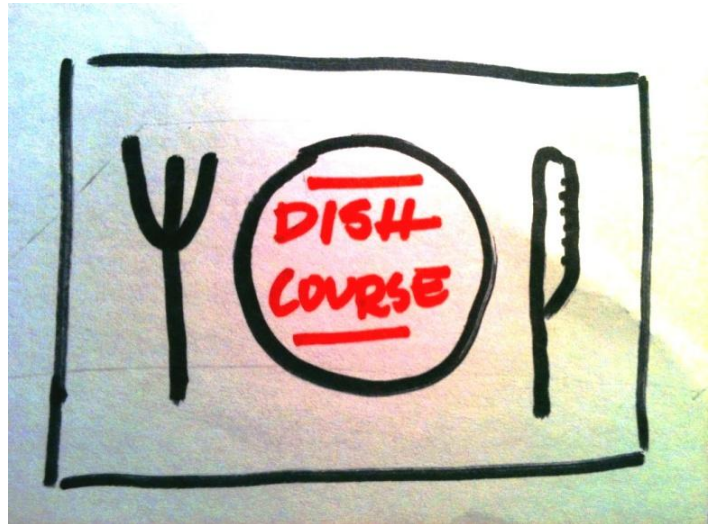


DISHCOURSE

Interdisciplinary dinner talks

April 2015 – currently

www.aboutDISHCOURSE.wordpress.com



CURRENT STATUS

During the winter of 2015 and spring of 2016 I will work on and develop the DISHCOURSE-concept independently alongside the existing format with Johanna and Jonatan. I plan to collaborate with people out of my personal and professional environment to win them as ‘co-hosts’. With their local interest, knowledge and network a certain focus will be worked out and a set of people invited.

INTEREST / PURPOSE / MOTIVATION

- curiosity to experiment with a certain form of encounters between various (if applicable foreign) practitioners that enables a both personal and professional moment for a mix of people to meet, get to know each other’s background and praxis, to discuss / reflect, share experiences about interdisciplinary / collaborative working methods (personal and social values, chances, challenges) and the participants (personal and professional) interests or motivations to work cross-disciplinary
- special interest that leads to the set of guests for each dinner: bringing people together across disciplines (or already interdisciplinary working practitioners) for a shared conversation and intimate experience related to a certain interdisciplinary focus; the evening should give space and value to the diverse perspectives and knowledge of the guests as a moment of learning something new from each other and about the local context; discussing a certain (local) issue of interest from different perspectives
- due to my curiosity in a collaborative work ‘for one night’ the process of finding a relevant topic and creating the mix of guests, a place to meet, eat and talk is elaborated together with my particular collaborators (“co-hosts”) and their local context / professional background / interest; I see the collaborators as a key-tool to a

certain local context or scene; reflecting together on the format; testing out / experimenting with it depending on the 'creative' background of my collaborators (possibly adding slight variations / creative elements to the evening)

- re-searching for a mix of guests on a very local (creative) level / area (a city / district) to discover the particular cultural, creative network / scene of my collaborator
- through bringing a professional conversation into a very personal, intimate ('non-professional') setting – what atmosphere and "outcome" does this create related to the conversation / exchange of the guests (compared to an academic / working environment)?
- exploring / questioning the importance, need or lack of space and moments for interdisciplinary (non-hierarchical) exchange and collaborative working methods beyond professional boundaries (during the dinner it is possible to reflect on the format of the event itself too)
- bringing together various personal and professional perspectives related to the (local) focus of the evening by not serving concurrence amongst the guests but unifying the different participants/professions through their same status as equal conversation partners on the table
- important for me is to see DISHCOURSE as a kind of 'open format' but not make the evening itself a big 'happening' as I am interested in this very 'simple' intimate setting to engage conversations / discussions while sharing a meal
- experimenting with my own role as the organiser, host, moderator, mediator etc.

