

TITLE

Activating empathy through the act of drawing

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ABSTRACT

We propose to present a set of drawings as an artefact. Through these drawings, we propose the act of drawing as a moment of embodiment and a tool to further enhance empathy in observations of phenomena related to architectural design which are difficult to understand otherwise. This research aims to develop ways of understanding fragility in architecture through initiating an (empathic) drawing process. We aim to critically assess and reflect on three series of drawings, their interrelation and how making those drawings contributes to understanding fragility through empathy.

We will discuss these three series of drawings: Firstly, we will discuss a selection of drawings out of the first author's drawing archive, consisting of drawings made as a child, a youngster, an architectural student and an architectural researcher. To obtain insight in the author's way of drawing and hence observing, the author's drawing archive has been observed. The observation has indicated that drawings made two decades ago are interlinked with drawings made over the past five years.

Secondly, we will bring to the fore a series of sketches of a Belgian dune landscape made on site. We will elaborate on how these sketches are an initiator for current drawing cycles by serving as *memo drawings*.

To conclude, we will elaborate on a drawing series that comprises layered drawings that gradually decode and unravel spatial observations. Together with the sketches they are further enhancing empathy and provide a first stepping-stone to develop an understanding of fragility by becoming that which is not understood (Robinson, 2015; Vico, 1725).

References

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