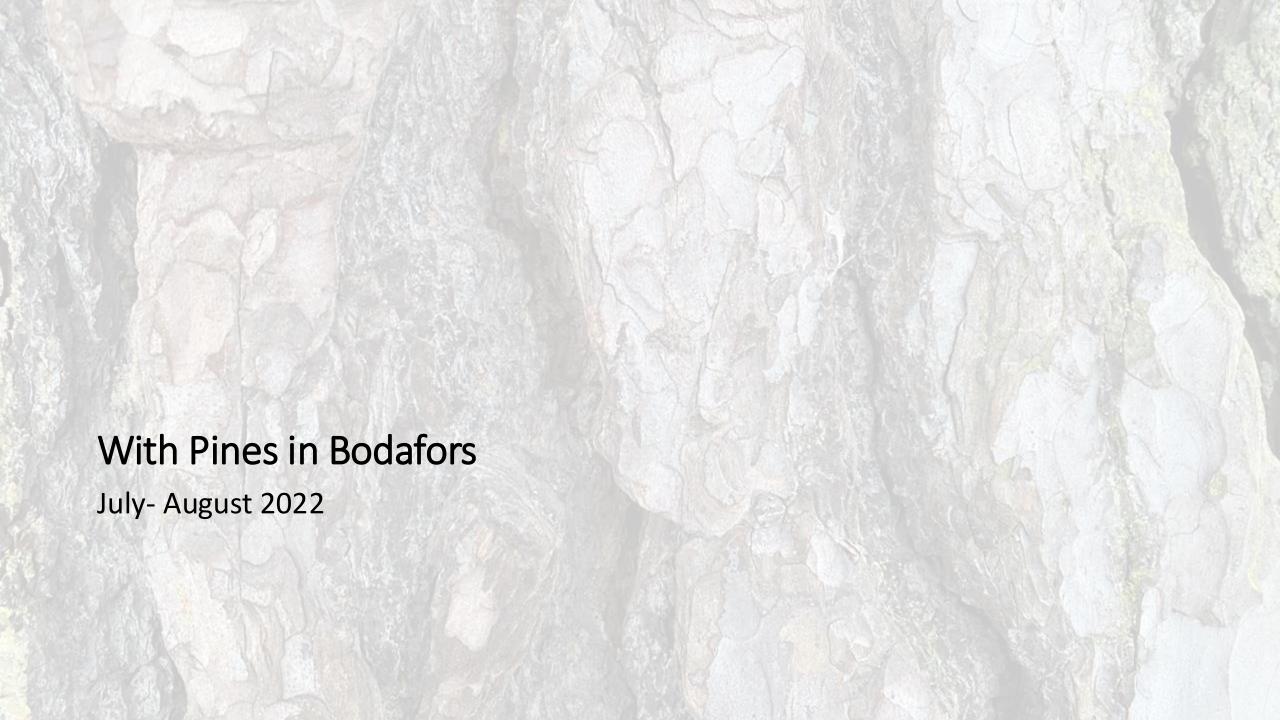


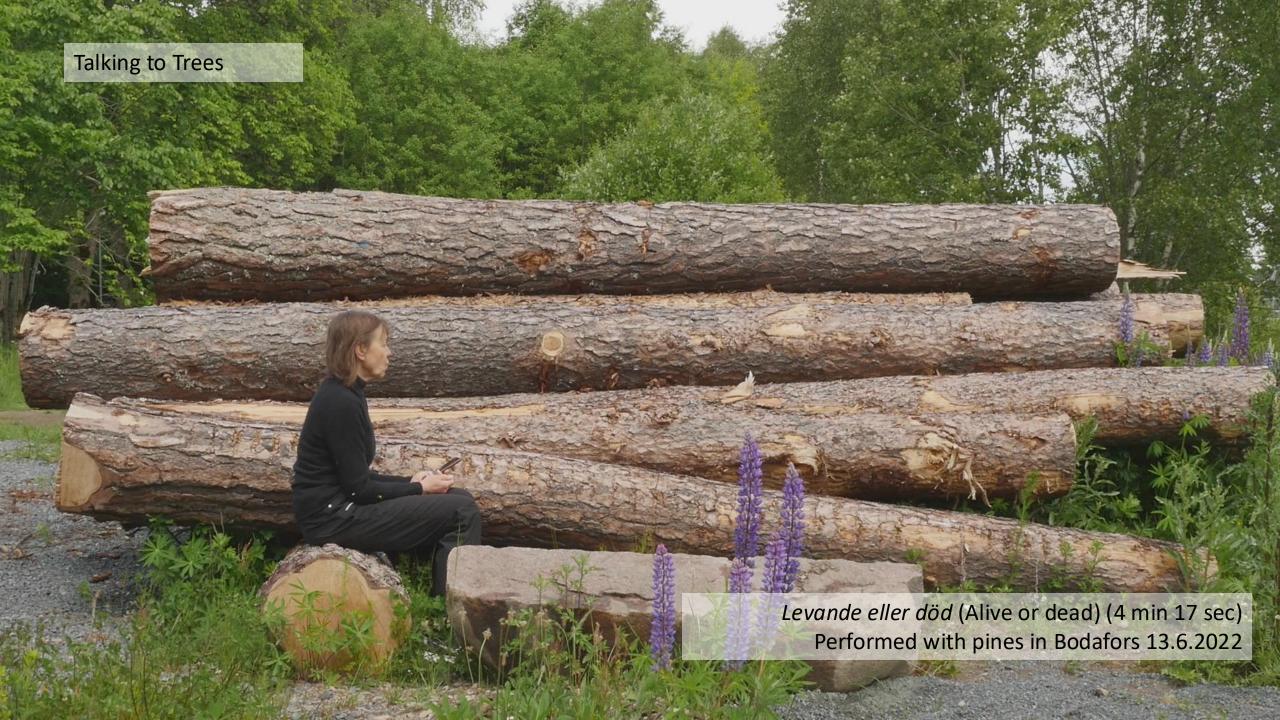










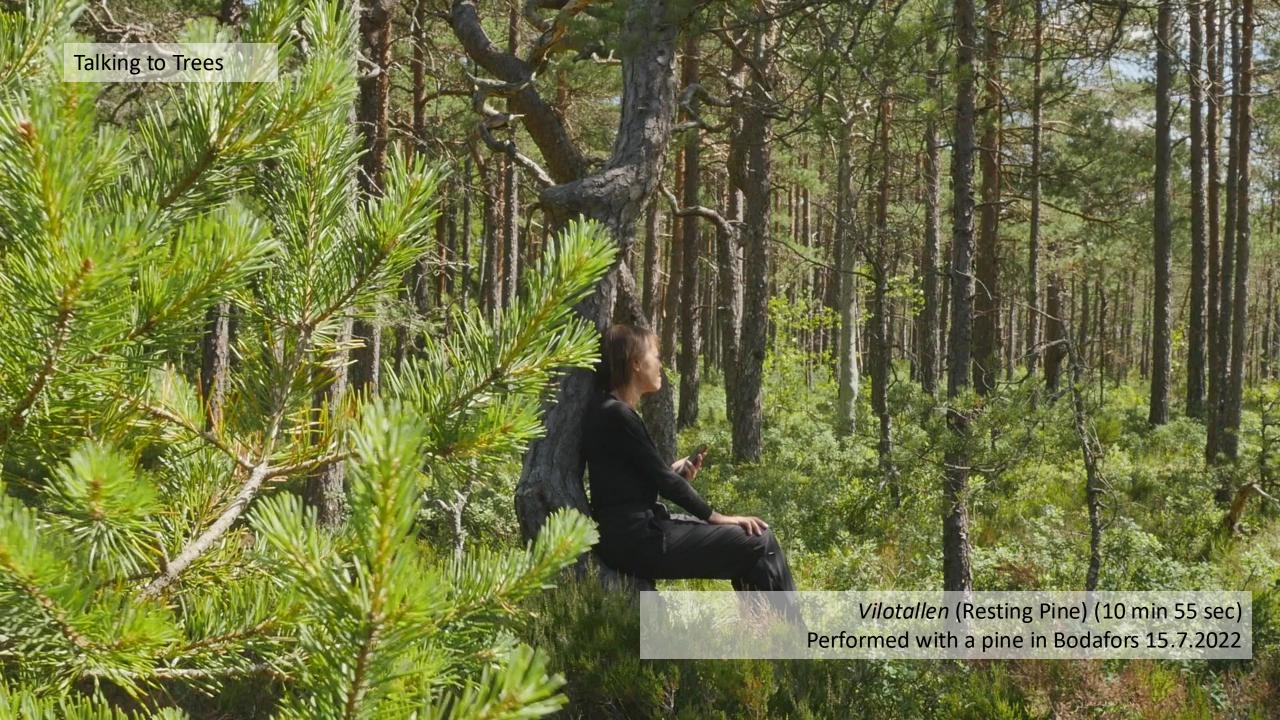


















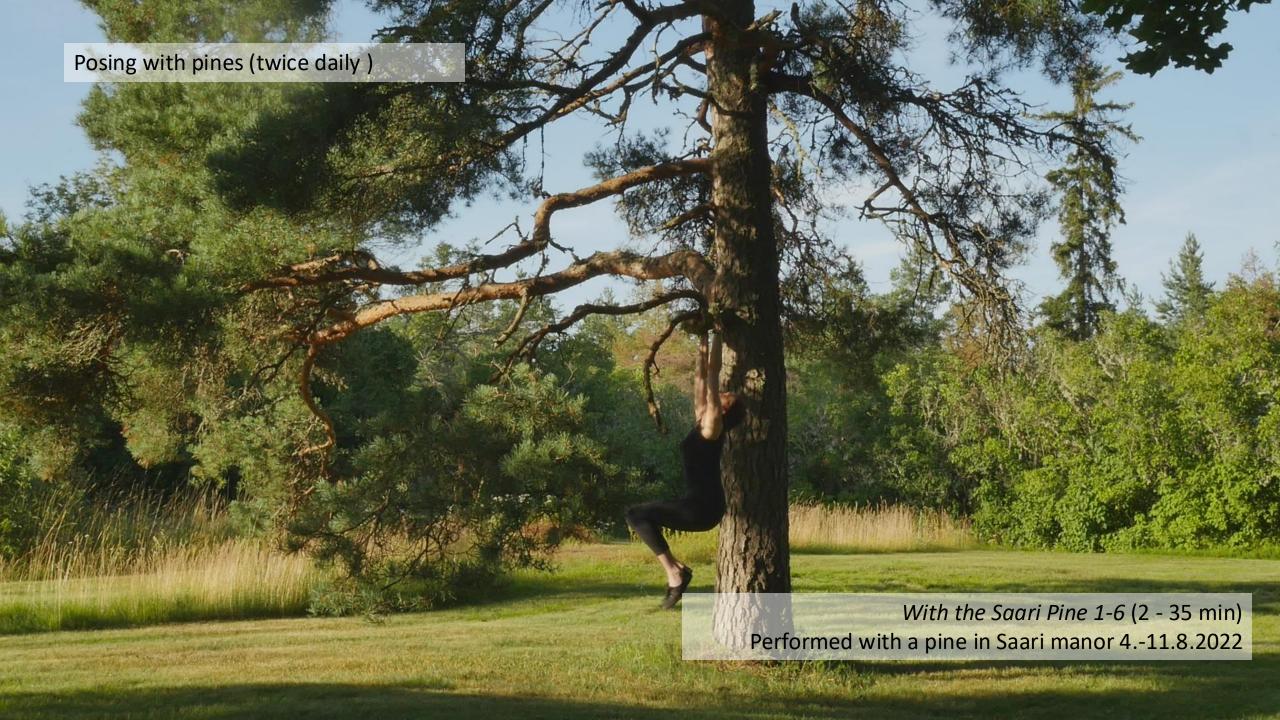






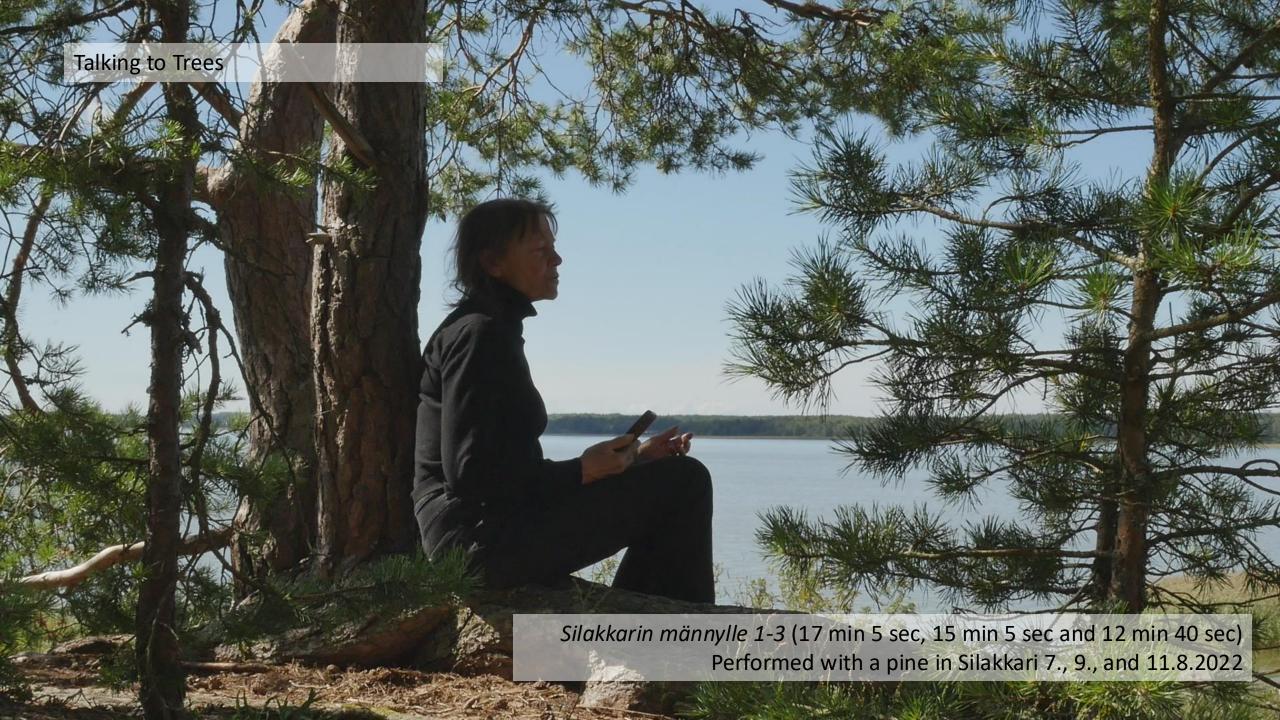


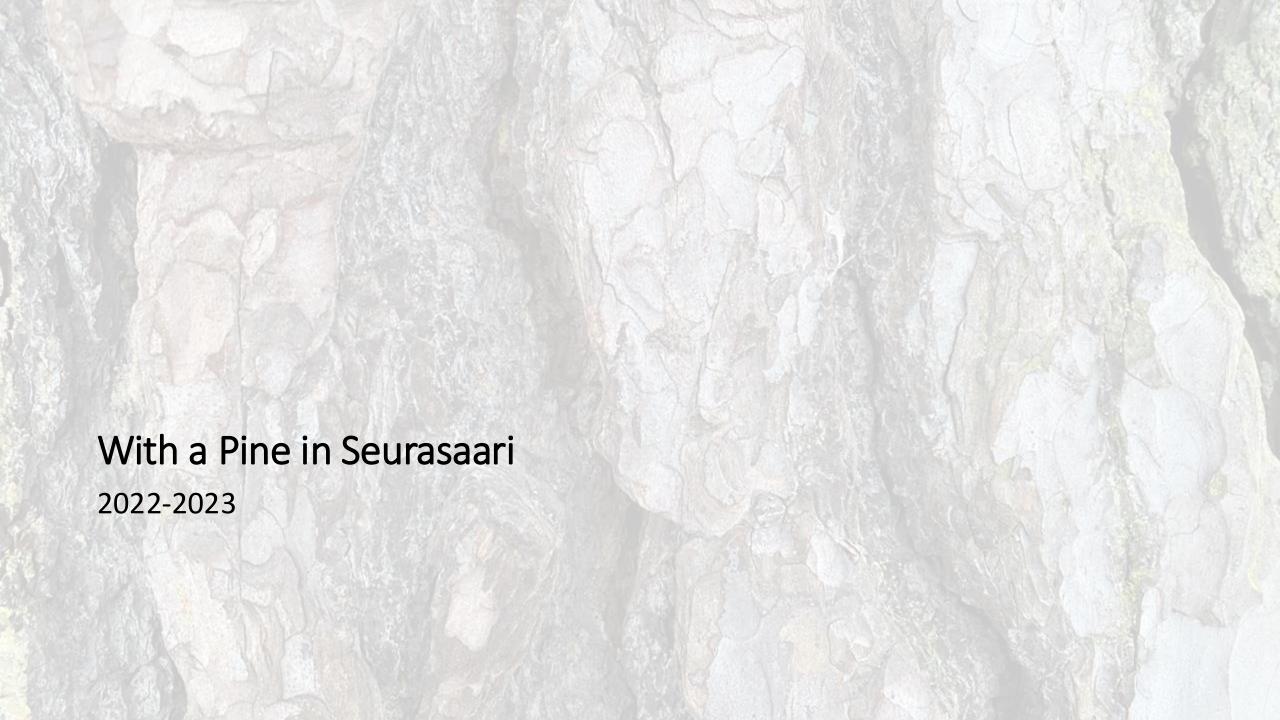




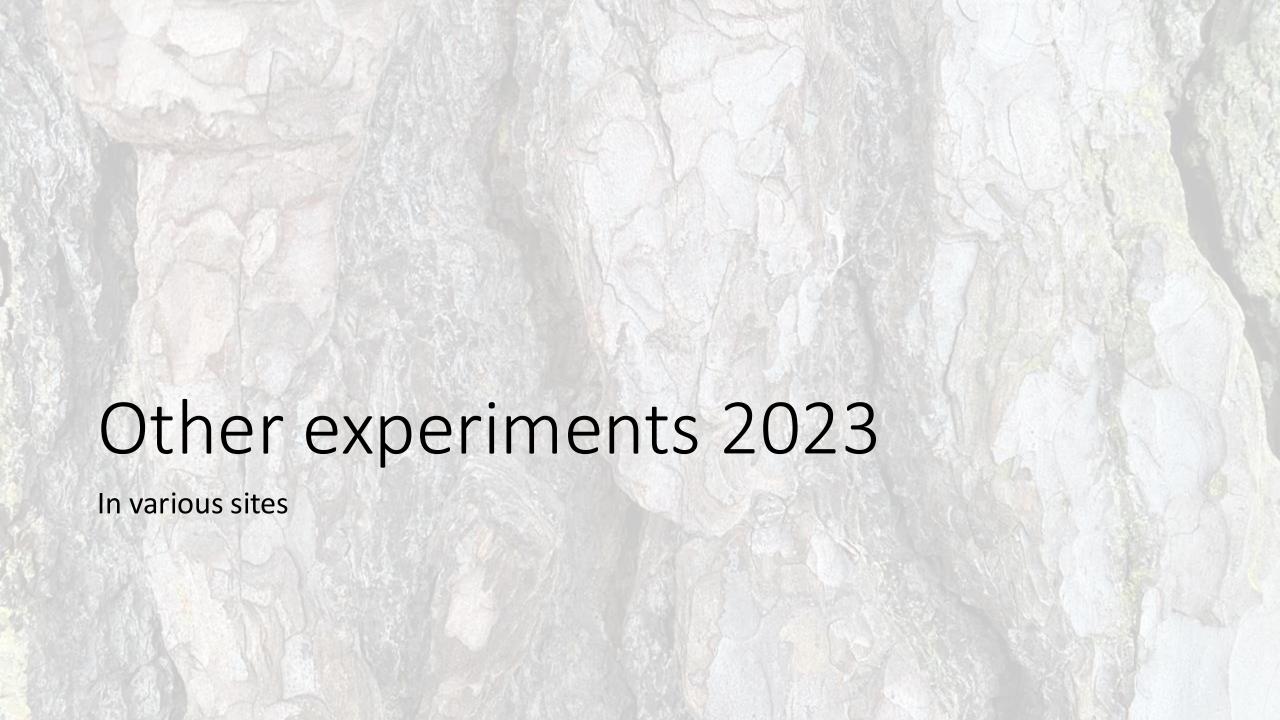






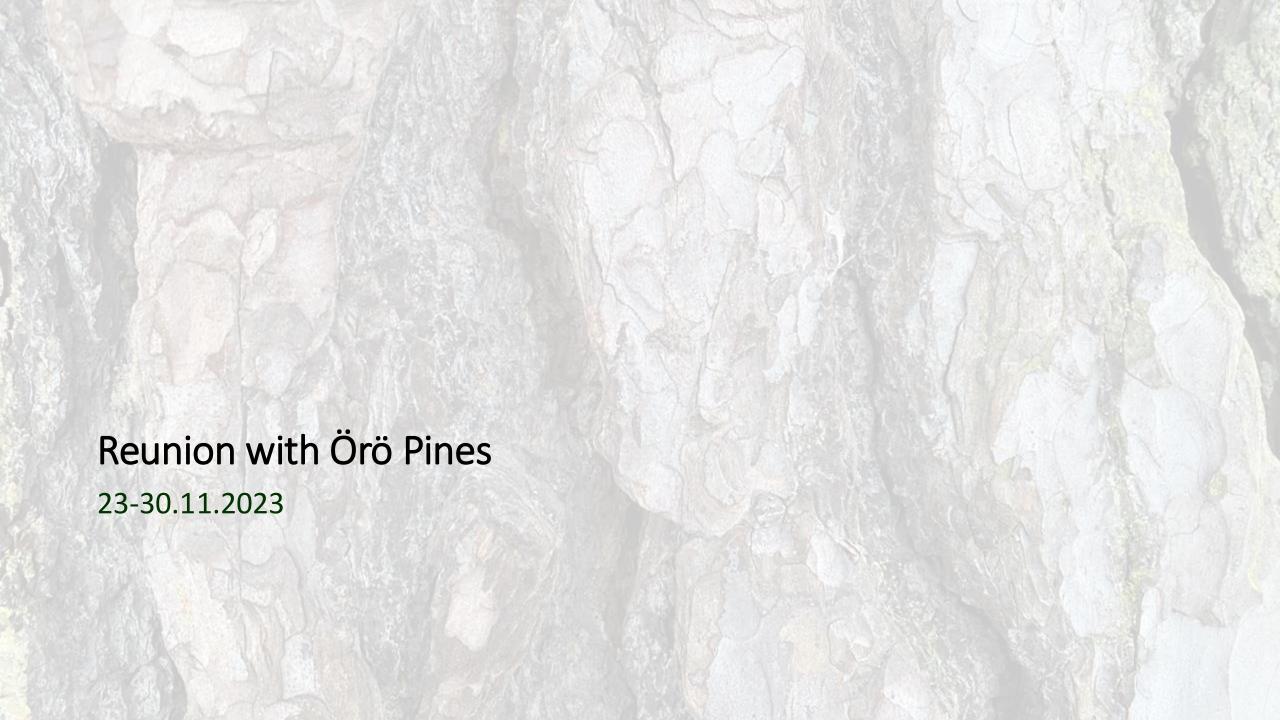
























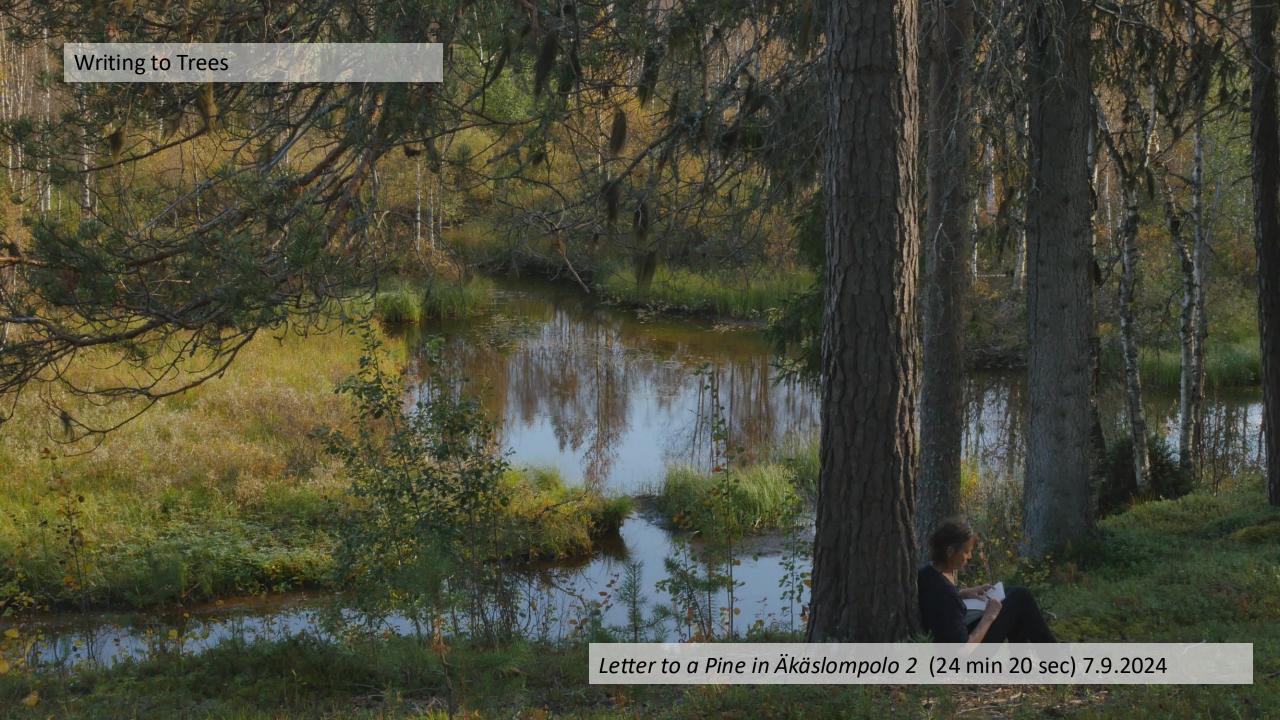


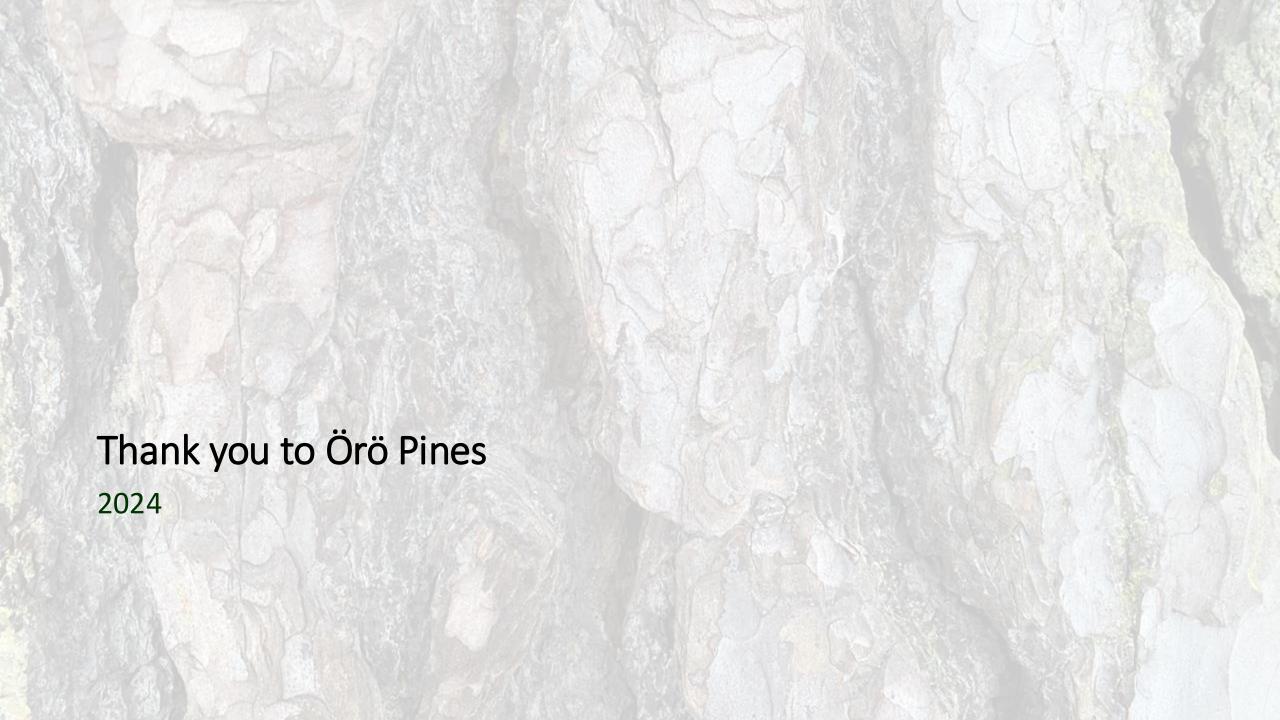
















