

Ethnographic Museum, University of Zurich







Schweizerische Ethnologische Gesellschaft Société Suisse d'Ethnologie Associazione Svizzera di Antropologia Swiss Anthropological Association Virtual realities: Re-thinking 'experience' in the age of new immersive media

19./21. October 2018 With this years' symposium, we explore the question of how social anthropology may engage with the possibilities and limitations that virtual reality technology offers. For more than a century, social anthropology has attempted to describe, translate, and evoke the experience of Others. Using methods that situate the anthropologist in her collaborators' time and space, the idea of "being there" and approximating what it must feel like to act and exist in different kinds of environments, has inspired a variety of approaches to looking, hearing, writing and recording. However, how close we as anthropologists can actually get to conveying the experiences of Others has always had its limitations, leading to critical debates of what is actually achievable. Currently, we find ourselves in the midst of a technological revolution: Virtual Reality (VR) and 360° video encapsulate the proposition of literally creating virtual environments.

of Others has always had its limitations, leading to critical debates of what is actually achievable. Currently, we find ourselves in the midst of a technological revolution: Virtual Reality (VR) and 360° video encapsulate the proposition of literally creating virtual environments that evoke an experience that comes closer than ever before to a sensory reality. With a look behind the scenes of VR and/or 360° video productions, discussing practical workflows, viewing selected examples and engaging with the theory behind the media, this year's CAV Symposium is dedicated to the experiential, political and ethical possibilities, implications and limitations of the so-called new "immersive media".

We are looking forward to some interesting conversations.

Laura Coppens Martha-Cecilia Dietrich Michaela Schäuble Since our first event in 2001, *Regard Bleu* has established a platform where students and young academic filmmakers can present and discuss their audio-visual projects. Exclusively screening students' productions has remained its defining characteristic ever since, differentiating the festival from many other European ethnographic film festivals.

Alongside this continuity, the festival has undergone two major changes in recent years. While it was first held irregularly, then on an annual basis, the festival is now being held every two years, meaning that there is more time and space for planning and organising. Moreover, this year is the second time that students from the Ethnology Department of the University of Zurich have run the festival. After completing a theoretical introduction to ethnographic film, the students discussed all of the submissions and have selected the films, curated the programme, scheduled and are now managing the festival. The films chosen this year include a broad range of audiovisual engagements and approaches, and reflect the students' curiosity about the possibilities and restrictions of this subfield of Social and Cultural Anthropology. It is largely due to their efforts that the Ethnographic Museum is able, once more, to present such an innovative, vivid and inspiring programme to the public. I would like to thank Alice Stünzi, Julia Ingold, Linda Hodel and Rahmi Pala for their dedication and commitment to this festival.

However, the organisers could not have produced such a rich and diverse programme without the broad variety of films we had the honour to review, so we are very grateful to every filmmaker who submitted their wonderful, inspiring projects. They have already fuelled several very stimulating and productive discussions among the selection committee, and we trust they will continue to do so during Regard Bleu 2018.

We hope that you thoroughly enjoy this year's festival and are curious to hear what you make of it!

Michèle Dick

WELCOME TO THE 13TH REGARD BLEU

19.-20. October 2018

Friday RB Friday CAV

14.00 – 14.15	Welcome to the Regard Bleu 2018
	Mareile Flitsch & Michèle Dick, Ethnographic Museum at the University of Zurich

14.15–15.15	Afternoon Session I
07 min	HINTER DER KAMERA
04 min	GO AND TELL THE SEA
10 min	BRUISED HAPPINESS
10 min	DEMIAN
09 min	VOLL IM FLOW
06 min	BETWEEN BEATS & CODE
15.15-15.30	Break

15.30-16.45	Afternoon Session II
20 min 30 min	KEEP THEM TALKING NANI
16.45-17.15	Break

17.15-18.30	Evening Session
29 min	THE FEEL OF HISTORY
22 min	AN IMPROVISED REALITY

19.15-19.30	Welcome to the CAV Symposium
	Michaela Schäuble, University of Bern
19.30-20.45	Keynote Lecture
	Whose experience? VR, experience and the ethics of simulation
	Kate Nash, University of Leeds
20.45-21.30	Apéro

