

black and blue

Emmanuelle Waeckerlé

© edition wandelweiser 2020

black and blue
(the color of hope in the dark)

for voice(s) and instrument(s)

Each performance focuses on a collective reading of a few pages of Rebecca Solnit's [Hope in the Dark](#) (2004, 2016). Each performer chooses at least two of the following ways of responding to the text, always starting with the first option; voice singing the book title or part of, instrument echoing the word 'hope' when they hear it. Actions can be repeated. Choice and duration can be decided in advance.

Voice

1. sing the book title or part of, with occasional tone shift and pauses in between.
2. sing the letter O (as in hope) or A (as in dark) when reading or hearing the word 'hope'*.
3. speak or sing short sentences containing the word 'hope'* with pauses in between.
4. repeat a short sentence containing the word 'hope'* with pauses in between.
5. whisper word(s) inspiring hope (Arab Spring, Zapatista, Women Strike for Peace...).
6. unspeak, destroy signs / causes of oppression in the text (capitalism, war, despair...).

Instrument

1. Echo the word 'hope' when you hear it being spoken or sang, with a short, medium or long tone.
2. respond to the word 'hope'* in the text with an ascending glissando.
3. respond to word(s) inspiring hope in the text (Arab Spring, Zapatista...) with an upbeat sound or short melody.
4. respond to signs / causes of oppression in the text (terror, Iraq War, depression...) with a dissonant sound.
5. repeat a melody you hear, with pauses in between.

* If 'hope' can't be found, chose 'activism' or 'activist' instead.

I find it helpful to prepare and annotate the text.

*hope - (war) (neoliberalism) (despair) - +Zapatista+ +popular power+ +Women Strike for Peace+
|| hope gets you there || || uncertainty is the space for hope || || hope and action feed each other ||*

Both editions of the book are available online (ebook,pdf).The [FOREWORD](#) was published in THE GUARDIAN (17/07/2016).