

Š.A.L.O.U.N. - SHALL ARROWS LAND ON UNIQUE NOTES?

Concluding thoughts on the final presentation of the project by Christina Della Giustina and the students of The Studio of the Visiting Artist at AVU Prague

The aim of the project was to experiment with methods of working that are generative, that is to investigate the 'climatic' conditions within which Šaloun can become a living system, an organism.

It was of utmost importance that each contribution was taken seriously and got full attention, not only the attention for the contributor, but additional attention for its effects on each other. The insights we found were not by looking further, but by looking closer.

Observing collectively how our thoughts evolve is not a passive act, it is actively integrating what we see and collectively sharing our thoughts. By doing so we created the space between our individualities; and by sharing this space it became our collective space, bound to each of us by influence, interaction, memory and relation.

In all this processing we had no end work in mind, very much on the contrary, we let our ideas be influenced by each other. The final presentation - "SHALL ARROWS LAND ON UNIQUE NOTES?" - takes place from January 23 - 29 2017 at Villa Šaloun, Prague, CZ. Its focus lays upon two equally important themes, the individual and the whole, both understood as organisms and both equally alive: a living environment with a particular soil from which communication arises and a distinct root system through which matter and information metabolizes into different individual works. This generative force keeps on thriving the evolution of the whole and its individual parts.

The presentation resonates with the entire spectrum of our senses and spans a wide scope of media, consisting of virtual reality - and interactive works, performances, spatial and acoustic installations, video and video essays, musical instruments and notation systems, perfumes and a haiku.

Each of this broad range of interrelating artistic tools investigates how we relate to the place, to each other and to ourselves and how these relations - once setting the viewer in motion too - turn into vital processes that generate further connections: a living tissue capable of carrying all of us.

I am happy to encounter great motivation, sincere interest and genuine talent with each student I was working with. The students have been very motivated and ready to experiment with and investigate in new forms of being together and thinking through each other.

I got to know their individual works through personal consultations, as well as their potential as an artistic collective. The conversations we had, the discussions we led and the processes we went through were very rich, thoroughly interesting and highly valuable.

Judging each individual working process, as well as the collective project, I observe a clear growth in each of the students' practices and I hope the experience will keep on living and enriching all of us.

The Saloun Studio programme entails most encouraging circumstances and is a great opportunity for the students of AVU. It is a space dedicated to innovation and experiment, allowing for the formation of all skills necessary to become an indispensable artist.

The international, project- and experiment-oriented Saloun Studio is a true asset, a contemporary artistic context that benefits the academy and its Fine Art students.

I highly recommend the Saloun Studio Programme and the possibilities it offers as a platform for experimentation, investigation and learning.

The creative collective with the acrostic name "SHALL ARROWS LAND ON UNIQUE NOTES?" would like to thank our hosts Tomáš Vaněk, Anna Daučíková and Tomáš Džadoň warmly for their trust, support and help in this extraordinary opportunity to experiment, experience and generate together. We hope to contribute worthily to Saloun's exciting artistic program.

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