

Adena Park

Professor Fanghanel

IML 400

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**Franco “Bifo” Berardi - Breath**

Even though this is a paper with academic language and heavy theory, very different from last week's reading, it is probably one of the most enjoyable readings I've been assigned. The text Breath places a heavy emphasis on mental imagery, starting off chapter one with the tragedy of Eric Garner and using that cue to set the rhythm of the rest of the text.

The concept that Hölderlin proposes, that an intimate texture of being is breathing, is a concept that I would love to explore in this oncoming project. The idea that there is a rhythm in the cosmos and through the act of breathing, and speaking, being able to interact with a cosmic fabric gives me really good ideas with project two. Interactivity and rhythm that is how the first chapter can be summarized, but the idea of breathlessness is also important. The sense of breathlessness and an inability to connect to one's surroundings is something to be feared and with the current social climate, especially with the recent outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus inciting anti-Chinese sentiment. The people of the world are facing an event of breathlessness, where people fear death and the Chinese within China's borders are suffering from alienation for spreading the virus internationally (incorrect as a lot of tourists have also spread the virus) and from suppression of the Chinese government as the government refuses donated medical supplies in a stupid game of trying to flex the “might” and “power” of China. This directly ties into the next chapter which speaks of social order stiffening breath and thus incite suffering as Eric Garner did before he died.

This text really brings to mind all the social issues, both current and past, that the world is experiencing, and how to face them. It brings to mind many ideas for the second project such as creating a project that tries to reduce one issue that causes mental breathlessness or to just give palliative care.