

hi kristien,

i thought telling you how the night shift went could function as a report making for myself so here comes...

it was different i think from what i expected. seeing that the shift was aimed at filling a needed space i let it go the way it wanted and it turned out we all felt, as a group, the need to reconnect and be together again.

in fact, we never got to a point where we were working separately. instead we spent the whole night together as a group.

we started off with my proposal of indirectly attending each others researches and opening them up to other's eyes. how does the material of another speak through you?

and in turn how is this speaking translated into a shared discourse. it wasn't easy as we ended up in groups of 3 and at this point the focus was still a bit jumpy/ exhausted from the day. it seemed a little too complicated to our state of minds. anyhow, in my group this eventually led to a discussion on access and accessibility, what does it mean in the arts (and how do we relate to its over use) and what does it mean to a disabled body navigating moving through a city, what does it do to think of differently abled bodies instead and the importance of specificity when we use words to articulate what we do and the joy in not understanding as a form of access too.

after these small groups we eventually came together and got into fundamental questions around what is artistic research. we touched on social affordance, knowledge production and shareability, directionality and the relation between practice and discourse and how we share things and what we don't manage to share in the space we find ourselves in.

also, a need and the impossibility to pin down what is research and how it operates (movement of constant transformation and ongoing experimentation versus need for concreteness and stability).

in fact this went on for quite a while.

at some point martina asked me why i'm so obsessed with night work at the moment and i said i like what tiredness produces. later i also realised two other things that drive me

towards this. namely, that during the night stimuli is "simplified", we have less mental, audio, visual, physical information that demands our attention, the toned down environment (which is of course very alive and full of things to look at, smell, feel etc but it isn't demanding our energy in the same way as during the day) enables a



softer attention/ presence. and also, that the light at dawn is just so damn amazing that it blows my mind every time. i feel the pleasure in my whole being of witnessing night turn into day, the environment and everything in it waking up while i am exhausted.

so summary, night tends to give talks a kind of pensiveness that enables the listening that i am always on about ('listening as labor') to be practiced quite easily. our discussion had a lot of space for silence too. this felt good.

then we went for a walk. brief but funny. made me think of the madness that is also a part of working at night. a madness that pleases me too. and maybe also feels a bit dangerous, so there is a friction there in all the pensiveness and peace. good stuff.

and we realised we'd never seen apass from the other side :)

after that we trickled gradually into a sleeping mode. so from ca 4am to 5/6/7am (depending on the people) we slept, some gentle snores and the hourly bloody alarm of the 4th floor maintaining us in a sleep/awake state.



and then in the morning we had breakfast and again ended up talking about quite fundamental things like; how do we invite others to research with us? how can this open the group to more critical conversations (that we sometimes don't manage to have because the space feels like it cannot support it)? how could we use some more criticality about the researches and how fragility and openness or lack of openness are in the room....

there was talk of responsibility and carrying the space whilst allowing it to be constantly moving/ changing/transforming.

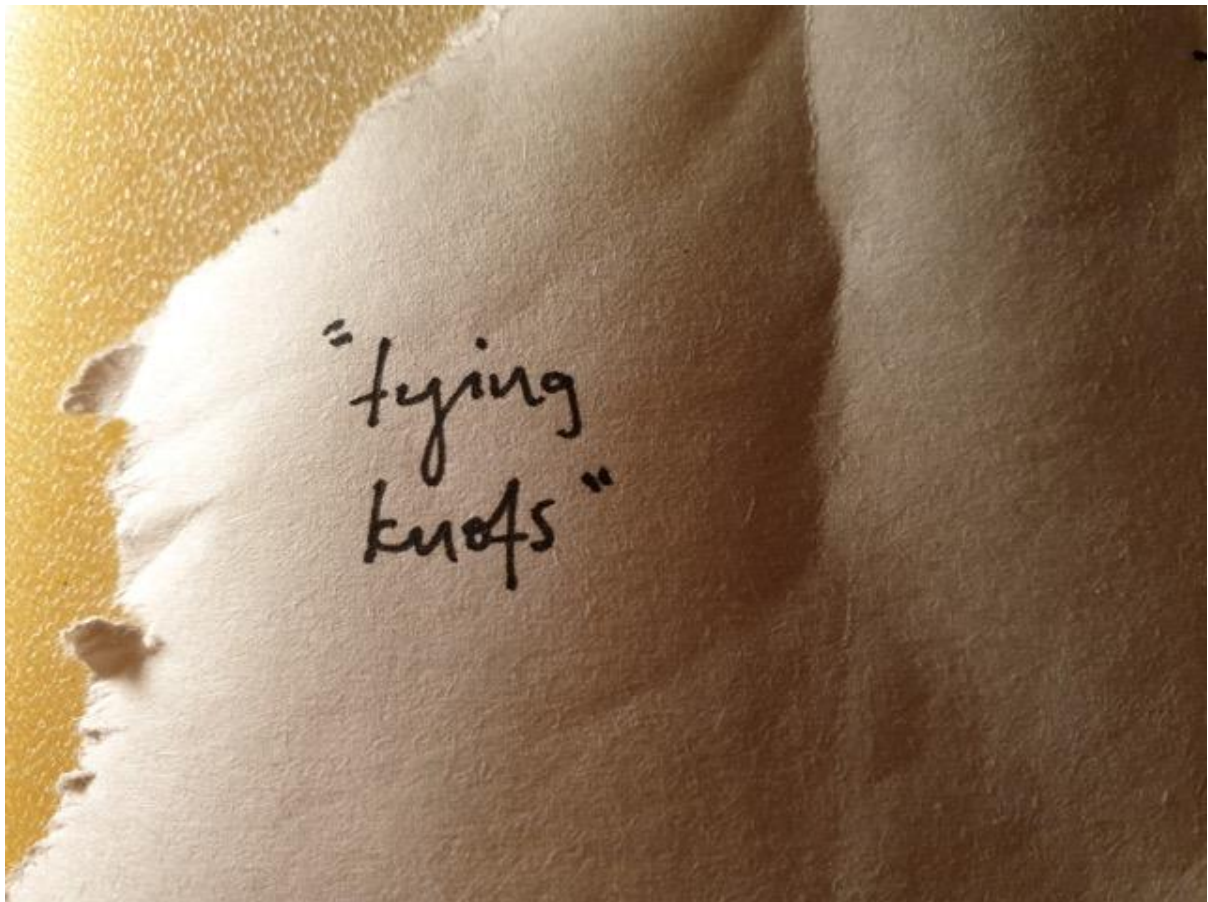
i did not expect us to still have energy in the morning to discuss such in-depth and hard core questions but clearly we all needed it and also felt like it was a good space for it.

by then we were sort of in this after party, morning after, transition space feel that was hard to leave.  
in fact, i came home only at 12. marko ended up spending 24 hours in apass.  
generally, it felt good to invest the space again.

voila, so as you can see the night shift became a space for togetherness and some fundamental questions that we of course will keep on visiting and re-visiting, questioning and re-formulating, re-discovering and translating.

i'm very happy about the shift. i feel good (albeit a bit tired), stimulated and accompanied. i hope the others share this view, i think they do.

i wanted to send this off now while i am still tired and getting more and more zombied out. other thoughts will surely come after time but maybe that isn't so important right now. sometimes freshness is a good messiness.



Much love from me,  
Nada