

Feelings Are Actions

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I wish to broach the subject of feelings in relation to experience in general, and the experience of art in particular. It is increasingly the case that feelings are commodified and turned into objects by the entertainment economy. Feelings and experiences are sold alongside more tangible objects in malls as well as in many museums, as the latter have succumbed to commercial parameters and trends instead of focusing on the potential of art and the systems in which it is communicated. At the same time, feelings are often presented to us as introvert and exclusive activities that are produced when people 'take in' their surroundings. I, on the other hand, find that feelings have a productive, extrovert dimension, which means they are much more communicable than is generally thought. Feelings are inclusive because they open up to other people and our surroundings; the surroundings are thus to a certain extent produced when we feel them, creating an exchange between individual and surroundings that makes the two co-relative. The specific context is tied to our feelings, and as the feelings change, so does the context. In this way, time becomes crucial, forging an indissoluble relationship between feeling and temporality. Feelings are actions.