

SNIFFING CONVERSATIONS 2024

1 Caroline Ritter & Astou Maraszto

2 Samuel Camenzind

3 Alex Bailey

4 Eva Seiler

5 Ivana Filip & Lisa Jevbratt

6 Jessica Ullrich

SNIFFING CONVERSATIONS ist eine interdisziplinäre Dialogreihe, die nicht menschliche Tiere in den Fokus rückt und Themenfelder der Interspecies Art, der Human-Animal Studies, der Philosophie und Tierethik aufgreift. Mittels Workshops, Vorträgen und künstlerischen Projekten wird die zeitgenössische Mensch-Tier-Beziehung befragt, sowie der Austausch zwischen Kunst und Wissenschaft angeregt.

Kuratiert wird die Reihe von Lisa Jäger, Lena Lieselotte Schuster und Eva Seiler.



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Horses are a frequently used motif in art. Conversely, there are now also horses conditioned to paint with a brush in their mouths on a canvas. However, this will not be the focus of this human-animal encounter with Disco Cavallo.

Instead, the focus lies on promoting positive interactions between humans and horses: whether abstract, concrete, expressionistic, or surreal – as long as it's edible.



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Caroline Ritter is currently studying cognitive science at the University of Vienna, is an animal trainer, Feldenkrais teacher in Awareness Through Movement, and passionately shares her fascination with the topic of learning.

Astou Maraszto has been working in the animal-assisted field for over 10 years. She is currently studying educational science at the University of Vienna and focuses on learning in the context of social inequality.

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### SNIFFING CONVERSATION 1

Caroline Ritter & Astou Maraszto - Disco Cavallo

May 12, 2024, 1 PM

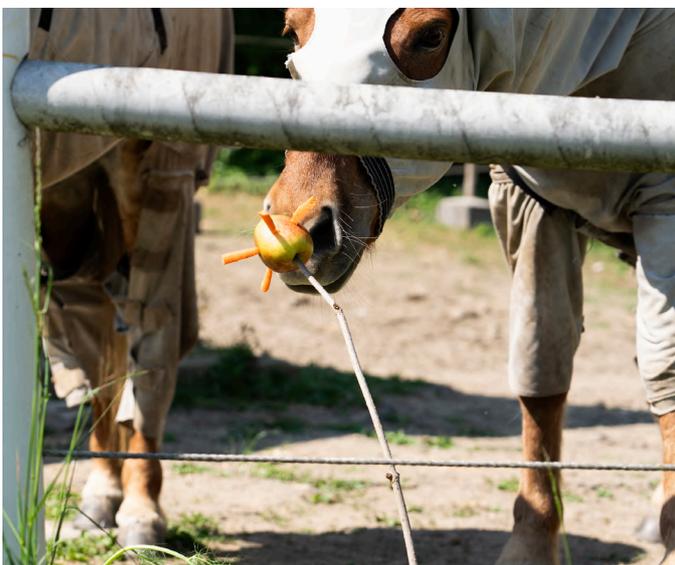
# 1

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Caroline Ritter and Astou Maraszto have created with Disco Cavallo a space for equal human-animal encounters and communication, particularly with horses. The work of Disco Cavallo represents a science-based and mindful approach to how humans and animals can learn to understand each other.

Based on insights from cognitive science, ethology, psychology, and sociology, they create a protected space for mutual learning and growth.

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## SNIFFING CONVERSATION 2

### Samuel Camenzind - Follow the White Rabbit: An Aesthetic and Ethical Investigation into the Art of Magic

Lecture, June 24, 2024, 7 PM

Location: Magic World Vienna,  
Riesenradplatz 6, 1020 Vienna

The white rabbit in the black top hat stands as an icon of magic today. With stoic patience, it appears night after night out of nowhere, leaving the audience in awe. However, magic with animals is not a modern phenomenon; early descriptions of it can be traced back to the Egyptian Westcar Papyrus tales around 1800 BC. But has anyone actually seen a live rabbit disappear on stage? Is it still acceptable to perform magic with animals today? What ethical norms apply to the treatment of animals on stage?



