

Frontiers in Retreat: Edge Effects Library

The Edge Effects library is a collection of resources that has been curated by artists and arts workers who have been involved in Frontiers In Retreat and in the formation of the Edge Effects programme. It is made up of a series of reading lists selected by:

- Brett Bloom and Ximena Alarcon
- Mele Broomes
- Taru Elfving
- HIAP (Helsinki International Artist Programme)
- Interfaces for Empathy
- Mari Keski-Korsu
- Peter McMaster
- Open Jar Collective
- Richard Skelton
- Scottish Sculpture Workshop

This library is shape shifting, evolving and open to suggestions for its development. Through it we aim to find ways to resist hierarchies of knowledge, place a strong emphasis on lived and felt experiences and inspire transformative learning experiences

Items with * next to them are present in the Scottish Sculpture Workshop's Edge Effects Library. The remaining books are listed for recommended further reading.

Deep Listening

Brett Bloom and Ximena Alarcon

breakdownbreakdown.net / ximenaalarcon.net

This material offers you sonic and listening mediations, body energy exercises, and dream rituals for the Deep Listening practice. They provide interdisciplinary background, commentaries, and tips and reflections from Pauline Oliveros, and her collaborators IONE and Heloise Gold. You will also find essays written by Deep Listening practitioners, derived from their specific Deep Listening practices, focusing on many possible spaces and times expanding our sonic experience.

*'I hear
I am
I receive what is
Listening
No argument
My body is sound
Listening guides my body
Sound is the fiber of my being and of all sentient beings without exception'*

Pauline Oliveros in 'Anthology of Text Scores'

Selected books:

Anthology of Text Scores. Pauline Oliveros
Edited by Samuel Golter and Lawton Hall.

* Anthology of Essays on Deep Listening.
Editors Tom Bickley & Monique Buzzarté

Deeply Listening Body. A handbook of
movement exercises, meditations &
improvisations. Heloise Gold

Deep Listening Anthology Volume Two.
Editor, Marc Jensen

* Listening in Dreams. A compendium of
Sound Dreams, Meditations and Rituals
for Deep Dreamers, plus This is a Dream!
A Handbook for Deep Dreamers. Lewis,
Carole IONE

Sonic Meditations. Pauline Oliveros

The Roots of the Moment. Pauline
Oliveros

* Deep Listening: a composer's sound
practice. Pauline Oliveros

Sounding the Margins, Collected Writings
1992 -2009. Pauline Oliveros

The Quantum Mind and Healing, How to
Listen and Respond to Your Body's
Symptoms. Arnold Mindell

* The Soundscape, Our Sonic Environment
and the Tuning of the World. R. Murray
Schafe

Audio by Pauline Oliveros:

Ghostdance
* The Wanderer

Tara's Room

Papers by Pauline Oliveros:

http://soundartarchive.net/articles/Oliveros-1999-Quantum_listening.pdf
<http://rpi.academia.edu/PaulineOliveros>

Web Links:

The Center for Deep Listening at Rensselaer: <http://deeplisting.rpi.edu/>
Deep Listening Aphiliate UK: <http://deeplistingaphiliateuk.wordpress.com/>
Deep Listening Institute: <http://deeplisting.org/>
IONE: <http://onedreams.us/>
Heloise Gold: <http://heloisegold.com/>

Ancestral Knowledge

Mele Broomes

<http://variousdanceartists.co.uk>

This reading list is informing Mele's new work *Grin* and current practice as a Black dancer and choreographer in Scotland. Mele is reflecting on what is contemporary dance and what is dance from an African Diaspora. Probing the fact that European centric dances are still seen as superior forms.

A spectacle of sound and visuals, *Grin* masquerades and undermines hierarchies of power. *Grin* inverts the continued colonial narratives of black bodies and Caribbean dance styles being solely exotic and hyper-sexualised. *Grin* is a celebratory performance, inviting you into the carnival.

