# Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees as Artistic Research **Annette Arlander**

### Artistic Research?

- relationships between art and research
- types and forms of artistic research
- purposes and aims of artistic research:
  art practice as a form of thinking / conceptual art
  art practice as critical investigation / documentary, journalism
  art-science collaborations or art-history collaborations etc
  artistic practice as method to generate data (for other fields)
  artworks to distribute research findings (in other fields)
  etc.

## Artistic Research?

Christopher Frayling's classic 1993 division

(https://researchonline.rca.ac.uk/384/3/frayling\_research\_in\_art\_and\_design\_1993.pdf):

- Research into art and design
- Research through art and design
- Research for art and design

#### For art:

- for specific artworks (experimenting, gathering material etc.)
- for an artistic field, i.e. by creating concepts and practices beyond a specific work, beyond one's own practice?

## Artistic Research?

- My own approach:
- making art in art context, writing about it in a research context
   (discussing concepts, describing processes and methods, using work as examples of problems)
- hybrid forms like video essays (almost the same "output" shared in art context and research context)
- sharing of process, of materials and experiments (rather than finished works) ongoingly online

#### Background:

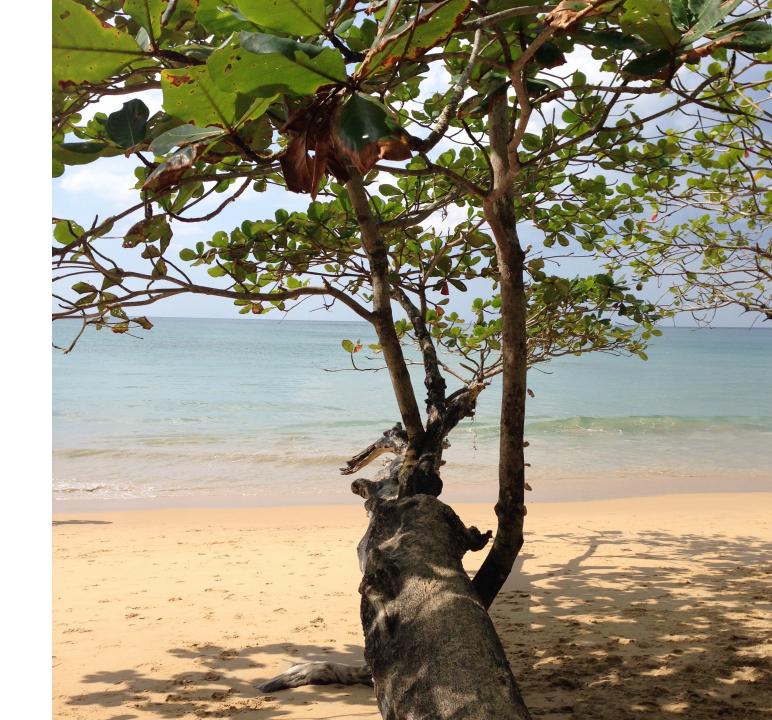
**Performing with Plants** 

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)





## Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees

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

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

The title of this artistic research project alludes to the celebrated photography book *Meetings with Remarkable Trees* (1996) by Thomas Pakenham and is in some sense forming a counterpoint to it, by questioning what is remarkable and what is unremarkable, while focusing on individual trees. The medium in this project is not photography, however, but rather performance for video and recorded voice.

Although we are often accused of "not seeing the forest for the trees", this project wants to look at the opposite danger, not seeing the trees for the forest, and look at individual trees. This is not to deny that trees form networks and ecosystems or symbiotic relationships not only with other trees but with fungi, bacteria and all kinds of micro-organisms, and are in a constant exchange with their environment, as humans are as well.

