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Prague

**TILOS\_METIS\_TRANSPLANTATION**

In this text I would like to describe my creative stay on Tilos island where I was from 9.9. to 6.10. 2019. I focus on my own research instead on the communal program curated by Nadja Argyropoulou with the collaboration with Institute of Anxiety that took place on 27 and 28 of September.

I spend my time of residency on Tilos preparing a installation - performance called TransPlantAtion. The first work in progress exhibition will be at 5.11. 2019 in Prague venue called CrossAttic on festival - mini cycles named L.O.V.E (Love Of Various Environments). FB event here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/454968278565856/> and link to website of the venue with more informations about event: [https://crossattic.com/post/188286648205/𝐋-𝐎-𝐕-𝐄-love-of-various-envrionments](https://crossattic.com/post/188286648205/%F0%9D%90%8B-%F0%9D%90%8E-%F0%9D%90%95-%F0%9D%90%84-love-of-various-envrionments)

*\_\_\_\_Brief* ***annotation*** *of work in progress:*

*How to communicate with non-human intelligence? How can we make contact with plants when speaking only human language?*

*Inhale … Exhale…*

*The meditative installation/performance TransPlantAtion examines the cognitive abilities of plants. People are telling stories, plants are immediate and in permanent contact with everything and everyone. They are independent, they are self-evident, and they do not need anyone to prove their values. Or do they? In the time of global ecosystem crisis, do plants have anything to say?*

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In the beginning of process I was very inspired by the topic of trans-corporeality. I was focused about body - nature relationship in sense: “How is my individuality, my mind and thoughts, and even my physical body shaped by environment where I live or stay? What “other” is living in my body with whom I share it? Is my body really mine? How can I feel more the essence of nature through my material body and not just through my mind and thinking?” There are many questions and new are still coming. The basic I learned from is that there is nothing like individuality or otherness, nothing like dichotomy of culture and nature. There is not a possibility of being outside. This is very important point in the age of global climate crisis. Human being is part of environment as well as plants are even if they have lost the way of common communication (in general). This communication between human and plant is something what I am pointing on in TransPlantAtion.

I focus my interest more about communication between human and plants. How to talk with other than human intelligent? I made huge research on internet about plant communication and cognition. I have found many authors both scientists and artists who deal witch such a topic with glance and free imagination. From their research I have start to make a script for TransPlantAtion performance – instalation.

*How to design non-visible, non-speakable or non-listened entities in art project?*

My main focus is to find a form of dialog with environment, specifically with plants. I think it is important to work on this topic not just with words, which are also symbols of human repression and exploitation, but also use some of more abstract methods. I think sound is perfect tool for that. On one hand, it is something what is familiar to everything and everybody because nothing is really in silent. On the other hand, I also found some scientific papers, which deal with fact that plants can recognise sound of their predators like caterpillars, and based on that use some chemistry defence. Even plant roots are able to locate water based on water vibration - sound. Does it mean plants can hear? Do they have some consciousness because they are able to decide about some impulse and follow them or learn from them? Do they have some kind of mind even if they do not have brain or neural system?

I work with MIDI Sprout music machine to connect with plants and capture their biodata and transmit them to midi notes in my laptop. Thus I spend a lot of time on Tilos with learning myself with Ableton music program. I also recorded sound of Tilos like birds, insects, sea, wind or Greek people… and work with this specific sound to design a drumrack for plants. Plant's signal is very chaotic, so my job is to define a sound scale where it can move.

The form of TransPlantAtion is on the edge between installation and performance and it is because I don’t want to apply theatre methods that are commonly used for human characters and drama expressions. I still consider not including myself as a performer. It is because I want to give a space for non-human entities and want to avoid unnecessary comparison of human performer and non-human one. Avoiding of human being on the stage is one of big theme in contemporary theatre. Can we still count these non-human performances as a stage piece? Or is a human actor essential to theatre? I would like to work with many plants and even with some small animals like snail instead. I also want to use small robots I made on Tilos from material that I found on the beaches. (You can find their photos lower.) I am more curious about experiments that can help us understand future relationship rather than repeating of traditional structures.

TransPlantAtion is an artistic piece where a spectator can freely interact with plants installation. One can touch the plant, which in turn tell him/her how to turn into the plant and play some song for him/her. My main goal is to: *“Challenge our ability to think about abstract concepts. Take away your identifying mind. The body eventually becomes the side of traffic between culture and nature. Don’t hesitate to follow. Move past the illusions of duality that restrict modern life and enter a level of entangled reality where there is no time and no separation into self and other, hence no conflict, no ecological crisis. ”*

Attachment:

There is also attached a link where you can download one of a song I made from Tilos field recording. It is called *The Past* and musician in this song is Grapevine. Feel free to listen. Link will be available just for a few days.

<https://mab.to/auJER0RIR>