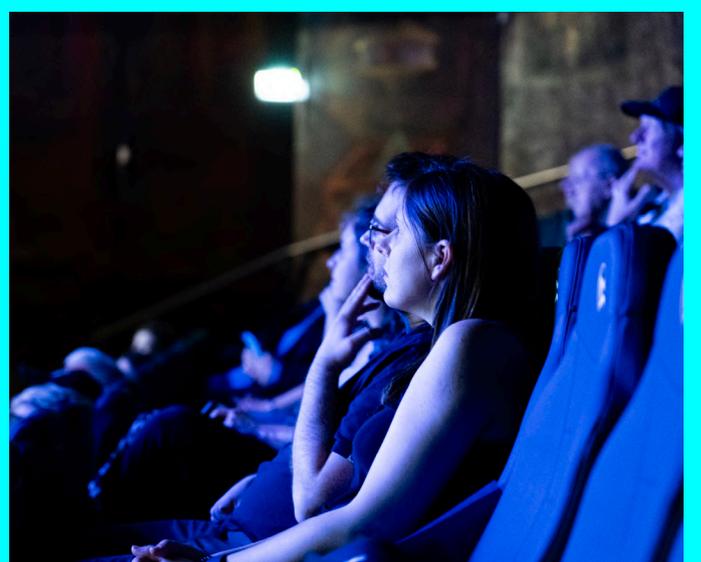
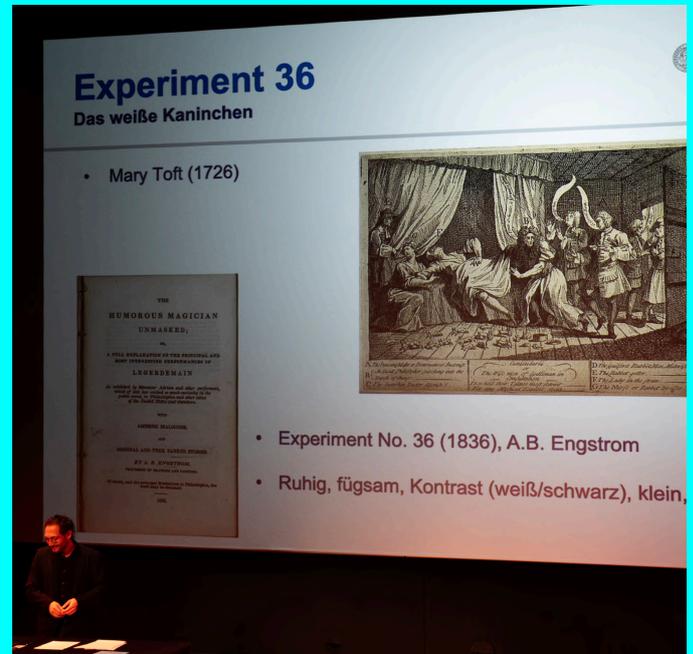
Starting from the assumption that secular magic is a contemporary form of performance art, this contribution explores the various roles of animals in magic from both ethical and aesthetic perspectives. Using exemplary, and sometimes bizarre, examples – such as a levitating cow or a mind-reading hamster – human-animal relationships are discussed within the context of the „rare arts.“ It also asks to what extent magic can benefit from engaging with the demands of a sensitive approach to animals in art.

Samuel Camenzind, PhD, is a philosopher who focuses on applied ethics, the ethics of human-animal relationships, and bioethics. He works as a postdoctoral researcher and APART-GSK Fellow (ÖAW) at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Vienna. His questionnaire, „Beastly Ethics of Aesthetics - An Analysis and Reflection Tool for the Ethical Evaluation of Animals in Art,“ should serve as the basis for any collaboration with non-human co-partners. Samuel Camenzind has been a member of the Vienna Association for Magical Arts (VMKW) since 2023.

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# 2

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Alex Bailey - Dancing with dogs

Workshop for dogs and humans,  
July 21st, 7 pm

Location: Dog Park Mexikoplatz

Please register via dm or e-mail:  
mail@interspeciesart.world

The event is for dogs and their human companions but If you would like to come without a dog then please let us know.

