**Some of the notes from first reading and meeting about new materialism, 14th May, 2020**

Wiktoria, TingTing, Gunhild and Sanne

* TingTing asks, what is the background of this philosophical movement and when did it come about? Seems like Bennet will explain more during the coming chapters, so far simply says that the idea of **vibrant matter has a long philosophical history in west** and give some examples like Spinoza, Nietzsche, Darwin, Deleuze, and more…
* Looked up definition of:
**“ontology”** (how the world or things are created and what their essential features are) and **“epistemology”** (theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its validity and the distinction between justified belief and opinion)
after reading Bennet: “I will shift from the language of epistemology to that of ontology, from a focus on… the absolute to… vibrant matter.”
* Demystifying, what is she really saying about that? Does she want to **mystify life or demystify? Or both**, understood in a specific way. Page xiv and onwards.
* Deep down **everything is connected**… Yes, but in what way is this not obvious? In what way does new materialism add something to this basic idea? Think Wiktoria said something about before one could say that yes the table IS. But now, with new materialism, the table is an actant. Yes?
* Posthumanism and new materialism – **square and rectangle**? Or…?
* We talked about how these ideas could effect us or already are a part of how we approach our visual art practices. Received more information on this from Eamon during the conversation.
* **The term political**, Bennet uses it almost like for public life, also choices that start with philosophy/conscious attitude towards the world around us. Her examples of political are “patterns of consumption”, “public health”, “stem cell research”…
* “The moment when the object becomes the Other…”
* “a vital materiality can **take shape again**… a version of this idea already found expression in childhood experiences of a world populated by animate things rather than passive objects.” Spoke about in what way things now can be seen as animate, Wiktoria said something important here that I never wrote down…
* The thing in itself and also in connection to other things and to humans. **In betweenness**.