

On Thursday, April 13, «The Psychedelic Salon» organized with Susanne G. Seiler will take place again at Cabaret Voltaire. The event will include a lecture by Jason K. Day titled «Psychedelic Attention: On the Phenomenology of Psychedelic Experiences» and a VJing- and Sound-performance by Antoine Félix Bürcher and Caroline Ann Baur.

Induced by the intake of LSD, psilocybin, mescaline or DMT, psychedelic experiences are commonly described by those who take them as entailing such changes as a radically heightened detail and complexity of phenomena, deep focalisation of those that are usually unnoticed, and a generally increased degree and scope of attention that is popularly referred to as an «expansion of consciousness.» However, a diminished awareness of usually basic features of experience is also commonly reported – of reality, time, space, embodiment, and selfhood. In his lecture, Jason K. Day will show how often people describe their psychedelic experiences in terms of attention and how looking at this can help answer the question of whether people have similar experiences when they take psychedelics.

The performance of Antoine Félix Bürcher and Caroline Ann Baur develops as an ambient exploration of the «Psychedelic Salon» space. They focus their attention on details of the sonic and visual environment to explore the boundaries of the known in real time. Snacks in the space preceding the performance will invite them to delve into the moment of digestion by focusing on audible and visual aspects such as the

remains of food and packaging, cracks in the walls, fluid movements of the water and the surrounding area. In his practice of analog VJing, Antoine Félix Bürcher plays with materials by observing, overlapping, zooming in live filmed images and by distorting its frequencies. These visual glitches will be projected on the walls of the Historical Hall. In dialogue with this visual exploration, Caroline Ann Baur will listen carefully to the sound environment at Cabaret Voltaire in order to collect certain elements and develop sounds that resonate with the space. This in situ intervention is a collaborative experimentation with the materials that inhabit the space by observing and discovering. The artists will explore the present moment, zooming in and out in a fluid way, questioning how particular attention to the surrounding of visual and sonic matter allows a different access to the present – much like the psychedelic experience.

Program:

–18:00: Meet & Greet

–19:00: Start program

Registration possible via info@cabaretvoltaire.ch or show up early (often fully booked).

Admission: CHF 15

This event will be held in English.

Jason K. Day (*1996) is a PhD student in philosophy at the University of Fribourg and researcher in the SNSF project Aesthetics and Ethics of Attention. In his PhD thesis he is conducting a phenomenological study of

psychedelic experiences in terms of attention. Day completed his Research MA in philosophy at Radboud University Nijmegen where he specialised in Husserlian phenomenology and Early Buddhist philosophy. He also writes on the topic of anarchist philosophy, and has otherwise been known to create collage art.

Caroline Ann Baur (*1986) is based in Zurich. Her artistic work migrates between sound arts, installations, and collaborative experiments. She experiments with the practice of active listening and is guided by the questioning of the gender based valorisation and devaluation of work and symbolism. Experiences of community were a particular focus in the Zurich offspace Raum*Station, which she co-founded and ran for four years with a group of eight people. Her works have been displayed at Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, Gessnerallee Zurich, uni Offspace Zurich, Ausstellungsraum Klingental, mayday in Basel, Marrakech Biennale, among others. In 2019 she won the artist-in-residence programme and in 2021 the work grant of the Ausserrhodische Kulturstiftung. As an author, she writes for the WOZ weekly newspaper and for artistic publications. She teaches as a teaching assistant in the MA Transdisciplinarity at the ZHdK - Zurich University of the Arts and has taught seminars at the F+F School of Art and Design Zurich and at Hyperwerk Basel. Baur studied Cultural Studies and Philosophy at Humboldt University Berlin and Fine Arts at ZHdK.

Antoine Félix Bürcher (*1999) is an artist and curator based in Zurich. His artistic work is interdisciplinary,

conceptual and materializes through sculptures, in-situ installations, texts, videos, and performances, always with a focus on the sculptural. Antoine Félix Bürcher imagines a non-linear aesthetic of time through the experience of matter, collaborating with it in a symbiotic relationship of expression. He co-founded the online off-space [sabl.live](#) in 2020. His work has been displayed in several group and solo exhibitions in Switzerland and Europe: BIG Biennale (Geneva) with One Gee in Fog, B74 Raum für Kunst (Lucern), Mock Jungle (Bologna), Danuser & Ramirez gallery (London), OnCurating (Zurich). His glass sculptures will be shown as part of PLATTFORM23 at Espace Arlaud, Lausanne.

The series «The Psychedelic Salon» in collaboration with Susanne G. Seiler takes place regularly at the Cabaret Voltaire. No drugs will be taken at this event, but broad topics ranging from subculture, forms of therapy, phenomenology and art to ecology will be discussed. Already the Dadaists were interested in the role of the unconscious and consciousness-expanding substances. In recent years, the topic of psychedelics has met with great interest in society, in the arts, and in science – we are experiencing a psychedelic renaissance (also in conventional medicine). Education and exchange about the human constitution and the effects of substances must be given space.