# 3

## Dancing with dogs

Dancing with dogs, invites people to come with their canine companions to question the roles of human and animal in order to explore the dynamics of companionship. Here, dogs become the teachers, instructing us on how to become part of the pack, form cross-species bonds, and embody more „dogness.“ Humans can bring their own dogs to explore their relationship on a connected and empathetic level. Or you can come with the dog of a friend.

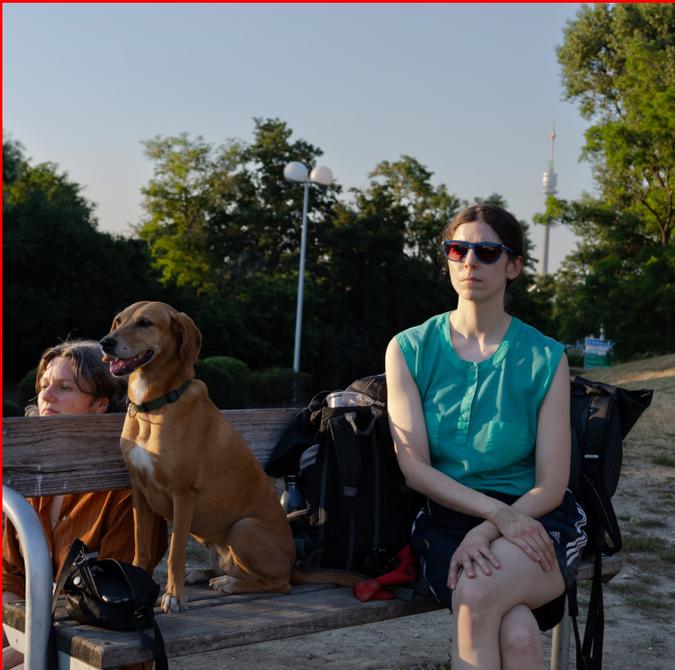
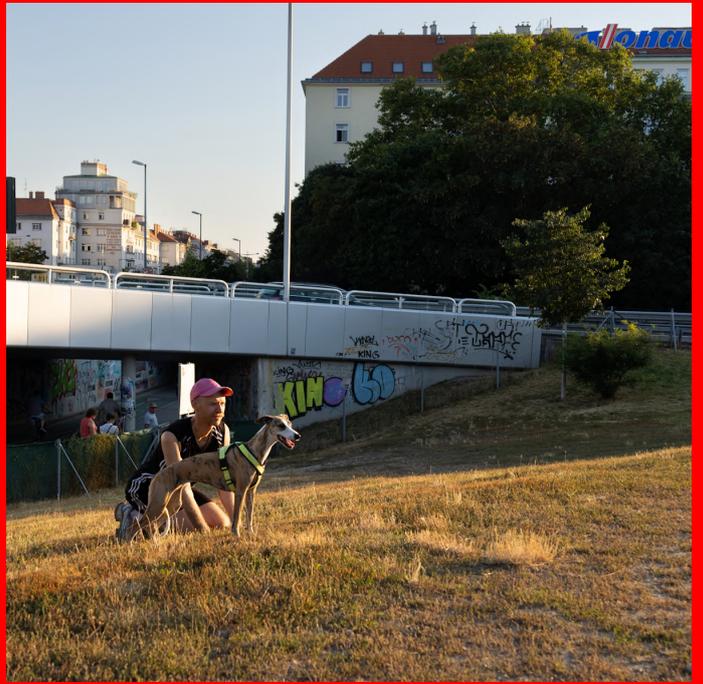
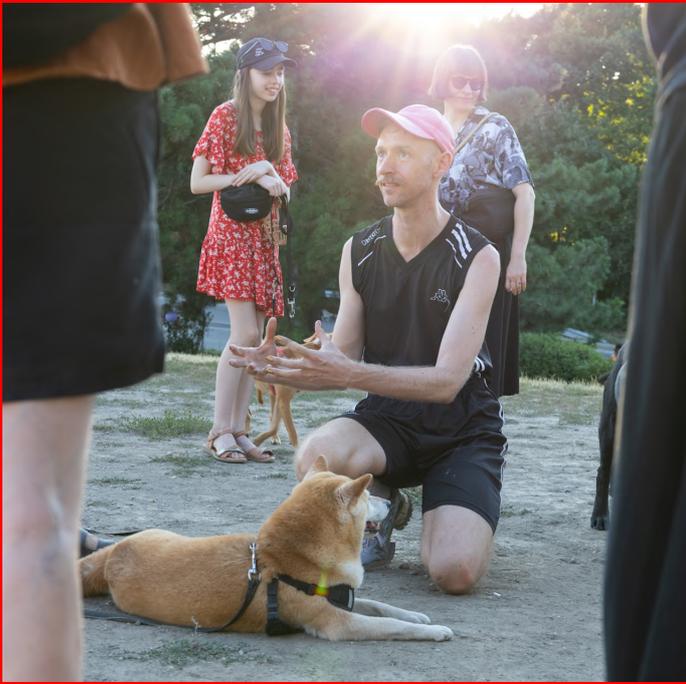
Human participants will engage in activities such as shared „being together“ and mirroring behavior to learn to be and understand the other. Human participants should be open to the idea that their dog or the dog of their friend is an equal partner in their relationship. Together friendship becomes an extended consequence and artistic material arising from bonding acts with the canine perspective.

