

HIAP

HIAP – Helsinki International Artist Programme
Frontiers in Retreat project / Press Release 26/09/17

HIAP @ Art Sonje Center Seoul
Nov 7–Dec 3

Edge Effects

*Tuomas A. Laitinen, Elena Mazzi & Sara Tirelli,
Nabb+Teeri, mirko nikolić, Jaakko Pallasvuo*

Frontiers in Retreat Exhibition:

Art Sonje Project #7

Frontiers in Retreat / *Edge Effects* – *Active Earth*

07/11–03/12/2017 Art Sonje Center, Seoul, Korea

Artists

Elena Mazzi & Sara Tirelli (Italy) elenamazzi.com

mirko nikolić (Serbia, Sweden, Finland) mirkonikolic.com

Tuomas A. Laitinen (Finland) tuomasalaitinen.com

Nabb+Teeri (Finland) nabbteeri.com

Jaakko Pallasvuo (Finland) jaakkopallasvuo.com

Curator

Jenni Nurmenniemi (Frontiers in Retreat; HIAP)

Frontiers in Retreat Learning Sessions Co-curators

Bora Hong, Haeju Kim, Hyejin Yeo, Jenni Nurmenniemi & guests

Programme

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|------------|---|
| 07/11/2017 | Opening, with performance by mirko nikolić & Tuomas A. Laitinen, ASJC Project Space, Theatre, Hanok |
| 08/11/2017 | Frontiers Artists Presentations at 4pm–7pm in ASJC Theatre |
| 10/11/2017 | Learning Session #1 at 4pm–7pm in ASJC Hanok |
| 14/11/2017 | Learning Session #2 at 4pm–7pm in ASJC Hanok |
| 11/2017 | mirko nikolić's Programme for Children, time to be confirmed |

frontiersinretreat.org / artsonje.org / hiap.fi

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#FiRedgeeffects #frontiersinretreat #artandecology #rohkeatekijä

Frontiers in Transition

While borders draw divisive lines, frontiers are transition and contact zones. Diversity is always richest in areas where different ecosystems meet: This is the edge effect. An encounter never leaves one unaffected[1].

The 'Active Earth' group show and public programme at Art Sonje Center is part of the exhibition series Edge Effects, organised by Frontiers in Retreat project (2013–2018). Its seven satellite exhibitions weave connections between geographically dispersed artistic processes that strive towards new understandings of ecological entanglements and transitions.

Ecology is about perspective, really. There is no such thing as 'nature' or 'environment' separate from human life, only the mesh of ecosystems and processes that we inhabit: affective, cognitive, symbolic, social, political, economic, and technological ecologies. It's all entangled.

The artists in the *Edge Effects: Active Earth* exhibition, while imagining future bodies, biomes, and ways of being, tackle these enmeshed ecologies through syntheses of various materials, methods and philosophical registers.

The Seoul edition of the exhibition series focuses on co-dependencies between humans and other life forms. The conceptual key to the exhibition, reflected in the setup of the exhibition space, is 'entanglement' – ever-changing, knotty relations between all forms of matter. What emerges is a porous, pulsing and mutating ecosystem.

The public programme elaborates on and complicates the questions posed by the artworks through a series of discursive and performative learning sessions, whereas the archive opens up a curated selection of fragments from the Frontiers in Retreat project in various media.

According to Donna Haraway, 'the arts for living on a damaged planet' (a term by another influential thinker, Anna Tsing) call for tentacular thinking. I guess this means cultivating our capacities to understand how things work together, in 'sympoiesis', and abilities to respond, response-ability, to the world we inhabit?[2]

About Frontiers in Retreat Project

The exhibition series Edge Effects brings together artworks, processes and methods by artists affiliated with Frontiers in Retreat, a five-year international collaboration project that fosters contemporary art with an ecological perspective and experimental approach.

Since its inception in 2013, Frontiers in Retreat project has supported artistic work that concerns itself with ecology. In total, 25 artists have been invited to conduct research and produce new works in response to particular ecosystems at seven residency sites across Europe. Their research has ranged across fjords, forests,

islands, villages, towns, cities, and mountains in Iceland, Finland, Scotland, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia, and Spain. Rather than a fixed set of theories, concepts, and methods, there have been multiple voices and views, positions and practices.

Seven residency sites at the edges of Europe have been approached using various artistic and multidisciplinary methods. These sites are seen as frontiers where entanglements between human and other life forms become tangible. They allow insight into the entwined processes of ecological, social, and economic change.

Through creating a platform for shared inquiry, Frontiers in Retreat has brought seven geographically dispersed sites closer to each other on the world map. Instead of conventional cartography, the process has resembled a kind of deep mapping: while engaging with the unique characteristics of each site, the participants have also learned about the forces shaping habitats, human and non-human life trajectories, and migration patterns globally.

In the spirit of Frontiers in Retreat, the 2017–2018 Edge Effects exhibitions pose critical questions about the constitution of frontiers and boundaries. As the Frontiers project continues as an open platform that branches out to new contexts, further edge effects can be expected.

What kinds of boundaries should be dismantled, so that change in the direction of an ecologically sustainable future would be possible?[3]

– Jenni Nurmenniemi,
Curator, Frontiers in Retreat Project; HIAP – Helsinki International Artist Programme

[1] Curatorial notes, concept for the Edge Effects exhibition series, Jenni Nurmenniemi and Taru Elfving, July 2016.

[2] Frontiers curator Jenni Nurmenniemi's (HIAP) notes from Haraway, D. 2016. 'Staying with the Trouble. Making Kin in the Chthulucene'.

[3] Frontiers curators' notes: Yvonne Billimore and Sam Trotman, SSW – Scottish Sculpture Workshop, July 2017.

Frontiers in Retreat is funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

The project is also supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Kone Foundation, Alfred Kordelin Foundation, and AVEK.



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Info

Art Sonje Center
 87 Yulgok-ro 3-gil Jongno-gu
 Seoul 03062
 Korea
www.artsonje.org

Open hours
 12:00–19:00, Closed on Mondays

Admission

Adult: 5,000 Won
 Adult Group of 20 or more: 3,000 Won
 Student (up to College Student, excluding Graduate Student): 3,000 Won
 Student Group of 20 or more: 2,000 Won
 Children under age 8, Senior, Disabled: Free Admission

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