5

Saturday RB

Sunday CAV

10.00-12.15	Morning Session
46 min	ÄLVEN MIN VÄN
11.00-11.15	Break
46 min	TB IN TOWN 2
12.15-13.00	Break
13.00-14.30	Afternoon Session I

13.00-14.30	Afternoon Session I
36 min	UNITY: DRESS-SCAPES OF ACCRA
12 min	BIOTOPE
07 min	CADEAUX DU LOCLE
14.30-14.45	Break

14.45–17.45	Afternoon Session II
12 min 07 min 35 min	FEBRUÁR NACHTFALTER NDI MULUNGI MU LANGI YONNA
16.00-16.30	Break
52 min	KASHI LABH
17.45-18.45	Break

18.45-21.15	Evening Session
57 min	TOGETHER APART
20.00-20.15	Break
40 min	KHOZYAIN

daily	Installation
	www.rememberingolalafarms.com

Overview

10.00-13.00	Workshop
	The virtual ethnographer Karen Vanderborght, OCAD University and Ryerson University
13.00-14.00	Break

14.00-15.00	VR Screenings	
07 min	Without a Roof	
20 min	Notes on Blindness	
07 min	Biidaaban: First Light	
12 min	Bloodless	
15.00-16.00	Break	

16.00-17.00	Talk 1
	Curating new media for the public. A wishful projection Hannes Bürkel, Kommunales Kino Freiburg/Freiburger Film Forum
17.00-17.30	Break

17.30-18.30	Talk 2
	Wandering and Wondering: Technologies, tools and techniques for seeing, sensing and studying contemporary worlds Paolo Favero, University of Antwerp
18.30-18.45	Break

18.45-19.30	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks
	Thinking virtual realities: 'experience' in the age of new immersive media Laura Coppens, Martha-Cecilia Dietrich & Michaela Schäuble, University of Bern

7 Overview

Friday 19.10.2018

Regard Bleu **14.00–18.30**

CAV Symposium 19.15–21.30

14.00 - 14.15

Welcome to the Regard Bleu 2018

Mareile Flitsch & Michèle Dick, Ethnographic Museum at the University of Zurich

14.15-15.15

Afternoon Session I

Switzerland, 2018 Swiss German 7 min

HINTER DER KAMERA

The movie portrays an ethnographic filmmaker and the pleasures and difficulties of working as an independent filmmaker. Beside this work, the protagonist manages the "Studienberatung" of the University of Zurich. In the film she talks about her daily routine of these two jobs.

Laura Huggenberger, Laura Pohl & Noemi Ursprung, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

Denmark, 2018 English 4 min

GO AND TELL THE SEA

Noura Bittar Søborg moved to Copenhagen in 2012 to be with her husband. After that, she helped her family join her in Denmark due to conflict in their home country. This is a glimpse into her new life in Europe and what she left behind.

Anna-Tia Buss & Morgan Hornsby, Danish School of Media and Journalism, Århus

Poland, 2017 Polish/English Subtitles 10 min

BRUISED HAPPINESS

This short film is about Elzbietta, a Polish woman, who seeks comfort in religion as she deals with daily struggles of poverty and care for her husband with terminal cancer.

Christina Søs Eng, Goldsmiths University of London

DEMIAN

Cameroon, 2017 German/English Subtitles 10 min What happens after a deportation? How does a deported person adapt to the new, old home? Demian got stranded in Douala, Cameroon, and is surviving by selling watches in the streets. A life between German school documents, old photos and unsuccessful calls to Germany.

Marc Sebastian Eils. filmArche Berlin







Go and Tell the Sea



Bruised Happiness



Demian

10 Friday 11 19.10.2018

VOLL IM FLOW

Switzerland, 2018 German 9 min Voll im Flow is a portrait of the spoken word artist Fatima Moumouni, who also has a Bachelor's degree in Ethnology. In the summery atmosphere of Zurich, she talks about her writing, racism and how the topic connects her work as an artist with her studies of Ethnology.

Anja Wagner, Jana Schlegel, Jorina Wachter & Lea Studer, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

BETWEEN BEATS AND CODE

Germany, 2018 English 6 min Between day and night, software and music, global connection and private apartment; we have entered an age of a new way of working. It matters less where one is than which global connections one can access through the computer. The film follows a software developer and techno music producer into the depth of his work.

