

Activities Made of Walking. Akamas 2018.



Haris Pelapaissiotis:

Walking Narratives and the Archival Body. A presentation and workshop. Walking as practiced in this workshop is used as a device that forms the initial stage of a processual and relational way of working so that walking leads to talking and listening and from there to a more collaborative approach towards the final outcome. This is to understand walking in terms of "beside-ness" and in terms of what is released by the archival body where the term body extends to include the environment within which 'thinking-feeling' bodies are invariably situated and find meaning in being connected to and engaged with a network of elements that occupy physical space/s. The participants will be involved in twos. Half a day.

Topel:

A walk with a shepherd. Topel is a shepherd and local guide in Akamas, who knows every inch of the area. He will take us on a walk/easy hike in the nature reserve. Duration: 3 hours.

This activity needs transport by bus to the top of the mountain (departure point walk) and with a bus returning from Aphrodites pools (arrival point walk).

Costs for bus and a fee for the shepherd (estimated) 15 euros/person.

Lezli Rubin-Kunda:

Intimate Investigations (II) A group exploration/play session. The group walks together along the paths of Akamas and each time someone encounters a plant that attracts her/his attention, we all begin to explore it, alone, on our bodies, with each other, and in temporary installations in the surroundings. Approaching the plant in the spirit of play, we look for a childlike, unmediated, and fresh perspective. We edit the documented actions afterwards into a short collaborative video. 2.5 hour walk (and 2.5 hour video edit, for those interested)

To Know a Plant. A performance.

I sit at a table set up in the natural surroundings, for one hour, and working with scientific and poetic books about plants and with actual plants from the area, I attempt to blend/interweave the material and the theoretical realities of plant knowledge. Audience can stay for a short or a long time, and can also join me in the activity at the table. One hour.

Lecture/presentation, specifically about her work with plants, with videos and images from past projects. About 45 minutes.

Arianna Economou:

Discussing with the group the pieces and collaborations which have acted as stepping stones to the current formation of Sites Embodied, and how a passion for engaging with site has echoed throughout her work, beginning from her formative experiences in land based practices in Devon & Cornwall, England to her application of these approaches within the Cypriot context. Arianna has worked as a dance artist extensively on solo pieces as well as with many local and international collaborators and she will detail how each work has been instrumental in developing a semi-autobiographical methodology of connecting body with the environment, drawing from her work as a Somatic Movement Practitioner.

Presentation Sites Embodied Cyprus, an international platform for researching and exploring the connections between arts, ecology and the environment, launched in 2017 during the Pafos ECoC. Sites embodied is the culmination of a journey Arianna has taken through her work thus far as an artist and Somatic Movement Trainer, focusing on the connection between Body & Earth. Arianna has expounded this approach to site with audiences and artists alike. The presentation will act as a chance for Arianna to further involve the group within this evolving approach to site specificity.

One square foot. An introduction in the methodology of site specific performances, based on Arianna's Economou's collaboration with Dorinda Hulton (UK)

Landscape and Myth in the area of Akamas. An introduction to the mythological aspects of the Akamas ares, and how the myth of Adonis and Aphrodite have led to the names of various places in Akamas.

Site specific dance performance, under a tree, reciting Cypriot poetry to the stones and mountain of Akamas.

Panikos Chrissanthou:

Akamas (2006), film screening in presence of the director Panikos Chrissanthou. Omeris, a Turkish Cypriot boy, grows up with Greek-Cypriots in the innocent years of his homeland. He has been taught that human beings have no differences between them, whether they call themselves Greek or Turk, Muslim or Christian. When he falls in love with a Greek-Cypriot girl, he realizes that the world is not as he imagined it to be. The game of love has many surprises in store for him. Destiny ordains that he fight so that he can stay with his beloved, at a moment when the people around him are moving in exactly the opposite direction, towards separation and partition. If he doesn't want to be defeated he must fight the absurdity of fanaticism that is invading his personal life and is trying to crush it. Two hours.

