

Kirkkopelto Esa

Non-Human Performances in an Inhuman World. Towards the Ethics of Acquiescence

standard lecture

Contemporary performances experimenting with human – non-human relations inscribe themselves historically in the Western tradition of religious and political emancipation, based on the call for unconditional equality and liberty, or “equaliberty” (Balibar 2004). In extending this call beyond the human sphere, “non-human performances” activate ideas concerning this tradition as well as present-day humanitarian catastrophes. The analysis of these ideas leads to the following conclusions: 1) The claim of equality can be unconditional only if it extends *beyond* the human. 2) Equalization is not only a matter of rights and legislation (Hamacher 2014), but also an exercise of *acquiescence*, a collective embodied practice. How does this kind of search for “reduced” modes of subjectivity relate to the contemporary criticism concerning the participatory performance practices (Bishop 2012, Alston 2013, Kunst 2015, Bala 2016)?

Bio:

Esa Kirkkopelto (b. 1965) is a philosopher, an artist-researcher and the convener of *Other Spaces* live art group. Since 2007, he has been working at the University of Arts Helsinki (Theatre Academy) as professor of artistic research. His research focuses on the deconstruction of the performing body both in theory and in practice. He is the leader of a collective research project “Actor’s Art in Modern Times” on the psychophysical actor training (since 2008), and a member of the editorial board of *Theatre, Dance and Performance Training* and *Performance Philosophy Journal*. He is also the initiator of the *International Platform for Performer Training* and the core-convener of the *Performance Philosophy Association*.