Selected books:

*Black Women in Dance: Stepping out of the Barriers. Hilary S. Carty

*Hidden Movement: Contemporary Voice of Black British Dance. Hilary S. Carty

*Blurring Boundaries: Urban Street Meets Contemporary Dance. Kyle Abraham

*Creolizing Dance in a Global Age. Gladys M. Francis

Archipelago (of) Knowledge

Taru Elfving

<http://hiap.fi/taru-elfving>

Archipelago (of) knowledge aims to capture as a title my investment as a curator and writer in working and thinking with artists across and between different epistemologies, or modes of knowledge, that together form a prism through which the complexities of specific contexts as well as their relations to elsewhere become fathomable and negotiable.

Felix Guattari's call to recognise and address three distinct yet entwined ecological registers (environment, social, and mental) has been foundational for my practice as I have aimed to engage with ecological concerns in and through their entanglements with aesthetic, ethical, geopolitical and economic questions. Luce Irigaray meanwhile has been crucial for my understanding of difference beyond dualism, or what she calls "the logic of the same". Her proposed approaches to encounters and communication with others continue to inspire, such as her emphasis on wonder as the mode of encounter before any attempts at understanding or speech as a mode of touch. Donna Haraway's early essay lays a significant corner stone for challenging dualism further as it maps out interconnections between nature-culture divide and the gendered, racial, and class oppressions, and encourages leaps beyond these with an emphasis on always partial, situated practices.

Recently the work of Isabelle Stengers and Anna Tsing have offered a great deal with their critique of anthropocentrism and universalism for my thinking of the radical potential of artistic investigations and experimental methodologies in knowledge production. Stengers' notion of cosmopolitics stresses the necessity to pay attention to all those - also non-human - affected by political decisions, which requires the navigation between multiple, incompatible practices and epistemologies. Tsing's fabulous exploration of the rhizomatic mesh of connections between a particular mushroom, diverse forest ecosystems, human migrations and global capitalism, argues for the importance of appreciating local specificities in order to understand wider planetary transformations. Islands - whether geographical, subjective, cultural or disciplinary - can thus be seen simultaneously as irreducible in their differences yet also always integrally part of an archipelago and its ceaseless flows of change. Contemporary Art Archipelago publication gives some insight into how these questions have been tackled and manifested in my practice.

Selected books:

The Three Ecologies. Felix Guattari

The Mushroom at the End of the World.
Anna Tsing

* An Ethics of Sexual Difference. Luce
Irigaray

Articles:

Donna Haraway, Cyborg Manifesto:
<http://faculty.georgetown.edu/irvinem/theory/Haraway-CyborgManifesto-1.pdf>

Isabelle Stengers, An Ecology of Practices:
<http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/journals/index.php/csri/article/.../3597>

E-Publications:

Björk & Elfving & Petronella, Contemporary Art Archipelago CAA:
http://issuu.com/contemporaryartarchipelagocaa/docs/caa_a5_10_single

Frontiers Reads

HIAP (Helsinki International Artist Programme)

<http://frontiersinretreat.org> / <http://hiap.fi>

Frontiers Reads is an accumulating reading list around art and ecology, composed by the artists and curators participating in the project.

The Frontiers in Retreat network of remote residencies have strived to generate a more complex understanding of the entanglements unfolding between locally articulated ecological concerns and larger, systemic, global processes.

Ecological concerns cannot be considered as purely environmental concerns, but should be understood as wickedly complex problems that require transgressing the borders of

disciplines. Artists have the capacity to synthesize different modes of knowledge, which is crucial for the understanding of complex co-dependencies between ecological, social, economic, and political phenomena. This ability is required in order to come to terms with a hyper-complex question such as global climate change.

Selected books:

* Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene. Donna Haraway

* A Geology of Media. Jussi Parikka

The Posthuman. Rosi Braidotti

* The Green Earth. Kim Stanley Robinson

* T. J. Demos: Decolonizing Nature – Contemporary Art and the Politics of Ecology (2016)

* Petro-Subjectivity. Brett A Bloom

Art in the Anthropocene. Heather Davis & Etienne Turpin

Essays:

Empathy is Part of Our Deepest Nature. Salla Tuomivaara

Condensed Speculations on Museums and Humanity. Giovanna Esposito Yussif

PDFs:

Antti Salminen & Tere Vadén: Energy and Experience – An Essay in Nafthology

Podcast:

