

About The Current

TBA21–Academy's *The Current* is concerned with the state of the ocean and the discourse around it and seeks to provide a platform for the cultivation of interdisciplinary thought, the exchange of ideas and new knowledge production. Organised in three-year cycles, the programme centres around annual expeditions at sea and land-based Convenings linked to the exploratory theme of each ocean encounter. Each cycle of *The Current* is led by one or more Expedition Leaders selected by the Academy, who in turn nominate Fellows—artists, curators, scientists, and other cultural actors—to join a collective research project unfolding over the three years. The Spanish curator Chus Martínez and Danish artist collective SUPERFLEX have been appointed by TBA21–Academy as Expedition Leaders of the second three-year cycle of *The Current*. Their projects will run in parallel from 2018 to 2020.

About TBA21–Academy

TBA21–Academy leads artists, scientists, and thought-leaders on expeditions of collaborative discovery. Founded by Francesca von Habsburg and led by Director Markus Reymann, the Academy is dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of the ocean through the lens of art and to engendering creative solutions to its most pressing issues. TBA21–Academy commissions interdisciplinary research that catalyses engagement, stimulates new knowledge, and inspires artistic production. Established in 2011, the nonprofit's programme is informed by a belief in the power of exchange between disciplines and in the ability of the arts as a vessel for communication, change, and action.

Participants of the Summer School #1 at the Chiesa di San Lorenzo from the 24 to the 27 September – are:

Nora Berman, Anastasia Chaguidouline, Anna Diehl, Michael Etzensperger,
Martina Henzi, Christopher Hunter, Nikhil Jain, Danielle Kuchler, Till Langschied, Kaspar Ludwig,
Simone Steinegger, Jan van Oordt (Art Institute, FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel),
Raffaella Naldi Rossano, Luca di Bernardo (The Fondazione Morra), Claudia Cisneros,
Berenice Olmedo (Fundación Alumnos 47).

The Summer School is mentored by Ingo Niermann, Mathilde Rosier and Georgia Sagri,
with the special participation of Dayne Buddo and Joan Jonas.

Free admission with online registration
tba21-academy.eventbrite.com

The Current II
Chus Martínez, Convening #1: *The Waves of the Oh!s and the Ah!s*
28–29 September 2018
Chiesa di San Lorenzo, Campo San Lorenzo, 30122 Venezia
academy.tba21.org

Expedition Leader CHUS MARTÍNEZ Architect ANDRÉS JAQUE / OFFICE FOR POLITICAL INNOVATION
Graphic design ANA DOMÍNGUEZ STUDIO (ANA DOMÍNGUEZ, JUDIT MUSACHS, NATÁLIA PÀMIES) Audiovisual PHOENIX AUDIO
Project manager MARÍA MONTERO SIERRA Project assistant BEATRICE FORCHINI (TBA21–Academy)
Local coordinator M+B (TROELS BRUUN, LUCA DELISE, FRANCESCA VASON) Media relations CASADOROFUNGHER, RESNICOW and ASSOCIATES

Commissioned and produced by TBA21–Academy
with the support of Art Institute, FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel

Event by 

Supported by



n|w

Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz
Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst

Waves

of

Fri. 28–Sat. 29
September 2018

the

Oh!s

The Current II
Convening #1 led by
Chus Martínez

and

the

Ah!s

Chiesa di San Lorenzo,
30122 Venezia

The Waves of the Oh!s and the Ah!s

TBA21–Academy presents two-days of performances and lectures curated by Chus Martínez, Expedition Leader of the second cycle of *The Current*; the first of three annual Convenings exploring the theme *Spheric Ocean*.

Think about the Ocean as you think about a relationship. We know that humans are bad at being faithful, infidelity has a tenacity that faithfulness can only envy. If you ask about Nature or the Ocean, everyone would be ready to declare their love, or our dependency, and yet we cheat on the seas, on water, on resources, on the images, on life. Ocean Adultery has many forms, and historically it has been – as Anthony Burgess describes it – “the most creative of sins.” We deplore the many times and many ways we were unfaithful to the Ocean, and yet prohibition only fuels the eagerness with which we consume our forbidden apples – or better said, our forbidden waters, fish, corals, sea beds, and human lives... We need to face this: If we keep failing to meet our own standards, the solution is simply to try harder. This exercise cannot happen without thinking through a question: Who is the injured party? One would say the Ocean, but would that be to demonize our actions without pausing to explore our motives? Without learning how to weather its occurrence?

