

Workshop: Michaela Büsse und Tena Kelemen

(De)constructing aliens

Embracing Friction Through Research in the Making

In this hands-on workshop we will practice how to grasp and be grasped by the alien other. Through material experiments we will explore organic form making and take the different materialities and outcomes as a starting point for our theoretical investigation: What can Ferro fluid teach us about systems correlations? How do non-newtonian fluids and politics relate?

How do we interpret the offspring of an accidental encounter between melted wax and iced water? In this media-philosophy-in-action-session we will reflect on how this alien other affects us through its materiality and how we effect it with our bodies. Designed as a discursive as well as participatory workshop we invite participants to encounter entanglements via physical and digital media as well as the tactical sensorium. Short physical experiments with wax and ferro fluid will be documented by one part of the group and the visual outcome interpreted and framed by the other half. We see this mixed media setup as a chance to reflect on methodologies for imagining and making as forms of research in a playful and dynamic atmosphere.

This workshop format has first been developed as a full-day format in the context of “Poetry of the Real—Imagination- Friction-Transformation” in June 2018 at FHNW HGK in Basel. For a possible engagement in “Ästhetische Praxis und kulturwissenschaftliche Forschung” we propose a shortened version which will focus on the mediating and transforming aspects of this performative, co-participatory thinking and making exercise and should take approximately three hours.

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