

Towards Hyperdramatic Theater

Transdisciplinary workshop facilitated by Vincent Roumagnac

Opened to MA students and alumni in

Acting / Directing / Scenography / Dramaturgy / Choreography / Visual arts

Presentation

"We already know that we live in a time when human activity has been having a profound impact on our physical and ecological environment. However, these transformations are often not perceptible: they are literally too small or too big (like e.g. global warming), too slow or too fast (like e.g. the flow of big data), so that our senses, even our imagination, and despite the fact that we have adequate theoretical and technical instruments, can not grasp them. We artists are currently facing these climatic intensities, whether geological or algorithmic, and feel disoriented with our incapacity to create times and spaces of experience to account for this ecological transition in a sensitive, reflective and critical way. We, performing artists, feel the need to renew our tools and registers to redirect the theatrical attention towards the many non-human actors and factors that already entered the stage of our contemporaneity. This aesthetic revision calls for scenic responses that go beyond the conventional production and organisation of a "stage" that has, according to me, become inoperative in its spatiotemporal conventional settings for addressing the scales of those hyperobjects (Timothy Morton). Based on the hypothesis of the possibility of emergence of what I call a "deep stage", I invite you to work together with the following questions:

- How to direct, perform or prototype a theatre of the future, recognizing (whilst criticizing the term of) the Anthropocene, on the brink of an environmental collapse?
- How to re-consider and give dramaturgical hospitality to more-than-human beings (plants, animals, minerals, meteorological phenomena, but also computational, algorithmic, artificial entities ...) as our contemporary stage co-(f)actors?
- How to review and ecologically re-negotiate the human aesthetic control of the stage, revision that implies a change from the anthropocentric logic of representation to that of what I call xeno-performativity?
- What kind of stage forms after the dramaturgies of the post-dramatic, in this radical movement towards the ecodramaturgies of a *hyperdramatic theater*? » VR

Program

During the workshop, there will be groups of, at most, 3 people, from diverse disciplinary background, who will work in various phases of the experimentation. Participants will create a performative *proto-sceno-type* and present it at the end of the workshop, as a (partial) response to the topics introduced, shared and discussed. The prototype may be a performance, a play, an installation, a scenographic display, a video, an image, a narration, etc. The workshop will be developed on the base of a methodological process coming from *artistic research* field. The workshop will be indeed divided between the study of a chosen theoretical material and practical implementations. The workshop will begin with a brief introduction to the history of the "future of the stage" and the movements (artistic and philosophical) of the "eco-theater" of the 20th century, in relation to contemporary eco-aesthetic concerns, in order to open a discussion about the extension of the acting, of the directing and of the scenographic praxis towards non-human, post-human and multi-temporal scenic networks after the end of the (anthropocentric) world, and in resonance with the practice / experience / research of each participant. The workshop is stimulated by Roumagnac's artistic practice and research, which the latter will present through several examples. Roumagnac will also propose a selected bibliography (e.g. short texts, interviews and excerpts from Timothy Morton, Donna Haraway, Una Chaudhuri, Bernard Stiegler) and a corpus of artworks to the participants to be discussed during the workshop. Every prototype will finally also embed one chosen Shakespeare's figure/text from *The Tempest*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *King Lear*.

Goals

- Elaborating of an eco-dramaturgy based on the proposed theoretical elements.
- Producing and testing of a "hyperdramatic" scenic proto-sceno-type
- Exploring and experiencing the paradigm shift implied by an ecological repositioning of scenic practices.
- Developing artistic research methodology.