



Catharine Cary_latagueuseélegante_2020

IMPROVISATION AND MEMORY

Welcome to the fifth edition of the What IIF? Festival to be held in Berlin from lunch on May 13th to lunch on May 16th 2021 !

This ongoing collective, interdisciplinary and international research project is dedicated to answering the absurd question: Can improvisation be documented ?

WHAT IIF? brings together International Interdisciplinary Improvisation researchers from around Europe. We focus on a method and a subject for several days, and through labs, discussions, performances and observations, we 'document' improvisation practice on an interdisciplinary level. This work feeds and develops the open source website www.improvisation.wiki.

After Amsterdam in 2017, London in 2018, Gothenburg in 2019 and our pandemic inspired Nowhere & Everywhere festival online in 2020, ; Berlin 2021 is our fifth peer-organised research festival. This time we wish to focus on:

--- MEMORY ---

What role does memory play in your personal improvisation practice and/or reflection?

How can we use strategies of remembering, reminding, forgetting while improvising?

What questions, obsessions, fascinations, discomforts or troubles does this subject bring for you?

What types of memory are particularly relevant to your practice?

Here is a handful of possible memory-related topics. Of course you have your own !

- long - time, ultrashort and short - time memory
- embodied memory
- group memory
- memory and (cultural) identity
- memory and composition/ memory and orientation
- conscious memory / unconscious memory
- memory and space / memory and time
- memory and: language (writing)/ images and figures (symbols)/ traces
- digital memory / analogue memory
- memory filters and challenges: insignificant/ waste/ fragment/ forgetting/ entropy is for improvisation oblivion a problem or a chance?
- the dictatorship of implicit memory
- is our personality based on memories?
- memory is a construction and a narrative, you can remember things that have not happened

We will explore this theme by deepening the research practice we developed in previous What IIF? meetings/projects/festivals - it is ripening into a form we could call ASSEMBLAGE.

As examples, see the ever-developing knowledge base on improvisation.wiki or this [tumblr book](#) that came out of the London edition of the festival.

ASSEMBLAGE could be described as a continuously moving, pasting, passage, stopping action between performing and reflection in a changing group of improvisers and onlookers - coming and going, giving and receiving between doing, reflecting, performing, resting, eating, writing, drawing, playing, and being. All stable in movement.

A new tool that we are going to use for this in Berlin is the TASWIR software. TASWIR in Arabic, Persian, Ottoman-Turkish, Hindi, and Urdu means "image making", "picturing", "representation." A Taswir atlas, developed by S.A. Bruckstein, uses the principle of free

association and "allows for the display an open number of artifacts, objects, soundclouds, film clips, texts, that may enter via an edited matrix of attributes into variable, unpredictable, and dynamic relations with each other." <http://taswir.org/atlas/>

We hope that some of these topics resonate with you and look forward to your **contributions!**

If you would like to come to WHAT IIIF? Berlin :

Please send an email to Reinhard at reinhard.gagel@posteo.de, in which you say:

- YES ! I want to come to WHAT IIIF? Berlin from 1 pm on May 13 to 1 pm on May 16th.
- you give us your email and telephone number, (tell us if you use WhatsApp)
- you give us an idea about your discipline(s) / instruments...
- you send us 2 or 3 sentences, 2 or 3 pictures and/or a poem, reflection about how MEMORY plays a role in IMPROVISATION for you.

If you will be able to apply for funding for your travel and lodging, we can provide you with an official invitation letter from Impro Per Arts. Please write to Jagna via team@impro-per-arts.de

We can help you find housing if you need help. There are very cheap hotels nearby and we have several couches/rooms available with friends. Please contact team@impro-per-arts.de

Thank you for your interest. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

ON IT FOR FIVE YEARS NOW : Benedikte Esperri/Thomas Johannsen/Shelley
Owen/Marianthi Michailidou/Esmeralda Detmers/Catharine Cary

BERLIN INCREDIBLE TEAM : Jagna Anderson/Reinhard Gagel