SABINE POPP selected works

SABINE POPP

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Place and condition

Point of departure in my work is the exploration of a specific geographical place and human beings' relation to it - by a broad variety of media, text, found objects and materials. The investigation of mutual impact between mental and physical conditions is based on the (traditional) notion of place as a framework for the structure of daily life, where the individual's self-understanding is manifested in engagement with the physical. This might seem in contradiction to the fact that we today in most cases relate to place as mediated in some form. However, theses technologies, media, tools and instruments are part of a material culture that belongs to the spaces we inhabit. Therefore place can be regarded as a mere entanglement of materialities and immaterial structures, which push and pull and intervene eachother. A place as many places at the same time.

In my research I have been investigating different approaches to physical matter: from observation and monitoring to extracting and processing of brute matter and necessary logistical structures for transport of matter and related data. Art works have evolved on site, where a variety of material based on knowledge from different sources, and from dialogue with representatives for specific professional or social groups, is brought in conjunction with my own subjective experience of place. The result might be an installation taking advantage of the site's materiality, combined with technology like digital or analogue drawing of lines, video, photography or sound. The work is a kind of temporary new-structuring and registration of the existing, rather than an addition to the site.

Collected material continues to develop afterwards, distant from the origin, by being brought into laboratory-like situations where findings can be tested on their inherent meaning, by putting them into a new context. Images might be regarded as representation, as signifiers of a distant place. Still we remain conscious the medium of representation, which is never the place itself. Images transform into vision or gain a presence as material objects in their own rights. Transferred objects and materials seem more defined on 'neutral' ground, taken out of the messiness of their origin, but their stability of meaning is losing hold in new constellations. This unstable ground might foster freedom to suggest new relations. Performativity of materials and media join with performance of the body.

Throughout the years, projects started first in specific urban spaces, later from research in arctic and subarctic areas, where geographical location and its physical conditions have crucial impact on small communities' daily life. Then a similar approach was applied to territories of the post-industrial landscape. Lately the latter two got merged when I was moving between workstations along the Norwegian coast to look at kelp.

Bodily experience and involvement with physical processes parallel information from technological devices. Weather stations in one place (*Remote Sensing*, 2011) are substituted by the work study office's questionnaires and CCTV in the other (*Work Study (Exercises in Creating a Short Circuit*), 2013/14). The method of *corporeal geography*, which is the foundation of all of the work, is an insistence on the necessity of bodily involvement in examination. The difference between this searching process and production becomes blurred throughout the work. Decisions for what has to be done are driven by the attempt to get a glimpse of processes of transformation, which space and communities undergo due to, historical, climate or socio-economic developments and changes. These glimpses could be germs for choosing alternative routes. 'Communities' have in my practice become increasingly understod and articulated as a wider ecology of more-than-human beings, a direction which was further developed by doctoral studies, with the project *Agential Matter (Invisible Landscapes)*, 2016 - 21.

Of the Wild and the Domesticated

(2022)

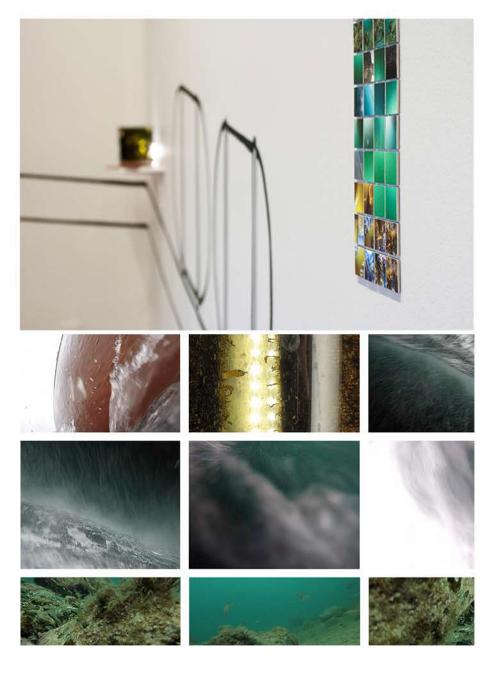
part of: (f)jorden – et flytende symposium om å fordøye et landskap by Skifte.land

(f)jorden was a one week sailing trip along various places related to experiments with and development of food production
- among others a hatchery for kelp for seaweed farming followed by a collective contribution to the exhibition Fjordmelk Jordtåke,
at Kabuso, Øystese, in Hardanger

further information: http://skifte.land/fjorden/







Of the Wild and the Domesticated, part of *(f)jorden* by Skifte.land, Kabuso, Øystese, 2022 conserved kelp, original manuals for kelp harvesters from 1949 (published by Norwegian alginate industry), modified contemporay bookmarks of the Directory of Fisheries' library, photo assemblage (80x25cm)



Agential Matter (Invisible Landscapes) (2016–20)

Agential Matter (Invisible Landscapes)

The project examined performativity of algae, objects and bodies in instances of observation in scientific research, industrial production and artistic encounter - specific fields of discourse in society, where discourse is enacted by material engagement. It was based on a shared attention towards kelp forests - perceived as matter and resource, landscape and ecology - along the Norwegian Coast. The work strived for getting in touch with personal and public interests for these sublittoral forests, which are increasingly regarded as serving human kind. It combined visits to places of research and industrial production with monitoring of a specific coastal locality and studio work. The spaces of investigation were seen as sites of social practices, and performativity as an ongoing dialogue and interaction between different parts involved, with matter as one of the actants in a wider community beyond the human. Documentary approaches entangled with material processes and relational asthetics.

Fragments of these spaces - the scientific lab, the sea and the industry - were brought to the art space, to isolate them from their context, and to illuminate and reflect mutual relationships. The art object appears here as a momentary communicator and facilitator, not as autonomous object.