(read more <a href="https://meetingswithtrees.com">https://meetingswithtrees.com</a>)

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

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

A third way is through articulating the various strategies or techniques utilized or developed, which I will attempt here...

but first a brief summary of the residencies, to acknowledge the sites and the support:

#### **Residencies during the project:**

ARA (Arts Research Africa) residency in Johannesburg in February-March 2020 <a href="https://meetingswithtrees.com/ara/">https://meetingswithtrees.com/ara/</a> Including Nirox sculpture park (a few days) <a href="https://meetingswithtrees.com/nirox/">https://meetingswithtrees.com/nirox/</a>

Mustarinda in Northeastern Finland in September 2020 <a href="https://meetingswithtrees.com/mustarinda/">https://meetingswithtrees.com/mustarinda/</a>

Öres on Örö Island in November 2020 <a href="https://meetingswithtrees.com/ores/">https://meetingswithtrees.com/ores/</a>

Päiväkoti in Hailuoto in April 2021 <a href="https://meetingswithtrees.com/hailuoto/">https://meetingswithtrees.com/hailuoto/</a>

Ars Bioarctica in Kilpisjärvi, two weeks in June 2021 <a href="https://meetingswithtrees.com/ars-bioarctica/">https://meetingswithtrees.com/ars-bioarctica/</a>

#### Old strategies or techniques utilized:

Time-lapse videos of years with trees, a few times a week for a year (2017-2019)

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

#### New strategies or techniques developed:

Writing letters to trees by the trees

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

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

Variations (either repeated practices or singular poses)

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

Day with Old Tjikko, Day with a Juniper 1 & 2 <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1013698">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1013698</a>

Day with the Firethorne Rhus (Nirox) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/822442">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/822442</a>

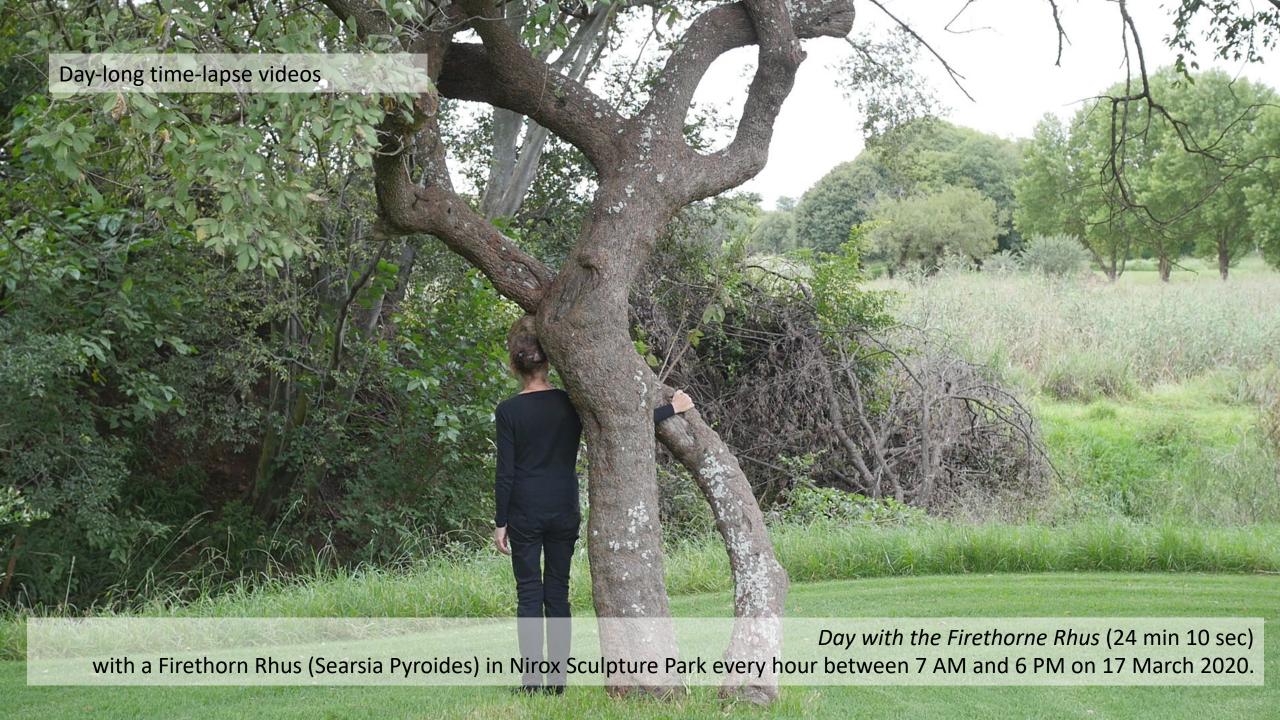
Day with a Bog Birch (Mustarinda) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/999357/2/1002">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/999357/2/1002</a>

