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Short paper Abstract: Digital archives and the learning processes of performance art

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In this presentation, the process of learning performance art is articulated in the contextual change that digital archives have caused starting from the early 1990s. It is part of my postdoctoral research, artistic research on the conjunctions between divergent gestures of thought and performance, done in a research project *How to Do Things with Performance?* funded by the Academy of Finland.

Since performance art is a form of 'live art', it would be easy to regard that the learning processes are also mostly based on the physical practice and repetition. However, the origins of contemporary performance art are closely connected with the 1960's and 70's conceptual art and video-art. Therefore, the pedagogy of performance art has been tightly connected with the development of media from the collective use of the Portapak video cameras and to use the digital archive methods by such figures like William Forsythe. On the use of archive such digital journals of artistic research like Ruukku-journal or Journal for Artistic Research create a different respect to field, also.

In this short documentation I will focus through few examples on the pedagogy of performance art. The vast amount of historical archive materials has become accessible to students through internet, no matter where their physical location might be. My point of view is based on practical notions that I have gathered from the teaching of performance art from BA to PhD level research projects. Through mediatized learning processes, makes the archival material generic, easy access and possible for speculation what performance art is. However, this learning processes makes the artistic practices actualization of the virtual, but limited material. The digitalization is a modality of this process, where the necessity of embodied practice is still crucial. This learning process of performance art is not done through resemblance and imitation but doing *with* someone or something else and then developed in response or in diffraction with the digital archive materials.

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