Pondering with Pines

Annette Arlander 2024

… the assignment…

Create a plan with two parts, **one for sharing and the other for documenting your process.** The plan can be based on your current practice, or it can be a speculative plan, for an ideal situation, a future development. Consider the customary strategies within your field, and whether you want to change them in some manner.

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Plan for sharing your artistic research process: Draft a strategy for sharing your process, rather than the final results. Which parts of your work do you want to share with others, with whom, when and where, how often, in what media, for what purpose? (Add questions as needed.)

Plan for documenting your artistic research process: Draft a strategy for documenting and recording your process, rather than the final results. Which parts of your work do you want to document and keep record of, with what media or tools, when and how detailed, to be shared or private, for what purpose? (Add questions as needed.)

Documentation of process or product - Sharing of process or product

- Difference between documenting and sharing

- Difference between process and (final) product

- Documenting (archiving) for private or public use, which aspects, with what tools?

- Sharing (exposing, publishing) for a specific audience, for the public, for future users?

- Method as a formalised and systematized way of conducting research to be borrowed and applied

- Method as one's own way of working that is described, simplified and shared

- Documenting and sharing as methods

NB. Documentation is never neutral or innocent

Documenting, Sharing, Method

"The act of documenting an event as a performance is what constitutes it as such" (Auslander 2006, 5).

"It is not the initial presence of an audience that makes an event a work of performance art: it is its framing as performance through the performative act of documenting it as such" (Auslander 2006, 7).

- What about documenting a research event?

"Art documentation … marks the attempt to use artistic media within art spaces to refer to life itself, that is, to a pure activity, to pure practice, to an artistic life, as it were, without presenting it directly." (Boris Groys 2008, p 53.)

"The artistic documentation, whether real or fictive, is … primarily narrative, and thus it evokes the unrepeatability of living time. The artificial can thus be made living, made natural, by means of art documentation, by narrating the history of its origin, its 'making.'" (Boris Groys 2008, p 56.)

- What about documenting an artistic research process?

"The doctrine of documentation as intervention seeks to open the door to this wider conception of research. It is one way in which young people who are entering a world of rapid change, new technologies and volatile job markets can develop the triple capacity to inquire, to analyse and to communicate. Research, in this sense, is an essential capacity for democratic citizenship." (Apparudai 2006, p 176)

- Is there a right to artistic research? What can be done with it?

Documenting, Sharing, Method – one example

First, I was documenting performances on site with a video camera,

then performing for a video camera to produce video works,

today my methods could be described as:

- repetition with variation,

- accumulation of material over time,

- experimenting with alternatives

- recording / documenting with video camera and phone

- instant online archiving / sharing of still-images or sound recordings

- podcast as a form of 'journaling'

- reflective (scholarly) writing or compiling of video essays

- In practice: Posing for camera with trees, writing to trees, talking to trees etc.

Strategies for documenting and sharing process or product

Process:

- Blog as project website (now in three languages)

- Research Catalogue as an open online archive

with still images of videos (of each video and sound recording session), some low-resolution edited videos, 'ponderings', transcriptions of spoken text - all stored and shared immediately

Products:

- Video works (Distribution Centre for Finnish Media Art), exhibitions

- podcast episodes (Soundcloud)

- peer reviewed articles, video essays

Three projects as examples

- Previous projects:

Performing with Plants (2017-2019)

Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees (2020-2021)

- Current project:

Pondering with Pines (2022-2024)

(end of project – no more new material, possibly new outputs

new project – new project archive)

