

SAMANTHA McCULLOCH IO MAKANDAL OPHIDIAN'S PROMISE A CONVERSATION

HOSTED BY THE DFG RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP "CULTURES OF CRITIQUE".
ORGANIZATION BY RAPHAEL DAIBERT

TUESDAY,
OCT 22, 2024
6 PM

LECTURE, C40.601

Io Makandal is an interdisciplinary artist based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Working with drawing, photography, organic matter and installation, her practice is concerned with feminist and environmental embodiments of process, entropy, urban ecology, and hybrid environments during a time of environmental shift. She has exhibited both locally and internationally and her work is a part of several private, public and institutional collections.

Samantha McCulloch is an artist and writer based in Johannesburg. Her practice incorporates both word and image. Her work engages an erotics of place and more-than-human sensorium in order to think and write toward an understanding of person and place as imbricated and co-constituted. The first draft of her novella *Lagoon* was the winner of the inaugural First Drafts series and was published by Kunstverein in 2022. Her writing has appeared in Third Text, Portside Review and in the artist's book *Amanda*, published by Maria Editions.

Io Makandal's piece *Ophidian's Promise* (2024) comprises an urban wildlife eco-duct to create a safe passage for urban wildlife over the Jukskei river culvert in Johannesburg. The sculpture references the form of a snake as the symbolic more-than-human guardian of rivers. This artistic gesture invites the human back into relationship with the waterbody and its surrounding life forms to encourage civic care over this precarious water source in a time of anthropocentric climate change.

Samantha McCulloch was commissioned to write an accompanying piece of prose entitled 'River Poem', deploying 'floating' pronouns to explore the mattering and making of writer, reader and river.

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