

Kokkonen Tuija

Weak actors in interspecies performances

performance lecture

This performance lecture addresses the significance of non-human agency in performance for human agency. Developing the notion of non-human agency in actor-network theory (Latour 2005) into co-agency of those beings and processes of 'nature' not entirely designed and constructed by humans, I argue that the prerequisite for the perception and manifestation of non-human agency is the co-existence of what I call 'weak agency', a method generated in my artistic research practice. Weak agency refers to the ethics of deconstruction, weak thought (Vattimo 1999), (im)potentiality (Agamben 1999), and plant thinking (Marder 2013). As a main reference, I will use my performance series *Memos of Time – performances with and for non-humans* (2006–), which includes an endless *Performance by Non-Humans* (since 2010). Through these works, I present performance and subjectivity as interspecies gatherings, where weak actors' ethics of perception and hospitality can enable an emergence of a new kind of polis.

Bio:

Tuija Kokkonen (FI) is an artist-researcher. Since 1996 she has been exploring the relationships between performance, environment and non-human in her site-specific memo performance series. In the latest of, *Memos of Time – performances with and for non-humans* (2006–), including an endless *Performance by Non-Humans* (since 2010), she focuses on the agencies of interspecies performance, and the role of performance at the age of ecological crises. This series comprises the core of her artistic research "The Potential Nature of Performance: The relationship to the non-human in the performance event from the perspective of duration and potentiality" in the Theatre Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki.