Cultures of Energy Podcast: <http://culturesofenergy.com> culturesofenergy.com/blog

Empathy

Interfaces for Empathy

Mari Keski Korsu + Maarit Laihonen + Petri Ruikka

<http://pixelache.ac>

In our project and in our workshop Regenerative Notes, Sat 29 July, 4-5:30, CCA Clubroom, we ask if empathy could be one of the key elements in reconnecting us with our ecosystem and ourselves? After all, empathy is the element that has enabled humans to work together and collaborate in order to flourish as a species. We are interested in extending our reflections towards asking how to create deeper connections in the crisis of humanity and how to develop skills for existence in post-fossil life. We are collectively searching for methods for empathetic action and activism.

For Edge Effects we draw on our former work made in Pixelache Festival 2016 titled 'Interfaces for Empathy', and from literature discussing different approaches to collaborating through empathy. We wish to familiarise ourselves with the colourful history of environmentalism(s), and further draw from specific contemporary sources on how

human societies could be built towards a more ecologically aware state, without the often perceived aggressiveness of formal international environmental policies and build more on collaborative action.

This reading list represents a short take of various sources on environmentalism, empathy and collaboration. As such it also represents a snapshot of the research behind the thinking of this collective project at this moment in time.

Selected books:

* Age of ecology. Joachim Radcau

* Hope in the Dark - Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities. Rebecca Solnit

* The Ecology of Freedom: The Emergence and Dissolution of Hierarchy. Murray Bookchin

* Empathy: Why It Matters, and How to Get It. Roman Krznaric

* Sister Outsider Essays & Speeches. Audre Lorde

Articles:

Valdesolo et. al. The rhythm of joint action: Synchrony promotes cooperative ability

Preston, A perception-action model for empathy

Interspecies Communication

Mari Keski-Korsu

<http://artsufartsu.net>

My work in Frontiers in Retreat has evolved around two projects: the 'Oracles' and 'Beat to the Balance'. Both of the projects kindly and fiercely ask guidance for human kind toward a holistic, empathic existence. In this case, the holistic existence means a disappearance of rational, emotional, physical, spiritual, mind – merging these often separated elements of a human being into one. In order to create a new narrative for human species in crisis, we need to become more aware of our ability to nurture deep, equal connections and build our capacities for empathic, intuitive communication with the other species and entities within our ecosystems. These are practical everyday actions and ways to exist that anyone can do (and what people have always done in the end). They are political and social acts, too.

Artist's Recordings:

The two recordings presented in this library are from the Oracles project. The Oracles consists of two parts: participatory rituals where the humans are introduced to different methods of communicating with other species as well as the joined consciousness and channeled messages from the companion species. In the messages, I present some concepts and then, professional communicator Maiccu Kostianen channels the messages in between us.

Alpaca Oracle -message

I introduced an alpaca herd to 'Scientists Consensus on Maintaining Humanity's Life Support Systems in the 21st Century' report. The challenges mentioned in this paper are 1.) climate disruption, 2.) extinction, 3.) wholesale loss of diverse ecosystems, 4.) pollution, 5.) human population growth and consumption patterns.

Voice: Jyrki Karttunen

Dur. 0:08:26

Clydesdale Oracle -message

I introduced to Clydesdale horses multiple questions about work and labour of today. Work is focused energy. It relates to human beings like fossil energy, labour, unemployment, immigration, exchange and economic turmoil. It is essential for how humans experience their environments and change it. I asked the Clydesdale horses advice for humans on what work means, what kind of work should be done and what they think about humans' economic system(s). How should humans focus their energy?

