

Temporary Pavillion for Permanent Negotiations

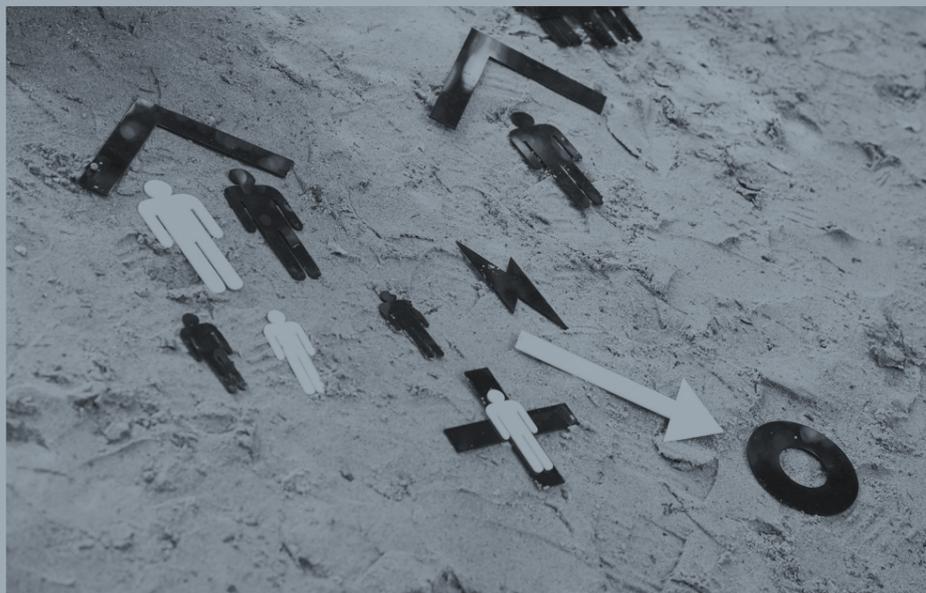
Interview with Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen & Tellervo Kalleinen

Christiane Bosman

CB: How is your project related to this week's theme: transformation and rituals?

OKK TK: With this project, we have been focusing on conscious ways of using conflict resolution. There are all kinds of tools to solve conflicts. These can be seen as rituals as well. It's about what you choose to use. One important part is the idea of being very present in what feels uncomfortable. You can choose to stay with it and spend time with it, and to look at the problem from the point of view of potential transformation. One reason we got so interested in this topic is because the world is so full of conflicts. You feel unable to solve them, but you could also look at conflicts as something full of potential. You could see them as points from where you can transform. You have arrived at this conflict for certain reasons that are worth exploring further. How did we end up here? How can we learn from a problem and understand it better?

We've been working with the concept for a long time. In 2006, we did a project about specific communities in Australia, who had been thinking about what kind of ideal society they wanted to live in since the 70's, and tried to build it. We went to visit them 30 years later to find out how it went in reality. It's easy to create utopian fantasies, but trying to apply them to reality is something different. You need to be humble about the conflicts you might run into. We were interested in



CB: How does this relate to your practice as a whole?

OKK TK: This way of working is very normal for us. We create a concept that is universal, not site specific. Then we travel around the world with it and we find out how it works in different locations. How these universal concepts are dealt with differently in various cultures and contexts. In the case of the *Temporary Pavilion for Permanent Negotiations* we will keep on collecting stories. We see it as a big pool, like a growing archive.

image by Vika Ushkanova

finding out how these communities were addressing the conflict and tensions between idealism and reality.

We have to be aware that conflict is a fact of life. It is nothing to be ashamed of – conflict is not bad, it is necessary. It's also what feeds storytelling. What is a story without a conflict? What is life without a story?

Conflicten horen bij het leven. Het is niets om je voor te schamen – conflicten zijn niet slecht, maar noodzakelijk.

CB: How do you see the relation between care and conflict?

OKK TK: We see a very strong relation between conflicts and care. Conflicts can have a big influence on health. Sometimes solving a problem feels too uncomfortable, and you think it's easier to walk away from it, burning the bridges behind you. We want to feel at ease and well, so we use all kinds of strategies, often not consciously, to avoid conflict. But then you cannot sleep and create fantasies instead of addressing them – like attacking and killing your boss.

The stories we used in this project were actually about conflicts that needed to be resolved. They all involved dire situations that could lead to serious issues if not addressed.

For instance a conflict concerning the inheritance of a family house that caused a lot of pain to the whole family. The protagonist of this story was deeply haunted by the conflict that resulted. It entered her dreams as this house was part of her soul landscape. She needed to be creative to solve it. For all the stories there were different motivations, but in the end the problems need to be dealt with in one way or the other.

CB: What role does the sandbox play?

OKK TK: We choose the sandbox as the conflict arena because many of us are not advanced [in conflict resolution]. We are all beginners. As such, we are playing and trying.



Soldier saluting on iceberg, Enisei River, Siberia
Winokur-Munblit Collection of the Russian Empire Postcards
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Usually we reflect on how the health industry needs to change to be a bit more understanding about “alternatives” and the role of art proper (high art) in creating a healthy (whole) environment. Yet, we do not consider how the field of art – again, as we have allowed it to form itself today – would need to change in order to allow for some sort of direct connection with health care. One could go so far as to say that art and healthcare seem to be at odds – in conflict – and this needs to be resolved, through understanding, exchange of information, and a bit of background information. But, what it comes down to is that both need to transform in one way or another to accommodate the other. Perhaps it is not a change that is fundamental, and perhaps it is only superficial. And, how would this change occur? What is the mechanism of this change?

kunst en de gezondheidszorg lijken met elkaar in conflict te zijn, dit moet worden opgelost

Welk mechanisme zorgt voor deze verandering?

ritual (adj.)

1560s, from Middle French ritual or directly from Latin ritualis “relating to (religious) rites,” from ritus “religious observance or ceremony, custom, usage,” perhaps from PIE root *re- “to reason, count.”

Perhaps it is ritual. A custom of understanding, a ritual of transformation and metamorphosis.

Transformation and Ritual

The Future Publishing and Printing

First, the idea was to use the following words to describe this week's theme: Death, Conflict, and Ritual. However, they lack the nuanced manner in which the projects and the artists approach “the end” and “conflict”. Practically said, the projects on conflict do not show conflict resolved, but reveal the necessity of understanding and

communication. Projects that refer to death do not present it as an end, but going from one place to another – a certain type of movement. So what is a term that communicates truly what Cure Park seems to embody, and what is happening to us as a series of societies and commons? Perhaps “transformation” best encapsulates our present state.

When we think about transformation we think about Ovid's *Metamorphosis*, Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, the Transformer cartoon (trying hard not to think about the recent film series) – basically going from one state to another.

transform (v.)

mid-14c., “change the form of” (transitive), from Old French transformer (14c.), from Latin transformare “change in shape, metamorphose,” from trans “across, beyond” (see trans-) + formare “to form”.

Thinking back to what the program is about – art and care – let's take these two fields, and reconsider the hierarchy between the two.

health (n.)

Old English hælþ “wholeness, a being whole, sound or well,” from Proto-Germanic *hailitho, from PIE *kailo- “whole, uninjured, of good omen” (source also of Old English hal “hale, whole,” Old Norse heill “healthy,” Old English halig, Old Norse helge “holy, sacred,” Old English hælān “to heal”).