Agential Matter (Invisible Landscape) was carried out as a doctoral project of the Norwegian Artistic Research Progamme.

The project can be accessed here: https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/900740/1194907

The performance and installation *Common Notions (confusion remains outside a few squaremeters)* was one of the outcomes of the project, and is presented on the following pages. It was the result of a long period of repeated fieldwork and physical experiments with kelp as sculptural material in the studio. The studio space of this time was used for experiments with conservation processes (from Natural History museums and seaweed industry alike), reenactments of historical art pieces, examination of collected image material, reading and discussions. Markers and traces of these actions were left on floor and surrounding walls of the studio space, as diagrams of productivity and accumulation. The floor was finally cut out and transformed into the centrepiece, or platform, of *Common Notions*.

Performance and installation were – together with other parts of the project – presented at *Relay (how to use a ship to press the button of a camera)*, an exhibition at USF Visningsrommet in Bergen, in 2019. The event combined the more conventional exhibition format – presenting objects, videoworks and a series of books with photographic material - with performance, lecture, workshop and collective reading, offered to a common public.



Common Notions (confusion resumes outside a few squaremeters),

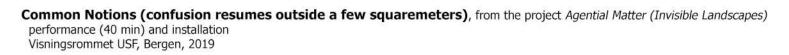
here performed at *The Freedom Room* - a symposium on socially engaged arts, Bergen, 2018 duration: 40 min

Speech, sounds and actions produced in real time respond to, double or anticipate, the content of videoprojections, which appear at intervals on surrounding walls or improvised videoscreens. The timeframe for the performance is given by the length of a single-shot videodocumentation, which shows a group of scientific personel immersed in working tasks in the wetlab of a research vessel on sea. The speech performed in real space entangles with and disrupts the content of the videoprojections. It is accompanied by physical processes on a small table, centred on a mobile platform, which the audience is invited to enter before the performance starts. Categories of beings, and approaches to knowledge production, are increasingly blurred in the current of the event. This gives space to a certain degree of growing uncertainty and unease.

The work aims to involve the audience as implicated spectators of a publicly staged experiment. It refers in its format to similar historical events, and their pictorial representations, of the 17th century, during the period of the Enlightenment.

Each performance ends with an invitation to embody algae as an other form of being, and is followed by an open conversation.

















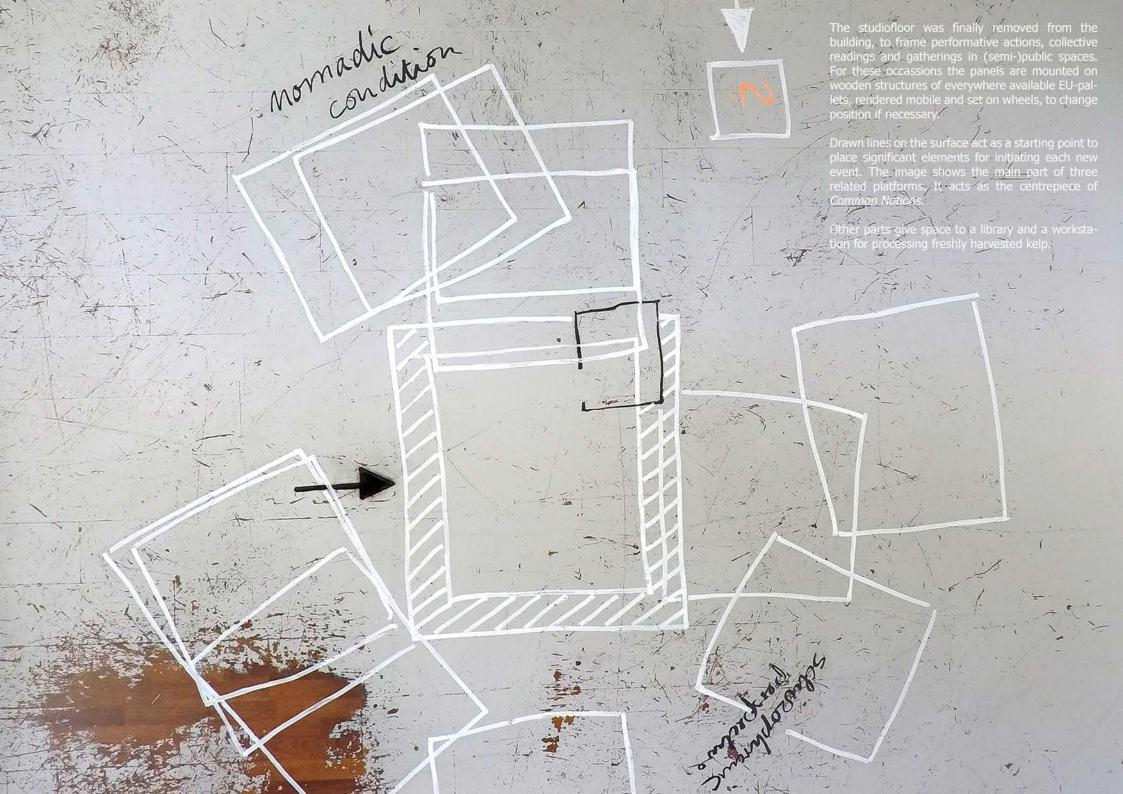






On condition and potential setting up a system for paying attention and staging encounters

process documentation, 2017, before removing the floor from the studio











White Book Documents, series of 30 books of images, 2019

part of Agential Matter (Invisible Landscapes), investigating trajectories of Laminaria hyperborea, 2016 - 2019

Each book covers a visit to one of the project's workstations along the coast - sites of fieldwork or laboratories of marinebiological research, museum archives, a landing station for kelp or cultivation sites for seaweed. The uncommented images reveal a network of affective relations in ecologies of scientific research, economic interests and artistic encounter.

