

“In the shadow of the cooling tower – Maintenance manifestoes”

Collaboration: Tom Emerson & Philip Ursprung

Core Program Master-Thesis HS 2021

The master thesis theme that we propose deals with the notion of maintenance. Durability of objects is closely related to the care that is taken for them by people. Or, in the words of the artist Barbara Kruger: “It’s a small world but not if you have to clean it.”

The site we propose is everything that is in the shadow (real or imagined) of the cooling tower of the Gösgen Nuclear Power Plant. Operating since 1979 the plant is currently in the middle of its expected lifetime. Its future is unclear. The cooling tower remains an emblem of both hope and fear. Neighboring terrains are cheap.

The written reference we propose is *Manifesto! Maintenance Art: Proposal for an Exhibition* (1969) by the artist Mierle Laderman Ukeles.

Description of preparation and elaboration phase in key-words:

- Introduction by Tom Emerson and Philip Ursprung
- Excursions to Gösgen, Paul Scherrer Institute and the Zwiilag
- Reading seminar 3 days
- Outline of individual proposals
- Feedback and agreement on proposals
- Mid-term crits with guests
- Feedback round
- Final crits with guests
- All meetings take place with entire group of students

Work to be done in preparation phase:

- Teaching formats (crits, seminars; individual, group work, ...)
- Inputs (lectures, visits, interviews ...)
- Research and working formats (literature review, archival research, lab work, site survey or analysis, experiments, ...)
- Inclusion in existing formats by the designer and non-designer group
- (master lecture, seminar, guest lectures)

Outcome in preparation phase:

- Expected outcome of proposals through essay/ PDF document/ other media to be agreed between student and supervisors
- *Atlas* Drawing and a *Maintenance* Drawing

Ratio of grading by cooperation partners for preparation and elaboration phase:

- **Preparation phase:**
 - Percentage designer(s): 50%
 - Percentage non-designer: 50%
- **Elaboration phase:**
 - Percentage designer(s): 70%
 - Percentage non-designer: 30%

