

## **ECAV Masters Symposium**

### **Along Ecological Lines**

#### **Day Symposium on Contemporary Art and Climate Change**

Date: March 26th 2018

Time: 10am to 5pm

Venue: Salle De Conference, Batiment D'Art Contemporain  
Rue des Vieux-Grenadiers 10, 1205 Genève

To register, please email Christopher Füllemann at  
christopher.fullemann@ecav.ch

Initiated by researchers at the Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais, '*Along Ecological Lines*' is a body of research into the question of how specific contemporary art practices engage with the topic of climate change. It sets out from the belief that the activities of artists can play a role in challenging political and social intransigence in relation to the urgent issue of global emissions reduction and that this contribution compliments and extends the scientific work in the field. As part of this broader body of research, this one-day symposium brings together environmentally engaged artists, curators and specialists (from the humanities, social and environmental sciences.) from around Europe to present and discuss their work.

Against the critical backdrop of a growing global climate movement, the speakers will introduce Masters students to their practices, detailing specific projects and productions from recent years. In discussion with invited specialists participants will reflect upon the diversity and transdisciplinarity of these ways of working, address the ethics, relevance and agency of such practices and imagine their trajectories in the years to come.

Invited participants:

Presentations by:

Fernando García-Dory - artist (ES)

Maja and Reuben Fowkes – curators and art historians (HU)

Sacha Kagan – social theorist (DE) Uni. Lüneburg

Screening: Ursula Biemann – artist (CH)

Discussion partners and moderators:

Marie Velardi – artist (CH) ECAV

Eric Maeder - philosopher and ethicist (CH) ECAV – MAPS

Luzia Hürzeler – artist (CH) ECAV Research

David Bresch – climate scientist (CH) ETH

Symposium Chair:

Barnaby Drabble (initiator and lead researcher) – curator & writer (UK/CH)

## ECAV – MAPS

### Program:

- 10.00 Welcome: Petra Köhle  
(Head of Master of Art in Public Spheres, MAPS, ECAV)
- 10.15 Introduction to the day: Barnaby Drabble
- 10.30 Talk: Maja and Reuben Fowkes  
Art and Ecology in Times of Deviant Democracy.
- 11.15 Break
- 11.45 Work Presentation: Fernando García-Dory
- 12.30 Panel Discussion with Maja and Reuben Fowkes & Fernando García-Dory,  
joined by Luzia Hürzeler and moderated by Eric Maeder.
- 1.15 Lunch
- 2.30 Screening: Ursula Biemann  
Subatlantic
- 3.00 Talk: Sacha Kagan  
Artful Sustainability: The Artistic Turn in Sustainability Research.
- 3.45 Break
- 4.15 Panel Discussion with Sacha Kagan joined by Marie Velardi and  
moderated by David Bresch.
- 5.00 End

### Participants:

*Ursula Biemann* is an artist, author, and video essayist based in Zurich, Switzerland. Her artistic practice is strongly research oriented and involves fieldwork in remote locations where she investigates climate change and the ecologies of oil and water, as in the recent projects *Deep Weather* (2013) *Forest Law* (2014) and *Subatlantic* (2015). Her video installations are exhibited worldwide in museums and at international art biennials in Liverpool, Sharjah, Shanghai, Sevilla, Istanbul, Montreal, Venice and Sao Paulo. She had comprehensive solo exhibitions at Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Lentos Museum Linz and Helmhaus Zurich. Biemann is part of the collaborative World of Matter project ([worldofmatter.net](http://worldofmatter.net)) and received the 2009 Prix Meret Oppenheim, the national art award of Switzerland. ([geobodies.org](http://geobodies.org))

*David Bresch* is a specialist on uncertainty and risk in climate change and the economics of climate adaptation. He holds a Masters in physics from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETH), and was awarded his PhD by the Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science at ETH in 1998, spending a year at MIT in Cambridge, USA, as research associate in science and policy of climate change. Since September 2016, he holds the position of Professor for Weather

and Climate Risk, at the Department of Environmental Systems Science of the ETH Zurich. His work there focuses on the interface between weather, climate and society.

