

A Shadow that Left the Logic of Its Own Existence

How could writing be materialised to lead a performative reading? How could performative reading be materialised? How could reading become writing? How could reading be materialised as writing on the site of action?

This experiment was undertaken in two events. One was at “Writing as Practice, Practice as Writing”, organised by the *Society for Artistic Research*, in 2016, and the other was at the symposium “Creative Resistance: Architecture, Art, Writing, a Life ...” at the University College of London, in 2017. The performative reading/writing involved a paper model, folded papers that were unfolded throughout a 10-minute presentation. Parts of the text were borrowed from the chapter “The House, The Wings, The Balcony, The Dissident”.

The first part of the presentation was to read from folded papers in my pockets. The second part was to pull strips of paper from a box while reading. After being read, each folded paper was placed on the table. And each strip pulled out of the box while reading was left hanging from the box on the table. At the end, there were layers of read texts and red strips hanging from the box. The whole stage of the presentation was changed after the act of reading. The reading of the written text *wrote* on the stage and changed it.

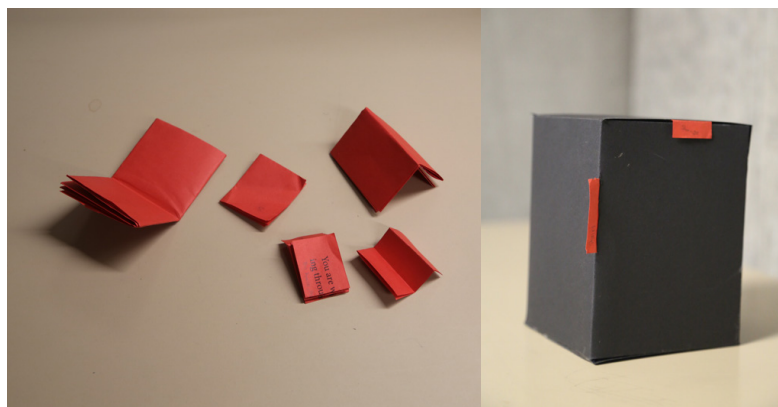
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Everything started from a room. The room had shut its windows to the outside. It had locked its doors to the corridors and halls. In an absolute state of isolation, the room was still part of a bigger constellation. Yet it was imagining itself as the most independent unit in the universe; it claimed to be the universe itself.

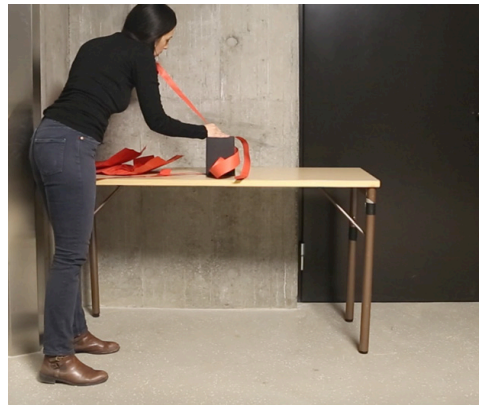
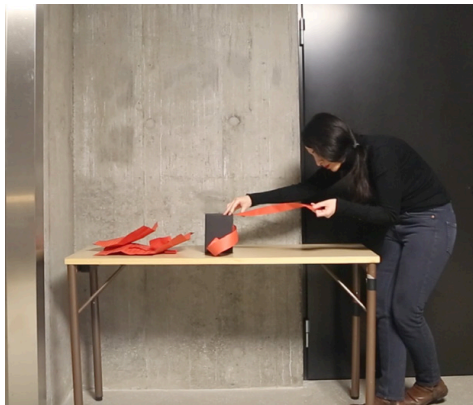
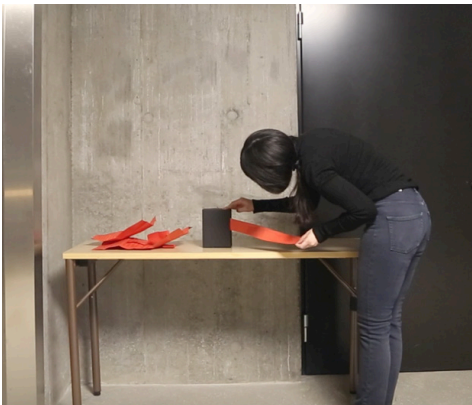
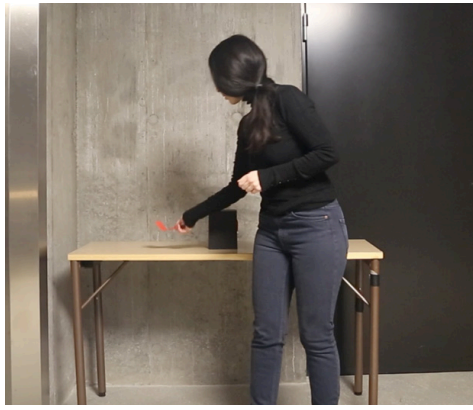
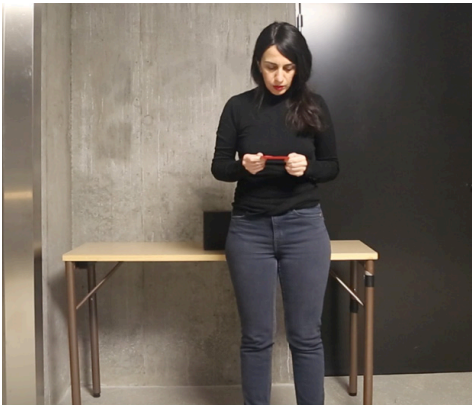
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I am out. The room says “you are there”. I know you have left the lights on and the room is silent. I still enjoy deceiving myself, imagining you on that sofa, your enlarged shadow, the shadow of your arms on the wall, stretched to the ceiling while you move your hands in your hair. Your shadow is confined to the room, it moves wildly around the corners with a strong desire to spill over the confinements of the room. I write my words to your shadow piercing through the imperfection of joints, where engineering has not been able to insulate the room completely. Your shadow sniffs the scent of freedom, leaks out from those imperfections, with a fear of leaving the logic of its existence that is its dependency on a source of light. It connects to my words and continues to exist in darkness. It becomes a shadow-word*.

**Shadowword* is an architectural element, a building material that always leaks out. It is known as a subversive element that questions the logic of its own existence. Scientists are now researching what happens if they use a shadowword in a designed leaking system, and are studying its behaviour in systems where leaking is the desired performance. Does it stop leaking, as it is a dissenting material?



Experiment of Performative Reading as Writing. Folded Papers and the Black Box.



Experiment of Performative Reading as Writing

I re-performed this experiment after the two initial events, to document the performance. KTH School of Architecture, 2018.



Experiment of Performative Reading as Writing - Reading as Writing on the Site - 2018

Embracing a pillow could be as revolutionary as throwing a stone. Hiding all night long behind a tree in the front garden could be as important as marching in a demonstration. A joke could be more influential than a thousand pages on the theory of revolutions. It is a characteristic of the dissident life that political and domestic activities are integrated.

For a dissident, it is important to laugh, sometimes out loud, all day long. But a dissident should also be able to hide in fear, when he hides his face in the pillow and waits in the eternal queues at bus stops or a laddie.

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