Lenke Kastelein:

Walking in resonance. A group walk, exploring the unique qualities of the Akama Peninsula by walking in resonance. Which plants appeal to us in particular, by smell or by appearance? Which sounds do we hear and can we respond or connect to? We will look for ways to intensify these perceptions and interact with sounds and smells. We will alternately walk, sit and stand still to focus on our perceptions and finding ways to make notes, drawings, photos etc. We will share our impressions and actions by mapping them in various ways. Two hour morning activity, will be organized twice, for 5-8 participants.

Rosie Montford:

Leaf, contour, coastline. A drawn walk of counterparts and echoes. The hand and the book: on the page, into the page. I shall be creating a series of a linking of moments inspired by the proximity, forms and processes of nature. I invite others to walk and draw with me. Various moments to be decided by the group. One hour, repeated over several days choosing different locations.

Tracey M Benson:

Remote Walking. An augmented reality walk and workshop about remote map making- embedding meaning on a place from a distance and the problems that ensue, based on earlier augmented reality walks made by the artist from a distance and when encountering in situ, a range of challenges have arisen. In the lead up to the event the artist designs a short walk with a map and augmented reality for participants to discover it with their devices. After the walk the group will be taken through how to create the media for an AR walk using some popular tools and reflect on creating localized walking experiences. One day.

Simona Vermeire:

Plantscape. A walk-conference, (about) reading plants, with literary texts and senses, exploring Critical Plant Studies during walking, considering plants as living entities with their own consciousness, as thinking, sentient beings, not mere objects to be studied and classified; they are also agents in the production of meaning. Following the logic of a symbiotic being in the world, (shared by humans, animals and plants), where the anthropomorphic centrality is lost, we aim to recover a vegetal point of view and creating new ecological meanings that may deepen symbolic and aesthetic levels. Three hours.

Witold van Ratingen:

Miniature phenomenology. The vegetal point of view is understood by plant-thinking to be fundamentally elusive - a diagnosis which may be attributed not only to the instrumentalization imposed by the agrilogistic complex, but also to the mismatch between human and vegetal temporal and spatial scales. This project will refer to Gaston Bachelard's survey of 'miniature literatures' to propose a strategic shift towards a molecular scale, in order to explore how recalibrating our perceptions might facilitate serious affective and aesthetic engagement with a vegetal World. A brief introduction (20 minutes) will be followed by 'fieldwork' spanning 30 minutes, in which participants, equipped with magnifying glasses, will engage the plantscape on a scale that is, in everyday life, literally overlooked. One hour.

Geert Vermeire:

Just a walk. A 15 km walk in own pace following the paths that crosses and encircles Neo Chorio, inviting just to walk together in silence. There is no intention, but to embrace an unknown territory, a place still to be explored, as a state of mind/being, not only during walking but in all actions around it, creating a durational moment of coincidental connecting with people and allowing the landscape to become a mirror. Three hours.

Stefaan van Biesen with Annemie Mestdagh:

We are Wander Weed. As a performative group the participants each get to use a nomadic art work, a prop/bag to walk with. Participants can feel leaves and plants inside the bags but not see them. Curiosity, sense of touch and wonder are generated by this, accompanied by a talk by the artist about our relationship with plants, culture versus nature, and with the reading of letters (Letters to a Tree). At the end of the walk the participants are asked to smell their hands, now strongly aromatic because of the scented plants present, leading to introspection in their own past and personal memories. Two hour activity, will be repeated in small groups of max 5 participants during the week.

Katerina Paisi and Sol Burton.

Workshop about how human body and the environment interact each other. Based on silent dialogue, each of the participants will choose a partner to both become landscape performers by breathing, feeling the oxygen travel through all the body, listening and becoming aware in all the senses of their individual existence in the environment at Akamas. One hour.

Jacqui Orly.

