



**Under the flying carpet  
towards other futures – sense and learning to make sense together -  
What Nora Bateson called symmathesy\*?**

Felix Becker, sep. 2021

*In the welcome letter to the performance  
I was invited to debrand my clothes, my shoes,  
my toothbrush and paste,  
dress in black and white  
and leave my phone at home.  
It felt like preparing to join in with the most essential:  
my debranded sensing body and mind  
and  
two apples.*

This summer the performance group Sisters Hope invited to a series of 24 hours long “Sensuous City” \*\* performances in Copenhagen under the summer program of Metropolis.

The performance begun at the City Hall of Copenhagen and consisted of a guided sensuous walk through the city to pass the night at Nikolaj church and back to the City Hall on the next day.

Sisters Hope is a performance group that works within the intersection of art, education, research and activism. And as written in the Manifesto the group seeks to democratize the æstetic mode of being:

*“We need to democratize the æstetic mode of being to overcome the longing and suffering that its general absence outside the art system creates” \*\*\*.*

As so, in the case of “Sensuous City”, the City Hall became an archive of the sensuous findings of all the participants of the performances within the about 12 days of immersive performance interventions.

Sisters Hope offers experimental paths of discovering and sharing other modes of being. Epistemologically, Sisters Hope wants to contribute to research with qualitative sensuous findings, as the growing analog archive accessible for research.

*“As critical theory has pointed, the economic system has largely governed and dominated western society since the industrialization. ... Rational thought has been our dominating validation principle and economic premises, such as efficiency, duty and discipline have largely dominated everyday life in western society. ... However, the governance is not sustainable as the current ecological and economic crisis points at, and it has led to a fundamental de-enchantment of the life-worlds of modern (wo)man.”*

Why do I choose to publish this experience in the framework of examples of Nordic practices about (un)sustainable development?

*My main concern sharing this experience in a few poetic lines in this publication, is to highlight modes of being, that can re-enchant and relieve our life-worlds from the ever wanting more and more consuming promises of advertisements and never ever to be achieved for all humanity, as we experience more and more with growing migration caused by droughts, fires and economic injustice.*

**Under the flying carpet**  
sensuous space  
invitation  
together you me and more  
us  
imagine the heart of the city  
few words  
unspoken sensory trust  
belonging  
sometimes with closed eyes  
sometimes with gaze eyes  
guided by the unnamed  
beyond brands

even our names  
needless  
who are you  
no question  
us  
sensing bodys  
collective  
bodies sensing diversely  
and sharing those plurals  
guided and united by a rope  
sensing the sounds  
listening  
joy  
hearing the city  
exploring  
sharing explorations and findings  
in few words  
observed by others  
and observing others  
at the same time  
both spectator of others  
and actor for others  
the one the double  
the double and the one  
the double and the double  
interwoven explorations  
multiplying  
under a flying carpet  
protected  
open  
safe to go  
to let go  
to be  
answering questions by questions  
answering answers by questions  
sensation of flying  
followed by the masses in the shopping street  
immersed under the sky  
ff new futures

Literature and links:

(\*\*)"Sensuous City – The Performance"

<https://www.metropolis.dk/sensuous-city-2021/>

[https://thecity-eunic.net/sensuous\\_city](https://thecity-eunic.net/sensuous_city)

(\*\*\*)Education For The Future, 2020 - MANIFESTO

<https://www.idoart.dk/idoartbooks/sisters-academy-education-for-the-future>

Phd. Sensuous Society. Gry Worre Hallberg 2021.

[http://sistershope.dk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SensuousSociety\\_GryWorreHallberg\\_PhD\\_FINAL\\_LR-1.pdf](http://sistershope.dk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SensuousSociety_GryWorreHallberg_PhD_FINAL_LR-1.pdf)

Sisters Hope Home

<http://sistershope.dk/sisters-hope-home/>

Writings and press

<https://sistershope.dk/articles-references/>

### Further reading:

(\*)Nora Bateson

<https://norabateson.wordpress.com/2015/11/03/symmathesy-a-word-in-progress/>

*“Biology, culture, and society are dependent at all levels upon the vitality of interaction they produce both internally and externally. A body, a family, a forest or a city can each be described as a buzzing hive of communication between and within its vitae. Together the organs of your body allow you to make sense of the world around you. A jungle can be understood best as a conversation among its flora and fauna, including the insects, the fungi of decay, and contact with humanity. Interaction is what creates and vitalizes the integrity of the living world. Over time the ongoing survival of the organisms in their environments requires that there be learning, and learning to learn, together. Gregory Bateson said, “The evolution is in the context.” So why don’t we have a word for mutual learning in living contexts?”*

Morten Skriver, 2008, “Skønhedens Befrielse – Forslag til en økologisk æstetik”, Tiderne Skifter Kbh.

Henrik Kaare Nielsen, 2021, ”I Affekt – studier i senmoderne politik og kultur”, Aarhus Universitetsforlag.

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