

“Stone Walks: inhuman animacies and queer archives of feeling”

by Stephanie Springgay and Sarah. E. Truman. 2016



“Stone Walks: Inhuman Animacies and Queer Archives of Feeling” by Stephanie Springgay and Sarah. E. Truman critiques present Western modes of archive. Springgay highlights the idea of the impossibility to capture a cultural dance or the feeling of people who experience a historic event. The alternative archive modes that Springgay and others have explored is ultimately realized in the experimental practice of ‘Stone Walks.’ This method acknowledges the animacy of inhuman objects. Encouraging a participant to view the landscape they are walking without their perception at the centre of the experience. Lacking in a relation to self. Rather, a human is just another animate object among the rocks and the shell of a seashore. From this thought one is invited to archive their experience with an object or objects. This is an open-ended encounter and may look like a piece of writing, a photograph, a movement, or drawing, etc.

This walking methodology doesn’t call for a reason or purpose outside of present encounters within the land. Springgay presents, “Stone Walks as speculative propositions require that we learn with the world rather than about it(S.S. 2016).” Learning with the world exists within this practice although isn’t to be contained to the time limit of a stone walk. Rather, Springgay expresses an anthropologic view, as she acknowledges the animacy of inhuman objects. Sharing the Western counterpart to her thinking, “Along with not being alive, rocks were also not considered dead, because to be dead assumed the capacity for life(S.S. 2016).” Stephanie Springgay regards stones as living beings with their own memories and origins. This concept lives outside of the practice. I can conclude that a stone walk is more than an instruction or invitation to

experience differently. Stone walks are a lifestyle. Stone walking can fully encapsulate your view of the land around you as one stretches the borders of an existing ontology of the Land. Where every stone you come across is living.

- S.Springgay and S.E.Truman. "*Stone Walks: inhuman animacies and queer archives of feeling*," Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education, Canada 2016.
- Photo – '*Collecting a Rock 1-6*,' May 2022 Melons Bay. Britney Saywell.