

the audience

draft 32

Dear participant

I am a codex

which suggests a perspective

into the question of the audience

I consist of three chapters

This is the first chapter

Between each chapter there is a colour

When reaching a colour, close me

and put me down for a while

Take time in between

Open me again for a new chapter

always at the same time with the others

Altogether you have 32 pages and 30 minutes

Use all of it

There is no hurry

Please read this page again now

Ok

Now close your eyes
at least for ten seconds

the audience is a being

a collectivity

in which your name is irrelevant

in which you are

a we

Can you stop for a moment to feel it?

Let me give you an example

An audience attended the performance
In the Mood for Frankie by Trajal Harrell
in Vienna on the 31st of July 2018 at 11pm

The audience was seated around the stage
so they looked at each other

they saw several recognisable types:

young dance students who work to seem confident

self-aware established choreographers

athletic young men with george michael -style beards

writers with untrained spines

a curator who sweats a scent of power

two japanese butoh artists with suspended eyes

all of them working hard to be individual
performing

but now

as the audience

in order to behold the stage

they needed to become something else as well

a we



This we

here today

has a function

and a quality

If Michel Foucault was here, he might say that
the function of an audience

is not defined by mere attendance of an event
but through a series of
aesthetic, relational and dialogical procedures.

and that,
in theory by default,
and in practice through these procedures,
the audience-function is secondary
to the author-function
- not in terms of value but in terms of procedure or
assemblage

and thus to function as an audience
they have to follow
the lead of the authors, at least as a primary orientation
to listen to them

Denis Guénoun would say
that we are gathering around the stage
as a political act

Roland Barthes could say
that an event to which we surrender
reveals us
and we will commit

So

Reading this

in this room

as an audience

What is your function?

Wonderful

So, now we are in the last chapter
which will continue into a discussion

It has been great working with you

Thank you



