

bastard

Artikler

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When art rethinks society

After another corona shutdown in particular has led to a focus on the development of digital (stage) art formats, Metropolis Copenhagen in its 40th anniversary year this summer instead points to the potential of art to rethink society in a time of reopening crisis.

By Mette Garfield

The potential of art

Tuesday Night Sleeping Club one of the works Metropolis Copenhagen has invited to help rethink society after the second corona shutdown, which perhaps understandably has been particularly marked by the development of digital (stage) art.

But the potential of art to think new, ask questions and especially its ability to imagine other forms of collective coexistence, one might think is obvious and crucial in this time of crisis. Art, its encounter with the world and sensory experience formation, as opposed to scientific, rational analyzes, can open up a plurality of speculative spaces of possibility in the future.

Member of the club

The performance group hello! earth! 's Tuesday Night Sleeping Club, which invited listeners to perform various actions and rituals before bedtime, was thus another programmed work at Metropolis Copenhagen's laboratory this spring. For overall, the radio channel work examines whether human dreams during sleep can be a form of activism. Tuesday Night Sleeping Club examines whether the inactive, magical hours in the space between sleep and dreams have the potential to rethink the rational and effective daytime hours of our society.

Before experiencing the work, I downloaded the action and night radio app of the same name and became a member of the Tuesday Club. As I tune in, I first hear a dreamy soundscape with sounds of a forest and birdsong interrupted by a nice voice with the question: "Are you awake?"

The host, charming Daniel Nordback, guides me to a series of micro-actions, which make the gap in time and space, all p.g.a. corona restrictions performed alone in my own apartment. But we listeners are constantly reminded, we are many who collectively carry out the actions at the same time.



Foto: hello! earth!

I thus, like many others at that time, walk out of my front door and in through it again. I come home again and maybe see my familiar spaces from a slightly different perspective. Later I also put on party clothes, my feather boa and long silver gloves, nightwear and hat. Then I move around the apartment with my eyes closed, marks with shoulders, elbows, toe tips in the perimeter of (almost) my entire home.

A little later, I still follow the guide's instructions for actions. "Imagine those who have lived here before." It's hard, but I get pictures of a young man, a medical student and his parties, test sessions at the windowsill, intensive reading in the bedroom. My gaze expands in the Tuesday Night Sleeping Club, so my own home becomes a scene where I myself act and become aware of my body, my senses, especially the sense of hearing of course. I become aware of other things and do something I would not normally do there.

I look, guided by Nordback, also out of my window over to the other side, where I can glimpse my neighbors. I try to record what they are doing, they are watching TV, cooking, sitting on the couch. "It's you on the other side of

another house, what are you doing?" Nordback asks. At that stage, in a larger perspective in Tuesday Night Sleeping Club, I become aware of the collective connections between my surroundings, fellow human beings and me. Prior to this, we have also had repeated information about the nightly gatherings we can also participate in, such as the Peace Project, which plants seeds for Syrian refugees at 6.00 at Gammel Strand or guided 30 minute sleep walk. "Are you sleeping?", It sounds, followed by a heavy breath. Get ready for sleep and dreams and the space in between.



Foto: hello! earth!

Quantum physics and collective change

Tuesday Night Sleeping Club is not only a space for explorations in and of one's own home, but also a space for reflection conversations on various current concepts. Quantum theories are unfolded, for example, in a dialogue between Daniel Nordback and Vera Mader, one of the founders of hello! earth!

Mader explains that according to the feminist thinker Karen Barad, who i.a. has written *Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning*, the past is not possible to erase, but injustices can be recreated and restored. The story does not disappear, but can be repaired. Working collectively is therefore what is possible now, as time and space are constantly created and are filtered together. So time is not

linear according to Barad, but everything is in everything, and since we create through it, we can only collectively change.

Thoughts that, along with information about how our ancestors slept much less at a time, just like cats do, are interesting to keep in mind before we go to sleep and dream new dreams. But before we get there, we listeners go through a ritual.

We are asked by our host to take off our clothes. First the socks, then what we have on the legs, skirt, pants and then what we have on the upper body. We need to lay all the clothing down on the floor in front of us so that there is a figure of our clothes lying on the floor. Then we are asked to lie down next to each other. Sounds of crashing waves followed by statements that it is different how we go into the future; that some jump, others take small steps, while others run into it. Jacob the second founder of hello! earth! says calmly: "We lie still for a moment and let a storm pass through us. Ask yourself, am I awake or dreaming?"