

Overview of the Week: Process & Collective Exploration

Day 1: Mapping our artistic urgencies

We began by individually identifying three urgent topics, contexts, or materials in our practice, what drives our work, what questions we keep returning to, and how these themes manifest in movement, voice, and conceptual frameworks. Each of us shared our reflections, creating an overview of our collective research landscape.

Through discussion, we uncovered connections, contrasts, and overlapping inquiries, setting the foundation for a shared process of exploration rather than individual trajectories.

Day 2: Building a collective map & playing with friction

To disrupt linear thinking, we wrote down our topics and laid them out on the floor, creating a carpet of ideas. Instead of categorizing them, we played with fluidity, allowing the words to exist in shifting relationships to one another.

Exploring where contradictions, tensions, and unexpected links could generate new questions. Through this process, we arrived at themes, including:

- Body Images & Destiny
- Negative Poetics
- Transfiction & Magic Realism
- Desire Politics & Pleasure Politics
- Autofiction & Unstable Narratives
- Subverting Ritualized Spaces
- Choreographing Reality & Fictional Pasts
- Collective Feelings & Control
- Retelling History: Context, Time, Space, Consent

We asked ourselves: What happens if we resist defining subjects? What if, instead of topics, we create scores that can be activated in unexpected ways?

Day 3: Fragmentation, reconfiguration & creating scores

We began the day with shaking, creating space for movement before words. We then each chose one core theme and applied the "Five Whys" method, digging into why this theme feels urgent, peeling back its layers.

From this, we extracted five essential words, laying the 5 words and 5 whys out to form a new carpet of fragmented language. With string, we connected words, but rather than looking for logical associations, we sought resistance and tension, finding points of friction where words disrupted, clashed, or destabilized meaning.

From here, new subjects and themes emerged, not as fixed ideas but as activation tools. To further push instability, we cut up each word individually, treating language as a puzzle. This process of disassembly and reconfiguration opened new ways of thinking, where we now sought meaning and continually rewritten the subjects.

From this process, we arrived at five "subjects" that resonated with us, ones that somehow found a sense between us, not necessarily clear definitions, but themes that felt alive in the space we had created. These were written down and became part of the collective foundation moving forward.

Day 4: Movement, Reflection & Preparing for the Gathering

The morning was dedicated entirely to movement, shaking, breathing exercises, and being in the body. There was a shared sense of tiredness, a need to land in ourselves before engaging with anything conceptual.

After moving, we shifted into a slow discussion, looking at the material we had gathered throughout the weeks. We reflected on what had emerged, what still resonated, what felt unresolved, and how our process had unfolded. This was less about analysis and more about feeling where we were at this stage.

A significant part of the conversation focused on how we wanted tomorrow's gathering to exist. Rather than forcing a fixed structure, we considered what kind of space we wanted to create, how we wanted people to experience the research, and how to balance openness with intention.

There was a long lunch, a moment of care. Acknowledging the need for rest, digestion, and time to step back, we allowed space for slowness, understanding that processing is also part of the work.

Day 5 (Tomorrow): A Private Gathering & installation

Tomorrow, we will create an installation using our research, transforming the week's process into a participatory and immersive space. Instead of organizing a formal public showing, we have chosen to invite friends privately, curating an intimate Friday-night atmosphere with beer, conversation, and shared activation of our scores.

This choice was deliberate, we haven't deeply connected with the wider Metropolis community, so rather than forcing a structured engagement, we are crafting a more informal, energetic, and generous space.

The installation will be built using:

- The paper carpet of words
- The string connections between concepts
- Elements of film, sound, and live activation of scores

Throughout the evening, we will experiment with how our scores can be inhabited, shifted, and reactivated by those present. Rather than presenting work, we will test a shared presence, allowing ideas to be performed, questioned, and reshaped in real-time.

Something from the the Week

- We explored themes not as fixed ideas but as dynamic systems of movement, tension, and connection.
- Friction between concepts led to new ways of composing and structuring work.
- Scores became a way to resist singular interpretations, allowing unexpected encounters.
- Rather than seeking clarity, we embraced the potential of the unknown of subjects colliding, transforming, and escaping definition.