



ART THEORY

Time has fallen asleep in the afternoon sunshine. A book on reading, writing, memory and forgetting in a library of living books

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Publisher	Mousse Publishing
Release Place	Milan, Italy
Edition	1st edition
Release Date	2019
ISBN	978-88-6749-387-6
Credits	Author: Runa Borch Skolseg, Victoria Pérez Royo, Mette Edvardsen, Kristien Van den Brande
Availability	Available
Price	22.00 Euro
Work	
Subform	Art Writing
Language	English
Object	
Format	Softcover
Dimensions	17.0 × 22.5 × 3.4 cm
Weight	1,072 gram
Interior	
Pages	536

The project Time has fallen asleep in the afternoon sunshine starts as a group of people who dedicate themselves to memorizing a book of their choice. Together they form a library collection consisting of living books. The “books” pass their time in libraries reading, memorizing, talking to each other, going for walks outside, prepared to be read by a visitor. The readings take place as intimate one-to-one encounters where the “book” recites its content to the reader. Over time the project grew into a library collection of more than eighty living books in twelve different languages across Europe and beyond. The project developed into a bookshop, a publishing house and an exhibition format, and hosted workshops, lectures and talks and, eventually, a book. The publication brings together eighteen text contributions from artists and theoreticians with a varying degree of proximity to the project. Their reflections touch on memory and forgetting; on the practice of learning by heart and its corporeality; on reading, re-reading, reading aloud, reading for oneself and for others; on writing, re-writing and translating; on invisible and impossible literatures; on alternative temporalities and their respective economies; on archives, libraries, bodies and other sites for conservation; on the problems of authorship and originality; on immateriality and its discontents; on the equivocal borders between reality and fiction; and on the strange and unforeseeable dynamics of people and stories coming together, disseminating and unexpectedly crossing paths again. The second part of the book is a visual essay that documents the processes of memorizing, reading and re-writing.

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