

Adam Chodzko

Chance, Sequence and Magic Spells

Camden Art Centre Arkwright Road London NW3

O, you happy roots, branch and mediatrix (2020)
functions through a sequence of chance events occurring in the present, producing a kind of 'magic' language. Have a go at this activity to create your own magic language.

Suitable for: adults and children

1. Think about special moments we might see, hear, or feel which take our attention away from our everyday thoughts.

Often, it's something very fleeting that might look beautiful or special. It could be: a beam of sunlight through a window, the reflection of light on the ceiling from a glass of water, a leaf falling, a moon, the sound of someone singing, a delicious taste. Anything that captures your attention and takes you away from busy thoughts!

2. When you notice these moments, imagine that they are a signal intended for just you. There to tell you to look outwards from yourself and into the world.



3. Now imagine that this signal is just the first word in a sentence, and you need to find the rest of the sentence in order to complete it.

The next time something special catches your attention, try to focus closely on everything you notice around you that comes immediately after it, for around 10 seconds. Imagine you are creating a sequence of these moments, like words in a sentence, or like ingredients in a magic spell.

Examples:

Hearing a child laughing;
Looking at the colour of my shoes;
Feeling that I'd like a cup of coffee soon;
Noticing a change in daylight;
Becoming aware of the temperature of the table my hands are resting on.

4. Try to remember this sequence and think about it as a kind of poem or song, which has a message especially for you. If only you could figure out the translation!



Here are some tips to take this activity further:

Make a note of what you remember in your sequence along with how it makes you feel thinking about it now

Keep a journal of the sequences you notice

Turn these moments into a poem, or write a story using them as chapter prompts

Draw or paint the sequence, or recreate it in collage

Think about this sequence of moments when you're trying to go to sleep or waking up. Can you remember it all? Do you think you can remember it in the original order you've noticed it in? Or have you created a new sequence?

Image credits

Page 3: Adam Chodzko. *Ghost* (2010); Page 5: Adam Chodzko, *Hyphae Deltoid Reach* (2020) production still from video.

The Artist

Adam Chodzko is an artist working across media, exploring our conscious and unconscious behaviour, social relations and collective imaginations through artworks that are propositions for alternative forms of 'social media.' Exhibiting work nationally and internationally since 1991, his work speculates how, through the visual, we might best connect with others.