

AWAKENING THE CREATURE OF WALKING

WUNSCHMACHINE//Helga Rosenfeldt-Olsen

Awakening the Creature of Walking was a performance-installation exploring the essence of walking. Throughout three days, in three different locations, performer Helga Rosenfeldt-Olsen manifested a physical piece: a row of inverted footprints slowly arising from the sand, each footprint 2 meters long, representing the walking giant, perhaps walking on the inner surface of the earth. The footprints arose and travelled south towards the sun along the long wide stretches of beach on the northern west coast of Denmark.

Awakening the Creature of Walking is a tribute to the phenomenon of walking – the slowness and simplicity of the process is a response against the fast, complex ways of living, which too often is disconnected from the body. Walking is a quiet revolution, which celebrates the slowness, and counteracts growth and commodities – anybody can do it at any time. We walk just to be in the world.

“Walking does carry forth a hope, a will to internal change, to conversion within ourselves. And it is starting from a transformation of the self that politics sets about transforming the world.” Henry David Thoreau

In relation with the footprints quotes from artists, philosophers, scientists had been collected and represented as writings in the sand and in a book where the footprints began. Throughout the building process visitors and random bypassers interacted with the work and the artist herself. The extra curious had the possibility to help building.

Awakening the Creature of Walking is a work of embodiment, both because of the physical prints of the giant, a very recognizable, yet strangely inverted phenomenon - and because of the body of the performer who was present and slowly worked her way through the sand.

The Awakening is the first piece in a row of works exploring and saluting the Creature of Walking. It was created with support from kulturKANten and Region Nordjylland.

WUNSCHMACHINE is a Danish artistic research-platform using the means of art to create connections - between people, between space and body, between disciplines and understandings - with the purpose to make us into active participants in our surroundings. Helga Rosenfeldt-Olsen is the artistic leader of WUNSCHMACHINE.