

# Guest lecture May 7., Professor Richard Shusterman: Somaesthetics and Design

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Kilden - Meldinger til St. Olavs intranett 18.04.2018 Av Dag Svanæs

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Professor **Richard Shusterman** is the Dorothy F Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Humanities and Director of the Center for Body, Mind, and Culture at Florida Atlantic University. His major authored books include *Thinking through the Body*; *Body Consciousness*; *Surface and Depth*; *Performing Live*; *Practicing Philosophy*; and *Pragmatist Aesthetics* (now published in fifteen languages).

**Time:** Monday May 7, 2018, 14:15-15:00

**Location:** Øya helsehus - Auditorium ØHA1

## Abstract

**Somaesthetics** is a new interdisciplinary field of research dedicated to the study and cultivation of the soma (the living, sentient, purposive body) as our medium of sensory perception (aesthesis) and action, and also the site of our expressive self-stylisation.

Concerned not only with understanding but improving our experience and performance through heightened, more perceptive somatic awareness, somaesthetics involves both theory and practice.

After providing an introductory sketch of the somaesthetic project by outlining its aims, genealogy, and structure, the lecture will then focus on the application of somaesthetics to the fields of art and design, particularly on its relevance to the design of interactive digital products that involve the whole body, such as exercise games.

## Context and workshop

The lecture is part of a cooperation between Prof. Shusterman and the EXACT research project at NTNU. The NTNU Health EXACT project is a cooperation between Department of Computer Science and Department of Neuromedicine and Movement Science, aimed at developing an empirically-based theoretical foundation for the design of exercising games for elderly.

The lecture will be followed by a two-day practical workshop on May 8. and 9. in Trondheim within the context of the EXACT project, where prof. Shusterman will give the participants the opportunity to practice soma-based design. There is room for some more researchers and PhD students at NTNU. Please contact Prof. Dag Svanæs (dags@idi.ntnu.no) for details.

## About the speaker

Shusterman received his doctorate in philosophy from Oxford and has held academic appointments in France, Germany, Denmark, Israel, Italy, China, and Japan. The French government honored him as a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques, and he was awarded research grants from the NEH, Fulbright Commission, ACLS, Humboldt Foundation, and UNESCO. His research in the field of somaesthetics is nourished by his practice as a certified somatic therapist employing the Feldenkrais Method and his creative work in performance art.

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