

Butoh Notes

Daily Imagery for Porous Sensitivities

Ulrike Scholtes

Abstract

This collection of mini-zines proposes and performs bodies that are not bounded by the container of the skin. Our current (social) climate requires a conceptualization of an expansive body, such as a “second body” which connects an individual to each and every body on this earth, as proposed by Hildyard (2017). Worlds connect through bodies that are not whole. Scholars have challenged the one-body-one-person rule (Boll & Müller 2020) by presenting bodies and boundaries as leaky, permeable or dissolving (Shildrick 1997, Mol 2002, Hildyard 2017). I bring this conceptualization to bear on who produce knowledge, proposing an imagination of the body of the researcher as porous. But how does such a body feel? These zines are materialized performative imaginations that facilitate blurring boundaries, practicing attunement and feeling connected. Riso-printing allows for an exploration of transparency, layering, the blurring of colours, and a porous materiality (those who touch the original prints, will find traces of the ink on their own body). By disseminating these zines, I am bringing to paper the embodied knowledge of the butoh dance teachers I learned from during my fieldwork on butoh in Japan. My aim is to broaden the repertoire of porous sensitivities of those who read these zines— other researchers and anybody who benefits from practicing a porous body, attunement, or leaking beyond the skin of one’s individual body.

References

- Boll, T., Müller, S.M. Body Boundary Work: Praxeological Thoughts on Personal Corporality. *Hum Stud* 43, 585–602 (2020).
- Hildyard, D. (2017). *The second body*. London: Fitzcarraldo Editions.
- Mol, A. (2002). *The body multiple. Ontology in medical practice*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Shildrick, M. (1997). *Leaky bodies and boundaries: Feminism, postmodernism and (bio)ethics*. London: Routledge.