Claudia Quigua, Diana Troya, Ina Schebler & José Serrano, Freie Universität Berlin

15.15-15.30

Break

15.30-16.45

Afternoon Session II

KEEP THEM TALKING

Jamaica, 2016 Jamaican Patois and Jamaican English/ English Subtitles 20 min In Youthy's world hobody can be trusted'! Set in rural Jamaica *Keep them Talking* tells the story of Youthy, a farmer, struggling to make a living. Everybody is against him. They steal from him, put spells on him and try to keep him down. It has all got too much and this is the final straw. The only way to turn things around is to take action and to throw spells back at them.

Keep them Talking gives an exclusive insight into today's social reality of Obeah (witchcraft), an illegal practice in Jamaica since 1760. Obeah is shown not only as a means to reach one's personal goal but rather as a key point in social relations.

Simon Frey, Université Paris Diderot



Voll im Flow



Between Beats and Code



Keep them Talking

12 Friday 13 19.10.2018

NANI

Switzerland, 2017 Swiss German/ English Subtitles 30 min The filmmaker's 89 year-old grandmother (Swiss-Dialect: Nani), finds time – after her husband dies – to look back on her life and deliberate her thoughts about ageing and dying. The film was shot during one year and shows an intimate portrait about the process Nani is going through after the death of her husband, the chores of her everyday routine living now alone and her reflections about being near at the border between life and death.

Roman Stocker, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

16.45-17.15

Break

17.15-18.30

Evening Session

Indonesia, 2017 Bahasa Indonesia/ English Subtitles

29 min

THE FEEL OF HISTORY

Each year on the 1st of March, a historical society called the *Komunitas Djokjakarta 1945* re-enacts one of the last battles with the Dutch colonizers of 1949 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Following their preparations and focussing on the material culture of re-enactment, this film shows how these re-enactors create their own spectacular and romanticized re-presentation of the past. The re-enactment allows them to temporarily be the war heroes that they worship so much.

Lise Zurne, Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology, Leiden University

AN IMPROVISED REALITY

United Kingdom, 2014 English/ English Subtitles 22 min

United Kingdom, 2014 What does Matt Damon, Madonna, Denzel Washington and Michael English/ Jackson have in common? Why do people want to be famous?

By pretending to be someone else we can discover more ourselves and, by looking back at the whole process of becoming another, we end up being a creative character in our own documentary. *An Improvised Reality* is a self-reflexive ethnographic film produced in collaboration with *Creative Support*. It follows the weekly rehearsals of the 'Breakthrough' drama group for individuals with different types of learning disabilities.

Elise Laker & João Meirinhos, Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology, University of Manchester



Nani



The Feel of History



An Improvised Reality

14 Friday 15 19.10.2018

19.15-19.30 Welcome to the CAV Symposiusm

Michaela Schäuble, University of Bern

19.30-20.45 Keynote Lecture

Whose experience? VR, experience and the ethics of simulation

Kate Nash, University of Leeds My aim is to approach VR as a medium that invites renewed consideration of experience – extending a conceptual concern beyond representation to consider the mediation of experience. Using a case study I'll consider VR as an attempt to simulate something of the subjective experience of another – something that poses a challenge to the notion of experience as irreducibly singular and personal. Finally I'll consider some of the political and ethical issues this raises – the collapse of distance between the self and other.

20.45-21.30 Apéro

Saturday 20.10.2018

Regard Bleu 10.00-20.15

10.00-12.15 Morning Session

ÄLVEN MIN VÄN

Sweden, 2018 Swedish/ English Subtitles 46 min Älven min Vän – The River My Friend is a portrait of the lives of four women and their relationship to the Lule River in Sweden. The film shows the consequences of the forced resettlement of Sami people who were displaced from their land because of the construction of river dams and were alienated from their indigenous culture and way of life. At the same time, the film shows the deep connection between the women and the river through the narration of a picture book in the film.

Hannah Ambühl, Institute of Geography and Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

11.00-11.15

Break

South Africa, 2017 English, isiXhosa/ English Subtitles

46 min

TB IN TOWN 2

We take you to Town 2, a lovely community situated in one of the biggest and most violent townships of South Africa. Life here is all about surviving. Death is continuously lurking, has become part of every-day life. What if you suddenly get infected with tuberculosis? A disease that easily spreads through the air. Do you go to the clinic where they run a tuberculosis programme, take that free medication and fight for your life? What if the side-effects of treatment are too strong? What if you need to eat in order to deal with this toxic medication, but you do not have food? How do you survive?

