

Laura Hyunjee Kim - A Lotioning Session

Have you been longing for a human touch? A handshake?

Another foreign extremity impressed onto you?

Time to give your hand(s) some loving, hugs for your hands only, and no other human's.

In this short virtual 'lotioning' session, it is not about the quality of the emollient or the brand but about availability. To prepare, you will need lotion, a dish to unload your lotion, a brush and/or sponge to paint your lotion with and a hand to work with if it is available to you. You have the option to work with other body parts as needed.

Give your hand(s) the attention and care they desire. In times when human-to-human contact is limited and constant hand-washing is urged, the performance is about applying lotion on your own hands - self-care as an act of caring for others. With an absurd spin on this everyday act, the video positions the hand as a canvas and lotion as paint. Preparation will be minimal and no prior performance experience will be necessary. Instructions can be found in the video piece itself: <https://vimeo.com/lhk/lotioning>

The performance should take place at noon with at least 3 to 5 people lotioning in various locations at an outdoor cafe.

Ieke Trink June 20, 2020, 9:00 to 9:15 AM

The choice of which public terrace we would use had been decided beforehand, for us. The terrace is part of a closed movie theatre and it is deserted. We are with three performers. We sit down and one takes a seat at a separate table. Pretty quickly it becomes clear that we have different interpretations on how to apply the lotion on our hands. I have a tube of hand lotion with me, and an empty jar, and brush. The others brought a bottle with disinfection lotion with them. I squeeze my lotion in the jar and start covering my right hand with the lotion using the brush. I make gentle brush strokes and play with the different directions and shapes of my right hand. One of the other performers decides to use my lotion. Their technique of applying the lotion on their hands is by rubbing both hands together. It is a beautiful technique seeing the left and right hand hugging each other. It's the ultimate form of self-care in a time where touch has become a very sensitive issue. Leonard, with whom I share the table with, tells me about his job as a sailor. His hands become very dry because of the roughness of the gloves that he wears during his job. For him and his colleagues, the lotioning of the hands is a typical ritual and a break of their work. During our lotioning ritual, I miss the public feeling of what a usual terrace is.

Leonard Passchier

Although I didn't really get it, it was nice to meet my hands again.

Emmy Vollaard

I never applied a liquid to my hands in this manner. People stared.

Stefanie van den Bos

Hand zen relaxing for me and for three other performers.

Safanja Bendeler

At first I tried to connect to my hand. It felt as if I never seen my hand before. To think of it, it must have been a very long time since I consciously saw my hand. As I tenderly stroke the brush with a bit of lotion on my hand, it felt good and gave a kind of meditative feeling. It opened me up to explore further. I started to see my hand in every detail. Gradually I started to get deeper in exploring the possibilities of drawing: playing with what the wind and the sun had to offer, using more and more lotion and what that does to the drawing and how it feels. Finally, I became aware of what is around me - the sounds, movements and feelings, more than seeing. The other performers and I very naturally ended the 'lotioning' almost at the same time.

Jello Reumer

The location under the chestnut tree was perfect. I have never studied my hands for such a long time. By applying the lotion so carefully to my hands, I forgot that I usually don't like my hands that much. It was a meditative experience.

Nico Parlevliet

I experienced it as a very topical action that was exercised alone and together at the same time. it was very soothing and refreshing.