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Petteri Kummala, The quality of urban environment and the promise of aesthetically diverse urban nature

In this article the author approaches Finnish urban planning from the point of view of environmental aesthetics. The focus of the article is the quality of urban environment and the significance of aesthetic value in urban planning. The author argues that because of the tendency to emphasize objective, measurable values, aesthetic value has not been one of the core values of urban planning. Urban nature is one of the aspects which have a substantial impact on the quality of urban environments. However, the potential of urban nature in this respect has not been fully appreciated. Environmental aesthetics can offer a point of view which sheds light on the quality of urban environment and the influence of urban nature in a new way. The concept of aesthetic diversity is an essential part of the point of view suggested in this article.

Taru Leppänen, A thousand tiny races in *Noble Savage* by Sonya Lindfors

This article examines race in Sonya Lindfors's dance performance *Noble Savage* (2016) in relation to music and sound while drawing theoretically on feminist new materialisms as well as on feminisms inspired by Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari's thinking. The author hears, looks at and senses race as discursive–material processes, where race is made and remade not only by exclusions and erasures but also by its ongoing connections. Black bodies, their movements, music, and sound are not distinct from one another in this performance. Rather, racialized features of bodies, music, and sound bring about new kinds of racial entanglement. In introducing these new kinds of racialized assemblages to Finnish contemporary dance, *Noble Savage* deconstructs the white performance space. When whiteness becomes visible and creates assemblages with other kinds of racialities, a thousand tiny races emerge.

Mari Mäkiranta, Sensory-affective discourse, hypnotic images, and flowing visuality in the communally produced video art work *Mahdolliset maailmat*

In the article, the author examines what kinds of affective encounters and visual politics are included in *Mahdolliset maailmat / Possible Worlds* (2012) video art work. The video has been produced in collaboration with seven young women living in different European countries. As a communal, intercultural and affective form of art, the video provides a space for young women to remould the contents and working methods in the field of contemporary art. The author claims that through the art-making processes it is possible to give voice and visibility to young women and affective and emotional discourses that are usually rejected or culturally marginalised. As a result, the art-making processes provide the space to visualise the hidden material realities of subjects and their living environments. The study draws on arts-based methods and theories of affectivity, gender and embodiment.

**Olli Herranen & Tere Vadén,
Common sense and self-sufficiency
– observations on a debate
over subsistence economy**

The importance of environmental crises has directed attention to examples of self-sufficiency and livelihoods outside monetary economy. In 2008, Finnish daily *Helsingin Sanomat* published an article on the radical self-subsistence practices of Lasse Nordlund and his family. The article received 451 online comments in little over a week. As 'normal' lifestyles are far removed from self-sufficiency, the analysis of the comments gives a view into aspects of the commenters' common sense – a notion the authors take from Antonio Gramsci. The authors categorize the comments with the help of the so-called Overton window, which organizes the comments with regard to how they view the acceptability and normality of the views presented. The comments express strong negative and positive moral valuations. Interestingly, the abstract features of common sense are often anchored to very concrete things, money being the prime case.

Erica Åberg, Tero Pajunen & Outi Sarpila, Grooming and consideration: manifestations of physical appearance related social capital in Finland

In this article, the authors examine the relationship Finns have with their physical appearance and characterize the attitudes by analyzing data from a nationally representative survey. According to the latest sociological studies, the effects of appearance have become much more fundamental than before, due to recent changes in the working life and the consumeristic presentation of self in the Finnish context as well. The analysis is based on Bourdieu's theorizing of capital, contemporary analyses of consumer culture, and the theory of aesthetic capital, which combines the two previous approaches. Based on the research, the authors found four different attitudinal dimensions, which reflect the relationship Finns have with their physical appearance: grooming, distinction, confidence, and fitness. According to the study, the majority of respondents wish to blend in, whereas the will to distinguish oneself is rare among respondents.

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PUHEENJOHTAJA / CHAIR
FT Toni Lahtinen, yliopisto-opettaja,
kirjallisuustiede, Tampereen yliopisto
✉ toni.lahtinen@uta.fi

SIHTEERI / SECRETARY
Minna Nerg
☎ 050 599 8842
✉ Nykykulttuurin tutkimuskeskus
PL 35, 40014 Jyväskylän yliopisto
✉ Research Centre for
Contemporary Culture
PB 35
FI-40014 University of
Jyväskylä, Finland
✉ minna.m.nerg@ju.fi
<http://kultut.fi>

POSTITUSLISTA / MAILING LIST
✉ kultut@lists.jyu.fi

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