They are an archive to be activated by a public, and form the core of a given social and discursive space.















Relay (how to use a ship to press the button of a camera) workstation, from the project *Agential Matter (Invisible Landscapes)* Visningsrommet USF, Bergen, 2019

Kyst- og Havlandet (Melbu Systems) (2015)







Kyst- og Havlandet (Melbu Systems), videoloop with sound, 9:11min (installation detail)

show video

De Andres Erfaring

(2010–17) excerpts

collaboration with Malene Pedersen (DK) based on a 6-weeks residency in Niagornat, Greenland

The project approached questions of self-sustenance and (im)possible independence of a small community, shortly after Greenland had gained self-governance, and with a look to changing conditions for mobility and hunting as a result of rising temperatures.



De Andres Erfaring - Useless Objects, digital C-prints mounted underneath akrylic plates, 20x15x2cm each, 2010/13 collaboration with Malene Pedersen(DK)





invisible landscapes #3, performance, its inscription and their photographs, Niagornat, 2010

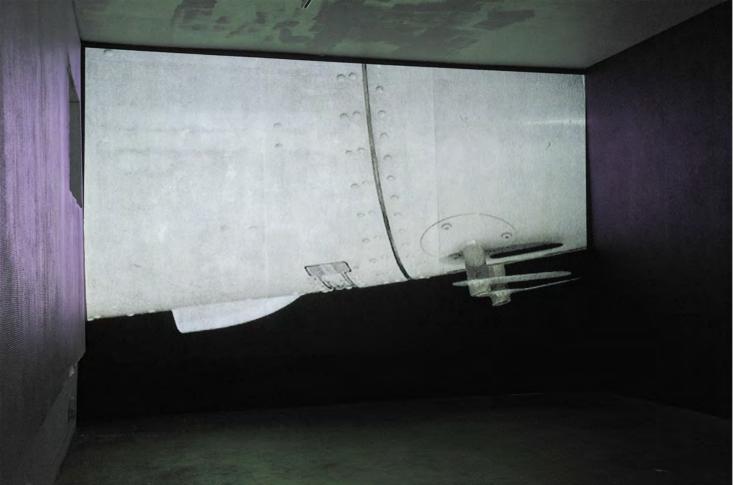


provisions. things to come, video, 8:22min, 2011/17

Remote Sensing (2011)









THE FLIGHT

6 video projections sound black paint 2 wooden panels

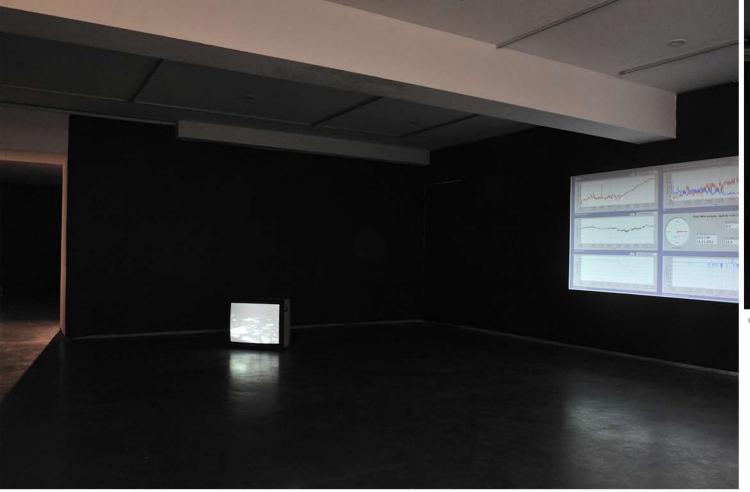
Remote Sensing, part I, Titanik Gallery, Turku, Finland, 2011

The work was based on image and sound material, collected during two residencies in the international scientific research station Ny-Ålesund at Svalbard. Both stays happened in complete darkness of the polarnight, and investigated daily life in a small community at the time when no difference in (the lack of) light between midnight and midday is perceived.

Deprived of sight the corporeal experience of physical conditions comes to the fore - in a place where physical parameters are continously measured and mediated by means of the most advanced technology.

The combination of images, sounds, objects, chalk drawings and real time data shifted each night, put together under the headings of the flight, the boat, the place and finally returning to the flight, featuring a sound performance by Kimmo Modig, based on collected sound material. Each part generated a kind of limbo - a claustrophobic and trance-like state of varying rythm.

show video





THE PLACE



2 video projections monitor 2 sounds black paint 2 wooden panels chalk 4 photographs real time data

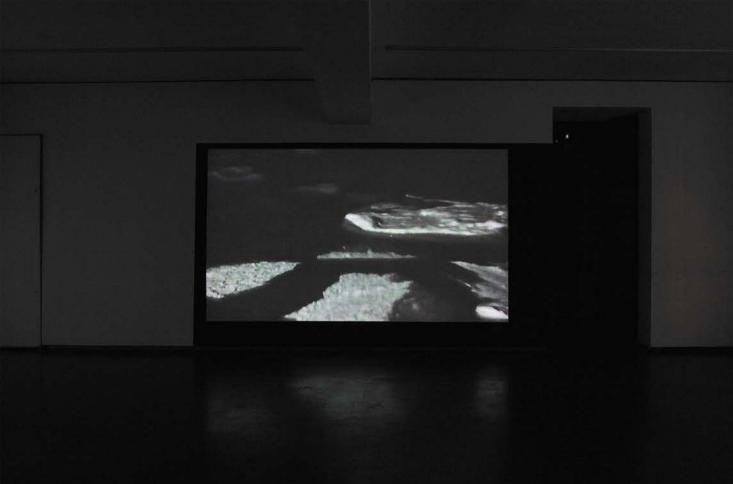


Remote Sensing, part III, Titanik Gallery, Turku, Finland, 2011





Values and Measurements #2+1, digital C-print mounted on Dipond, 40x60cm each, 2011