Lianne Cremers, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam

12.15-13.00

Brook



Älven min Vän



IR IU IOMU 7

18 Saturday 19 20.10.2018

13.00-14.30

Afternoon Session I

UNITY: DRESS-SCAPES OF ACCRA

Ghana, 2016 English, Ga and Twi/ **English Subtitles** 36 min

The comeback of African print seems to be emerging in the fashion system of Accra, Ghana. While following Allan, a fashion designer and his wife Cynthia, this mosaic film shows the great diversity of tailor-made fashion and hybrid styles. Highlighting the beautiful details by focusing on a few participants who show the mixture of different materials, cuts and styles, the film is not only observational but gives people space to tell their story and show they are proud of the African wear.

Mara Lin Visser, Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology, Leiden University

BIOTOPE

Germany, 2018 German/ **Enalish Subtitles** 12 min

Life in Neuperlach, a Munich suburb, is quaint. But for some time now that peacefulness is troubled, because refugees are supposed to move in next door. As some of the residents are afraid of the noise, they are putting up a 4 metres noise protection wall.

Paul Scholten, University of Television and Film Munich

CADEAUX DU LOCLE

Switzerland, 2017 French/ **English Subtitles** 7 min

Le Locle is a little town in the Jurassic mountains of Switzerland where thousands of people have been employed up to the recession in the seventies of the last century. The recession left behind a post-industrial town with little to offer. The filmmaker gives us a short glimpse on today's Le Locle told by hands, voices and gifts.

Laura Peer, Miriam Neidhart, Salome Bosshard & Sélima Chibout, Summerschool of the Audio-Visual Commission of the Swiss Anthropological Association



Unity: Dress-Scapes of Accra



Biotope



20 21 20.10.2018 Saturday

14.45-17.45

Afternoon Session II

FEBRUÁR

Germany, 2017 Hungarian/ English Subtitles 12 min Zsuzsanna and Sandor have been living under a bridge in Munich for more than six months.

Február is a sober confrontation with the antagonisms of their daily life. A glimpse into their home, the nature of their companionship and their embrace of the little things.

Marlena Molitor, University of Television and Film Munich

NACHTFALTER

Austria, 2018 German/ English Subtitles 7 min From the night comes the unknown, the other and the threatening. At the same time night encourages the creative and fantastic. With those associations the four filmmakers wandered for one week through the nights of Vienna.

Caroline Contentin el Masri, Philip Barnstorf, Raja-Léon Hamann & Susanna Azevedo, Ethnocineca (Filmmakers from University of Vienna/Berlin/Leipzig)

NDI MULUNGI MU LANGI YONNA

Uganda, 2018 English and Luganda/ English Subtitles 35 min How do you deal with the fact that you look very different from every-body else? Not only are they constantly being stared at, but the lack of medical knowledge also causes a number of people to be afraid of them due to common misperceptions, like the idea that people with albinism are cursed.

The film aims to show the different experiences and strategies of four people living with albinism in Kampala and how they deal with their "otherness". Each one of them found their own way of reconciliating themselves with their physical "otherness".

Ana Scheu, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

16.00-16.30

Break



Február



Nachtfalter



Ndi Mulungi Mu Langi Yonna

22 Saturday 23 20.10.2018

India, 2018 Hindi/ English Subtitles 52 min

KASHI LABH

This reflexive video ethnography is about the aesthetics of dying. The impetus for this research comes from various threads, including the filmmaker's interest in our culturally woven patterns of dying and death. The film explores the manner in which Hindu families physiologically co-create the dying process of their relatives in the last stages of life and how this lies embedded within the social aesthetics of Kashi Labh Muktibhawan, a salvation home in Kashi, India's holy city. Rajat Nayyar, Tallinn University

17.45-18.45

Break

18.45-21.15

Evening Session

TOGETHER APART

Cyprus, Philippines, 2018 English and Tagalog/ English Subtitles 57 min When Guil Ann (25) arrives on the Mediterranean island Cyprus to join her mother as domestic worker, the women reunite for the first time in over a decade. Joining the global workforce of Filipinas abroad, Carren (50) spent most of her adult life apart from her children. Only months later, unexpected events lead to Carren's deportation and challenge both women to confront their precarious dreams for togetherness and a better future. Shifting between the temporary present and future imagination of serial migrants, the film shares insights into the complex web of global care chains.