Inspired by a dog living in Vienna called Salat.



photo credit: Marcella Ruiz Cruz

Alex Bailey is a performer and artist based in Vienna. Since 2014 they've made Performances for Pets. These experiences lead to Workshops by Pets and independently they've worked with differently abled children at various schools in Vienna. They have performed with their young child & co-parent as a non-nuclear family in Codomestication, and their work has been performed widely across Europe.



# 4



## SNIFFING CONVERSATION 4

Johannes Hohenegger, Eva Seiler - TAUBENTURM

August 18th, 11 am

Location: Studio Liebhartsgasse 22,  
Courtyard

The event will be held in German and will last approximately 1.5 hours.

The location is wheelchair accessible.

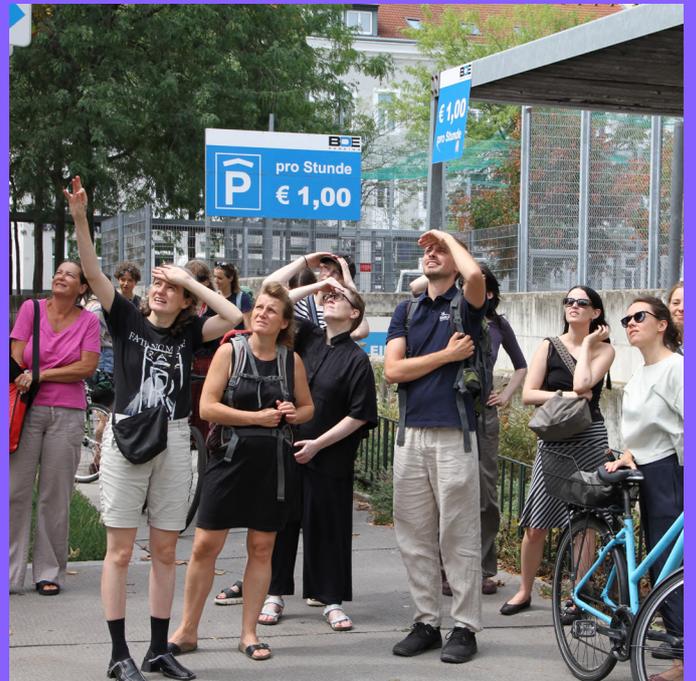
## TAUBENTURM

Ornithologist Johannes Hohenegger and artist Eva Seiler will discuss the history between humans and (urban) pigeons and develop a possible narrative about the future of shared living spaces from a contemporary perspective. The discussion will cover seemingly contradictory aspects such as resistance and adaptability, feeding and foraging, responsibility and evolution, reproduction and plaster eggs, as well as windowsills and cliff ledges. Ultimately, we face the question of whether we need to grant pigeons more shades of gray.

After presenting material sketches for a pigeon tower, we will proceed to the nearby Lerchenfelder Gürtel/ Burggasse corner to visit the resident flock of pigeons.