THE BOAT

5 video projections 2 sounds black paint 2 wooden panels



installations Svalbard

(2009)







Wrong Time, Wrong Place, installation (video projections, sound), Gamle Telegrafen, Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, 2009









Future's Past (Against the Anesthetic of Familiarity), 72hours-installation (9 video projections, sound), Taubanesentralen, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, 2009

The sound of scientific instruments made an attempt to recreate the rhythm, formerly present in daily life in town, generated by the transport of coal from the mines to the harbour.

commision to mark the Year of Cultural Heritage



Roaring Silence (2008/9)

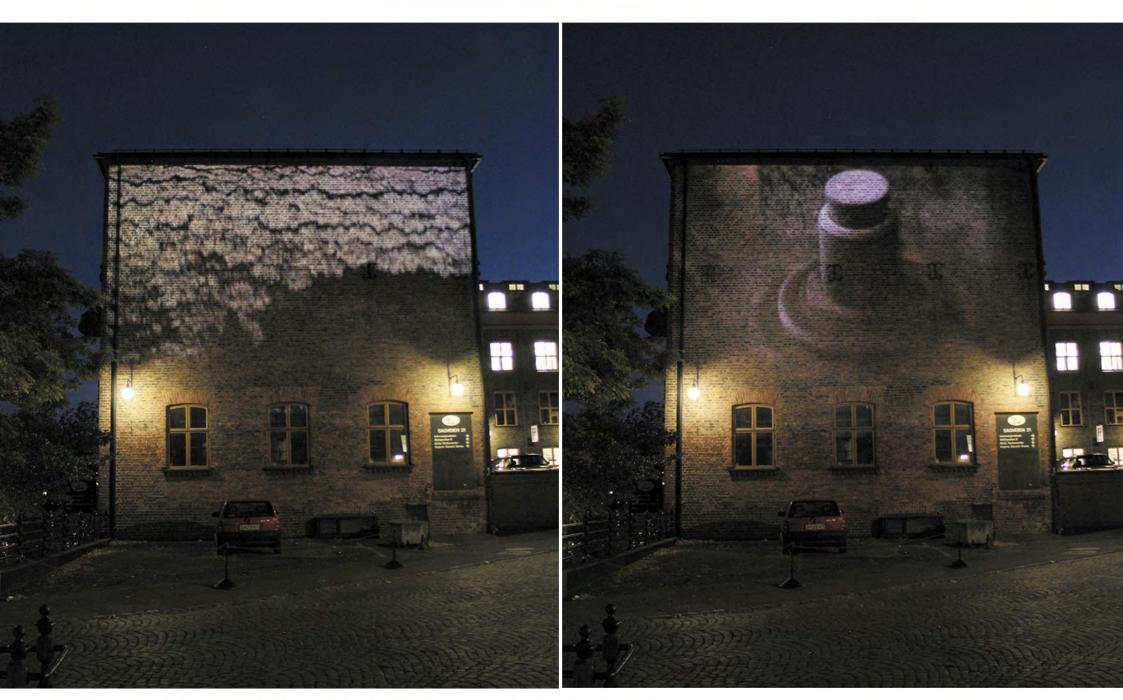


Roaring Silence, 12 videoloops, varying length, 2008

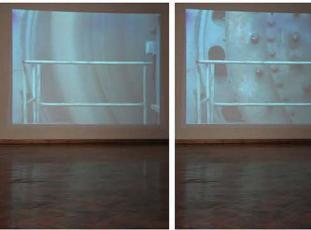
Filmed in the Norwegian mining company Titania AS, which is processing illuminite, a mineral composed by iron and titanium. Illuminite is sold for the production of titanium oxid, a whitener and main ingredience in daily consumer goods like cosmetics, paint and plastics. The images create a choreography of movements in screenings, meant to disrupt inner city areas, where production has disappeared and service industries and consumption have taken over.



Roaring Silence, 7 videoloops, varying length, shown on all available screens in shops of a certain area, from closing hour on saturday to opening on monday morning, *B-open* weekend, Bergen city center, 2008



Roaring Silence, videoloop, screened continously during five days, former factory at Akerselva, Oslo, 2009 part of *Forbruk og Evighet*, a series of public art commissions for *Oslo Open*



Roaring Silence, videoloop with sound, ilumenite, used grindballs, 2009 Medium Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia

show video







Work Study

(2012 - 16)

part of the artistic research project *Topographies of the Obsolete* by professors Anne Helen Mydland and Neil Brownsword Academy of Art and Design Bergen (KhiB)





