

Blue Animal Aesthetics

Organized by
Martin Ullrich, Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg
Jessica Ullrich, Kunstakademie Münster
Tabea Sabrina Weber, Universität Bielefeld

Program

Karl-Grillenberger-Straße 3a, 90402 Nürnberg (nearest subway station „Weißer Turm“)
KGS 06 (Seminarraum)

Wednesday, 22 October 2025

12.30-13.00 ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

13.00-13.30 INTO THE BLUE: WELCOME NOTES

Jessica Ullrich, Martin Ullrich, and Tabea Sabrina Weber (Conference Organizers)
Rainer Kotzian (President, Nuremberg University of Music)

13.30-15.00 Panel I: BLUE EMPATHY

Chair: Martin Ullrich

Eva Meijer: Creating new water languages for, with and about fishes (online)
Joeri Verbesselt: Feeling-with Fish, Feeling-with Ancestors: Toward a North Sea Aesthetics of Re-Existence
Sune Borkfelt: Teaching with Seagulls and Mermaids: Reflections on Using Critical Animal Pedagogies in a Coastal Town

15-15.30 Coffee Break / Kaffeepause I

15.30-17 Panel III: BLUE ANIMAL TECHNOLOGIES

Chair: Dorothee Fischer-Kuklau

Magdalena Grüner: Slippery Pictures, Submerged Epistemologies: The Muddling Potential of Painting Under Water
Zeynep Abes/Ellie Schmidt: Submerged Archives (online)
Victoria Mummelthei: Crabs, Slugcats, and Sideways Thinking: Following Animals at the Water's Edge in Digital Games (online)

18.30 CONFERENCE DINNER

Thursday, 23 October 2025

09.30-11.00 Panel IV: BLUE ANIMALS IN LITERATURE

Chair: Tabea Sabrina Weber

Emma Crossey: Virginia Woolf: Coral Entanglements (online)
Sophie Elzière: 'Among the creatures of light, creatures of light': The blue ecopoetics of Ted Hughes's *River* (online)
Mohammed Afsal: Blue Animal Aesthetics: Marine Life, Agency, and Fiction in the Anthropocene

11.00-11.30 COFFEE BREAK II

11.30-13.00 Panel V: CONTEMPORARY ART: BLUE THEORIES

Chair: Jessica Ullrich

Pandora Sypererek: Mama Octopus: Making Kin AND Babies in the Chthulucene

Dorothee Fischer-Kuklau: Axolotl auf Augenhöhe? Wasserlebewesen in Aquarien der Gegenwartskunst

Julia Katharina Thiemann: Von tentakulärem Denken zu Bodies of Water

13.00-14.30 Lunch Break / Mittagspause

14.30-16.00 Panel VI: CONTEMPORARY ART: BLUE PRACTICES

Chair: Jessica Ullrich

Hartmut Kiewert: Neue aquatische Räume und das Ende der Fischerei-Industrie

Nicole Schuck: Die Kleinsten gerade noch sichtbaren. Makrozoobenthos in der Elbe, in den Spreewaldfließen und im Bodensee

Denise Ackerl: Mermaiding and More: Performing Eco-Futures with Nonhuman Prosthetics (online)

16.00-16.30 COFFEE BREAK III

16.30-18.30 Panel VII: MUSICS OF BLUE ANIMALS

Chair: Martin Ullrich

Jafar Aghabararnia Goudarzi: Water and Myth in Mazandarani Songs: A Mythological Reading of Aquatic Events

Janet Sit/Betlem Pallardó: Echoes in Elsewhere: Marine Acoustemologies and the Aesthetics of More-than-Human Futures

Wouter Capitain: Symphonies of the Deep: Humpback Composers and the Colonial Politics of Listening

Alex South: Musicking with, or musicking alongside, the sounds of another species? Between indifference and disinterest

Friday, 24 October 2025

08.30-09.30 Panel VIII: BLUE SYMBOLISM

Chair: Robert Bauernfeind

Cortney Anne Berg: Medieval Aquatic Resistance: The Animal Hybrids at St. Martin's Church in Zillis

Yufei Guo: Korallen in barocken Apothekenfresken: im Kontext von Glaube, Heilkunst und maritimer Globalität

09.30-10.00 Coffee Break / Kaffeepause IV

10.00-11.00 Panel IX: SHARK

Chair: Tabea Sabrina Weber

Robert Bauernfeind: Watson und die Folgen: Bilder und Ästhetiken von Mensch-Hai-Interaktionen von Copley bis Dua Lipa

Stephanie Lotzow/Peter Podrez: Bloody Animal Aesthetics – Hai-Horror und die Konflikte um marine (Lebens-)Räume

11.00-11.30 OUT OF THE BLUE: WRAP-UP/FAREWELL

Jessica Ullrich, Martin Ullrich, and Tabea Sabrina Weber