



TREE TRANS LATOR

a site-specific
outdoors
performance

by Nora Haakh

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TREE TRANS LATOR

Cooperation Partners

Developed in the framework of

A Nomadways Residency (2018)

A Narration Residency (2021)



Presented in cooperation with:

Kunstfestival 48h Neukölln, Berlin (2019)

AUCH Festival „In/Visible“, Berlin (2020)

Schloss Britz, Berlin (2021)

Prinzessinnengärten Berlin (2021)



prinzessinnen
gärten

kollektiv
berlin

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TREE TRANS LATOR

Pitch



During the ongoing era of extractivist capitalism, non-human nature has been considered as mere objects to be exploited for human consumption. At the same time, we are witnessing a growing desire for a different way of relating. Climate Change is adding urgency to the postcolonial search of strategies for „staying with the trouble“ and „making kin“ beyond boundaries of background, language, species.

TREE TRANSLATOR is a project about human-tree encounters and - possibly - communication.

TREE TRANS LATOR

Translating Trees



1. Nothing is translatable. (...) 10. Everything is translatable.

Emily Apter: 10 Theses on Translation

Recent research has proved that trees communicate with each other. Where there is communication, there must be some kind of language. A language can be learned.

But how to start to learn a language that I don't know yet how it works?

How to translate a tree?

(Intellectual Comrades Suzanne Simard, Peter Wohlleben (c) Nora Haakh / Treestump / Human fingerprint)



TREE TRANS LATOR

Non-ordinary Listening



Nora Haakh as Tree Translator 2021 / Tree Portrait from the Outside, Tree Portrait from the Inside / Nora Haakh as Tree Translator 2018

„Listening is to quiet, to open, to receive, to become an organ of perception, to let the self step aside, to step the self side. Aside self! To listen is to let in, to trust, to establish circuitry. With attention comes pause, reception and active participation both – a doorway for possibility, a gateway to the Reciprocal Zone.“ Kelvy Bird, originator of the Visualization Practice „Generative Scribing“.

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Synopsis

Somewhere between attentively sorting rice with Marina Abramovic and enjoying a Kindergarden trip with a forester: Through her site-specific work, the artist invites human audiences to join a playful, informative and imaginative exploration on how to possibly relate to a tree as a living creatures in their own right and reflect on how we habitually translate the world(s) around us.

Part 1: Taking Root (research period / long-durational site-specific performance, 1 to 10 days)

The artist spends time with the tree, listens to them, observes their urban, natural and social environment, collects Tree Stories, visualises these, is present with her artistic tools, non-ordinary attentiveness and open for approaches of passers-by. As energy follows attention, giving focus to a tree and its stories will change the space.

Part 2: Tree Encounter (public performance, 1h 30 min, max. 30 human audience)

As Nora Haakh shares stories from her process and inspiring impulses from her interdisciplinary background the audience slowly approaches the tree. They are invited to open their senses and try out ways to acquaint themselves with this new conversation partner. Then the artist and a local expert from a field related to trees, translation or encounter share their approaches.





TREE
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Team

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Concept & Performance: Nora Haakh. Video & Documentation: Ilker Abay. Dramaturgical Advice: Marie Yan, Meriam Boussemi. Photos: Ilker Abay, Una Jovovic. Press Relations: Marie Gamilschegg. Production Management Advice: Karolina Iwa. Production & Administration: Nora Haakh.

And a growing inspirational root network of conversation partners from a wide spectrum of fields:



TREE TRANS LATOR

Bio

Nora Haakh is a Theatre Maker, Visual Performer, Storyteller and Cultural Scientist based in Berlin. She is interested in combinations of storytelling, generative scribing and performance as artistic research.

Born in 1985, she studied Middle Eastern Studies, Politics and History in Berlin, Paris, Istanbul and Cairo while starting to work as assistant director, dramaturg, surtitler and production manager for theatre productions at Schaubühne Berlin, Ruhrtriennale Berlin, Ballhaus Naunynstraße or Goethe Institut Irak.

Between 2012 and 2015 she worked as a dramaturg for Berlin's postmigrant theatre Ballhaus Naunynstraße, supporting documentary theatre, devised plays, new writing and international festivals. Since then, she has been working freelance as a dramaturg, writer, director and performer in theatre, performance, contemporary dance and film and established a second career as Graphic Recorder. In 2020 she finished her phd on questions of translation from Arabic into German in Contemporary Theatre which was awarded a special award for intercultural studies. She is a member of the Art/Social Laboratory AUCH and teaches Dramaturgy and Intercultural Competences at HAW Hamburg and Cours Florent Berlin.

More info: www.nora-haakh.de

