



SNIFFING CONVERSATION 2

June 24, 2024, 7 PM:

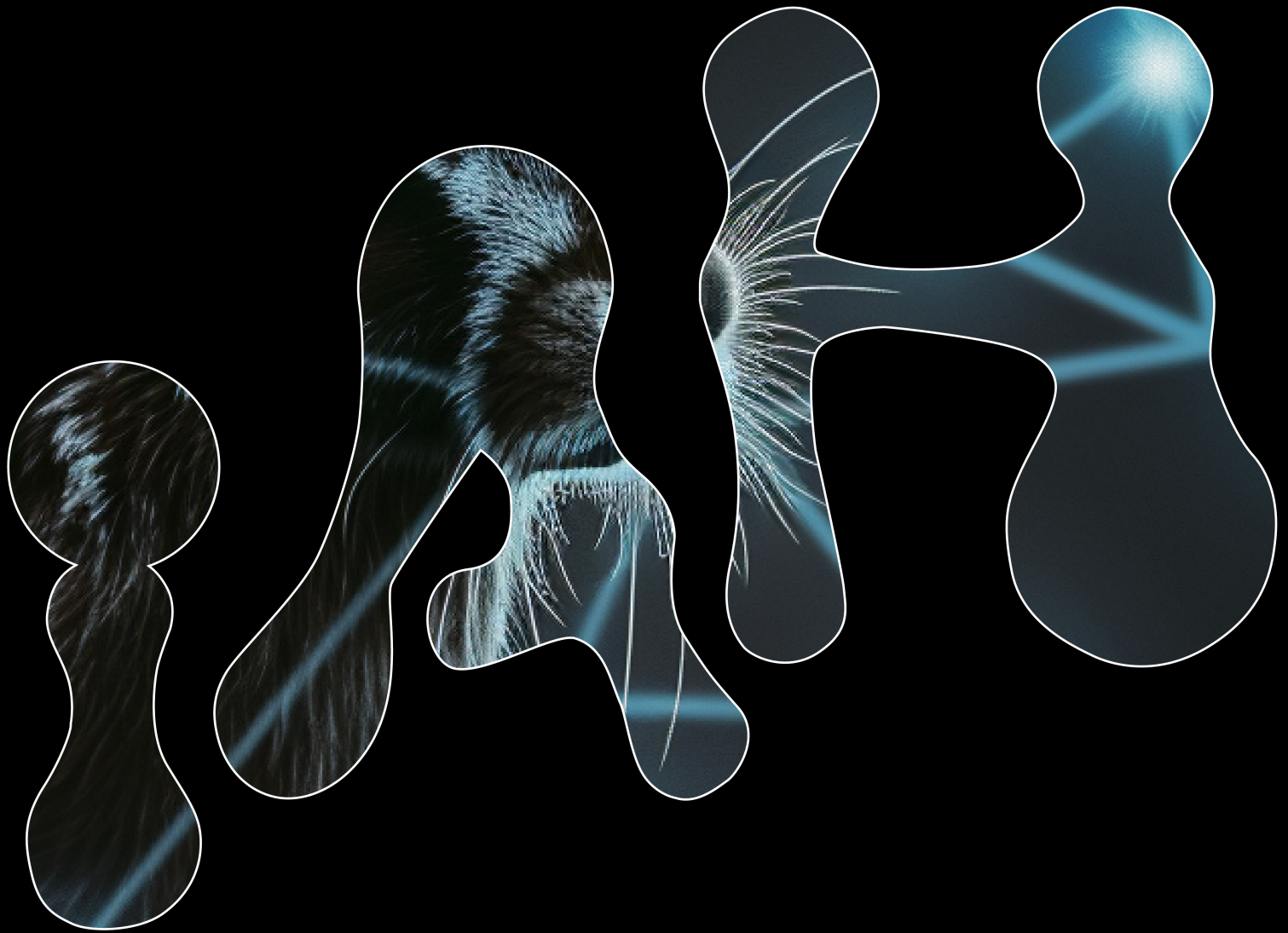
Samuel Camenzind - Follow the White
Rabbit: An Aesthetic and Ethical
Investigation into the Art of Magic
Lecture

Location: Magic World Vienna,
Riesenradplatz 6, 1020 Vienna

The white rabbit in the black top hat stands as an icon of magic today. With stoic patience, it appears night after night out of nowhere, leaving the audience in awe. However, magic with animals is not a modern phenomenon; early descriptions of it can be traced back to the Egyptian Westcar Papyrus tales around 1800 BC. But has anyone actually seen a live rabbit disappear on stage? Is it still acceptable to perform magic with animals today? What ethical norms apply to the treatment of animals on stage?

Starting from the assumption that secular magic is a contemporary form of performance art, this contribution explores the various roles of animals in magic from both ethical and aesthetic perspectives. Using exemplary, and sometimes bizarre, examples – such as a levitating cow or a mind-reading hamster – human-animal relationships are discussed within the context of the „rare arts.“ It also asks to what extent magic can benefit from engaging with the demands of a sensitive approach to animals in art.

Samuel Camenzind, PhD, is a philosopher who focuses on applied ethics, the ethics of human-animal relationships, and bioethics. He works as a postdoctoral researcher and APART-GSK Fellow (ÖAW) at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Vienna. His questionnaire, „Beastly Ethics of Aesthetics - An Analysis and Reflection Tool for the Ethical Evaluation of Animals in Art,“ should serve as the basis for any collaboration with non-human co-partners. Samuel Camenzind has been a member of the Vienna Association for Magical Arts (VMKW) since 2023.



INTERSPECIES ART HUB

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Sniffing Conversations is an interdisciplinary dialogue series that puts non-human animals in focus, addressing topics in Interspecies Art, Human-Animal Studies, Philosophy, and Animal Ethics. Through workshops, lectures, and artistic projects, it explores the contemporary human-animal relationship, fostering exchange between art and science. The series is curated by Lisa Jäger, Lena Lieselotte Schuster, and Eva Seiler.



SNIFFING CONVERSATIONS

1 Caroline Ritter & Astou Maraszto
May 12, 2024, 1 PM

2 Samuel Camenzind
June 24, 2024, 7 PM

3 Alex Bailey
July 21, 2024, 11 AM

4 Eva Seiler
August 18, 2024

5 Jessica Ullrich
October 18, 2024, 7 PM

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Lecture, June 24, 2024, 7 PM

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