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)
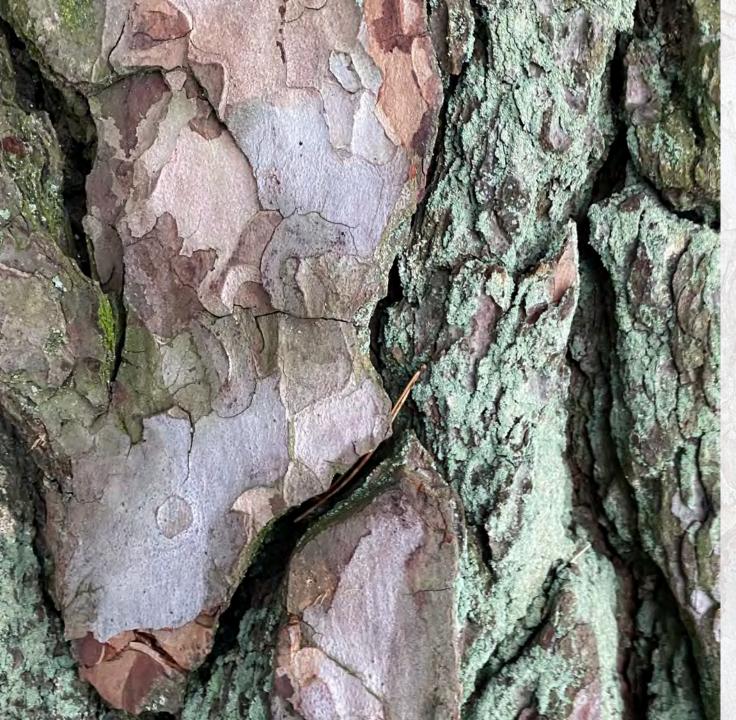funded by Vetenskapsrådet
(The Swedish Research Council)

Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees

2020-2021
As visiting researcher at Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Helsinki
Supported by Finnish Cultural Foundation

Project archive on the Research Catalogue
https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/761327

Project blog
https://meetingswithtrees.com

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
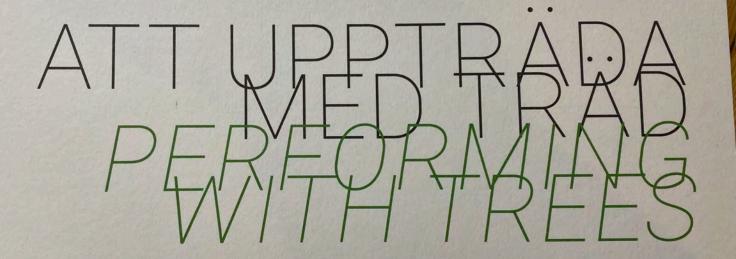
Project archive on the RC
https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410
/1589526

Podcast *Talking with Trees* on Soundcloud
https://soundcloud.com/user-
90370389/sets/talking-with-trees-pine

Traditional outcomes or results

Publications:

See also "How should I write about my work? Notes on publishing artistic research." jar-online.net. 29/12/2022. https://doi.org/10.22501/jarnet.0059

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 https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/316550/316551/26432/30
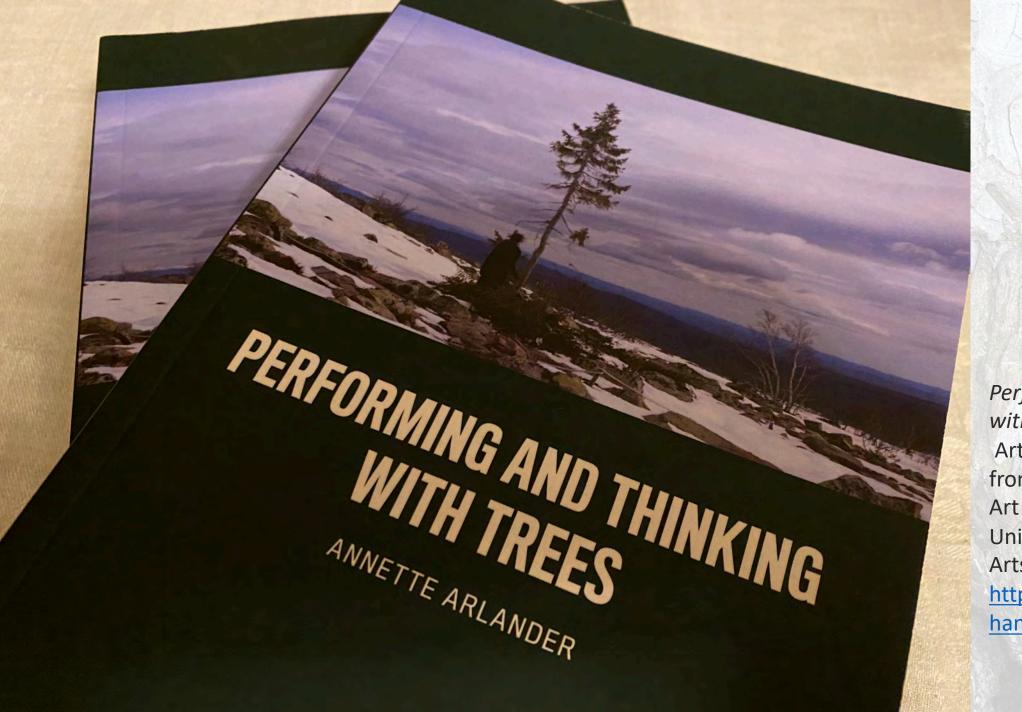
Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees in Johannesburg and Environs