Voice: Eija Ranta

Dur. 0:10:23

Selected books:

* Animal Talk: Interspecies Telepathic Communication. Penelope Smith

* The Language of Animals: 7 Steps to Communicating with Animals. Carol Gurney

* The Language of Plants - Science, Philosophy, Literature. Monica Gagliano, John C. Ryan, and Patrícia Vieira (editors):

* The Hidden Life of Trees: What they Feel, How they Communicate. Peter Wohlleben

* The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors. David George Haskell

* Matters of Care - Speculative Ethics in More Than Human Worlds. María Puig de la Bellacasa

* Teachings from the Trees: Spiritual Mentoring from the Standing Ones. Theresa C. Tintino

* Why Birds Sing: One Man's Quest to Solve an Everyday Mystery. David Rothenberg

Sweat - The Illustrated History and Description of the Finnish Sauna, Russian Bania, Islamic Hammam, Japanese Mushi-Buro, Mexican Temescal, and American Indian & Eskimo Sweatlodge. Mikkel Aaland

Performing Landscapes

Peter McMaster

<http://petermcmaster.org>

This reading list informed my recent DIY project entitled Performing Landscapes: exploring eco-centric approaches to performance making at Scottish Sculpture Workshop that took place from 12th - 16th July 2017.

The 5 night and 4 day retreat was designed to allow participants to engage with eco-centric approaches to performance making. Hosted in rural Aberdeenshire, the majority of the work was conducted outside, enquiring into the potential for the natural landscape[‡] to be seen as collaborator in performance making practice. The DIY and this reading list presented the questions:

How can we shift the perspective from ourselves to ourselves with ‘other’ when it comes to being an artist?

How far can this definition of ‘other’ extend?

How can our approach be influenced by the nature of a river system?

What can a nesting pair of birds tell us about collaboration, and what do we see of ourselves in all of this?

[‡]A landscape is the visible features of an area of land, its landforms and how they integrate with natural or man-made features.

Selected books:

* The Peregrine: The Hill of Summer & Diaries: The Complete Works of J. A. Baker. J. A. Baker

* Listening to Noise and Silence: Towards A Philosophy Of Sound Art. Salomé Voegelin

* Nature Performed: Environment, Culture and Performance (Sociological Review Monographs). Szerszynski

* Ecopsychology: Restoring the Earth/Healing the Mind. Roszak, Theodore

* Solitude. Anthony Storr

* Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe. Paul Sterry

* Book Of Vision Quest: Personal Transformation in the Wilderness. Steven Foster

* The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-Than-Human World. David Abram

* Being Alive: Essays on movement, knowledge and description. Tim Ingold

* The Overhaul. Kathleen Jamie

Soil City

Alex Wilde – Open Jar Collective

<http://soilcity.org.uk>

Launched at Glasgow International 2016, Soil City is a long-term project by Open Jar Collective, to reimagine the city as if soil matters.

Soil City is a space for conversation, participatory research and knowledge exchange. By engaging with the citizens of Glasgow and a wider community of scientists, artists, activists and academics, we hope to gain a better understanding of the relationship between healthy soil and healthy people. We're exploring how inequalities within society are reflected in the way land is used or remains 'vacant'. By reframing soil as a valuable collective resource we aim to play a role in challenging economic, environmental, and health inequalities in Glasgow. We aim to offer explorations of soil culture through the alchemy of composting, growing, foraging, fermenting, brewing and cooking, as hospitality and sharing food together are at the core of Open Jar Collective's approach, and living soil is what supports our nourishment.

We started collecting a diverse variety of reference material to explore soil from different perspectives including the role of soil in our food, culture and ecosystems. There is technical material on what is soil, ideas about how we manage and steward soil, creative responses to soil, connections between art and ecology, what we can learn from soil and its microbial community, urban design and how we access soil and who owns the land of which soil is a part.

Selected books:

Soil Not Oil. Dr Vandana Shiva

Soil and Soul. Alastair McIntosh

The Landscape Below. Bruce C Ball

Wild Fermentation. Sando Ellix Katz

Dirt – The Filthy Reality of Everyday Life.
Virginia Smith and Brian Ralph

The Poor had no Lawyers. Andy
Wightman

Soil Culture. Initiated by the Centre for
Contemporary Art and the Natural World

Mycelium Running, how mushrooms can
help save the world. Paul Stamets

Diary of a Worm. Doreen Cronin,
Illustration: Harry Bliss

Art and Ecology Now. Andrew Brown

Alterity Studies

Richard Skelton

<http://corbelstonepress.com>

The Frontiers in Retreat programme provided a framework for artists and researchers to 'examine processes of change in particular, sensitive ecological contexts within Europe'. These various resources highlight my particular focus on climate change and species loss, during my residencies at Skaftfell, Iceland, between 2014 and 2017. In particular, the IUCN Red List represents what could be called the 'founding document' of the Centre for Alterity Studies - a roll call of over 70,000 species of plants and animals whose populations are under threat, in seven categories from 'least concern' to 'extinct'. The other items in my list reflect various theological, philosophical and scientific responses to other-than-human life, ranging from Thomas Nagel's influential 'What is it like to be a bat?' to Lynn White's fascinating exploration ecology and religion, 'The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis'. Suzanne