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>

Day and Night with a Mountain Birch (Kilpisjärvi) https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1292734















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

The Oak on Galway Road (in Johannesburg) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/796954">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/796954</a>

The Maple Tree in Tehtaankatu (in Helsinki) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/831532">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/831532</a>

The Spruce of Independence (in Kaivopuisto Park) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/917581">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/917581</a>

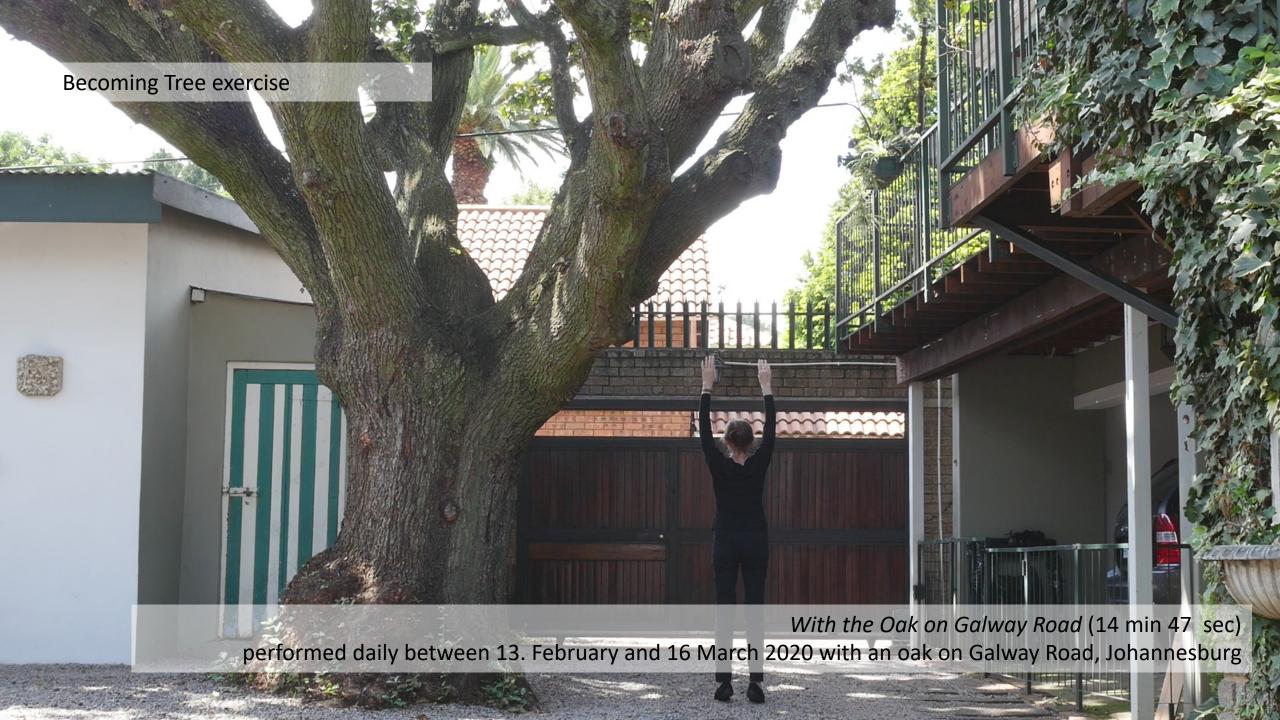
The Pine on the Shore on Harakka Island <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/944410">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/944410</a>