Work Study (Exercises in Creating a Short Circuit) - part 1

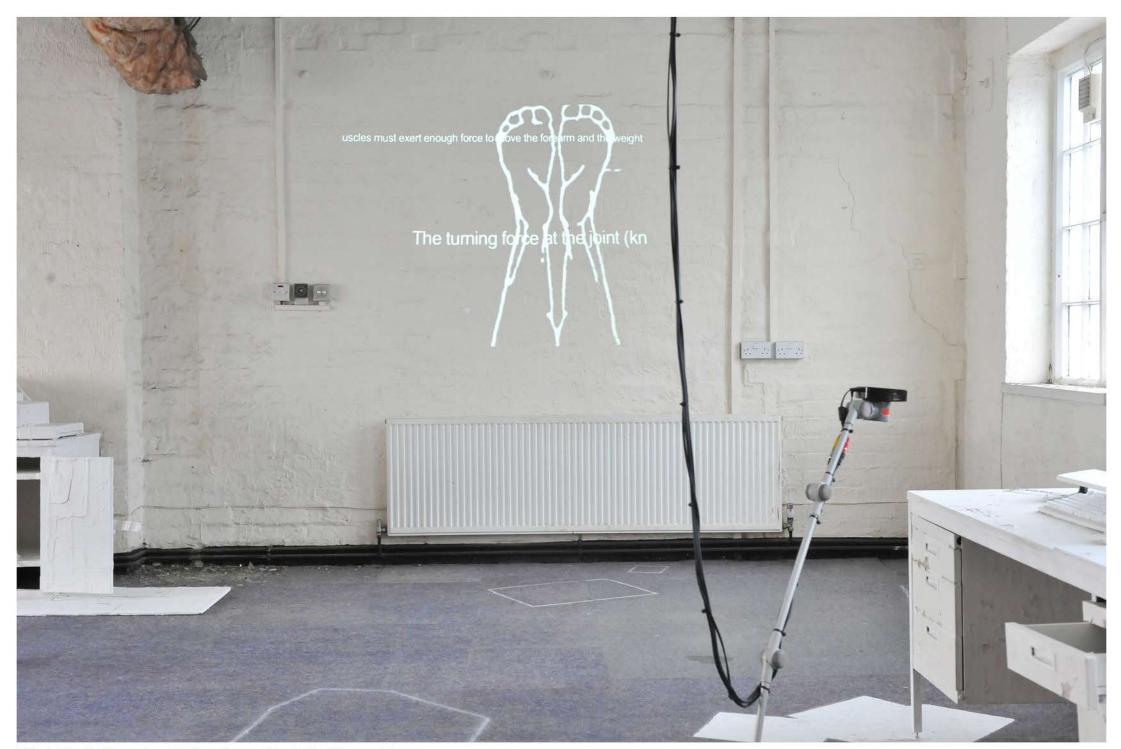
(found objects, bone china clay, 7 videoloops, sound) former Spode Factory, Stoke-on-Trent, England, 2013 conceived for *Vociferous Void*, part of the British Ceramic Biennial

The work started out from the idea of efficiancy in action and movement related to production in the former ceramic factory. It is based on schemes for following up, exercising and renewing working processes in the industry, which were found spread over the floor of the office space. The work study system was turned hollow and absurd with the ending of production.

Movements filmed in several spaces of the factory were performed using a found questionnaire as an instigator. The *Body Part Discomfort Form* was given to workers feeling pain in their bodies, caused by tasks they carried out.

collaboration with Clare Reynolds (choreographer/ dancer, UK)

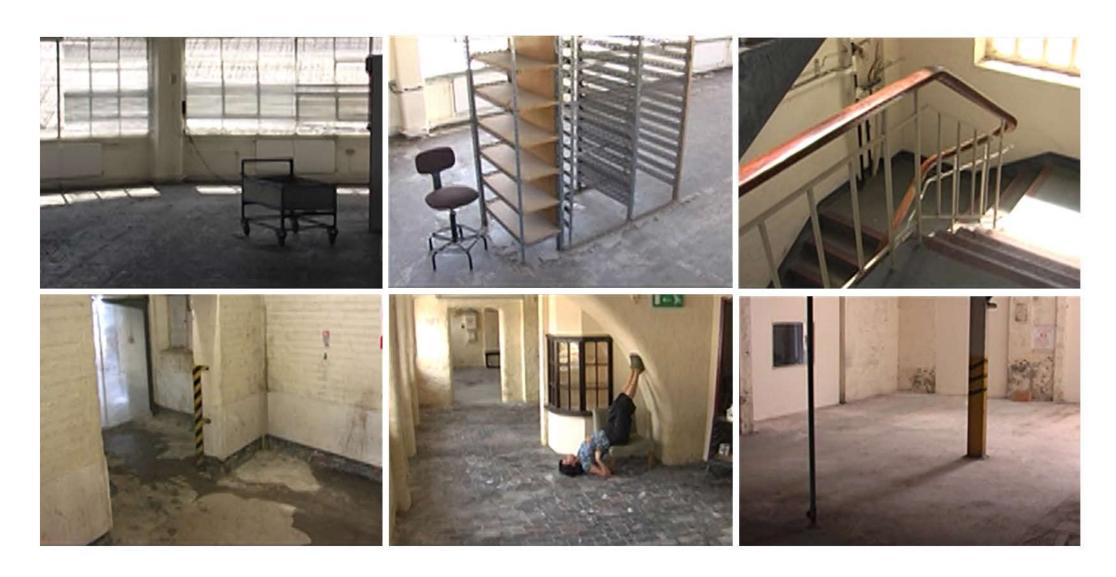




Work Study (Exercises in Creating a Short Ciruit) - part 1 (found objects, bone china clay, videoloops, sound) former Spode Factory, Stoke-on-Trent, England, 2013



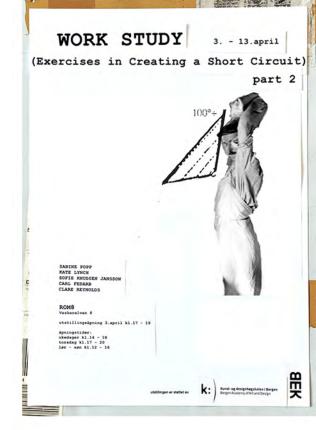




from **Work Study (Exercises in Creating a Short Circuit)** series of videoloops from the collaboration with dancer/choreographer Clare Reynolds

Each of the loops is individually projected onto the screen of a disfunctional and transformed computer in the former work study office. The loops are precisely synchronized, and the dancer's body appears at any time only on one singular screen - thereby circling around the onlooker in a parallel movement through spaces of the factory building, and the space of the installation.





