

CENTRE FOR SENSORY STUDIES



TALKING SENSE SEMINAR

Just Some Dead Birds in a Drawer: Choreographic Audiowalks, Lifeliness, and More-than-Human Relational Movement

Dr. Susanne Schmitt

Thursday 13 June 2019

14:00-16:00, Hall Building, room H-1120

What can a focus on human and more than human movement contribute to understanding multispecies connectivity? Starting with an advertisement for taxidermy birds found in the archives of the Australian Museum, and following the flight ways of Victorian mourning fashion, the talk zooms in on choreography and taxidermy as forms that enable and intervene with movement and kinaesthetic becoming. It does so by unpacking “Send out a pulse!,” an audio walk made for the Australian Museum by “How to not be A Stuffed Animal.” The piece zooms in on questions of extinction, death, lifeliness, stillness and movement, raised by the practice of taxidermy. Following a flightway of birds’ extinction stories, ways to activate response-ability through more-than-human relational movement will be explored.

Dr. Susanne Schmitt is an interdisciplinary artist, communicator, cultural anthropologist and sensory ethnographer. She has turned public toilets into dioramas and developed cocktail bars for extinct insects (Danish National Gallery, with Kat Petroschkat, 2018). Together with Laurie Young, she is creative director of the VolkswagenStiftung-funded duo How to Not be A Stuffed Animal – Moving Museums of Natural History through Multispecies Choreography which creates choreographic para-sitic guides at Natural History Museums.

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