

# DISCONNECTED SPACE

– *contacts with the absent in the blind spot*

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## Abstract

My thesis for a Doctor of Fine Arts (in Finnish) is about the experiential phenomenon of space, which could be referred to as an off-connection in English. In its manifest sense, the Finnish word 'irtikytöntä' refers to a disconnection or fracture, but in more detail, it is more a question of a disjunctive synthesis or a link between discrete things. All these translations of the concept characterise the different aspects of the phenomenon I study.

In off-connections, the concept of space is influenced by fragmented links. As a subject of artistic research, disconnected spaces challenge us to consider how the absent and absence are manifested in a sensible experience. One phenomenon that describes the sensibility of off-connections is the blind corner, which can mean both that which is imperceptible and the blind corners of collective perceptions. The artistic components of this research approach the experientiality of a place through experiments that alter cinematography practices and methods for collective participatory exercises. The corporeal nature of walking as a medium of experience comes up in different ways in each artistic component, and perambulation in this thesis is also the attitude that guides research. The thesis consists of three artistic components and their frameworks as well as expounding essays.

The subject of the essay *Elisenvaara–Pieksämäki – hajonnut kone* ('Elisenvaara–Pieksämäki – Wrecked Machine') is a train track disconnected from the railway network. In the artistic component of the study, I experimentally examined how the concept of movement-image (Deleuze) can be applied to perceiving the spatial experience of an abandoned railway. The subject of the essay *Irtikytetty kaaupunki* ('Disconnected City') is the textual nature of urban space. In the artistic component of the essay, the secret signs of hoboes are used to detach the textual order of the city. In the essay *Kadonnut isoäiti* ('Lost Grandmother'), I examine disconnection as a phenomenon concerning the sites of memory. In the artistic component of the essay, the film is developed into an acting-out of space (de Certeau), which links the blind spots of forgotten stories with the site of memory (Nora).

Within the constellation of these three essays, the concept of off-connection suggests how the experientiality of a sensible space is also affected by the preceding stratum that is rendered absent. The concept brings the perception of place as a garment, that is knitted with the absent and the present. The research compiled in the Research Catalogue database consists of essayist writings, videos, photographs and exercise instructions, which the reader can also experiment with using careful consideration.