Oslofjord Ecologies: Artistic Research and Experience-a project presentation

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Oslofjord Ecologies:

The Oslofjord encompasses ecological connections and challenges that are specific and tangible, as well as cultural practices and interactions with the environment and its populations.

The Oslofjord is nature, economy, infrastructure, biology, materiality, culture and history as well as future plans and challenges.

Oslofjord Ecologies was initiated by Kristin Bergaugst, Art in Society Research Group at HiOA as Worklab 4 in Renewable Futures Creative Europe project and Nordplus project Hybrid Labs
Oslofjord Ecologies was inspired by the collaborations in Renewable Futures Creative Europe project, and by Felix Guattari’s essay The Three Ecologies from 1989.

Mental
Social
Environmental

Newer art theory and aesthetics
We need new social and aesthetic practices, new practices of the Self
in relation to the other, to the foreign, the strange – a whole programme that seems far removed from current concerns.
And yet, ultimately, we will only escape from the major crises of our era through the articulation of:

a nascent subjectivity
a constantly mutating socius
an environment in the process of being reinvented,

Gernot Böhme in
Aisthetik, 2001

-inclusion of the everyday environment: design, architecture, nature

-aesthetics to research humans in relation to nature, not only through scientific methods and apparatus or as object for artistic treatment, but as bodily, sensous experience

Kafé Barbara
Walking Performance
Artistic and academic practices and methods

Interdisciplinary practices: creating new knowledge questions

Kirsty Kross presenting performance practice
Work Modes

Presentations
Mini seminars
Exhibitions and performances
Field trips: recording, walking, boating
Experiential learning: voicing, listening, resonating
Workshops: sea weed as food and material, bio-art experience
Film screenings: historical material
Documentation of related practices

Rasa & Raitie Smite: Collecting local mud for Biotricity
Oslofjord Ecologies workshop was organized in three main clusters with intertwining interests:

(art)education, artistic research, the everyday: agency and action

How can concepts of knowledge, artistic methods and interdisciplinary engagement contribute to sustainable relationships to the environment?
The gallery as a performance space and workshop area that influences the exhibition.
Mapping artistic interests and sensibilities:

- materiality
- sensory experience
- performative practices
- construction of narratives

intersections and versions of these
“Listening to the fjord”
Siri Austeen artist and musician

Photo: E.Røed
Siri Austeen: Ecological Rorschach: Stillehavsøsters (Pacific Oysters) - Crassostrea Gigas on a rock.

Two Sound works:

Fog Fjord 05:57 min Imaginary, documentary and remembered sounds; Sonic reflections on a fjord landscape.

We are earth others, vol. 2. 08.41 min Composition / vocal work based on the poem Drinking (Abraham Cowley 1618-67) (04.45 min.) combined with sub marine sound recordings from inner Oslo fjord
Three videoprojections inspired by field-trips in the fjord.

Kristin Bergaust and Elin T. Sørensen

Photo: E. Røed
Elin T Sørensen: Fluid Border (double projection)
Kristin Bergaust: **CRUISE** (animation) 2 min

In 2016 the Oslo harbor authorities removed 24 underwater reefs to increase the depth of the fjord from 11 to 14 meters to facilitate larger ships. These grounds are also the most important spawning grounds for cod in all of Skagerak. This animation fantasizes over this situation and its consequences.

Photo: E.Røed
in 2016
24 underwater rocks
and reefs in the
Oslo fjord
were removed by the
harbor authorities
to make way for
cruise ships
The minimum depth was increased from 11 to 14 meters
Anneke von dere Fehr *Rescue dog* (video, 2 min.) The video follows a dog underwater, where it swims after a plastic duck. Whether it rescues or hunts, remains an open question.
Biotricity is an experiment with mud batteries, fuelled by bacteria living in a bottom of a pond, lake, swamp, sea. By using sonic expressions, real-time visualization and data interpretations, it creates new aesthetics as well as sensual and emotional experiences – a poetics of green energy.
Ingebjørg Torgersen: Being water...
Water and sanitation is United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 6. Photo: K. Gürgens Gjærum
Alexis Parra Pucho: *Flower Pots blomsterpotter.*
Sun- captured images of plants
Gunhild Vatn: *Ocean Viking* 7 Porcelain plates 19 x19 cm. This project is based on old photos of the first Norwegian oil platform while being manufactured at Aker’s Mechanical workshop in Oslo, 1966/67.
Connected to *Ocean Viking*, Vatn also showed *Dance around the golden calf*. A small porcelain bull is mounted on a stand in a rough industrial expression, to create a reference to the platform that was built at Aker's Mek. However, with its golden horns and glory, this porcelain bull has a reference to the biblical Golden Calf that provides room for different interpretations.
Four screens of project documentations:
PAO@Steilene: Eco Echoes performance event. Oslofjord

