

INNER TIME – OUTER SPACE

A WORKSHOP PROPOSAL BY TAMMO RIST

Introduction

The composition of space is a sculptor's fundamental and essential in the artistic development. Since space is an extremely physical phenomena, time approximates it's realm and merges to one unseperable unity of sensory perception. When we think of space, we do must think of time.

What is the workshop about?

My workshop is dedicated to a better comprehension of space and time for artistic purposes. It highlights the possibilities of composing space and its surrounding elements by artistic means. Both demand a physical (objective) and psychological (subjective) examination. Ordinary and supernatural sensations mingle throughout the whole process, theoretical and practical assignments alternate continuously to keep a creative flow alive. My strategy is to start with rather simple and "grounded" examples to cross over to more radical and abstract perception of the concepts. The workshop concludes with the creation of (improvised) artworks as a manifestation of what happened during the process.

Schedules

The workshop is applied for one week (27 hours). Depending on the school's schedule, I suggest a two-week time span. The workshop contains theoretical, technical and practical parts as well as individual- and group-work and a final presentation (and a tiny exhibition).

The goal

I expect a basic understanding of composition by using diverse objects within a room. I am happy if this is accompanied by a well considered transformation of the above mentioned concepts into an individual artistic expression.

Timeplan (see for detailed information below):

1. Introduction 3 h
2. Theoretical lecture 3 h
3. Techniques 3 h
4. Presentations 3 h
5. Film screening and discussion 3 h
6. Practical workshop: 6 h
7. Individual work: 4 h
8. Final presentation: 2 h

1. Introduction:

- a. An overview on the project. Explanation of the timeplan
- b. Clarification of the concepts. Some scientific "facts" and fundamentals about the phenomena of time and space related to the human senses. Is there time? What is it good for? Can we live without it? What is small and what is big? How can space be expanded or shrunk? Without space, would time exist?

2. Theoretical lecture: Composing time and space

The idea with this lecture is to process the ideas of the introduction into an artistic context. I want to highlight some artists and their works that concern themselves with the phenomena of time and space.

- a. Pablo Picasso
- b. Alexander Calder
- c. Richard Serra
- d. Walter de Maria
- e. Bogomir Ecker
- f. Jeppe Hein
- g. Olafur Eliasson

3. Technique: Freeze - Time and space in 3-D photography

A presentation on 3-D stereophotography (slideshow). It focuses on the perception of time in 3-D photography by freezing a moment and conserve it spatiotemporal. The 3-dimensional effect will be explained by an introduction

about the optical and perspective characteristics of the image and the human eye. After the first half, the group will take a few test shoots in different locations.

4. Film screening and discussion

La Jetée (1962) by Chris Marker

The movie tells the story of a post-nuclear war experiment in time travel by using a series of filmed photographs developed as a photomontage of varying pace with limited narration and sound effects. It raises questions about the linearity of time, the real existence in a distinct place at a certain time or its negation by an illusionary projection of our bored mind.

5. Conceptual composing: The graphic notations of Morton Feldman

Feldman's experimentation with non-traditional notation, improvisation, and timbre led to a characteristic style that emphasized isolated and usually quiet points or moments of sound. In this workshop I want to realize his piece 4:55 from 1957. Basically the building is the sound-body and there are "musicians" or "actors" making the house sound by improvising in a determined range of time. The workshop highlights the relation between space, time and sound (and its absence).

6. Practical workshop: Black Holes and Time Warps (in groups)

This workshop is a true experiment. It is about blindfolding, distorting and breaking mirrors, walking through invisible labyrinths, drawing and freezing reflections, recognizing objects in mirrors and under water as well as the experience of negative space. It is the sophisticated version of the Tuesday's lecture combined with practical approaches realized by real people.

7. Individual work (theoretical and technical tutorials)

The whole workshop aims to create an individual artistic expression that reflects the contents. Therefore, the last day is dedicated to build (improvise) an artwork of individual shape, size, material or technique. I will be present to assist the students to realize and criticize their works.

8. The Final Presentation

The final presentation will take place amongst the participating students and is open to the school. Every student explains his or her final product. The others are supposed to criticise the works and discuss what could have been done better, etc. To find an appropriate ending for the assignment, there will be a very, very small opening in the studio with the friends of the students, the teachers, some drinks and music. This is important as a stimulation-tool throughout the week – the fact that it will be exhibited at the end.