

SALON OF OPEN SECRETS

Mz* Baltazar's Lab

Olivia Jaques, Patricia J. Reis, Lale Rodgarkia-Dara, Anna Watzinger, Stefanie Wuschitz

When gas, electricity or water are scarce, the immense interdependence of human and non-human needs becomes tangible. How does a company in Taiwan, a mine in Portugal, a river in Indonesia, or a glacier in Antarctica relate to meeting our daily needs? On the other hand, which needs of these living entities did we neglect because we mistook them for dead matter and mere commodities? Ultimately, how do we position ourselves towards their past, present and future? To recover materiality, critically, can contribute to a sustainable ecosystem.

Our global commodity chains and their entanglements in complex patriarchal structures are the starting point for the artistic investigations of the Salon:

How could not only coffee but also hardware be fairly manufactured and traded?

How can we strengthen our communities in order to be able to negotiate our needs and conflicts differently than before?

What does it even mean to be part of a far-reaching network or a specific community?

Artists from the collective Mz* Baltazar's Laboratory have been dealing with these questions for two years and present various speculative proposals for co-existence.

The collective Mz* Baltazar's Lab weaves a cooperative web of feminist Hackers.

They are committed to problematizing Technopolitical interdependencies and to the process of collective search for solutions. The collective is not only a method, but also the material of the artistic debate.

Forms of collective knowledge transfer that were believed to be outdated, such as a secret, a coffee party or a manual, are playfully reactivated.

To remember these outdated forms but also become aware of their colonial context can inspire generative resistance.

Artists in the Collective:

Olivia Jaques

Patricia J. Reis

Lale Rodgarkia-Dara

Anna Watzinger

Stefanie Wuschitz,

With special thanks to the following artists who collaborated with Mz* Baltazar's Lab for this exhibition:

Catarina Reis

Erika Farina

Taguhi Torosyan

Opening: Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 7pm

Performance by Olivia Jaques and Anna Watzinger

Duration of exhibition: 15th September to 28th October 2022

Events:

Fr, 16th September at 4pm

Workshop „Salon of open Secrets“ by Mz* Baltazar's Lab at Schmiede, Saline Pernerinsel, registration: office@schmiedehallein.com

Sa, 17th September at 11am

Artists guide through the exhibition

Fr, 28th October at 6.30pm

Finissage and artist talk

Artist Statement:

Mz* Baltazar's Lab is a collective that runs a feminist hacklab in Vienna. Through workshops, exhibitions and events targeted to female* and non-binary artists Mz* Baltazar's Lab cultivates feminist hacking as material and artistic methodology. Artists in this community try to diffract science with activism and open source technology. The Salon of Open Secrets (SOS) is a slow and calm call for rescue. It is answered by diverse entangled low voices, evolving around the exhibition. Within the Salon, these allies share personal responses to current challenges. This way Salon of Open Secrets combines techno-feminist, postcolonial and open source ethics to open up a conversation on future worlds.

Short biographies:

Olivia Jaques, born in Vienna in 1986, is a Vienna-based artist&cultural worker. As her work spins around the relational, socio-political (feminist!) and the performative, most of her work is created in artistic collaborations. For 10 years+ she has been working together with Marlies Surtmann. Since 2017 they are and run the Performatorium – a laboratory for practice-oriented research of and through performative means. 2022 they have been granted the TQW Research Affiliation; 2023 they will continue their work within an INTRA artistic research project together with Charlotta Ruth. As part of a transdisciplinary artistic research team she is currently involved in a PEEK project at the University of Applied Arts. Since 2016, Olivia Jaques has been associated with artasfoundation - a Swiss Foundation for Art in Conflict Regions, exploring how artistic collaboration across cultures can be achieved and what role artistic work can play in peace processes. Recently she has become part of Mz* Baltazar's Laboratory and is also part of the transdisciplinary artistic research team morphopoly, a PEEK project at the University of Applied Arts.

<https://performatorium.wordpress.com>

Patrícia J. Reis, born in Lisbon in 1981, is an installation artist and lives in Vienna (AT). She studied painting (ESAD, Superior School of Art and Design, Caldas da Rainha Portugal, 2004) and media art (Lusófona University, Lisbon, Portugal, 2011) and did her PhD at the University of Évora in Portugal in 2016. Reis is a former researcher from the

National Science Technology Foundation in Portugal and taught photography, video and digital art at the Polytechnic Institute of Beja in Portugal from 2006 to 2012. She is currently employed as an artist and lecturer in the Department of Digital Art at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and also teaches at the Art University in Linz. Her artistic practice also focuses on feminist themes, questioning ascribed roles of women in relation to representation (in the digital image) as well as the lack of female participation and visibility behind productions of new technologies and art. Since 2012 she has been a board member of the collective Mz* Baltazar's Lab. www.patriciajreis.com

