Post-Horrorcore Rap Approaches to Disability, Violence, and Psychotherapy

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This presentation explores first-person narratives of mental disability as potential egresses from hegemonic representations of psychiatric disability and psychotherapy. It focuses on the work by the rapper and hip hop producer Tyler the Creator. His first three albums are framed as meetings between the artist and his fictional therapist, Dr. TC (who is portrayed by the artist). This dialogue/monologue illuminates different subject positions, including that of a patient, a therapist, a rapper, a teenager, a Black male, among others. Operating on the threshold between performance and representation, and autobiographical and fictional narration, Tyler the Creator's œuvre examines the intersection of psychotherapeutic and educational discourses. It offers means for resisting oppressive and confining subject positions through using art for occupying them in unconventional ways.

Bio:

Mikko Koivisto is a doctoral candidate at the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Helsinki, where he also earned his MA in art education. In 2016-17 he was a visiting scholar at the Department of Disability and Human Development in the University of Illinois at Chicago under the ASLA-Fulbright Pre-Doctoral Research Fellows Program. His research is located at the intersection of disability studies and art education, and is currently focused on the themes of disability, madness, and horror in rap music and hip-hop culture. Koivisto has presented his research internationally in art education, media studies, and disability studies conferences.