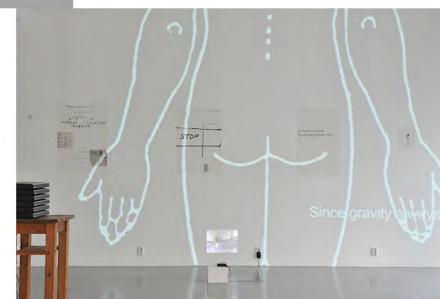
Work Study (Exercises in Creating a Short Circuit) - part 2

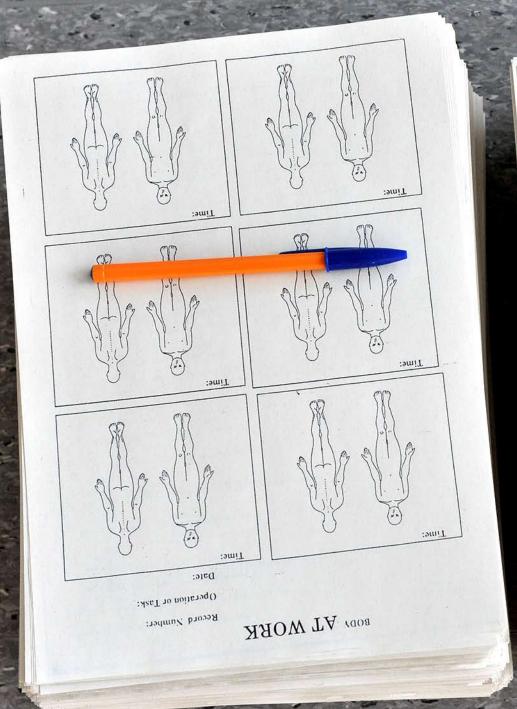
ROM8, Bergen, 2014

Work dialogues under changing conditions - with Kate Lynch, Sofie Knudsen Jansson, Carl Fedarb and Clare Reynolds

The involved artists - with background from the visual arts, dance and music - met through the artistic research project *Topographies of the Obsolete*. Elements of the dialogue on the concept of Work are transferred from the former Spode Factory in England to the laboratory like situation of ROM8 in Bergen. Recording systems and notations from working processes formed the starting point for examining and acting out the absurdity of lost production and working community on site. The artists were dialogue partners and partly collaborators in several periods throughout 2013 in Stoke-on-Trent. They rejoined in ROM8 to melt together elements which individually had developed since 2013 for a continued discours.

One evening Harun Farocki's *Workers Leaving the Factory* was screened and projected into the installation. This was followed by a discussion on the artist's working condition, and how her conditions have become a model for work in contemporary society.





Have you ever been working here?

When do you consider something as work?

- when you get paid
- when you see a final result when your body starts aching somewhere after a while
 - what else? write here:

Do you regard your visit here as work? YES/ NO/ NOT SURE

For the following questions please write number of your answer:

- 1. Always
- 2. Usually
- 3. Occasionally
- 4. Never

Are you able to keep up easily with the rate of work?

Do you regard your work as interesting and stimulating?

Is there enough variation in your work?

Is the quality of the work affected by anything?

Do you feel pressurised by the demands of your work?

Are you satissfied with the feedback you get about your performance quality and output from your supervisor or manager?

Do you find there is good communication among operators?

Is there good contact between you and your fellow workers?

Can you change your workplace conditions to suit yourself?

Are you given too much to do?

Do you enjoy working here?

Do you feel any pain in any part of your body caused by the performance carried out?

If YES please mark on next page



Work Study (Exercises in Creating a Short Circuit) - part 2 ROM8, Bergen, 2014

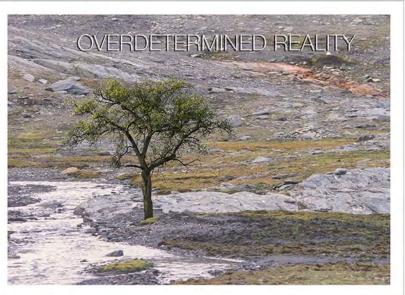
Hoimar's Orchard (So lasst uns denn ein Apfelbäumchen pflanzen)
(2006 -)





The same work is applied in four shifting social settings. The title bears reference to a book of popular science, written by practicioner of medical science, journalist and televisionpresenter Hoimar von Ditfurth, who in the 80s questioned the sustainability of human civilisation. The work is a result of crossreading Ditfurth with artist-philosopher Marcus Steinweg's *Nine Thesis on Art*, and a pondering about Ditfurth's (lack of) impact.





