

Animal life is usually referred to as 'life on the surface'. Following a long cultural and philosophical tradition, animals do not engage in self-reflexive thought that provides humans with an individual and cultural depth of being. Instead, animals are considered to live on the surface of things – on fleeting appearances, on mere shadows that lack the substantiality of the human interior. Animals supposedly do not have the depth of memory and ability to process and recall events as humans do, their lives are treated as a series of coincidences rather than a thoughtful narrative.

How can the notion of the 'animal surface' be a place to engage with the animal world? I am not arguing that animals only live on the surface; indeed, biologists and ethicists still find depth of thought in animal life. What is certain, however, is that the animal depth is radically different and hardly accessible for us. In this project human-animal interaction becomes a zone for thinking of such inaccessible spheres.

The performance refers to the classical theme of still life/Stilleben popularised by modern painting. Starting from the assumption that any attempt to understand another species is always a superficial contact, I will concentrate on skin as a perverse meeting place between species.

Concept and performance:  
Agata Siniarska

Production:  
BWA Gallery Wrocław

Mentoring:  
Joanna Rajkowska

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Fragments of the performance were created as part of the exhibition Naked Nerve.

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19 September, 20:00-21:00

Registration at [montag.modus@gmail.com](mailto:montag.modus@gmail.com)

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In English

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BIO:

**Agata Siniarska** works in the field of extended choreography. She places her practice between how we think about the world and how we move in it. It is a place where somatics and politics intersect – a place where body perception meets social engagement – between somatic and environmental landscapes, between human and non-human bodies. Agata's present research is dedicated to multi-species archives in the time of extinction. Human nature is an interspecies relationship which makes extinction a co-extinction, a process of dying-with. How to build our common future, how to write a common story, not of the world but in the world? What past do we tell? What is to be lost, retained, preserved, remembered? Our future cannot forget the past.

[www.cargocollective.com/agatasiniarska](http://www.cargocollective.com/agatasiniarska)

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