Lale Rodgarkia-Dara, born in 1976 in Wien, is a writer and sonic artist. Lale develops a new Electroacoustic Literature, that enables writers to read and perform in a collective (with electronic artists and humans) and as individuals with a distance to their texts. Since 2003 she has held Radio-Workshops and is engaged in community work. She produces and develops art that is somehow always related to spaces and spheres in transition, literature and media-art interplaying with open source technology. Her current interest lies in the conversion and transformation of the digital sphere into the analogue reception of the individual subject to their biological existence or simply curiosity. She somehow always invents projects with literature, media art and mostly in transitory spaces or on the radio. With Judith Unterpertinger she forms the duo Under the given circumstances. She is part of Mz. Baltazar's Laboratory Collective, which runs a feminist art/hacker space in Vienna, Vienna's Radia Collective (co-founder of radia.fm) as well as co-founder of the electronic Teatime (until 2015) and Radio Ironie Orchester of Radio Helsinki (2019). She is currently the strategic managing director of Radio Helsinki 92.6 - Freies Radio Graz, Austria. In this function, together with Betina Aumair from the Wiener Volkshochschulen, she organised the lecture and discussion series "Salonfähig und normal? Talking about Radicalisation" and in September 2021, together with Manfred Kinzer and Daniela Oberndorfer, the international media conference "Salonfähig und normal? Right-wing and Authoritarian Shifts as a Challenge for Journalism and Media Freedom." www.speis.net

Anna Watzinger, born 1981 in Graz, based in Vienna (A), holds a diploma in sculpture from the Vienna Art School and a master degree in digital/media art from the University of Applied Arts Vienna and works within various media, subjects and projects, focusing on this liquid space of encounter of different things and phenomenon. She showed her works at many places in Vienna and abroad, including some artist in residencies. Anna Watzinger received an award of KÖR and was/is member of different art collectives. <http://annawatzinger.com/>

Stefanie Wuschitz, born in 1981, works at the intersection of research, art and technology, with a particular focus on feminist hackerspaces, open source technology and peer production. She graduated with an MFA in 2006. 2008 she completed her Masters at the Interactive Telecommunication Program at Tisch School of the arts at NYU and became Digital Art Fellow at Umeå University in Sweden. 2009 she founded the feminist hackerspace *Miss Baltazar's Laboratory* in Vienna, encouraging technology that is developed from a female perspective. In 2014 she finished her PhD with the title 'Feminist Hackerspaces. A Research on Feminist Space Collectives in Open Culture' at the Vienna University of Technology. October until June 2015 she held a part-time Post-Doc position at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, co-organizing the Open Hardware Summit Europe and co-editing the publication 'Openism. Conversations on Open Hardware'. Since March 2015 Stefanie is part of a research group at the University of Michigan

(School of Information). 2016 to 2017 she worked in the PEEK project 'Data Publics', initiated by Prof. Peter Mörtenböck. Currently she is involved in RIAT (Research Institute for Art and Technology) and heading Mz* Baltazar's Laboratory (feminist hackerspace and artist collective). Stefanie was giving international workshops e.g. at the University of Michigan, Kunsthochschule Kassel, Institute of Contemporary Art Moscow, Bartlett University College London, Shih-Chien University Taipei, Transmediale Berlin, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Harvest Works NYC *and exhibiting internationally* e.g. Arthall Budapest HU 2004, Gallery The Parlour, UK 2005, Goethe Institute Damaskus, SY, 2006, Kunsthaus Graz, AT, 2007, Videonale Kunstmuseum Bonn, 2007, Sinopale Sinop TUR, ITP Spring and Winter Show US 2007, Austrian Cultural Forum, US, 2007, Northern Center of Photography FI, 2008, Länsmuseet Västernorrland SE 2009, Norrlands Operan SE 2009, WOCHENKLAUSUR, UK 2011, Fringe Festival Taipei 2011, Academy of Fine Arts Krakow 2011, OKNO, Brüssel 2012, Science Friction 2014 DK, GPL Contemporary 2014, Bouillants FR 2015, Jogja Contemporary, ID 2015, Art|Jog|8 ID 2015, House of Electronic Arts CH 2015 *among others*.

www.grenzartikel.com

Affiliated artists:

Erika Farina (IT) lives and works in Vienna since 2009. She is a trained tailor and works in the fields of textile and fine arts. She studies Design, Material Culture and Experimental Practices and Art and Communication Practices at the University of applied Arts in Vienna.

Catarina Reis, born in 1989, is an architect and designer, currently working on a practice-based research PhD thesis at FBAUL, Lisbon, Portugal (Faculty of Fine Arts, Lisbon University), at the intersection of Art, Science and Technology. Her research project Tentacular Ecologies seeks to explore the potential of "micro third landscapes" as spatial interfaces for otherness.

Taguhi Torosyan is an artist, curator and researcher based in Vienna, Austria. She is working at the intersection of hacker/maker cultures, feminist new materialisms, decolonial theory, relational art and pedagogy, and posthuman ecologies. She has been a member of Mz* Baltazar's Laboratory hackerspace in 2019-2022. She is a PEEK fellow at the Education Department of the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna since 2020, where she works with Dr. Stefanie Wuschitz and Dr. Patrícia J. Reis on "Feminist Hacking: Building Circuits as an Artistic Practice" art-based research project. Torosyan is a former visiting fellow at apexart in NYC and former visiting faculty at the Art Theory, History and Management Department of Yerevan State Institute for Theatre and Cinematography. Torosyan's work has been shown at Centrale FIES, Dro, Permanent: Georg Kargl and vbkö in Vienna, Aalborg University Copenhagen, Schwankhalle Bremen & LOFFT, Leipzig. She has curated exhibitions, programs and workshops with a strong focus on media art, performance and cinema both in institutional setups Art Factory, Lodz, ICA Yerevan & Nest artist residency and community center / 2012-2015, Studio 20, Yerevan and the Centre of Contemporary Art Tbilisi.

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