IDEAS / TO DO'S REGARDING UPCOMING DINNERS

- using the particular creative background / discipline of my collaborators as elements during the dinner, for example a small performative intervention or task, writing, designing something together? (first time to test this out: collaboration with Anna Döge for DC # 6 in Hildesheim)
- asking the guests beforehand to bring questions related to the focus of the dinner (idea Mari)
 - Further examples: bring a book, a text, a part of the meal etc.
- ask the guests for feedback via mail afterwards; reflecting on the evening with my collaborator in a written way
- questions to explore regarding my role and the co-host: How strong am I involved in the conversations, what task can the co-host have during the evening?
- writing 'a manual' (listing the procedure) for each evening beforehand/afterwards (idea Magnus); possible document to publish publicly/online

- collecting relevant questions/topics from the guests for upcoming dinners?
- aspect of donation: putting out a donation box next to the guest-book?!
- give more focus to the guest-book (suggestion Nefeli)
- creating haptic letters when collaborating with a communication designer / artist?
- thinking about a way/medium to document and reflect about the project and processes for the examination
- reflecting on the purpose of the blog (at the moment I want to focus on the dinners itself, but work on / with this medium on a later point)

STATUS OF DISHCOURSE #6 in Hildesheim, Germany / November 2015

Collaborator/Co-Host	Anna Döge (Masterstudent of <i>Staging the Arts and Media</i> , University Hildesheim) Focus of her interest related to the format / setting: Staging social encounters (as her personal motivation of working with and in the performing arts); interested to get in contact with diverse professional backgrounds, curious about the conscious trial to enable interdisciplinary exchange, exploring local creative potentials in Hildesheim; questioning the disciplinary boundaries at her University and the disconnection of the world of the students (related to the performing arts department) and the city / locals in Hildesheim
Location	Annas kitchen in Hildesheim
Date	26 th of November, 7 PM
Focus	Interdisciplinary encounters / approaches in Performing Arts, exploring the cross-disciplinary discourse in Hildesheim
Guests	affirmed: Dr. des. Martina Groß (Theatre, Film and Literature Studies; Academic staff, University Hildesheim, focusing on correlations between Theatre and other arts) Miriam Hildbrandt (Masterstudent of <i>Staging the Arts and Media</i> , University Hildesheim; working in interdisciplinary projects, exploring the boundaries and senses of theatre)

Simon Niemann (program-coordinator of “Nachtbar”, a performance/party-format belonging to / located in the City Theatre Hildesheim, aiming to connect the institution with the fields of music, popular culture, fine arts, media etc.)

Member of the multidisciplinary performance collective (former students from University Hildesheim) <http://thermoboyfk.net/gruppe/>

Sandra Sancelean (BA in Visual Communication, MA-Student in Fine Arts)

Siggi Stern (social worker, cultural manager and musician)

Possible:

Staff of Architektur- und Kulturverein e.V. Hildesheim (Association for Architecture and Culture)

Members of cross-disciplinary festivals in Hildesheim: state of the art / European Festival of performing Arts

Idea to work with the setting: pick up /including the element of “interdisciplinary encounter” into the act of having a meal / the constellation of the culinary offers; adding a performative element to the beginning or in between the conversation (needs to be worked out as soon as we know who is coming)

Questions that are send out to the guest beforehand:

Why (among other things or mainly) are you working in cross-disciplinary fields (personal Motivation, Experience)? What is needed for a fruitful, productive exchange of different disciplines / practitioners on eye-level (in the context of Performing Arts and beyond)? What are the chances and challenges of interdisciplinary dialogue and acting to solve social issues? Do we need more discursive strategies / methods in our cultural and social workaday life? Are (enough / at all) interdisciplinary encounters happening in Hildesheim? Which ties are established between the Cultural/Performance- Department (‘Domäne’) and the inner city of Hildesheim and its residents?

ORIGIN / ORGANISATION

The idea to gather practitioners from different disciplines in an informal dinner setting was formed in the context of the course. It was put into action as a collaborative project between Johanna, Jonatan and me in the spring of 2015.

The planning and local arrangements have this far been organised together. Additionally, I am responsible for communication and documentation. The idea and organisation of the 'mobile' DISHCOURSE, a variation of the concept for use in public spaces, is a collaboration between Jonatan and me.

CONCEPT / SETTING

DISHCOURSE is a series of dinners, inviting practitioners from different disciplines to meet in various locations around Stockholm and beyond. It functions as an informal and intimate platform for exchange around the topic of interdisciplinarity, knowledge-sharing and collaborative structures within the fields of art, architecture, crafts, design and beyond. Each evening stages a certain focus, related to the local setting and the background of the invited guests.

The first three dinners, planned as small personal gatherings, took place in our private homes. The mix of guests was created around a (local) focus of a certain interdisciplinary interest. Related practitioners were found in our private environment, professional network and through research into our staged topic. At least one of the invited guests was from the local neighborhood.