Simard's TED lecture, 'How Trees Talk to Each Other' is a fascinating insight into the scientific evidence for the communal life of plants, in which resources are shared between trees in a forest for the betterment of the group. Finally, the Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness is a document, signed in 2012 by a leading group of neuroscientists, which overturns centuries of dogma in its assertion 'that humans are not unique in possessing the neurological substrates that generate consciousness'.

PDFs:

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| The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis, Lynn White: uvm.edu/~gflomenh/ENV-NGO-PA395/articles/Lynn-White.pdf | /modules/ugmodules/humananimalstudies/lectures/32/nagel_bat.pdf |
| What is it like to be a bat: warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/iatl/activities | The Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness: fcmconference.org/img/CambridgeDeclarationOnConsciousness.pdf |

Video:

How Trees Talk to Each Other. Suzanne Simard:
http://www.ted.com/talks/suzanne_simard_how_trees_talk_to_each_other

Websites:

The IUCN Red List: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

FiR: Edge Effects Reading List Scottish Sculpture Workshop

<http://ssw.org.uk>

The SSW team reading list is made up of resources that have been important to the teams' personal development and working practices. This has, in turn, fed into the development of the programme presented at the workshop and within Edge Effects.

This reading list is subjective and selected in response to the wider FiR library.

The books have been selected by: Beth Bidwell, Yvonne Billimore, Uist Corrigan, Andrew Dunlop, Sarah Gallie, Eden Jolly, Vivian Ross-Smith and Sam Trotman.

"I like to keep certain books close. Each of my contributions to the SSW reading list were gifted to me by two of my closest friends. Not only their content but also their presence has been invaluable to me. Both books instil a value in sharing stories, in using empathy and compassion to reshape our perceptions, in confiding in others, in resilience, and in culture as a resource for encouraging ecological change. I regularly use these books for our residency programme reading groups. The texts, the people I read them with and the dialogues which emerge are continuously informing my thinking and work at SSW."

Yvonne Billimore

"These are books that for some reason feel important to be present. They highlight some of the thinking that has informed me and what I am currently grappling with. The children's books share the joy I feel whilst reading with my daughter last thing at night, a feeling that reminds me of the words of Rebecca Solnit: 'Joy is a fine initial act of insurrection'"
Sam Trotman

Selected books:

* In the Cairngorms. Nan Shepherd

* Hamewit Collected Poems. Charles Murray

Anticipatory history, edited by Caitlin DeSilvey, Simon Naylor and Colin Sackett

Hold everything dear, John Berger

* Together: The rituals pleasure and politics of cooperation. Richard Sennet

An Edge Effect / Art & Ecology in The Nordic Landscape. Edited by Bonnie Fortune

* A Pedagogy of Place: Outdoor education for a changing world. Brian Wattchow and Mike Brown

* Dark Mountain issue 8: Technê

* What Animals Teach Us About Politics. Brian Massumi

PDFs:

Five Protocols for Organized Listening. Ultra-red

Xenofeminism: A Politics for Alienation. Laboria Cuboniks

* Teaching, for people who prefer not to teach. Edited by Mirjam Bayerdorfer and Rosalie Schweiker

* The Undercommons. Fugitive Planning and Black Study. Stefano Harney and Fred Moten

Solitude. Anthony Storr

* I like Myself. Karen Beaumont. Illustrated: David Catrow

* The Paper Bag Princess. Robert Munsch. Illustrated: Michael Martchenko

* I Like Animals. Written and illustrated: Dahlov Ipcar

* My Princess Boy. Cheryl Kilodavis

Trying to Make the Personal Political: Feminism and Consciousness-Raising