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When we do not know: Conversing with Other Species, renegotiating "Us" (Paper)

Based on my long term artistic practice and research on our relationships to the non-human and on non-human agency, in this presentation, I will explore the possibilities of interspecies performance and especially the meaning of conversing with non-human actors. The presentation draws from the actor-network-theory by Bruno Latour and other posthumanistic theory, as well as my experiences from the memo performance series, mainly Memos of Time – performances with and for non-humans (2006-).

Tuija Kokkonen is an artist based in Helsinki, Finland. Since 1996 she has worked on a series of site-specific 'memo performances', as the director of Maus&Orlovski. The memos are explorations on relationships between performance, environment, "nature", non-human and time, and on the role of performance/art at the age of ecological crises. Her doctoral research project (since 2006) at the Theatre Academy is titled "The Potential Nature of Performance. The Relationship to the Non-Human in the Performance Event from the Perspective of Duration and Potentiality". It incorporates a series of performances called Memos of Time — performances with and for non-humans. www.tuijakokkonen.fi