## Articles based on work with pine trees

"Pondering with Contorta Pines – Towards Post-humanist Approaches in Performance as Research". *Näyttämö ja Tutkimus* [Stage and Research] Vol. 11 No. 1 2025, 11-32. <a href="https://journal.fi/teats/article/view/145411">https://journal.fi/teats/article/view/145411</a>

"Pondering with Örö Pines: Talking with Trees as an Undisciplinary Method". *Plant Perspectives*. 2025 <a href="https://doi.org/10.3197/WHPPP.63845494909748">https://doi.org/10.3197/WHPPP.63845494909748</a>

"Trees as experts in Site-specificity". In Hunter, Victoria and Cathy Turner (eds.) *Routledge Companion to Site-Specific Performance*, London & New York: Routledge 2025, 318-328.

"Rakas mänty, tervehdys mänty, päivää mänty – puhetta puille taiteen kontekstissa" [Dear Pine, Hello Pine, Greetings Pine – talk to trees in the context of art], *Synteesi* 4/2023, 95–110.

"Performing with Trees as Shifting Attention". In Maiju Loukola, Mari Mäkiranta and Jonna Tolonen (eds.) Figurations of Peripheries Through Arts and Visual Studies: Peripheries in Parallax. London & New York: Routledge 2023, 15-29.

"Letters to a Pine: A Video Essay". *Performance Matters* Vol. 9 No. 1-2 (2023): Performing Practice-Based Research, 78-87 <a href="https://performancematters-thejournal.com/index.php/pm/article/view/411">https://performancematters-thejournal.com/index.php/pm/article/view/411</a>

