**OPEN CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

Crossing Borders: The Agronauts' Journey

An artistic research on the Czech-German border

August 30th – September 10th 2020 in Šumava/Böhmerwald

This artistic research project invites students, post-graduates, artists and researchers from different disciplines for a 10-day journey on the Czech-German border for an inter-disciplinary research journey into the (im)materiality of nature-cultures.

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Possible disciplines, but not restricted to: performance art, theatre, dance, biology, geography, sociology, political ecologies, anthropology, history, environmental studies.

This project wants to invite the participants to involve themselves holistically as material beings among other materialities into this journey. With this post-human interest, we want to engage collectively through our being-in-the-world. With the notion of the “Agronaut”, we will probe into human’s influence on landscapes but also research in the organization of ecosystems.

In the notion of the Agronaut, we imagine a species conceived to resist societies based on economical growth, survive ecological changes and reclaim co-existence. With this 10-day artistic research as Agronauts, we want to create a collaborative and interdisciplinary “micro-utopia” (Bourriaud) - an experience of transformative immersion for the co-creation of sustainable futures.

We want to address sustainability through an aesthetic-performative research approach. Particularly in considering different time spans of organisms and their intra-active becoming. During the journey, the participants will be sensually exposed to weather and light changes, the element’s influence on their being and will document their experience of this borderspace. In this way, we want to ignite and search for a post-human perspective on sustainability by bringing together artistic/performative inquiry with political and ethical questions of our time with regard to “naturecultures” (Haraway). While sustainability is discussed for instance through the Sustainability Goals 2030 put forth by the UN, we want to research how sustainability can be a practice.

In this project, we want to co-create – humans and non-humans – and enliven an ethics of kinship (Haraway) between organisms through a practice-oriented encounter as well as an aesthetic approach.

On our walking-journey

We will create a fictitious narrative of the Agronauts’ journey. How can we create a space of mutual learning? What can this borderspace teach us about sustainability? How can questions lead to practices for sustainable futurities? - These are some questions that we want to share. During the project, we want to share our encounters and fictitious narratives with the public, especially with the local people we will meet on the road. Getting in contact with these people is an important part of the journey, considering the history of Czechs and Germans.

When applying, please consider that the format of the performative travel around the border is physically challenging to a degree – we will spend a lot of time moving mostly through forest paths. Estimated length of the trip is around 100 km which will be covered through the whole journey, we will sleep in shelters/tents and prepare our food together.

We have successfully applied for financial support and will be able to cover travel costs (from DE and CZ), food and material for all participants.

Please contact us by the 31th of July 2020:

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Lea Spahn (Germany): lea.spahn@gmail.com

As organisers, we come from the fields of performative research, multi-sensory ethnography, anthropology, embodied practices, theatre and dramaturgy as well as ritual practices.

More information about our project Crossing Borders in 2019:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p0Q4Ya\_Keex4AuEWqZAJ-daArK67nDSa/view?usp=sharing

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