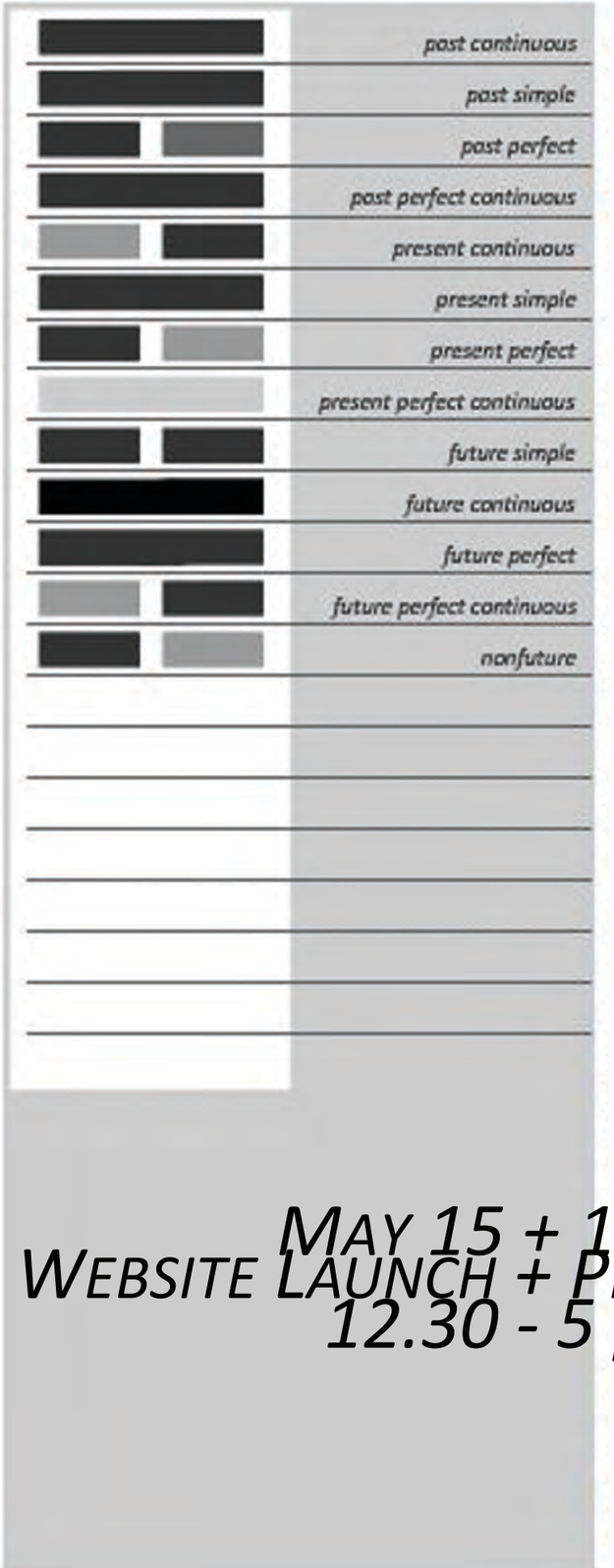
elisa tosoni
curatorial projects

Tense



Tense is a project which can be seen as the program of a fluctuating institution, functioning as a tool for a taxonomy of temporality: each exhibition, performance, panel discussion, public art project or web space it includes brings forward and inhabits a different temporality, a peculiar sensibility of time, hence, a different tense. Through the work of mostly emerging and mid-career artists, it recuperates nuances of thinking about and expressing time that are endangered or have disappeared, as linguistic systems become flattened. It aims at creating a possible vocabulary for an extended sensibility of time.

Tense is a dynamic program for an institution of no fixed abode, rather inhabiting a variety of spaces (including the web) and different points in time. It is changing and accretive in nature, but its layering is sometimes disrupted, and its apparent order may not reflect its linear time. Its lifespan is variable, not set forth from the start: *Tense* is open to self-criticism and evaluation, and will consequently be closed once the need for it to continue will have faded.

All projects in the program share a dialogic, collaborative and open-ended approach: no exhibition includes solely already existing works, no discussion will follow/enact a given script; conversely, the project fosters practices of commissioning new artworks and projects, very often developed by the artist in dialogue with the curator(s) and host institutions. *Tense* is therefore functioning as a frame within which artistic practice is supported: concepts and their formalisation can develop into discourse as well as proposals, and these proposals are taken further to be implemented either directly within the frame of the program, or further developed/realized outside of it.

Besides this working process, it is important to note that the artists chosen for *Tense*'s "mobile chapters" share a similar practice focusing on long processes and in-depth research, as well as a flair for literature, storytelling and science. Furthermore, despite developing very unique concepts and artworks, across a variety of media, all artists share a strong fascination towards time, showing how differing ways of perception (or even different times) are possible. Often working at the boundary between fiction and reality, distilling elements from cultural histories and collective memory, the artists bring forward a strong critique of those processes ruling historicisation and the shaping of knowledge and belief systems.
Like time travellers, they not only move easily between media, but also between tenses. By conjugating imagination, memory and anticipation into their works, they instigate the emergence of a rich(er) spectrum of temporalities and experiences of time, as well as offer critical tools to re-think and re-imagine histories and futures.
In a time of deep social and economic crisis, a process that leads to enriching our ways of looking and expressing time, critically re-think histories through the lens of mediated and re-imagined realities, towards imagining an extended future, seems to be more and more an urgent concern for artists. *Tense* wants to bring some of their voices forward, convinced that their works can contribute to a slow cultural shift towards a more sustainable society.

May 15 + 16
Website Launch + Project Presentation
12.30 - 5 pm

Anastasios Logothetis
in The Model

Mariana Caló & Francisco Queimadela
as the Skype projection of the artist duo

Elisa Tosoni
as herself

i n :

(tense: t.b.d.) W 0°6' E 18°06'

a performative lecture on playing different roles,
integrity, trust and vulnerability;
a celebratory act of time as a methodology of work,
open-ended processes,
long-term projects as systems of "mobile chapters".

Tue, May 15th | from 6 pm

Glasburen | Stockholm University,
Frescati Campus, House E, Plan 4
and online @
www.elisatosoni.com/tense.html

This presentation and the accompanying public talk are part of Elisa Tosoni's degree project within Curating Art, International Master´s programme at Stockholm University.

Stockholm University