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/ Symposium

Practices of Attention

**Organized by the Fundação Bienal de São Paulo in partnership with Sesc-SP for the Public Program of the 33rd Bienal de São Paulo
November 16-18, 2018**

Symposium concept: D. Graham Burnett and Stefanie Hessler

This three-day international, public symposium brings together artists, scientists, critics, writers, and scholars for a ranging, interdisciplinary inquiry into one of the major issues of our time: attention.

At the heart of the 33rd Bienal de São Paulo is a commitment to “reaffirm the power of art as a unique place to focus attention in, to, and for the world.” This distinctive vision—placing economies of attention at the center of our relationship to works of art—marks the urgency of the question of attention in our moment. Attention lies at the nexus of perception and action, aesthetics and ethics, wealth and power. Whose eyes (and minds) are where, why, and for how long? These are central questions driving the evolution of “surveillance capitalism,” not to mention social life itself. New technologies and practices are reshaping our understanding of the attentional subject—with consequences for learning, politics, and collective existence.

With an eye on these pressing issues, this public symposium of talks, workshops, and performances entitled Practices of Attention draws on recent theoretical work, historical recoveries, and experimental investigations. It brings together key thinkers of our time in a varied and engaging program to dive deeper into and investigate from different angles the modes, conditions, and challenges to attention today.

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Participants

D. Graham Burnett
Professor of History and History of Science @ Princeton University

Vivian Caccuri
Artist, São Paulo

Joshua Cohen
Writer, New York

Luiza Crosman
Artist, São Paulo

Hent de Vries
*Professor of German, Religious Studies, Comparative Literature, and Affiliated Professor of Philosophy
@ New York University*

Jeff Dolven
Poet and Professor of English @ Princeton University

Esthetical Society for Transcendental and Applied Realization (now incorporating the Society for Esthetic Realizers) / ESTAR(SER)
international research collective

Joanna Fiduccia
Professor of Art History @ Reed College, Portland

Maria Cristina Franco Ferraz
Professor of Technologies of Communication and Aesthetics @ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

Ivone Gebara
Catholic Nun, Ecofeminist, São Paulo

Yael Geller
Writer, Tel Aviv

Tamar Guimarães
Artist, São Paulo

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Catherine Hansen
Professor of Comparative Literature @ University of Tokyo

Tamara Henderson
Artist, Vancouver

Stefanie Hessler
Curator and Writer, London/Athens

Sabine Kastner
Professor of Neuroscience @ Princeton University, New York

Virginia Kastrup
Professor of Psychology @ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

Kasia Katarzyna
Professor of Philosophy @ Fine Arts Academy, Warsaw

Kapwani Kiwanga
Artist, Paris

Isabel Lewis
Artist, Berlin

Marcos Lutyens
Artist, Vilnius

Raimundas Malašauskas
Artist and Curator, Brussels

Bruno Moreschi
Artist, São Paulo

Yasemin Nur Toksoy
Artist, Istanbul

Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro
Curator 33rd Bienal de São Paulo

Sal Randolph
Artist, New York

Thiago Rocha Pitta
Artist, São Paulo

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Rafael Sánchez Mateos Paniagua
Artist, Madrid

Aki Sasamoto
Artist, New York

Helen Singh-Miller
*Feldenkrais certified practitioner and Film Study Center Fellow
@ Harvard University, Cambridge*

Justin E. H. Smith
*Professor of History and Philosophy of Science
@ University of Paris 7*

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/ day 1 (november 16th)

9 am	Coffee Break;	
09:30 am	Opening remarks;	Fundação Bienal de São Paulo + SESC-SP
09:45 am	Curatorial focus on art as a unique place to focus attention in, to, and for the world;	Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro (São Paulo) D. Graham Burnett (New York) Stefanie Hessler (Athens)
10:15 am	Performative talk on Surrealist practices of attention, Leonardo's wall and the collective aspect in such practices	Joanna Fiduccia (Oregon) Catherine Hansen (Tokyo)
11 am	Performative talk using visual materials of superimposed parts of text drawing from methods he uses during his writing process, also focused on the subject of attention;	Joshua Cohen
12:00 am	Keynote: Attention in aesthetic experience. Cognition, art and the production of subjectivity in the works of James, Bergson and Freud as well as Varela, Depraz and Vermersch;	Virginia Kastrup (Rio de Janeiro)
1 pm	Lunch break	
2 pm	Conversation: On the neural basis of visual perception, attention and from philosophy of mind to cognitive neuroscience;	Sabine Kastner (New York)
03:15 pm	Talk: On attention in artistic research, pedagogy and the history of science;	D. Graham Burnett (New York)
03:45 pm	Attention as curatorial tool and exhibition modes;	Stefanie Hessler (Athens)
04:15 pm	Keynote: From deep study to digital hyper-connectivity. Perception, the ecology of attention and affect;	Maria Cristina Franco Ferraz (Rio de Janeiro)
5 pm	Break	
8 pm	ESTAR(SER) action at the Bienal	ESTAR(SER)