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.wits.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

The Research Catalogue as a tool

Three examples of using the RC to document the project as a process:

Performing with plants (2017-2019)
https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/316550/316551

Meetings with Remarkable and Unremarkable Trees (2020-2021)
https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/761326/761327

Pondering with Pines (2022-2024)
https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/1589526

Performing with Plants

- an artistic research project by Annette Arlander

Att uppträda/samarbeta med växter

- ett konstnärligt forskningsprojekt av Annette Arlander

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

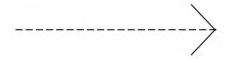For more information, see blog https://meetingswithtrees.com

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
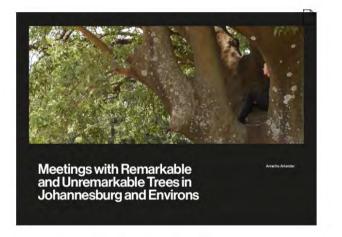(The Swedish Research Council)

Publications:

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:

considerations

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?

Some recent examples

Returning to a Pine in Lill-Jansskogen in Stockholm for an alumna talk in December 2023

Vid Essingeleden (By Essingeleden) in Stockholm from September 2023 - ongoing

With the Pine by Essingeleden in Stockholm from September 2023 – ongoing (for timelapse)

Exhibition Pondering with Pines – Conversations in Three Languages, MUU Helsinki Contemporary Art Centre 7-21.1.2024

Photo Tero Kontinen

Listening with Another Pine (mix)
2023,15 m 5 sec (orig 4k)

The Pine's Apprentice - Refresher Training
2023, 15 min 34 sec (orig 4k)

Revisiting the Pine Next Door,
2023, 11 min 52 sec (orig 4k)

Listening with a Pine (mix), 2023, 4 min (orig 4k)

New pines to visit in 2024,
with new RC-pages to be filled

With Pines, Kaivopuisto Park in Helsinki, in English

Med Drumsötallen (With the Pine on Drumsö) Helsinki, in Swedish

Mustikkamaan männyn kanssa (With the Pine in Blueberry Land), Helsinki, in Finnish

The Pine of the Year – The Year of the Pine,
Kaivopuisto Park in Helsinki, blues harp

Links to pages in the RC-archive

- Main project page
https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/1589526/0/0

- Alumna talk https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/2434396/0/0

- MUU exhibition https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/2461617

- With Pines https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/2476806/0/0

- Med Drumsötallen (With the Pine on Drumsö)
https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/2489044

- Mustikkamaan männyn kanssa(with the Pine in Blueberry Land)
https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/2502908

- Pine of the Year – Year of the Pine
https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1323410/2485460

Links to blog posts

- Main project blog page https://ponderingwithpines.com/
- Exhibition (news) https://ponderingwithpines.com/now-nyt-nu/
- With Pines https://ponderingwithpines.com/2024/01/13/with-the-pines-in-2024/
- Med Drumsötallen (With the Pine on Drumsö) https://ponderingwithpines.com/2024/01/15/a-pine-on-drumso/
- Mustikkamaan männyn kanssa (With the Pine in Blueberry Land) https://ponderingwithpines.com/2024/01/22/with-a-pine-in-blueberry-land/
- Pine of the Year – Year of the Pine https://ponderingwithpines.com/2024/01/20/the-pine-of-the-year-the-year-of-the-pine/

Thank you for your attention