

Safer Space Policy 'Riiviöt Collective'

'Riiviöt Collective' is an artistic project initiated and led by Eevi Kinnunen and Tasha Hess-Neustadt. Eevi and Tasha follow the safer space policies in all their projects and ask for their collaborators to familiarize themselves with the following points and respect and contribute to constructing and practicing safer space together. The following has been written with the help of UrbanApa's (UrbanApa is an anti-racist and intersectionality feminist art community in Finland led by Sonya Lindfors) edition of safer space policy.

SAFER SPACE

1. Consent - Don't assume consent. Consent includes the right to determine one's boundaries with regards to physical, performative, emotional, and any other activity or task in artistic, practical, and personal levels of the work environment. Consent needs to be always asked for, and can be given or denied at any moment. For the physical work happening within our projects we will establish practices in the space that help the artists manage consent in the context of physical work. We welcome and take space and time for discussion about consent practice as part of our artistic practice.
2. Furthermore we stay alert with our expectations of which are the circumstances where consent is needed in the dance space. We reflect and challenge the normative expectations of boundary setting and acknowledging personal needs within the dance context, particularly with regard to assumed hierarchies in direction roles.
3. We don't make assumptions regarding one's identity, sexuality, gender, health, background or experiences.
4. We respect others beliefs, opinions and experiences. We come from different experiences, cultures and situations in life; we differ in opinion.
5. We acknowledge that language is imperfect and we are bound to have misunderstandings: sometimes we use different words to describe the same things, or vice versa, same words to describe different things - we see this as an opportunity to reflect on our own use of language and the power of language.
6. We acknowledge that people might be working with a language different from their mother tongue and we approach this with appreciation, patience and respect.
7. Sometimes we go through, process or express painful things through emotion, but this should not lessen the importance of the message.
8. We aim to be aware of our own position, privileges and prejudices and pay attention to how we take and offer space.
9. We do not accept any form of discrimination or harassment (physical or through words) like homo- or transphobia, racism, sexism, ableism or fatphobia. Discrimination can be direct or indirect. For example inadequate accessibility, harassment (sexual or otherwise) or instigation of discriminatory practices are types of discrimination.

A FEW THINGS TO HELP ALONG THE JOURNEY <3

→ *at times, it is good to take a small break and just breathe*

→ *at times, we need outside help to make sense of things*

→ *at times, "sorry, I acted offensively, I will think on it and do better next time" is a good start*

ENDNOTE

We are not perfect; sometimes (or often) we fail. We therefore urge everyone to take responsibility for their words, actions and failures. Dealing with complexity and emotion is part of the work.

If you want to read more:

<https://urbanapa.fi/ethical-guidelines/>

<https://disruptingdance.com/>