



**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 that never ever can 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
of new futures

Literature and links:

(**)“Sensuous City – The Performance”

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

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

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.

About the author:

Felix Becker, MA edu psychology & rhythemics/eutoni
ongoing: SerendipityPress, Tryllehaven, Skabende Viden, Skabende By, Nordisk Bærekraft,
Charlottekvarteret/Cirkuspavillonen, Sisters Hope Home.

<https://intransition.medium.com/>

This text will be published in: <https://nvl.org/content/inspirationsbok-for-hallbar-utveckling-inom-vuxenutbildningen-i-norden>