"Writing with a Pine: Addressing a Tree as Audience." 2023. *Näyttämö ja Tutkimus* [Stage & Research], 9, 2022, 103–120. <a href="https://journal.fi/teats/article/view/127615">https://journal.fi/teats/article/view/127615</a>

"The Shadow of a Pine Tree. Authorship, Agency and Performing beyond the Human". In Ewa Bal & Mateusz Chaberski (eds.) Situated Knowing. Epistemic Perspectives on Performance. London & New York: Routledge 2020, 157-170.

"Resting with Pines in Nida – attempts at performing with plants", *Performance Philosophy* Vol 4, no 2 (2019):452-475 <a href="http://www.performancephilosophy.org/journal/article/view/232">http://www.performancephilosophy.org/journal/article/view/232</a>

## Not peer reviewed:

"Workshop with a Pine" (2024). In *Mend-Blend-Attend: Advancing Artistic Research, Proceedings of the 13th SAR International conference on Artistic Research*, 86-95 <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/2429200/2429201">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/2429200/2429201</a>

"Dearest Pine." In Jack Faber and Anna Shraer (eds.) *Eco Noir: A Companion for Precarious Times*. Academy of Fine Arts, Uniarts Helsinki Publishing 2020, 105-112.

"Performing with a Pine Tree". In Ziegler, Denise (ed.) Kun koen kokeilen – kokeilen kun koen. Kokemus ja kokeellisuus taiteellisessa työskentelyssä ja tutkimuksessa. / I Experience as I Experiment – I Experiment as I Experience. Experience and experimentality in artistic work and research. The Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Helsinki, 2019, 15-26. https://taju.uniarts.fi/handle/10024/7148

## Performing and Thinking with Trees?

- First performing, experimenting, talking, recording gathering material
- Then transcribing, editing, reflecting, writing thinking
- · Also:
- thinking with the trees, next to the trees, assisted by the trees and the camera energizing the moment

