

Written reflection / Abstract

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(artistic presentation in collaboration with Michael Norlind)

60 minutes

The Concrete Diversity of Being

One performer and one director create a working dialogue in the moment to capture their ways of working – with roots in two different strands of laboratory theatre - and to enter into a new joint investigation. A previous performance project is being deconstructed and reconstructed in front of the audience.

We have been collaborating since early 2017, exchanging experiences from our movement-based theatre practices, and by working together with the performance project *Suffering*, which investigated suffering as well as images and public display of human suffering in our time. In the performance work the problem of polarization in the society came to be a lingering theme. In the next project we will continue to elaborate on this topic, this time by going in the opposite direction: exploring complexity and ambiguity. How do we create complex images and ambiguous situations on stage? How can we deliberately compose with the composite and contradictory? Are we able to take into account the complexity and the diversity of existence? And can we still understand each other, and take a stand?

In this work demonstration and performance lecture we used physical material from our last performance *Suffering* and deconstructed it, narrowed it down into smaller and smaller units, in order to unfold the richness and the complexity in the smallest details. We investigated how the performer's micro-level related to the macro-level of the dramaturgy as a whole, and we studied the process of meaning-making. By reconstructing these physical materials and placing them in new contexts, for example with the help of music and images, we wanted to discuss the complex relation between physical action and signification.