

Thinking about Thinking – Circling and Sharing in the Digital Space

As a dancer, leaving the university and entering the abyss of a freelancer artist, only to be slapped in the face – not only with the normal struggles of this field, but also – with a pandemic, that has minimized the working opportunities and possibilities to actually widen one’s own artistic practice, has been unbelievably harsh.

Sitting inside, not been able to be with people, is slowly killing my motivation as a young artist. But I have decided to start again, start fresh. I am going to look back on what I have done and to come up with my next step, next artistic journey, piece, that I am going to tackle.

I realized I don’t have my own website.

And this is going to be my tool and my path on this journey.

During the three months of funding that I am now asking, I am going to go through my own archive of videos, showings, writings and notes, that have been – and are – part of my artistic practice. I am going to create a cohesive artist-website for myself for the future, which is most probably going to be even more important now in this time of digitalization. As I have not so much of previous expertise on website-building, I also see this as a possibility to learn a new set of skills.

I want this website not only to be a kind of an alternative to a curriculum vitae, or a place to contact me, but also a platform for myself to grow and share my research on dance and the arts. As besides moving, a part of my own practice also involves a lot of writing, I have longed for a place where I could publish, share, and archive these thoughts of mine, so that they are available for others. I feel we are sometimes so filled with our own work and thoughts, that we forget how sharing can actually enrichen one’s ideas. I feel the dance-scene could use a bit more transparency, rather than mystification from within.

In the boredom of the lockdown, I have been engaging with a lecture series from Aalto University in Finland, which can be found on YouTube. In this “Filosofia ja systeemiajattelu” (*Philosophy and System Thinking*) lecture series from 2019, a Finnish philosopher Esa Saarinen is trying to get his students to think about how they think. He is noting how “Tärkeämpää kuin uusi tieto on ajattelun liike” (More important than new knowledge is the movement of the thought) and how one shouldn’t stop, but to try and activate oneself and their capacity. One time he is bringing up the very Finnish mentality of *taking and going forward with the things which are available*.

His thoughts resonate in me as I am visualizing this project in my mind. I am now gathering all the things that are at hand, meaning my own past, as the future seems so uncertain, and bringing them together in a new place. I will not stop, but activate myself through this work, and trust, that by actively circling my consciousness around the things I have learned by now, I will uncover more nuances about my artistic practice.

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I am gathering my creations and research so far, and building an artist-website for myself. This website is not only going to be a place for me to build a digital CV, but also a platform to publish my own research, writings and thoughts around the arts. I want to be part in creating a more transparent community within the arts and art-makers. It is also going to be part of my own artistic process in the future, and to help me archive my work within the long run.