Eva Seiler questions anthropocentrism in her sculptures and spatial settings and imagines how the coexistence of human and non-human animals, the environment, and technology will be realized in the future. In line with hybrid relationship modalities, she uses both organic materials and industrial products. Special consideration is given to materials that facilitate interactions between human and non-human beings.

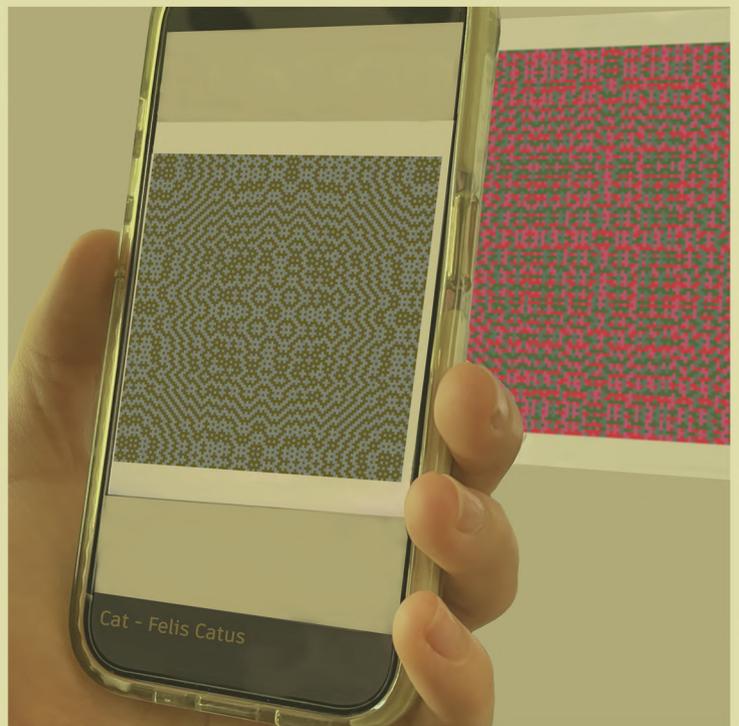
Johannes Hohenegger works as a scientific associate at BirdLife Austria. His areas of expertise include illegal persecution, „conflict“ species, and conservation law. As a freelance ornithologist specializing in bird protection, he is involved in various surveys for NGOs and technical offices and leads birdwatching excursions.



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What does Interspecies Art actually mean? And how does Interspecies Art look like in practice? Two artists of the exhibition Start Sniffing provide insights into artistic processes with non-human animals.

In addition to the Zoomorph-app for simulating animal vision, California-based artist Lisa Jevbratt also presents her oft-cited, pioneering project Interspecies Collaboration, which she launched back in 2006 at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Students were invited to collaborate with individuals of other species. In her works, which she views as collaborative systems, both she and the audience become citizen scientists and make discoveries together.



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Croatian artist, activist and researcher Ivana Filip also works in interspecies collaborations. In her project FREEROAMING the artist co-created a series of interspecies communication and utopian experiments between humans and cats, while observing a community of free-roaming cats in the Spinut neighbourhood of Split.

Both artists present their long-standing artistic practice and engage in dialogue with each other and with all those interested.

<https://ivanafilip.com>, <http://jevbratt.com>



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**Bildcredits:**

©Lisa Jevbratt, Zoomorph – Impareidolia, Animal vision simulation app, Random animations, 2013/2024

©Ivana Filip, FREEROAMING, videostill, 2020

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**SNIFFING CONVERSATION 5**

**Talk with Ivana Filip & Lisa Jevbratt**

The artist talk is part of the exhibition „Start Sniffing“ in KEX, curated by Lena Lieselotte Schuster

Thu 26.09.2024, 5 pm

Location: KEX Kunsthalle Exnergasse  
Währinger Str. 59, 1090 Wien



**Color Vision**

**Dichromats (two color receptors):**  
Most Mammals

**Trichromats (three color receptors):**  
Many Primates including Humans

**Tetrachromats (four color receptors):**  
Many Birds, Fishes, Reptiles, Crustaceans and Insects  
- Colors Not Visible for Humans

There are Birds, Fishes, Insects and Crustaceans that have more than four color receptors. The Mantis Shrimp has twelve! In addition many of them can see Ultra Violet light and some can see Light Polarization. For more information about animal vision see [zoomorph.org](http://zoomorph.org)

**Hearing**

There are interesting variations between species in terms of what pitch we can perceive.