Within the concept the number of dinner guests (plus organisers) is consciously limited to 8 people to enable a shared conversation during the dinner (carefully moderated by the hosts). Invitations are sent out digitally. Therein we inform about our collaboration, the concept and the topics. To arouse some tension we don't reveal the names of the other guests of the evening. Food and drinks are served for free. All costs are covered by the organizers. In agreement with the guests I record and photograph the conversations.

After each gathering the contact within the network of previous guests takes place via e-mail and facebook. As a work in progress, I launched the blog www.aboutDISHCOURSE.wordpress.com in August 2015. It functions as an information and documentation tool as well as an interdisciplinary network of practitioners.

The public documentation of the meetings and the contents of the conversations is consciously minimised to fulfill the intimate and private atmosphere of the event itself. A guest book collects thoughts and feedback of each evening. For private use, the organisers note down reflections afterwards.

BUDGET

30 – 60€ per evening

Mobile DISHCOURSE - Public table talks.

This format is a variation of the dinner concept, for use as a public intervention. For this, Jonatan and I produced a simple system of wooden modules in form of a folding table and several boxes containing all the material that is needed for the setting. Two trolleys transport the table construction, boxes, materials, food and 8 stools.

The arrangement functions as a platform for exchange and discussions, focusing on interdisciplinary topics related to the site and the local community where it pops up. People are invited to sit down for a talk. Food and drinks are served for free. Both times that the mobile DISHCOURSE was held, it was financed by the organisers of the events it was part of.

FUTURE IDEAS

To go on with the series and further develop the format, I could imagine to apply for funding on a later point (at the moment I see this not until the ending of the course).

Another (later) idea is the collaboration with organisations/institutions, to hold a dinner within their facilities and to mix the staff with external guests in order to set up a constructive discussion regarding their own agendas, relate it to current (local) issues and reflect it with views from other (local) perspectives / disciplines / experiences.

TIMEPLAN

• DISHCOURSE #6 in Hildesheim, Germany / November 2015

Collaborator/Co-Host	Anna Döge (Masterstudent of <i>Staging the Arts and Media</i> , University Hildesheim)
Location	Annas kitchen in Hildesheim
Guests	Work in progress
Focus	Interdisciplinary encounters / approaches in Theatre / Performing Arts, exploring the cross-disciplinary discourse in Hildesheim

• DISHCOURSE #7 in Hamburg or Berlin, Germany / December or January 2015

Possible collaborators Sarah Kästner (Exhibition Design) / Tobias Hoss (Communication Design) /
Nina Lademacher (Interieur Architecture) / Ariane Piper (Textile Design)

Location/Guests/Focus Work in progress

• DISHCOURSE #8 in Copenhagen, Denmark / January or February 2016

Collaborators/Co-Hosts Martin Rørtoft (Writer & Art Producer) / Siv Werner (Curatorial assistant,
Dome of Visions)

Location/Guests/Focus Work in progress (this Dishcourse could be a first trial, to go into an institution)

CONTACT / MEDIA

Mail DISHCOURSE.info@gmail.com

Web www.aboutDISHCOURSE.wordpress.com / www.facebook.com/groups/1552090488374600

PROJECT-ABSTRACT

DISHCOURSE – Interdisciplinary dinner talks is a series of gatherings, inviting practitioners from different creative disciplines into private locations in Sweden, Germany and beyond. The project functions as an informal social platform, enabling and exploring discursive encounters for interdisciplinary exchange within the fields of art, architecture, crafts, design and beyond. The project was initiated in spring 2015 by the course participants Anne Pfennig, Jonatan Lennman and Johanna Tysk. Since autumn 2015 Anne Pfennig is developing the format independently. For each upcoming DISHCOURSE she is collaborating with partners of different professional and local contexts. Together with the ‘co-host’ and related to his/her professional practice a (local) focus of interest is worked out. Based on the topic a set of guests, living (and working) in the direct district or city, is invited to the co-host’s home or work space to share a common meal and conversations.

www.aboutDISHCOURSE.wordpress.com

BIO-TEXT

Anne Pfennig M.A. works as an art mediator, cultural producer and organiser in Germany and Sweden. Recent locations of her education and practice are universities, museums, art-spaces, foundations and cultural projects in Stockholm, Hamburg, Berlin, Bremen and Oldenburg. Passionate about the fields of art, architecture and design her interests lie in the topics, practitioners and projects at the intersections of these disciplines. Thereby she tries to create space and moments for constructive dialogue, sharing knowledge and collaborative experience. Within professional contexts and beyond. Between practitioners and the broader social sphere.

