

**EXAMPLE (1) materials: affordance**

**diary**

**Affordances of making**  
*-a thing becomes a thinkable*

*Our feet force their way through the messy and dry spring grass, sun is shining, suddenly there is a thing laying on the ground that captures her attention. It is a metal stair that has been laid down on the ground so that it looks like a bridge. Later on in the workshop. She starts to build. She starts to think; thinking of a bridge that we can build in full scale, thinking of how to build up bridges within herself. 'Bridges are connecting points, making connections between different things that can't reach each other...or they can make a new connection between things that has been broken'. Then she starts making a drawing while explaining what a doctor once told her about how drug abuse can destroy connections between neurons in the brain. 'When you abuse drugs, for example, if we say that these are the subjects of joy. The subjects of joy come on to hard, so they devour these'. She erases the lines she made between bigger circles that portrays the neurons. When she erases all the connections she starts to make new circles and new connections. 'But the brain is pretty good at rebuilding itself, and then new ones are coming here, then it might go like that, from there to there'. Once she has stopped drawing she starts a conversation about the 'physical' bridge again. How we could build a bridge and stage it so that more people would see that the bridge is something more...see what it has to afford?'*

The concept of affordance was developed by social psychologist James Jerome Gibson. Through the concept Gibson discusses the relation between the environment and its observer. A door affords entry and exit, a plane that is walkable affords walking, etc. But the concept is much more slippery than that, just like the stair, that was a bridge, that also was a concept to think with... " [A]n affordance is neither an objective property nor a subjective property, or it is both if you like. An affordance cuts across the dichotomy of subjective-objective and helps us to understand its inadequacy. It is equally a fact of the environment and a fact of behavior. It is both physical and psychical, yet neither. An affordance points both ways, to the environment and to the observer." (Gibson, 1979) Gibson's concept puts attention to the inseparable and interdependent relation between human and environment. A relation that also been reflected upon by Finnish architect Juhani Paalasmaa, who brings up this duality in humans as makers of, and made by their environment. 'As we construct our self-made world, we construct projections and metaphors of our own mindscapes. We dwell in the landscape, and the landscape dwells in us. (Paalasmaa, 2009)

Music psychologist Tia De Nora has used the concept of affordance to discuss the role of music as an organizing medium 'that helps to structure such things as styles of consciousness, ideas, or modes of embodiment'. (De Nora, 2000). This means how 'things' around us influences us in our being and constant becoming as individuals in this world. De Nora, has stated how she "focus on how individuals are produced or produce themselves as social agents with attendant styles of feelings and emotionally laden positions" (DeNora 2010).

If we can agree on the influence the environment and what we do in it have on us, we could start to think on how the approaches and techniques we use when constructing this environment, influence our relation to ourselves and the world we live in.

**images / snap shot**



**audi-video recording**