Human	20-20,000Hz
Dog	1-4,000Hz
Cat	2-5,000Hz
Blue Whale	5-12,000Hz
Elephant	5-12,000Hz
Human (Female)	16-20,000Hz
Human (Male)	15-17,000Hz
Mouse	1,000-100,000Hz
Bat	2,000-150,000Hz
Beluga Whale	1,000-150,000Hz
Chicken	25-150,000Hz

**Beyond the Human Senses**

- Echolocation (Bats and Cetaceans)
- Electroreception (Fishes, Platypus)
- Magnetoception (Some Birds)
- Pressure Detection (Fishes)
- Current Detection (Fishes, Amphibians)
- Infrared/Heat Sensors (Snakes and Bats)

**Artistic  
INTERSPECIES COLLABORATION**

Field Guide

- Become more sensitive to other species.
- Become more respectful of other species.
- Learn about the world we share together with our non-human companions.
- Have a richer experience with wildlife.
- Deepen your connection with your pets.



## SNIFFING CONVERSATION 6

### Jessica Ullrich - Radikale Multispezies- Utopien: Künstlerische Kohabitation und Kollaboration mit anderen Tieren

Freitag, 18.10.2024, 18:30 Uhr

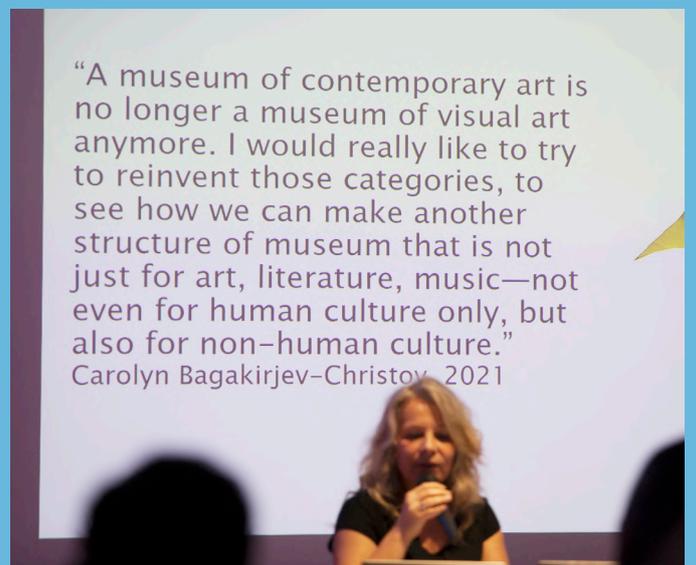
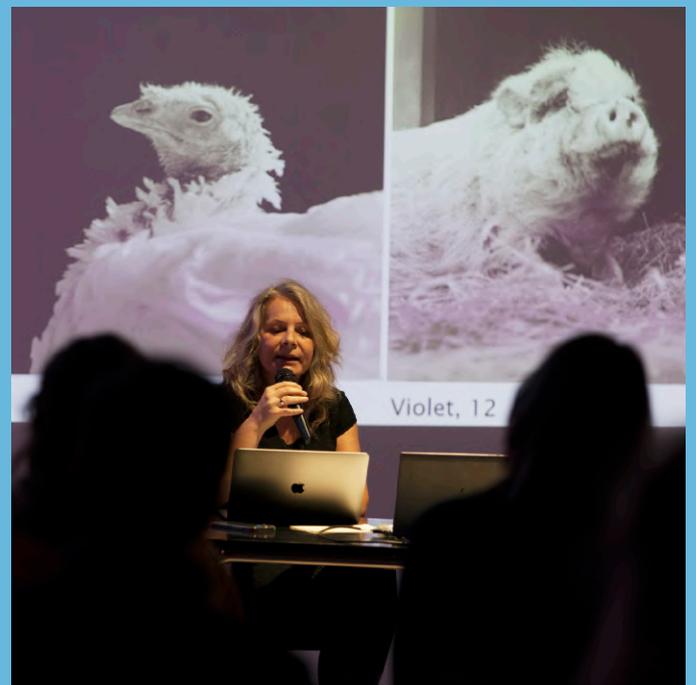
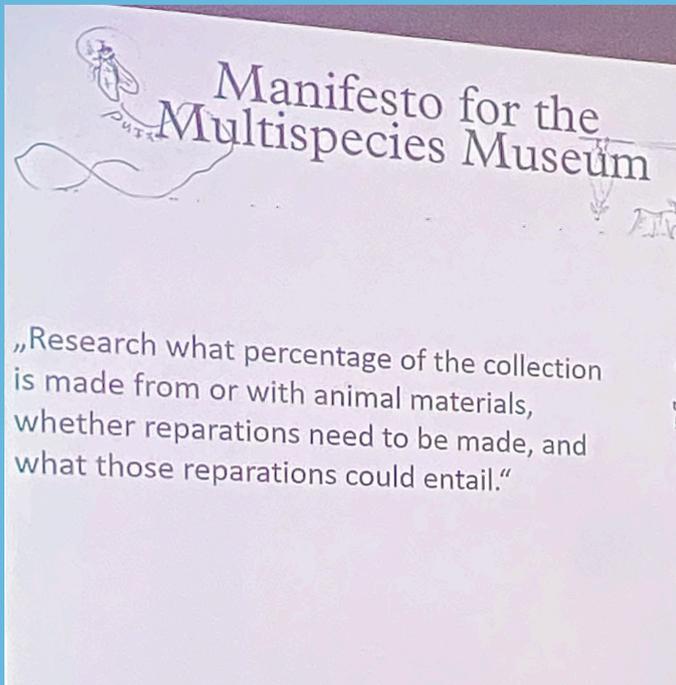
Ort: KEX Kunsthalle Exnergasse  
Währinger Str. 59, 1090 Wien