Love Triangle. Aphrodite's Pools. A performance and installation of works based around the mythology of Aphrodite, Persephone and Adonis. Persephone was the Goddess of Vegetation and lost herself half the year to the Underworld through her love of the Narcissus. Aphrodite had a nebulous ancestry formed from Uranus's genitalia and the froth of the sea! Adonis too had a challenging past, sprung from (enchanted) incestuous loins. The performance commemorates the passage to Summer from Spring and the challenges of relationships; mortal, immortal, vegetal and historical. At dusk at Aphrodite's Pools.

Panagiotis Lezes.

Walking performance, barefoot between the Aphrodite beach and Neo Chorion village, a pilgrimage as an act against to the human trafficking and a protest to the refugee policy applied by the E.U and the local government that do not accept and welcome refugees .

Jen Martin.

Audio conversations. To create an audio conversation series which are recorded, made into resource and made into soundscape. The work is formed of conversations with people, sounds of place and collected by various interactions, be it interactive device/sculpture, a run, a sit, a walk, a set of questions.

Greg Giannis

Presentation of the **autoethnographical walks** conducted on the island of Lesbos, the artists ancestral home, exploring the history of place, migration, flora and the legend of Orpheus.

Greg Giannis is an artist whose practice incorporates walking, cartography and software writing. These works have been documented on the website www.peripato.net. He teaches in the area of Media Arts and Education, and is of Greek descent. Many of his walking projects are autoethnographical and a significant work was undertaken on the island of Lesbos, his ancestral home over a period of 3 months.

Korallia Stergides

I will be presenting a work in progress of video and sound in my uncle's house in Akamas, Latchi a home that bears traditional stone architecture with arches facing horizontally opposite the sea. Leading from John Bergers statement "Home was the center of the world because it was the one place a vertical line crossed with a horizontal one... The crossing of the two lines, the reassurance their intersection promises, was probably already there, in embryo, in the thinking and beliefs of nomadic people, but they carried the vertical line with them, as they might carry a tent pole. " The project in large aims to abstracting the story of a fish and man formally known as 'prosfigopoula', translating as 'refugee fish' whose initial journey to reach Cyprus was likely via cargo ships making their way through The Suez Canal, opened in 1869. My family's relocation to the South of Cyprus post 1974 invasion was determined by the path of this fish's natal homing. Setting up a temporary camp which later morphed into my uncle making a permanent house, the house in which I will present the work in progress. Both journey's have been controlled or diverted by larger structures such as trading or warfare. Primary footage will focus on instances where the human body is in direct relationship to a line this material will be accumulated during the residency. I will collect material from our expeditions and workshops, from archival footage of people building the house and through my own performative experiments with a mic that will alter my voice. I hope to use audio-visual experiments to create an embodied fabrication of the space of falling when walking, focusing on the shift between bipedal to quadrepedal movement. I seek to inhabit a

possible center between walking and falling, this sonic space will enable associative memories of displacement to assemble and collapse by shifting the point of view from insider and outsider of animal and human.

Mark Durkan with Josefin Westborg

Artist and cultural producer Mark Durkan will collaborate with Josefin Westborg, larp designer and educator, to deliver a co-created immersive experience for participants of Walking Akamas. Taking the principles of promenadology and plant-thinking as starting points, Mark and Josefin will lead participants through selected surroundings of the villages of Neon Chorio and Smigies. Employing live-action-roleplay methodologies, participants will be invited to engage in a collaborative social event that will experiment with embodying vegetal consciousness in a fictional plant mythology.

Round table, chaired by Simona Vermeire. Plant(e)scape and Promenadology.

With the present artists/writers/researchers.

Theme of Made of Walking this year is Plant(e)scape, relating to human motion and emotion in a plenary botanical background, and combining walking as a creative instrument with two emergent sciences: Spaziergangwissenschaft (promenadology) and Critical Plant Studies (Vegetal Philosophy: Plant-Thinking). Promenadology is a "tool" to explore our everyday living environment, as well as for delivery of content and knowledge, in combination with Critical Plant Studies, departing from literature and considering the plants as living entities with their own consciousness, as thinking, sentient beings, not mere objects to be studied and classified. One hour.