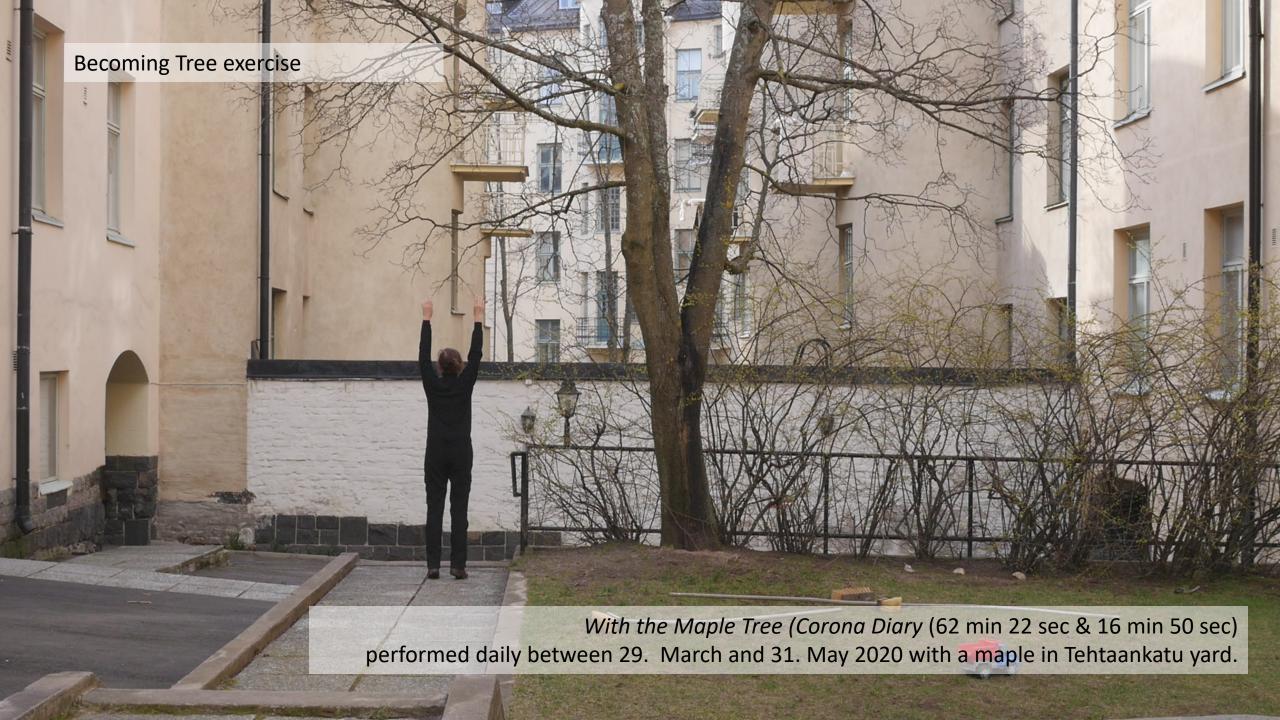
The Birch in Mustarinda <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/978491">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/978491</a>

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 (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>