Hoimar's Orchard (So lasst uns denn ein Apfelbäumchen pflanzen), four digital c-prints, size S, M, L and XL, 2016 -

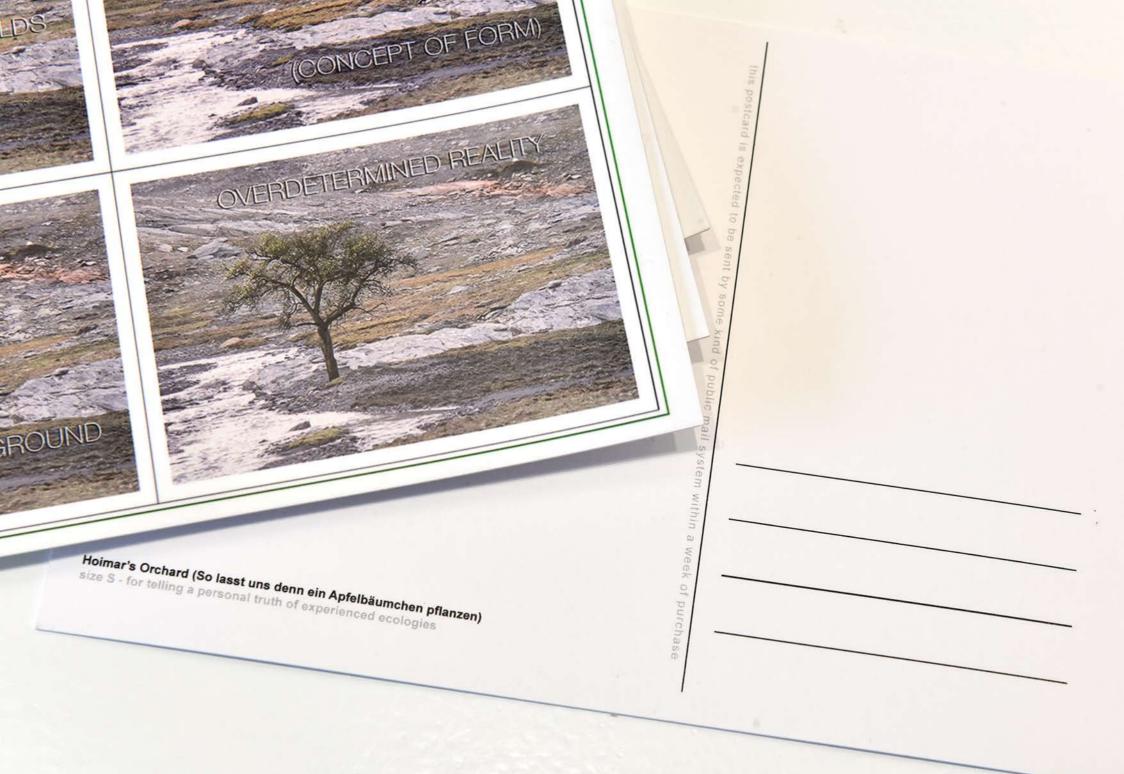
S: postcard, 18,5x13 cm (all in one print)

M: framed, 120x87x3 cm (individual frame 59,5x43x3cm)

L: framed, 291x209x5 cm (individual frame 144,5x103,5x5cm)

XL: billboards, variable

for telling a personal truth
 for discussing around a dinner table
 for contemplating in an art gallery
 for addressing a general public











Hoimar's Orchard (So lasst uns denn ein Apfelbäumchen pflanzen), M four digital c-prints, framed, 120x87x3 cm (individual frame 59,5x43x3cm)



Hoimar's Orchard (So lasst uns denn ein Apfelbäumchen pflanzen), XL sketch/proposal, photomontage (matching boardsize 306x206cm)

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Agential Matter (Invisible Landscapes)

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2016-21	Doctoral study (PhD), Art Academy, Faculty of Contemporary Art, Music and Design, University of Bergen, Norway
2002 12	life on the High Mayntain Distance of Handanas midde. Namyay

life on the High Mountain Plateau of Hardangervidda, Norway
1996-2001 Bergen National Academy of the Arts, Ceramics, Bergen, Norway

2000 Glasgow School of Arts, Environmental Art, Scotland

1998/99 Universidad de Barcelona, Sculpture, Spain

1990-96 training and work as a potter, Landshut and various workshops in Germany

GROUPEXHIBITIONS/ PROJECTS (selection)

2023-24	Miteinander reden -	- einfach machen,	event series art and	l society, Lunden Ku	ınstverein, Dithmarschen, DE

2022-24 Metodar for Nordøyane, site-specific intervention, workshop and publication, Longva AiR, Nordøyane, Sunnmøre, NO

2022 *(f)jorden*, Hardangerfjorden/Kabuso, Øystese, NO 2022 *Dokken i Fremtiden?*, BAG and harbour, Bergen, NO

2022 Between Sky&Sea: Temporal Horizons, performance festival, Nordøyane, NO

2021 *feldern. zusammentun und auseinandersetzen*, Zentrum für aktuelle Kunst (ZAK), Berlin/Spandau, DE

2019 LIAF – Lofoten International Art Festival, Kelp Conference, Svolvær, NO
 2018 Oslofjord Ecologies Extended, Hybrid Lab Symposium, Helsinki, FI
 2017 Kevo – Arktista Arkea (Kevo – Arctic Fieldwork), Vanhalinna museum, FI

2017 Oslofjord Ecologies Experience, RAM galleriet, Oslo, NO

2015 og at vi sammen bar, Melbu, NO

2015 Clay-Sculpture-And-Bread-Community, Agalaus Art Festival, Voss, NO, and liveprogram Galleri 3,14, Bergen

2014 *Journeys, Pathways and Track Plans*, Former Spode Works, Stoke-on-Trent, UK

2013 Vociferous Void, British Ceramic Biennial, Stoke-On-Trent, UK

2012 Squatting in the Darkness, interdisciplinary collaboration, Skagaströnd, IS

2011 SÍM Gallery, Reykjavík, IS

2010 Wildness, Banska St a nica projectspace, Banska Stiavnica, SK

2010 Vestlandsutstillingen (The Vest-Norwegian Annual Exhibition of the Visual Arts)

2010 Klima, Radøy Kunstsenter, Bøvågen, NO

2009 Forbruk og evighet (Consumption and Eternity), public art projects, Oslo

2009 *TBD Kingdom*, Medium Gallery, Bratislava, SK

2009/08/07 Fortællinger i Fyrtårnet (Tales in the Lighthouse), interdisciplinary collaboration, Anholt, DK

