



CLIMATE WHIRL - Arts at a forestry field station

Ulla Taipale

University of Helsinki, INAR - INSTITUTE FOR ATMOSPHERIC AND EARTH SYSTEM RESEARCH, Helsinki, Finland
(ulla@capsula.fi)

Climate Whirl is rooted in the cross-disciplinary research being done at the Helsinki University Hyytiälä forestry field station and SMEAR II station in Finland. Since 2011 the program engages artists to interpret and disseminate scientific knowledge about the interactions between forests and the atmosphere and other research carried out at the station. Neither research nor viewpoints are tied to certain disciplines or species. Instead, we look for encounters and interplay between sciences, arts, people, trees, peatland, a lake and other organisms. Artists are invited to stay at the station as residents, having the possibility to enter into a dialogue with scientists and art curator.

Like at any other field station, the cutting edge research done is documented, and the results are published in international peer-reviewed journals. However, there is a long way from publishing in scientific journals to making the results to public knowledge or discussion. Through artists that visited or were invited as artist-in-residence at Hyytiälä, the investigation of the forestry station have been introduced to a wide public at venues such as The Venice Biennale, and toured through international art venues and conferences. Climate Whirl also invited international participants to explore the Finnish boreal forest, peatlands, lake and sauna at hands-on workshops, lead by artists and scientists, using the artistic and scientific research methods side by side.

The presentation exhibits some of the artworks that emerged in the framework of the Climate Whirl program and explains what is coming up in the near future.