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Ministry of Culture, Fundação Bienal, Itaú and Sesc SP present

## The Fundação Bienal de São Paulo is holding the international symposium *Practices of Attention*

*With a program conceived by historian D. Graham Burnett (USA) and by curator and writer Stefanie Hessler (United Kingdom/Greece), the interdisciplinary event will bring together artists and researchers at Sesc Vila Mariana (November 16) and the Bienal Pavilion (November 16, 17 and 18) for public talks, lectures and workshops, along with the presentation of performances and film screenings based on recent theoretical works, historical recoveries and experimental investigations. Free admission*

On November 16, 17 at 18, the Fundação Bienal de São Paulo is holding, in partnership with Sesc SP, the international symposium *Practices of Attention*, bringing together artists, scientists, critics, authors and academicians to discuss an important contemporary question: attention. The event includes participants from 13 countries: Brazil, Canada, Spain, USA, France, Greece, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, United Kingdom, Dominican Republic and Turkey.

Anchored in the proposal of the 33rd Bienal *Affective Affinities*, with the premise “to reaffirm the power of art as a unique place for concentrating attention on the world and in favor of the world,” as explained by its chief curator Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro, the symposium’s program was conceived by history professor D. Graham Burnett and curator and writer Stefanie Hessler, based on wide-ranging interdisciplinary research on this theme.

The symposium seeks to put the economies of attention at the center of our relationship with artworks, considering the urgency of the question of our attention nowadays, when it is constantly bombarded with all sorts of information and messages.

The event will open on **Nov. 16** in the auditorium of **Sesc Vila Mariana**, with an introduction by **Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro**, **D. Graham Burnett** and **Stefanie Hessler**. At the same place, lectures will be given by **Katarzyna Kasia** (Warsaw), **Virginia Kastrup** (Rio de Janeiro) and **Maria Cristina Franco Ferraz** (Rio de Janeiro), and Hessler will also conduct the performative talk *Attention As a Curatorial Tool and the Politics of Attention*.

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**Tamar Guimarães**, a Brazilian artist living in Copenhagen, will present the performance *The Rehearsal*, based on Machado de Assis's critical reading of Brazilian society. Artist **Aki Sasamoto** (Japan/USA) will present the film *Delicate Cycle*, a record of the performance/installation with the same title, involving modified clothes washing machines, a giant ball of sheets, shoeboxes containing light sculptures, video works connected to closed-circuit TV systems, and mobile wooden compartments with magnetized walls. The work proposes a reflection on routine tasks and objects of everyday use that mark our days.

At the end of the afternoon, the activities will move to the **Bienal Pavilion**, where the workshop *All the All Senses on the Qui Vive*, will be held, by the **ESTAR (SER) society** – The Esthetical Society for Transcendental and Applied Realization.

On the 17th and 18th, the symposium will be held at Fundação Bienal, with workshops, lectures, talks with artists, film screenings and continuous video installations, performative talks and performances.

On Saturday, **Nov. 17**, **Helen Singh-Miller** (USA) will hold the workshop of movement based on the Feldenkrais Method, *A Memory, That Can Always Be Fished Out*, and will then present the video installation *Grand Union*. **Raimunda Malasauskas** (Lithuania) and **Marcos Lutyens** (United Kingdom/USA) will present the installation *The Hypnotic Show*. **Kapwani Kiwanga** (Canada) will present the lecture-performance *Deep Space Scrolls*.

**Yasemin Nur** (Turkey) will bring to the Pavilion *Kat'i: Craft of Cutting Paper in the Ottoman Period*, where the public will be invited to experiment with the art of cutting paper that had its hey-day in the 15th century, a procedure that requires time, rhythm and attention. **Yael Geller** (Israel) will present the lecture *Obsession As an Attention Phenomenon*. **Catherine Hensen** (Japan) and **Joana Fiduccia** (USA) will hold the performative conversation *Two Varieties of Surrealist Attention. A Collaborative Talk*. **D. Graham Burnett** and ecofeminist nun **Ivone Gebara** (Brazil) will also give lectures on the same day, and **Thiago Rocha Pitta** (Brazil) and **Rafael Sánchez-Mateos Paniagua**, from the **Autoescola Insular de Atenta** (Spain) will participate in talks with the public.

