2020-2021 - Dutch Art Institute

On Tradition – Future Ancestors: let rhythm be your guiding light

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Coordination: -

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Short description
Over the course of the academic year, artists Snejanka Mihaylova and Rory Pilgrim created a collective framework that brought into question how we collectively think and make, through understanding our relationships to tradition through the prism of a three dimensional experience of time. By looking especially into theology, and the voices of those marginalised within traditions from the past, this study group created a rhythm of listening and speaking to voices of the present and future. For example, as articulated by Liam Neupert, an 18 year old climate activist from Idaho: "To be able to create a healthy world for future generations to exist, we already have to think of ourselves as future ancestors".

The study group worked through processes of collective reading, listening and creating to explore our individual and collective relationships to tradition and what it means to be a future ancestor. Important starting points were spiritual motherhood, the vitae of female saints and asking how in an age of increasing algorithms, data and AI do we radically enable nuance, storytelling and experience to the traditions we become caregivers of. By looking into structures of performance and music composition, this COOP explored how the score can give freedom to different tempos and textures that exist within time. In what sense can we truly think of something from the past anew and enable a creative manifestation of the future to be present? How can rhythm be nurtured as a tool of agency, prophecy and emancipation?

Syllabus
   - Carol R. Kallend, selected poetry.
   - Gospel of Luke, chapter 1.
   - Ursula Le Guin, The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction, 1986.
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Documentation
   - See Google Drive folder for pictures and other materials

Student materials

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Links to other sites
- [Course description on the DAI website](#)
- [DAI Chronicles: reports from the students](#)

INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAMME

Tuning in to the realities of the present, how can we be future ancestors? In what sense can we relate to "tradition"?

The notion of tradition is often instrumentalised for the purpose of nationalisms and reinforcing patriarchy. It is therefore of cardinal importance to question it and seek understanding of the foundations that tradition provides so not to risk depravation of a common world. Coming from the Latin 'tradere' - meaning both to deliver and / or betray - if we look deeper we find the bringing together of the preposition trans 'across' and the verb dare 'to give'. While in Greek, 'Paradosis' meaning tradition is formed by a dualistic linguistic compound of 'giving' and 'gift', allowing a manifestation of bestowing and transmittance. Imbued with so much potential and rich meanings, within a current climate where tradition is weaponised or rendered obsolete, are we in risk of a future that finally has no tradition? If so - is there even a future possible on which to stand?

Over the course of the academic year, artists Snejanka Mihaylova and Rory Pilgrim will aim to create a collective framework that brings into question how we collectively think and make, through understanding our relationships to tradition through the prism of a three dimensional experience of time. By looking especially into theology, and the voices of those marginalised within traditions from the past, this study group will create a rhythm of listening and speaking to voices of the present and future. For example, as articulated by Liam Neupert, an 18 year old climate activist from Idaho: "To be able to create a healthy world for future generations to exist, we already have to think of ourselves as future ancestors".

The study group will work through processes of collective reading, listening and creating to explore our individual and collective relationships to tradition and what it means to be a future ancestor. Important starting points will be spiritual motherhood, the vitae of female saints and asking how in an age of increasing algorithms, data and AI do we radically enable nuance, storytelling and experience to the traditions we become care givers of. It will also look at how words such as ""spirituality," "mystic," "communion" have become eroded, and how the detachment of these meanings from tradition within secularisation and theology reflect the secular and religious complexity of our contemporary condition. By looking into structures of performance and music composition, this COOP hopes to explore how the score can give freedom to different tempos and textures that exist within time. In what sense can we truly think of something from the past anew and enable a creative manifestation of the future to be present? How can rhythm be nurtured as a tool of agency, prophecy and emancipation?

Key Words

● Collective thinking
○ Resounding, Resonance, Replenish, Recovery, Repentance, Resolve, Recognise, Reimagine, Receive, Reawaken, Return ○

○ Vitae of female Saints, marginalised voices within tradition, Spiritual Motherhood, Transmission, Embodied knowledges, Hermeneutics, Story Telling, Lore, Law, Experience, Nuance, our lives and the lives of others, Poetry ○

● Nourishing Rhythm
○ Rhythm, Rhythms: Past, Present, Future-presence of future, Monophonic, Homophonic,

Polyphony, Ecology, Urgency, Agency, Prophecy ○

○ Unravel, Interweave, Interreligious, Texture, Identity, Complexity, Non Binary, Effortless sound, Change

○ Child, Spiritual, Composition, Score, Keeping One Note, Foundation, new meanings of Radicality, Root, Garden, Joy ○