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/ day 2 (november 17th)

9 am	Coffee break;	
09:30 am	Feldenkrais participative session by the certified practitioner and Film Study Center Fellow at Harvard University, focusing on the relationship of visual representation and embodied experience;	Helen Singh-Miller
11 am	Keynote: <i>Attentiveness as the Natural Prayer of the Soul: From Nicolas Malebranche and Walter Benjamin to the Present;</i>	Hent de Vries
12 am	Untitled;	Rafael Sánchez-Mateo Paniagua (Madrid)
12:45 pm	Screening;	Tacita Dean (Berlin)
1 pm	Lunch break;	
2:30 pm	Screening and conversation: Presentation of the new film made for the Bienal and conversation on attention in artistic and curatorial practice with a focus on the spiritual and ecology	Tamar Guimarães (Copenhagen) Stefanie Hessler (Atenas)
3:30 pm	Screening;	Thiago Rocha Pitta (São Paulo)
4 pm	Keynote: <i>Western thought, patriarchal Christianity and environmental destruction from the perspective and attention of ecofeminism;</i>	Ivone Gebara (São Paulo)
6 pm	Untitled;	Kasia Katarzyna (Varsóvia)
7 pm	Panel discussion with selected participants from the day	
7:45 pm	Ação ESTAR(SER);	ESTAR(SER)
10 pm	Evening performance by artist and DJ Isabel Lewis, her "Occasions" are evenings where she entertains guests and directs attention to all their senses, using music, food, smells and designs.	Isabel Lewis

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/ day 3 (november 18th)

9 am	Coffee Break;	
9:30 am	Performance: "The Hypnotic Show," participatory lecture on attention;	Raimundas Malašauskas (Brussels) Marcos Lutyens (Vilnius)
11 am	Talk on the perception and attention of non-humans from a Kantian perspective, inspired by Jakob von Uexküll's concept of Umwelt;	Justin Smith
12 am	Screening: "What's Up Doc";	Tamara Henderson
12:45 pm	Performative talk with sound elements: on bees, other animals, perception, sensory experience;	Vivian Caccuri (Rio de Janeiro)
1 pm	Lunch break	
2:30 pm	Artist conversation: On institutional dynamics, physical and virtual spaces and procedures, modes of circulation with regard to attention;	Luiza Crosman (Rio de Janeiro) Bruno Moreschi (São Paulo)
3:30 pm	Performance;	Kapwani Kiwanga (Paris)
4 pm	Walking workshop / attentional exercise	Sal Randolph
5:15 pm	Música e feedback, multiplicidade de vozes, atenção paralela;	Jeff Dolven
6 pm	Screening;	Aki Sasamoto (Japão)
6:15 pm	Untitled;	Yael Geller
7 pm	Panel discussion with selected participants from the day	
7:45 pm	Symposium closes.	Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro (São Paulo) D. Graham Burnett (Nova York) Stefanie Hessler (Atenas)

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Concept

D. Graham Burnett is based in New York City. He works at the intersection of historical inquiry and artistic practice, and focuses on experimental/experiential approaches to textual material, pedagogical modes, and hermeneutic activities traditionally associated with the research humanities. He trained in the History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge University, and was one of the founders of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities (IHUM) at Princeton University, where he is a professor. He directs the Institute for Sustained Attention (a non-profit organization that supports research and creative investigation of attentional economies) and serves as an editor at *Cabinet* (the Brooklyn/Berlin-based magazine of art and culture). He is the author of a numerous books and articles, including, most recently, the coedited volume *KEYWORDS; For Further Consideration...&c.* (Princeton University Press, 2018). His collaborative project, *Schema for a School* (with Asad Raza and Jeff Dolven), was part of the Ljubljana Biennial in 2015, and will premier in the United States in 2018 as part of *Prelude to The Shed*, curated by Tino Sehgal.

Stefanie Hessler is a curator and writer from Germany, currently based in London and Stockholm. She co-founded the art space *Andquestionmark* in Stockholm together with Carsten Höller. Recent curated exhibitions include “Tidialectics” at TBA21–Augarten, Vienna (2017); “Sugar and Speed” at the Museum of Modern Art, Recife (2017); “Winter Event – antifreeze” at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago de Chile and at *Flora ars+natura*, Bogotá (2015/16); the 8th *Momentum Nordic Biennial*, Moss (2015); “Outside” at *Index* with a film screening at Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2014); “Klara Lidén: The Myth of Progress (Moonwalk)” at *Lugar a Dudas*, Cali (2014); and the festival and symposium “Performing Recalcitrance” at the Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm (2012). Hessler regularly writes for publications like *ArtReview* and *Mousse* magazine. She edited the anthologies *Life Itself*, published by Moderna Museet and Walther König, and *Tidialectics: Imagining an Oceanic Worldview through Art and Science*, published by The MIT Press.

Venue: The Practical Symposium of attention will be held in a unit of the SESC to be defined (on November 16) and in the auditorium of the Biennial Foundation (days 17 and 18/11).

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