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Artistic research belonging/not belonging to communities

## ENTANGLED IN A COMMUNITY

In this phenomenological research project, the author visited an office workplace in the role of an observer-researcher, and followed a group of employees participating in an art workshop. Although her background is an artist and art teacher, in this project she wanted to question her own research habits. So, instead of leading the workshop, she chose to be an observer, someone who follows the event from the outside. From this position, she was able to draw on nothing other than her own artistic background as she was trying to understand what happened in the art workshop. This left the experience of art, and her own artistic thinking, as the main topic of this research.

In this presentation she will provide a closer look into one specific workplace through her notebooks, which she wrote on-site while she was working there.

*The journey to this office workplace was powdered by mute and invisible blips. Not only was the place hidden behind walls, doors, and barriers, but my entering there was also embedded in traps of norms and injunctions. (Notebook CvB 2011 September)*

*All of the huge adaptations I am making for this specific community wrack me. And for what? It is leaving new marks on my flesh: thick and sticky stains that seem to be impossible to rinse off. And still, I don't know how to write about someone I saw there. (Notebook CvB 2011 November)*

When entering this office, and while being there, and also on the way out, she was crossing thresholds: from the outside-in, and then from the inside-out. The author traced these fleeting moments of her experiences by writing about the events in her notebooks. She applied *inspective seeing* in studying the community, and thus experienced no distance from the group, instead being intertwined in it by the sensuous experience and flesh. As a result, she had experiences which were not - and still are not - easy to handle. She has not yet found a way to write about a single person.

The author is analyzing her research material through the method of writing and re-writing. In her writing, the memories of the sensory bodily experience allow her to move back and forth in time, in a way which is not linear. During the process of researching this thesis work, the author has produced and published a wide range of works on the subject of rhetorical practice in varied domains, which have also resulted in many discussions about related themes. In this presentation, she will open up questions of "belonging or not belonging to a community", through a discussion with the French philosopher Simone Weil. The presentation will also include pieces of video work produced by the author. The author asserts that the qualities discussed earlier make this research related to artistic research, a claim hopefully made clear through these various approaches. This presentation is part of the author's doctoral study, which is supported by the Finnish Work Environment Fund.