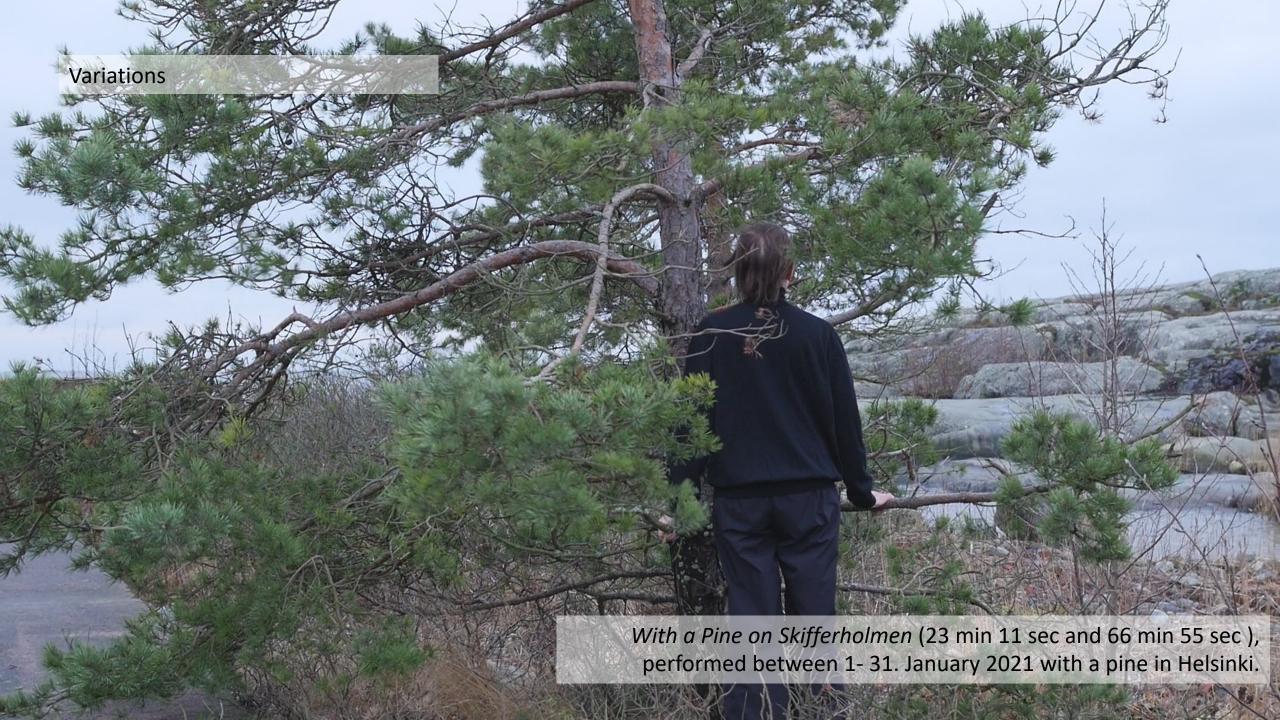






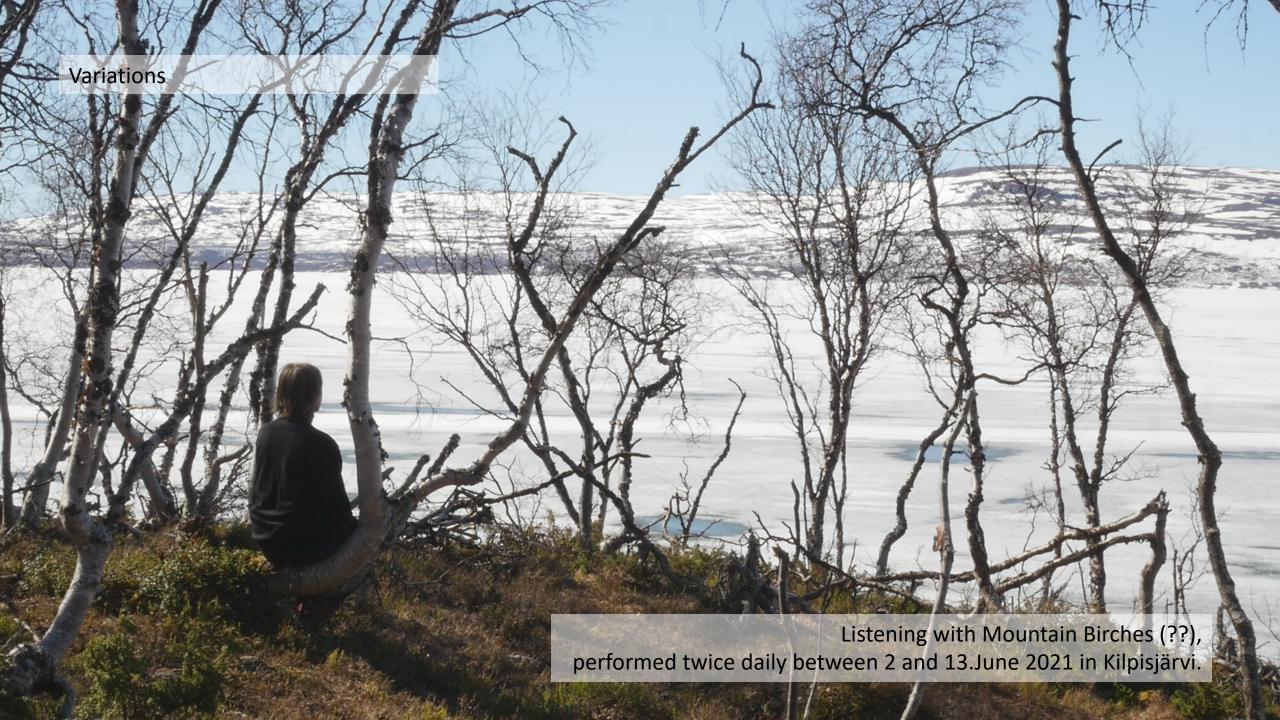














#### Writing letters to trees next to the trees:

Dear Olive Tree, Dear Ficus Macrofylla I & II <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1013698">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1013698</a>
The Pine on Hundudden <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/771644">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/771644</a>