Nina Vestby: EUTOPIA One world - multiple stories Where do you feel good? Oslo, Moss, NYC

Andrea Sunder-Plassman: SenseLAB transdisciplinary and educational lab for sensorial awareness. Bonn DE, La Havana CU

Andrew Gryf Paterson: 'Māras Noguldījumi' (Māra's deposits) is a transdisciplinary practice-led maker research process Roja, LV

Photo: K.Gürgens Gjærum
Sabine Popp *pro.vocations (for a not yet fully articulated time)* Bruno Latour is using the term provocation in its more literal meaning: the production of voices. In question is how to give voice to things, which have been regarded to have no speech. The work, which is laid out on the floor like an oversized board game, assembles a collection of images drawn from research on the internet, in books, in the studio and in the field – following marine biologists in their various tasks in their effort to give speech to algae and those who form their wider community.
Anneke von der Fehr & Tona Gulpinar: *Be Extended*

The work is an invitation to an open interaction between the audience and object. It is designed in such a way that it relates flexibly to the room.

Photo: K.Gürgens Gjærum
Nina Vestby: EUTOPIA
SUNDAY WORKSHOP
One world - multiple stories
Where do you feel good?
Social Embroidery Community collected stories from Tøyen, Grønland, Brooklyn, Bronx and Moss. In August 2017 it was Grünerløkkas turn. Open workshop to all people, all ages, nationalities, cultures, minds and hearts.
Andrea Sunder-Plassman, Sigi Torinus and Brent Lee: **browsing beauty**. An ongoing multi-media installation project investigating the ephemeral and random nature of beauty as a means of transformative change.
Browsing Beauty was shown as an ambient evening concert performance.

Photo: C.Sverre
Hanan Benammar & Camilla Dahl: *Le Remords Re-Enacted*

Inspired by the short film *Le Remords (The Remorse)* by René Vautier, Hanan Benammar and Camilla Dahl performed a re-enactment of the artist being an accidental witness to a crime - a police beating of an immigrant asking for directions. The artist is confronted with the choice between immediate action or art production, raising the question of by which strategies the individual can protest against authoritarian violations of justice and contribute to social and political change.

The original film was later screened at Cinemateket Oslo on Hanan’s initiative.
Cathrine Constanse Gjelsnes: *Tragedy of the Commons*. *Performance lecture*

Rumour says that Langøyene island in the inner Oslofjord will be closed next year due to a need to control polluted soil. The former garbage dump Langøyene has been a camping site for fifty years. Twenty years of experience of island life leads to reflections on the commons and human nature’s (un)ability to maintain and share it.
What is the Tragedy Of The Commons?

- The tragedy of the commons is an economic problem in which every individual tries to reap the greatest benefit from a given resource. As the demand for the resource overwhels the supply, every individual who consumes an additional unit directly harms others who can no longer enjoy the benefits. Generally, the resource of interest is easily available to all individuals; the tragedy of the commons occurs when individuals neglect the well-being of society in the pursuit of personal gain.
WORKSHOP IN NOVEMBER 2016

• Thirty six participants and contributors
• Three performance events
• Two field trips
• Public Weekend Exhibition at ANX

EXHIBITION AND ACTIVITIES AUGUST 2017

• Ten exhibiting artists
• Four project documentations
• Four performances by seven artists
• One workshop
• Three parties
• Finishing event
Oslofjord Ecologies Experience participants

Siri Austeen
Hanan Ben
Kristin Bergaust
Camilla Dahl
Anneke von der Fehr
Cathrine Constanse Gjelsnes
Tona Gulpinar
Brent Lee
PAO@Steilene
Alexis Parra
Andrew Gryf Paterson
Sabine Popp
Rasa & Raitis Smits
Andrea Sunder-Plassman
Elin T. Sørensen
Ingebjørg Torgersen
Sigi Torinus
Gunhild Vatn
Nina Vestby

Weblinks:
https://oslofjordecologies.net/
http://www.bergaustvideo.net/
http://browsingbeauty.com/
http://www.performanceartoslo.no
https://vestbynina.wordpress.com/
https://www.alexisparra.com/