OVERVIEW OF THE PAST DINNERS / MOBILE DISHCOURSES

• DISHCOURSE #1 in Tensta, Stockholm / April 2015

Hosts	Johanna Tysk, Jonatan Lennman & Anne Pfennig
Location	Johanna's living room
Guests	Adam Tensta (Musician) / Markus Gustafsson (Jewelry Design) / Anna Märta Danielsson (Interior Design) / David Andrén (Interior Design) / Björn Krogvig (Artist / Designer)
Focus	(Non) Existence of interdisciplinary structures at <i>Konstfack Stockholm</i> / The university's (non) accessibility for a heterogeneous range of international and national students

• DISHCOURSE #2 in Fittja, Stockholm / May 2015

Hosts	Anne Pfennig, Jonatan Lennman & Johanna Tysk
Location	Anne's kitchen at Residence Botkyrka
Guests	Kelly Tsipni-Kolaza (Curator) / Ayhan Aydin (Artist, Meal Ecologist) / Anneli Bäckman (Curator, Public Relations) / Ailin Moaf (Project manager, Art / Social work)
Focus	Interdisciplinary approaches to work with art in a heterogeneous social sphere

• DISHCOURSE #3 in Västertorp, Stockholm / June 2015

Hosts	Jonatan Lennman, Anne Pfennig & Johanna Tysk
Location	Jonatan's apartment

Guests Iris Lacoudre (Architect) / Elina Ylhäisi (Artist, Art Mediator) / Johan Tirén (Artist) / Sara Saxton Chirinos (Architect) / Tor Lindstrand (Architect)

Focus Interdisciplinary practice within art, architecture and urban planning

• [DISHCOURSE #4 in Neukölln, Berlin / July 2015](#)

Hosts Anne Pfennig & Adrian Schefer (Architect)

Location Adrian's Café Lux

Guests Irene Kriechbaum (Interieur and exhibition design) / Bastian Braun (Product Designer, Carpenter) / Anna Marie Goretzki (Journalist) / Sarah Stella Baecker (Scenographer) / Philine Puffer (Architect)

Focus Interdisciplinary project work / Professional independence / Creative scene in Neukölln

• [mobile DISHCOURSE in Tullinge, Stockholm / August 2015](#)

Hosts Jonatan Lennman & Anne Pfennig

Location A corner at Tullinge torg during the district festival

Guests Participants of the program / Staff from local and regional institutions / Visitors of the festival

Setting / Focus A public, mobile table for conversations, cake and coffee as part of the festival program in Tullinge, a suburb of greater Stockholm. A platform for exchange and discussions about local topics and the future plan to build the *Idéhuset*, a local meeting point for cultural activities.

• [mobile DISHCOURSE in Fittja, Stockholm / September 2015](#)

Hosts Anne Pfennig & Johanna Tysk

Location Next to *Fittjaköket* during Botkyrka konsthall's *Fittja open*

Guests Local residents / Participants of the program / Visitors of the event / Staff from the konsthall

Setting / Focus A public, mobile table for conversations, cake and coffee as part of *Fittja open's* picnic next to the *Fittja Kitchen*. Talking about the place, art, food and living in Fittja, a suburb of greater Stockholm.

- DISHCOURSE #5 during *Repair Society: Ringvägen* in Södermalm, Stockholm / September 2015

Hosts Jonatan Lennman, Johanna Tysk & Anne Pfennig

Location Forum för Arkitektur (FFAR)

Guests Joanna von der Zanden (Curator & Co-founder of Repair Society) / Lars Fridén (Architect, Co-organiser at FFAR) / Magnus Ericson (Project Co-ordinator, Curator & Course leader of *Organising Discourse*) / Gunilla Lundahl (Writer & Journalist) / Shantimaya Sami Jammoul (Yoga Meditation Teacher & Owner of Bliss Cafe) / Members of *Organising Discourse* (Ioana Leca, Jennifer Heinfeld, Hanna Lundborg, Nefeli Iconomou, Iris Lacoudre & Maria Karin Walczuk)

Setting / Focus A gathering of organisers, locals from the area and practitioners related to aspects of the research platform and open workshop *Repair Society: Ringvägen* / Discussing the issue of 'Repair' in a personal, local and broader social sense