Meeting the other. Ethical questions in participatory moving image

Research Pavilion 30.5.2015 at 11.00-16.15
Sala del Camino, Campo S. Cosmo (Vaporetto stop Palanca)
Giudecca, 621 Venice

www.uniarts.fi/en/research-pavilion

The symposium will address ethical questions concerning respect, empathy, revelation, and representation of the other, relating these to participatory moving image practises, specifically as they may occur within the context of artistic research.

Speakers: Johanna Oksala, Johanna Lecklin, Maija Timonen. Organizer: Johanna Lecklin, Doctoral Studies Programme, Academy of Fine Arts, University of Arts Helsinki.

Program
10:40 Morning coffee in the venue
10.55 Anita Seppä Words of welcome and introduction of the issues
11-12.15 Screening of Miriam Bäckström’s film Kira Carpelan (2007) (78 min)
12.15-13 Johanna Lecklin: Meeting the other. Ethical questions in participatory moving image
13-14 Lunch break
14-14.45 Johanna Oksala: The Problem of Power
15-15.45 Maija Timonen: Confidantes, Curators and Chambermaids: playing at caring
15.45-16.15 Discussion

Johanna Lecklin’s presentation will provide the initial framing of the event, and will consider ethical questions originating in her own artistic practice. She will discuss dilemmas of presenting the other, in this case the participant of an artwork, and how to use the material that participants have produced in an ethical way. Some of her works, such as Story Café (2004–) function as a laboratory, in which the relation between artist and participant is central to the creative process and the art created is a result of an interaction between them. In Story Café Lecklin invites participants to tell stories in a temporary café that she sets up. The project has been recreated in 15 cities around Europe. Later she dramatised a selection of the stories.

Her concerns tie in with the ethical questions arising from the pieces by other artists, in her talk as well as in her research more broadly, such as films by Miriam Bäckström, Tellervo Kalleinen and Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen and Renzo Martens, all of which occupy different positions on the border between documentary and fiction, where the relationship to the other, the participant or the performer, becomes an important ethical relation.

The symposium will start with the screening of Miriam Bäckström’s film Kira Carpelan (2007) and the invited speakers will use it as a starting point for their talks. In the film Bäckström recruits art student Kira Carpelan to provide content for the piece, to participate in its creation.
The viewer is left to wonder, what is performed and what is documentary. How can Carpelan develop her own identity as an artist, when she participates in Bäckström's film during her studies?

**Johanna Oksala** is Academy of Finland Research Fellow in the Department of Philosophy, History, Culture and Art Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland, and Visiting Professor in the Departments of Philosophy and Politics at The New School for Social Research, New York (2013-2015). She has written five books as well as numerous articles and book chapters on political philosophy and feminist theory. Her most recent book is titled Feminist Experiences (forthcoming from Northwestern University Press in 2015).

**Maija Timonen** is an artist based in London and Helsinki. Her work, spanning film making and writing, has in recent years explored the effects of the changing economic landscape on women's lives. Her writing has been published among others in Mute, Afterall and May magazines, and her book of experimental fiction, The Measure of Reality, is due out this fall 2015 from Book Works, London. She is currently a Professor of Artistic Research at Academy of Fine Art, University of the Arts Helsinki.

**Johanna Lecklin** is a Helsinki based artist and doctoral student. She is currently teaching as part-time lecturer at Academy of Fine Art, University of the Arts Helsinki.