*Barnaby Drabble* is a writer and researcher with a background in curating contemporary art. He lectures on the MAPS program at the *Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais*, where he also conducts research into environmentally engaged art practices, artistic research and exhibition histories. He holds a PhD in visual culture, has curated numerous independent and institutional projects and has published three books on exhibition practice and curating. His current research project *Along Ecological Lines*, relates both to his activities in Catalonia, where he has been living in an intentional community aimed at developing environmental consciousness, and to his long-term focus on social and political relevance of artistic practices.

*Maja and Reuben Fowkes* are art historians, curators and co-directors of the Translocal Institute for Contemporary Art, an independent research centre focusing on the art history of Central Europe and contemporary ecological practices. Their curatorial projects include the Anthropocene Experimental Reading Room, the Danube River School, the conference on Vegetal Mediations, as well as the exhibition *Walking without Footprints*. Recent and forthcoming publications include Maja Fowkes's *The Green Bloc: Neo-Avant-Garde and Ecology under Socialism*, a book on Central and Eastern European Art Since 1950, as well as numerous chapters and journal articles on topics such as performative re-enactments, de-schooling the art curriculum and the ecological entanglements of deviant democracy. Reuben Fowkes is an editor of *Third Text* and they are regular contributors to magazines and artist publications. They have given numerous guest lectures and conference papers and are founding members of the Environmental Arts and Humanities Initiative at Central European University. ([www.translocal.org](http://www.translocal.org))

*Fernando Garcia-Dory* is an artist who grew up between Madrid and a remote rural location in northern Spain. For almost 20 years, he is engaging specifically with the relationship between culture and nature now, as manifested in multiple contexts, from landscape and the rural, to desires and expectations concerned with identity, through to (global) crisis, utopia and the potential for social change. After studying Fine Arts in Madrid and Amsterdam, he continued with Rural Sociology, and is now preparing his PhD on Art & Agroecology. Interested in the harmonic complexity of biological forms and processes, his work addresses connections and cooperation, from microorganisms to social systems, and from traditional art languages such as drawing to collaborative agroecological projects, actions, and cooperatives. (<http://inland.org>)

*Luzia Hürzeler* is an artist and Artistic Researcher. Her work centres on the relationship between an idea and its physical realisation. Her recent works, research projects and her doctoral thesis deal with ideas about human-animal relationships. In her current research project at the *Ecole cantonale d'art du Valais*, 'Who has seen the wolf?' she is making an inventory (genesis) and an analysis (deconstruction) of the different types of representation which act as a

substitute for an immediate experience of the wolf. By exploring what images contribute to producing a sufficiently precise and apparently faithful image she considers how overcome our lack of direct contact and what happens in the process. (<http://luziahurzeler.ch>)

*Sacha Kagan* has been researching at the intersection of the arts, culture(s) and sustainability for more than a decade. He was a research associate at the Institute of Sociology and Cultural Organization (ISCO), Leuphana University Lüneburg (Germany) from 2005 to 2018; Principal Investigator at the research project “The City as Space of Possibility” (2015-2018); Chair of the Research Network “Sociology of the Arts” at the European Sociological Association from 2015 to 2017. He is the author of 53 publications, including the book *Art and Sustainability: connecting patterns for a culture of complexity* (2011).

*Eric Maeder* holds a Master degree in philosophy and history from Geneva University, is a lecturer at Ecole cantonale d’art du Valais, Haute école de gestion de Genève and Fribourg, and is an independent consultant. Eric is an ethicist. He specializes in ethics of art practices, environmental ethics, business ethics, and sustainable management. In his recent research project *L’art dans la nature. Nature dans l’art. Conceptions, expériences et pratiques in situ*, for the institute of Tourism HES-SO Valais, he has been examining philosophical and ethical representations of nature in artistic practices dealing with the public sphere. As an independent consultant, he helps organizations address a variety of ethical challenges in work relationships and stakeholder dialogue. He is also a member of several ethical committees.

*Marie Velardi* is an artist and artistic researcher whose work takes multiple forms – installations, videos, drawings, texts, printed images, sound – in which there is always a common element: the link to time, and in particular to the future. Her primary aim is to construct a memory of the future – a long-term perspective – which she understands as of equal importance to a memory of the past. Since 2017 she has been a teacher on the Bachelor’s program at the Ecole Cantonale d’Art du Valais, where she is currently co-director of the print studios, dealing with Multiples and Editions. (<http://marie.velardi.ch>)