



Passage 2007 - 2015, graphite and color pencil on paper, 50 x 35 cm

Paul B. Preciado

Elly Strik or How To Make A Portrait of Time

The unconscious is made of bacteria. You feel it but you cannot see it. It is just a question of scale. Four million years of microbial evolution taking shape in that unbearable burning evidence that you call desire. If a cartography could be drawn of its invisible existence and of the infinitely small traces of microbes' whereabouts, the result may not differ much from Elly Strik's work.

Her drawings are like flashes of evolutionary lightning. Her sheets of two-dimensional paper are the meta-space where Freud and Darwin meet. But there are always two Darwins lying on Freud's couch. One Darwin speaks of the survival of the strongest, the other of the survival of those who cooperate. One Darwin is anthropocentric, he displaces God only to put Man at the top of the evolutionary chain. The other knows that all living

forms are equally evolved. There is no higher level within life: all life matters. Elly Strik's drawings play the second Darwin against the first.

Like any form of life on earth, subjectivity originates through symbiosis, through the living together in physical contact of different organisms, through the cooperation of different organisms to produce new singularities. Just as mitochondria originated from the incorporation of bacteria inside a cell, subjectivity results from the incorporation of other's affects and information within a bundle of cells surrounded by a membrane that we call, for lack of a better word, individual body. But the body, like the unconscious, is neither a place nor an individual property. It is a symbiotic relationship. Political cooperation within time.

The unconscious is the invisible parasite through which we inherit, replicate and mutate political history. The life principle is the creativity to bring together unlike individuals and histories to make new living units, merging what seemed separated by norm or convention. Plants-animals, humans-vegetables, machines-worms. Breathe. You are a living garden, and your mind just a film moving towards the light.

occasion of the exhibition 'Drawing. The Bottom Line' in S.M.A.K. Ghent, Belgium in 2015 - 2016.



installation view with Freud's Sofa