Inspired by the history of fear, power abuse and its relation to the elements rather than only to the humans, and drawing on the thinking of many poets, writers, and philosophers about the importance of the complaint to raise awareness, the first day of our convening will be structured as a lament: a collective performance where activists and artists give body, form, and voice to what we lament. Lamenting the Ocean, but also current forms of inequality, considering how gender and racial inequality are in complete entanglement here.

On the second day, the lamenting voice will raise an Awe. Admiration, reverence, a series of acts, performances, and lectures on the issues we admire, on all in life that bring us to this strange space of generosity, since to admire means to go out of oneself.

Chus Martínez

Programme

Friday 28 September

Day One – *The Night of the Oh!s*

19:00 MARKUS REYMANN & FRANCESCA VON HABSBURG

Welcome

FRANCESCA VON HABSBURG is the Founder and Executive Producer of Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21). Driven by the belief in the power of art to serve as an agent of change, Francesca has become increasingly engaged in environmental issues, with a particular emphasis on the oceans.

MARKUS REYMANN is Director and Co-Founder of TBA21–Academy. As a central programming unit of TBA21, TBA21–Academy’s mission is to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and exchange surrounding the most urgent ecological, social and economic issues facing our oceans today.

19:20 CHUS MARTÍNEZ

The Ohhhs! The Ways to Complain, Part I A manifesto

CHUS MARTÍNEZ is a writer and curator head of the Institut Kunst in Basel. She is currently also an Expedition Leader of the second cycle of TBA21–Academy fellowship *The Current*.

20:00 MARAH HARDT

Sex and the Seas or How We Are Not Able to Mate With the Sea, a Pity Lecture

MARAH HARDT is a scientist and storyteller, who works at the crossroads of research, creative communication, and strategy to build a sustainable future for people and the sea. Her last book is *Sex and the Sea* (2017).

21:30 GEORGIA SAGRI

The Creation of the Wave, Part I Performance (approx. 30 minutes)

GEORGIA SAGRI is an artist who has been focusing on performances and installation work dealing with empathy, mimicry and the potentiality of transformation, both in the social and the biological sense.

Saturday 29 September

Day Two – *The Day of the Ah!s*

11:00 CHUS MARTÍNEZ

The Ways to Awe!, Part II A manifesto

11:30 MATHILDE ROSIER

Sensing the Seas Performance and screening

MATHILDE ROSIER is an artist whose work deals with how modification in life can be achieved. Working in painting, performance and film, she is interested in ways of trespassing, of life interpenetrating matter and vice-versa.

12:00 DIVA AMON

Merging With The Depths! Lecture

DIVA AMON, a marine biologist and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow at the Natural History Museum, London, UK, is interested in the weird and wonderful animals living in a range of deep-sea habitats and how our actions are impacting them.

12:30 INGO NIERMANN, CHUS MARTÍNEZ, JULIETA ARANDA

Three Proposals of Understanding All We Need to Change in Us to Become the Sea Lecture

INGO NIERMANN is a writer and the editor of the speculative book series *Solution*. He is currently writing a *Solution Ocean* as well as about to release the sequel of *Army of Love*, a film he did together with Alexa Karolinski, film director.

JULIETA ARANDA is an artist whose work revolves around time, memory and how different media languages recall a more encompassed notion of life.

13:30 CHRISTINA TONY

Everybody Got a Little Voice to Address the Seas Lecture

CHRISTINA TONY comes from the Manam Island, an active volcanic island located off the Northern coast of Madang Province, Papua New Guinea. A member of the community-based Bismarck Ramu Group, she works for spaces to be created for resistance communities to come together and share their stories.

14:00 BREAK

15:30 CLAUDIA COMTE

The Day that Wood and Matter Wanted to Become Salt Water Performance

CLAUDIA COMTE is an artist dealing with the memory of materials, with the wisdom of the rural, of nature, of the ways technology can serve to preserve the traditional through sculpture.

16:30 DONNA KUKAMA

The Ways We Sing and Move to Become Ocean, the Ways We Remember to Be Ocean Performance (approx. 120 minutes)

DONNA KUKAMA is an artist who both through objects and performance addresses the possibility of introducing a completely new form of sensing that would help us to deal with the past, to renew our imagination, our words, our social behaviour.

18:30 INTERVAL

19:00 MARAH HARDT

Sex and the Seas or How We Are Able to Mate with the Sea, a Luck! Lecture

20:30 CECILIA BENGOLEA

The Creation of the Wave, Part II Closing performance

CECILIA BENGOLEA is an artists choreographer and dancer that deals with empathy systems, ways of merging through the body and movement experience with nature, with the ocean.

MUSIC, JOY, DRINKS