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Abstract for the Conference Berg und Subjekt: Subjektivierung im Kontext (un-)zeitgemäßer Konstellationen von Körper – Raum – Diskurs

“Within the memories of a mountain” - Posthuman Embodying as eco-social Reconfiguration in the Anthropocene

Keywords: feminist posthumanism, phenomenology, multi-species ethnography, performance art

New imaginaries are needed to navigate more-than-human lifeworlds in the Anthropocene for different ways of co-worlding and multi-species justice.

In this video lecture, we share footage from performance artist Hana Magdoňová during her 39-day-stay in Hady – a disused and now renaturating quarry in post-socialist Czech Republic. Over the course of the site-specific performance “39 days”, Magdoňová stayed on the lowest plain, or: within the memories of a non-existent mountain. Accompanying workshops for the public invited to attune to this landscape of human making and transgress anthropocentric ways of perceiving.

The footage will depict embodied encounters with this space and frame them through feminist posthumanist and phenomenological thinkers such as Astrida Neimanis and her argumentation of co-worlding as “responsive ethico-politics” (2019, 26) and Stacey Alaimo’s notion of “trans-corporeality” (2008) that highlight the entanglement of bodies, technologies, things and other beings on a planetary scale.

Through attuning to the “entangled materializations of which we are a part of” (Neimanis 2019: 40), the imagination of autonomous (human) bodies becomes porous. Rather, and in alliance with Rosi Braidotti’s critical posthumanism (2012), human subjects are always embedded and embodied. The immersive layering of (video)images, sounds and spoken words will generate other imaginaries, a collective *embodying* that offers a multi-species sensory apparatus or ‘being of the world’ (Haraway). The aim of the video article is a material-semiotic storytelling with footage from a site-specific performance and a feminist posthumanist understanding of embodying as entanglement – materially, socially, historically, ethically.

We could also imagine to develop an accompanying workshop with body work for the conference.

Bionotes:

Dr. Lea Spahn is a post-doc researcher at Philipps-University of Marburg and core team of the further education master program “Art Education at Schools”. She is a dance and performance facilitator and co-founded the Czech-German Agronaut*Collective with a focus on posthuman research, creation of multispecies collectives and artistic activism. With Hana Magdoňová, she created the platform Reality Research Lab based in Brno. Lea writes and researches in the field of feminist materialisms, posthuman phenomenology, arts education and political ecologies.

Hana Magdoňová is a performance artist, theorists and researcher, educated and active in both fine arts and theatre. She studied performance at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Technology in

Brno and at the Life Art and Performance Studies, UNIARTS in Helsinki, and attended several Czech and international master classes and performance laboratories. In her practice, she searches for the common ancient ancestors of visual arts and theatre through embodying mythological timespaces and archetypes. This interest is not only developed in artworks, but also in body-senses based exercises and culminates in her project Reality Research Lab with Lea Spahn. Hana is also a co-founder and member of Agronauts* Collective, focused on posthuman research, creation of multispecies collectives and artistic activism.