

EYE AM DISAPPEARING

Sounding a Dark Anthropofugality

Jakob Schweppenhäuser

“Mehr Licht!”, Goethe famously uttered on his deathbed (according to the legend). Light and sight play a crucial role as fundamental, positive metaphors in philosophy, theology, psychology etc. and both concepts are often closely linked to rationality, comprehension, and truth. Darkness, in turn, has become vilified, and we tend to overlook its potentials.

In the dark, boundaries start to blur: we can let go of ourselves. The term *anthropocentrism* literally means human-centred, whereas the term centrifugal literally means fleeing the centre. My concept of *anthropofugality* thus means fleeing the human. I will present different artistic strategies that lead away from the *anthropos*: by disappearing, by depersonalisation, by repetition and distortion, by becoming a machine, by blurring and getting lost, by becoming invisible, by diving into an ocean of noise, by being enveloped in smoke, by hiding, by shrinking – by immersing in the dark.

The lecture-performance is based on my recent projects *∇ NABLA ∇* and *SPEOS*. The first being an unconventional rap poetry project in which the lyrical I, literarily speaking, has disappeared; the second (a collaboration with the writer Morten Søndergaard and the sound artist Emil Thomsen) being an audible docufiction in which a reporter moves through a dark trail system deep inside a mountain in search of the so-called Chamber of Silence.

Mehr Licht? Eher nicht.

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Jakob Schweppenhäuser is a Danish artist and researcher working in the intermedial space between sound, text, image and video. Rooted in literary studies, his research topics include text/music relationships, lyrics, voice, rap, recitation, hymnology, transcription, orality, and poetics. He is a senior editor at The Society for Danish Language and Literature, and a Part-time Lecturer at Aarhus University. Closely intertwined with his scholarly activities, his artistic practice unfolds within a wide variety of genres and media. As a composer and musician, he mainly works in the context of the group Schweppenhäuser/Thomsen & Morten Søndergaard and his solo project *∇ NABLA ∇*; while the first combines electronic music with spoken word, the latter combines it with poetic rap – both in Danish. As a visual artist, Schweppenhäuser mainly focuses on formats connected to music and literature such as covers, booklets, posters, music videos, homepages, concert light shows and installation designs. In 2022, he made his debut as an author with a collection of playful prose texts called *Jeres fodboldbog (Your Football Book, Cris & Guldmann)*.