

Georhythmics and geoaesthetics: A geological city walk at the New Performance Turku Festival, Finland 2014

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During the the 2014 New Performance Turku Festival, Finland, a Walkapolis geological city walk was arranged. The walk was guided by 12 urban geological sites selected from a published geological city walk guide (www.kivikierros.com).

The aim of the geological city walk was to disseminate geology through the geoaesthetics of dimension stones in a constructed milieu. During the walk, rocks were investigated and their role in building, architecture and art was analyzed. Geology provided the content for the walk and thus an interaction between humans, nature and the city was formed.

Observing rocks in public spaces can be considered as a performance. A collective study of rocks in a bank's columns, stairs and walls, and "cleaning" of granite's structures on a mall's floor caused disturbance which attracted by-passers to become spectators of a geological performances. Some spectators asked what was happening, producing encounters in which they were informed on surrounding geology.

The walk also included geo-rhythmic exercises where Earth's processes were simulated by participants' groups, bodies and their movements. These exercises were considered funny and informative by the participants.

The geological city walk managed to reach out to the participants by making them aware of the surrounding geology and its applying in urban environment. During the walk, the experience of singular geological processes lead to a deeper understanding on how our Earth works, thus giving a positive mental image of geology, dimension stones as a natural resource, their application in construction and the learned topics.

After the walk, a discussion was arranged, where positive feedback was received. Applying this cross-disciplinary and artistic approach, the image of the city and its environment can be seen from a new perspective.