2008 TB Dalane, slovakian-norwegian art project, different sites, Dalane, NO

2008 *Dionysia*, interdisciplinary project, various villages, IS

2007/08 *Portræt Nu!*, touring exhibition through the northern countries

2004 Høstutstillingen (The National Annual Exhibition of the Visual Arts, NO)

2002 ROOTX, festival for timebased arts, Kingston upon Hull, UK

SOLOEXHIBITIONS/ INITIATED PROJECTS

2019 Relay (how to use a ship to press the button of a camera), USF Visningsrommet, Bergen

2014 Work Study (Exercises in Creating a Short Circuit), ROM8, Bergen

2011 Remote Sensing, Titanik Galleria, Turku, FI

2009 Future's Past, public video installation, Longyearbyen, Svalbard

2009 *Outer and Inner Space*, Galleri Ask, Åsgårdstrand, NO 2008 *Roaring Silence*, public video installation, Bergen

SCHOLARSHIPS/ GRANTS (selection)

2023 Bergen City Council, culture grant

2023 productiongrant BKH (Møre og Romsdal)2023/09 Arts Council Norway, project support

2023/22/21/07 Norwegian Visual Artists Remuneration Fund, annual work grant 2022/09 Norwegian Visual Artists Remuneration Fund, project support 2022 KORO Art program for local communities, with Longva Art Residency

2020 KORO Art program for local communities, with Bergen Ateliergruppe 2020/13 Bergen City Council, International Support

2012 – 16 diverse research support grants, Bergen Academy of Art and Design

2012 Fund for Danish-Icelandic Collaboration, collective support, *Det Perifere Selskab*

RESIDENCIES/WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA (selection)

2023/24 Lunden Kunstverein, DE

2023 BEK, arduino workshop og *Smart Forest Atlas*, workshop med Jennifer Gabrys

2022/23/24 Longva kunstnerresidens/ AiR

BEK (Bergen Center for Electronic Art), NonFiction, Fictodocumentary Film, and Myth, workshop med Elizabeth Povinelli

2022 A.i.R. Røst

2020 Marinebiological research station Helgoland (fieldwork with Kiara Franke), DE

2020 A.i.R. Bergen-Berlin

2017 fieldwork with KELPEX (marinebiology, NIVA), Sommarøy/Malangenfjord, NO

2017 Along Lines, NIDA Art Colonies, LT

2016 Atmospheric Feedback Loops, Sonic Acts, Amsterdam, NL

2015 Climate Whirl *The Art of Measuring the Woods,* Hyytiälä Forest Research Station, FI

2014 Summer Lodge, Nottingham Trent University, UK

2012 NES Residency, Skagaströnd, IS (with *Det Perifere Selskab*)

2011 SUMU A.I.R., Turku, FI2011 SIM residency, Reykjavik, IS

2009/10 The Artists Cabin, International Scientific Research Station Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard

PUBLICATIONS (contribution; selection)

2023/24 Metodar for Nordøyane, publication (with Terese Longva, Hild Borchgrevink, Arild Eriksen and Harald Dyrkorn)

2022 microreview-series, SARN (Swiss Artistic Research Network)

2022 *Come on. Find out,* website on art collaborations, ed. Birgit Effinger (with *feldern*)
2021 *hva vi lagde ved sjøen,* Fragment Oslo, publication for *The* Ocean, Kunsthall Bergen

2020 2016 2013+15 2014	Oslofjord Ecologies: Artistic Research on Environmental and Social Sustainability, special issue of Acoustic Space, A Home for Science, special issue of Sage Journal (Social Science Studies) Topographies of the Obsolete (two publications) Norwegian Sosialanthropologists' annual conference, on artistic work at scientific fieldstations
BROADCAST/ 2022 2021/22	PRESENTATION (selection) presentation for lunchtime discussions, OSEH (Oslo School of Environmental Humanities) Radio Hopes and Dreams (Elin Már Øyen Vister), radio broadcast, collaboration with Karen Werner
RESEARCH/CO 2023 - 2022 - 2020-22 2016-18 2013-14 2013 - 2012-16 2009-13	ACTIONABLE, multidisciplinary research project (on UNESCO Biospheres), UiB, advisory board development and programming for Longva AiR (with Terese Longva and Hild Borchgrevink) Dokken i framtiden?, seminarserie/intervensjoner/utstilling, Bergen Ateliergruppe Oslofjord Ecologies, artistic research project at OsloMet, Oslo Clay-Sculpture-And-Bread-Community, Bergen member of the studio collective Bergen Ateliergruppe Topographies of the Obsolete, artistic research project at KhiB, Bergen founding member of Det Perifere Selskab (art collaboration), DK
TEACHING/W 2022-23 2021-23 2023 2019 2017 2017 2013-16 2004-11	ORKSHOP guest lecturer at Ytre kunstfagskole, Ålesund, NO guest lecturer and committee member at the Faculty of Art, Music and Design (KMD), University of Bergen workshop with teenagers on kelpforests and the tidal zone, collaboration with Haramsøyskule, Nordøyane, NO Kelp Diagram Collective, preparatory workshop for LIAF, NO Tanglab, Sommer Melbu, Nordland akademi for kunst og vitenskap, Melbu, NO Extemporaneous Cities, a series of workshops/seminars, organised by Mixité, Barcelona, ES assistant professor at the Bergen Academy of Art and Design (KhiB) guest lecturer and tutorials at the Bergen National Academy of the Arts