Also on Nov. 17, at 8 p.m., **Isabel Lewis** (Dominican Republic) will present the performance *Occasions*, where, in an environment decorated for a celebratory meeting of people, things, plants, dances and smells, the visitors can enter, leave or revisit at the time of their choosing. The artist develops a specific dramaturgy in tune with her guests, using choreography, music, discourses and storytelling to foster conversation, contemplation, dance and listening.

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On **Nov. 18**, **Jeff Doven** (USA) will talk about our intuitive notion that it is only possible to pay attention to one thing at a time, in the lecture *All at Once Now*. **Helen Singh-Miller** (USA) and **Sal Randolph** (USA) will present performances, and **Vivian Caccuri** (Brazil) will present a performative lecture. Films by **Tamara Henderson** (Canada) and **Luiza Crosman** (Brazil) will be screened, and there will be an open talk with artist **Bruno Moreschi** (Brazil). For the closing, Pérez-Barreiro, Burnett and Hessler will make final comments.

For more information and to sign up, go to <http://33.bienal.org.br/pt/agenda-detalhe/5662>

## About the 33rd Bienal

From September 7 through December 9, 2018, the 33rd Bienal de São Paulo – **Affective Affinities** privileges the individual experience of the spectator in the appreciation of the artworks, rather than a theme that favors a preestablished understanding. The title chosen by curator Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro – appointed by the Fundação Bienal de São Paulo to conceive the show – refers to both the novel by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe *Elective Affinities* (1809) and the thesis “On the Affective Nature of Form in the Work of Art” (1949), by Mário Pedrosa.

For this edition of the event, alongside twelve individual projects chosen by Pérez-Barreiro, seven chosen artist-curators are organizing group shows with total freedom in the choice of the artists and selection of the artworks – the only requirement being that their shows include artworks by themselves. More information about the curatorial proposal is available at <https://bit.ly/2LyOO9O>.

## EVENT DETAILS

### Participants:

**Dr. Graham Burnett**, professor of history and history of science at Princeton University (USA); **Stefanie Hessler**, curator and writer (UK/GRE); **Aki Sasamoto**, artist (JAP/USA); **Bruno Moreschi**, artist (BRA); **Catherine Hansen**, professor of comparative literature at the University of Tokyo (JAP); **ESTAR(SER)** – The Esthetical Society for Transcendental and Applied Realization, an international research collective; **Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro**, curator (ESP/EUA); **Helen Singh-Miller**, certified practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method and fellow of the Film Study Center of Harvard University (USA); **Isabel Lewis**, artist (DOM); **Ivone Gebara**, ecofeminist Catholic nun (BRA); **Jeff Dolven**, poet and professor of English at Princeton University (USA); **Joanna Fiduccia**, professor of art history at Reed College (USA); **Kapwani Kiwanga**, artist (CAN); **Katarzyna Kasia**, professor of philosophy at the Academy of Fine Arts of Warsaw (POL); **Luiza Crosman**, artist (BRA); **Marcos Lutyens**, artist (UK/EUA); **Maria Cristina Franco Ferraz**, professor of communication technology and aesthetics at UFRJ (BRA); **Rafael Sánchez-Mateos Paniagua**, artist (ESP); **Raimundas Malašauskas**, artist

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and curator (LIT); **Sal Randolph**, artist (USA); **Tamar Guimarães**, artist (BRA); **Tamara Henderson**, artist (CAN); **Thiago Rocha Pitta**, artist (BRA); **Virginia Kastrup**, professor of psychology at UFRJ (BRA); **Vivian Caccuri**, artist (BRA); **Yael Geller**, writer (ISR); **Yasemin Nur**, artist (TUR).

## **Nov. 16**

Time: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Place: SESC Vila Mariana

R. Pelotas, 141 - Vila Mariana

Workshop: All Senses on the Qui Vive - ESTAR(SER)

Time: 5:30 p.m. Pavilhão da Bienal – Ibirapuera Park, Portão 3, Pavilhão Ciccillo Matarazzo

## **Nov. 17**

Time: 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Place: Auditorium of the Fundação Bienal de São Paulo (former MAC)

Ibirapuera Park, Portão 3, Pavilhão Ciccillo Matarazzo – 3rd floor

## **Nov. 18**

Time: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: Auditorium of the Fundação Bienal de São Paulo (former MAC)

Ibirapuera Park, Portão 3, Pavilhão Ciccillo Matarazzo – 3rd floor

## **Press inquiries**

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