

*Artistic and Pedagogical Interventions*  
*Symposium at Aalto ARTS, Department of Art*

Lena Séraphin

Abstract

The Compromised Audience

My presentation begins with an outline drawing connections between fiction and dissociative experiences. My aim is to introduce events in which fiction acts as a divertissement that circumscribes poised knowledge. I will give an account of a process that positions the spectator as being deprived of definite evidence. However, withdrawal from meaning can function as an affirmative lack of predictability.

I continue describing my case, which includes an artistic practice with a fictitious collaborator. This partnership is manifest in the exhibition and on going process titled Lena Séraphin, Andrea Meinin Bück and The Don Quixote Complex. The spectator is set aside in regard to the subject matter's fictional qualities.

The work consists of letters, artistic imagery and documents from the Finnish Defence Force and the Imperial War Museum in London. The archival photographs are repurposed in the exhibition. They are exhibited in a narrative context in order to delineate interpretation as a situated affair. Interpretation is less seen as acknowledgment of contents than an encounter with a hybrid self that drifts between substance and insignificance.

The presentation is concluded with a passage from Kathy Acker's novel *Don Quixote which was a dream* from 1986. Acker's work demonstrates that a fictional approach designs potential being independent of the proliferation of meaning.