Von engagierter aktueller Kunst wird erwartet, dass sie irritiert, das Bestehende kritisiert, Normen in Frage stellt, systematische Ungerechtigkeiten anklagt und sich immer wieder neue, eigene, experimentelle Regeln gibt. Kunst ist deshalb ein ideales Spielfeld für utopische Spekulationen und Entwürfe. Sie findet immer wieder Wege, utopischer Imagination Gestalt zu verleihen und somit eine radikale Neuorganisation der Welt vorstellbar zu machen. Das kann z.B. eine postanthropozentrische, solidarische Multispezies-Gesellschaft sein, in der Tiere vollwertige Mitglieder sind und in der tierliche Individualität, tierliche Agency sowie tierliche Interessen und Bedürfnisse anerkannt werden.

Die schöpferische Gestaltungsfähigkeit der Kunst, Gedankenexperimenten eine Form zu geben, soll anhand von zwei exemplarischen Schwerpunktthemen diskutiert werden: Einerseits werden Mensch-Tier-Kohabitationsprojekte bzw. künstlerische Mikro-Sanctuaries als bereits verwirklichte Utopien vorgestellt. Andererseits eröffnen uns Ansätze einer ästhetischen Tier-Mensch-Kollaboration bzw. einer tierlichen Ästhetik mögliche Zugänge, Tiere zukünftig als kreative Akteur\_innen in ihrer weltbildenden Kraft ernst zu nehmen.

In beiden Fällen entfaltet sich das emanzipatorische Potenzial nur, wenn Tiere als gleichberechtigte Gestalter\_innen der gemeinsamen Räume und Praktiken beteiligt sind. Dann kann Kunst über ihre angestammte Rolle als Kommentatorin und Katalysatorin gesellschaftlicher Tier-Mensch-Verhältnisse hinauswachsen und zur Aktivistin und Propagandistin für bessere Zukünfte werden und weltverändernde Impulse setzen. Kunst führt dann auch vor, dass Utopien nicht unbedingt in eine ferne Zukunft oder eine entlegene Weltengegend projiziert werden müssen, sondern im Hier und Jetzt möglich sind.





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contact: [mail@interspeciesart.world](mailto:mail@interspeciesart.world)

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