Dear Firethorn Rhus <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/822442/51/603">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/822442/51/603</a>
Dear Firethorn Rhus II <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/822442/51/2128">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/822442/51/2128</a>

The Pine in Brunnsparken <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/831544">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/831544</a>
<a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/844990/0/0">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/844990/0/0</a>

Dear Spruce, Dear Birch and Dear Deceased https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/982302/20/3334

Writing with a Pine, Writing in a Pine, 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>

Tala om det för tallen (Tell it to the Pine) <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1107375">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1107375</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>

Dear Mountain Birch <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1294375/18/4222">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1294375/18/4222</a>
Dearest Mountain Birch <a href="https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1289070/536/4656">https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/1289070/536/4656</a>

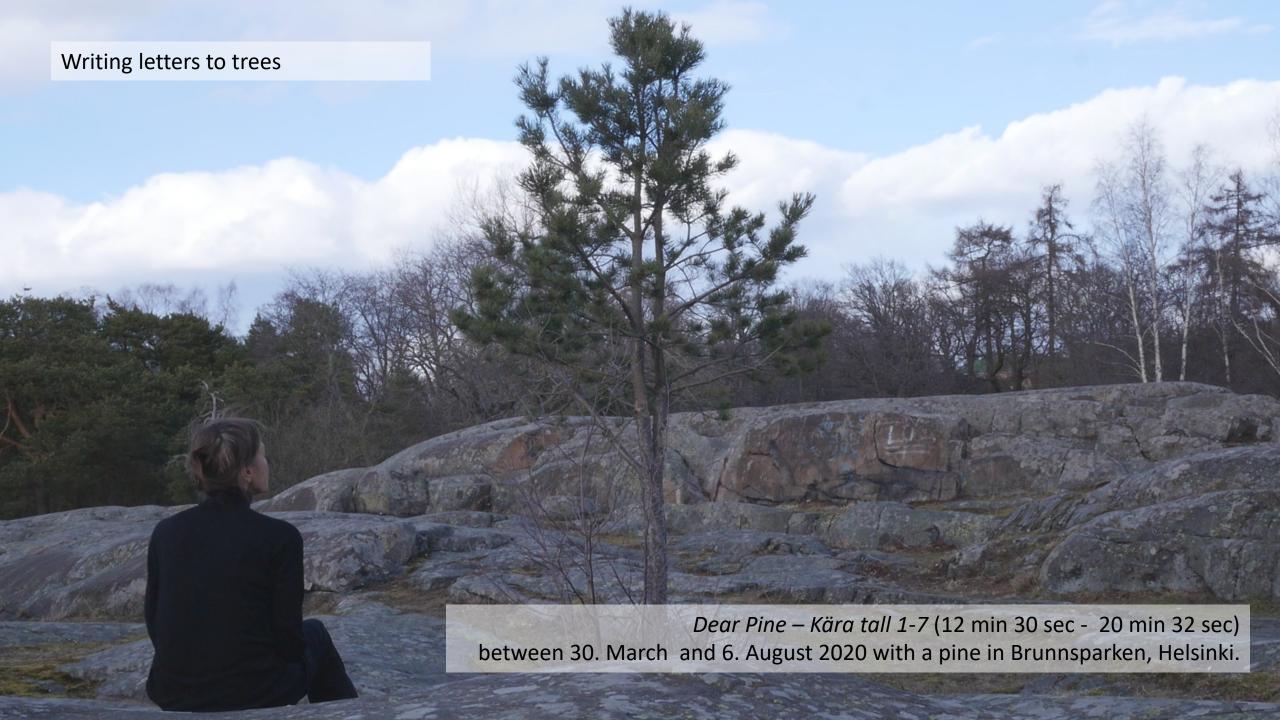








































For more trees and ways of meeting them, see:

Project blog

https://meetingswithtrees.com

Project archive on the Research Catalogue

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

Or my website

https://annettearlander.com

