

YOU COULD BECOME A SHARK  
OR AN OCTOPUS

THE SEA THEATER

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# THE SEA THEATER

RE-WORKING

THE BODILY UNCONSCIOUS

IN THE AGE OF GLOBAL MELTDOWN



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Walter Benjamin, Auguste Blanqui, Bertolt Brecht, James Joyce, Harri Laasko, Friedrich Nietzsche, Charles Olson, Jean Painlevé, Sancho Panza, Jorge Pavez, Sylvia Plath, Marcel Proust, Don Quijote, SBK, B. Traven, Carolina Trigo

You could become a shark

Or an octopus

At the End of History . . .

So, let us explore the possibilities for our transformation in this age of meltdown and rising seas by tracing Nietzsche's obsession with the sun setting in a blaze of fire.

Let us follow his idea of the "reverse experiment" in which the human devolves into the marine, as we see with humor and wonder in Jean Painlevé's 1920s underwater films in Brittany where the tides run fast and deep.

Begun by imagining Don Quijote and Sancho Panza on an island with a lighthouse off the finish coast, the Sea Theater is inspired by the novel *Das Totenschiff* (*The Death Ship*) by the German-Mexican anarchist mystery man B. Traven in which the ship tells the best stories, inanimate things become animate and, for no matter how brief a moment, do actually achieve the Mastery of Non-Mastery.

Premiered March 11, 2014 at Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, followed by a presentation at WIELS, Brussels, March 14, 2014 in association with erg, Brussels. The Sea Theater is an extension of The Sun Theater performed at the Whitney, February 23, 2013.