Maren Wickwire, Freie Universität Berlin

20.00-20.15

Break

KHOZYAIN

Romania, 2017 Romanian and Russian/ English Subtitles 40 min This film portrays the tough life of Cossack Vasile Serghevici Serbov, who lives among the 40 remaining Lipovan Russians in the isolated village Sfiṣtofca in the Danube Delta. Sfiṣtofca's school and local store were closed down a few years ago and about half of the houses in the village are deserted. Since Vasile does not have a steady income he occasionally works as a carpenter in construction or he gets paid for taking care of a friend's cattle throughout winter season.

Mircea Albutiu, Faculty for Theatre and Television, Babes Bolyai University



Kashi Labh



Together Apart



Khozyain

24 Saturday 25 20.10.2018

daily

Installation

USA, 2017 English

REMEMBERING OLALA FARMS

The website portrays the life of retired artists Arlo Cubit Acton (*1933) and Robyn Martin (*1944), who have been part of the counterculture movement and the art scene of 1960s San Francisco. *Remembering Olala Farms* invites you to explore how their lives have changed after going "back-to-the-land" by moving to Olala Farms in Northern California in 1974, and by becoming self-sufficient organic farmers. The non-linearity of this website leaves it up to you, in what order you want to explore Olala Farms.

www.rememberingolalafarms.com

Christian S. Tröndle & Selina M. Reusser, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich



Sunday 21.10.2018

CAV Symposium 10.00–19.30

Workshop 10.00-13.00 The virtual ethnographer Karen Vanderborght, This workshop introduces the participants to the fundamentals of 360 video and virtual reality experiences, giving a quick overview OCAD University and Ryerson on frameless video production, immersion, interaction, agency and University considering the role of presence in the viewer's experience. The primary focus is on how storytelling shifts into story living and story world building. The technicalities of 360 capture, 3D modeling and spatial audio are of secondary interest but will be touched upon in the context of narrative construction. If you have a cardboard and a recent mobile phone you are encouraged to bring it with you. To reserve a place contact martha-cecilia.dietrich@anthro.unibe.ch Spaces will be allocated on a first come first serve basis

14.00-15.00

VR Screenings

Canada, 2018 Prototype 7 min

Platform: Daydream

Without a Roof

This prototype is to create a tastemaker for a VR series on homeless youth around the world. You will have a body to look down on, a gaze to explore your environment. This first person perspective is still a rare angle in 360 video, and is used to enforce the identification process with the homeless youth. Meeting the protagonist face to face is a means of taking the user beyond the role of spectator. The abrupt changes of spaces and angles toy with the feeling of presence in 360 video/VR experiences and have a profound physical impact on the person wearing the headset.

Karen Vanderborght





without a Rooi

28 Sunday 29 21.10.2018

Notes on Blindness

UK & France, 2016 20 min

Platform: Oculus Go/ Samsung Gear In 1983, after decades of steady deterioration, John Hull became totally blind. To help him make sense of the upheaval in his life, he began documenting his experiences on audio-cassettes. These original diary recordings form the basis of this interactive non-fiction narrative that uses new forms of storytelling to explore a cognitive and emotional experience of blindness.

Arnaud Colinart, Amaury La Burthe, Petter Middleton, James Spinney

Biidaaban: First Light

Canada, 2018 7 min

Platform: Oculus Rift The town square has flooded, buildings and subways have merged with local flora, and Indigenous languages and knowledge are thriving in a radically different future Toronto. Here, in the future, people have found a connection to the past. As a work of Indigenous futurism, Biidaaban: First Light explores how the languages of native peoples can provide a framework for understanding our place in the world and open up a space for new imaginings of the future.

Lisa Jackson, Mathew Borrett, Jam3 and the National Film Board of Canada

Bloodless

South Korea & United States, 2017 12 min

Platform: Oculus Go/ Samsung Gear Bloodless deals with camp town sex workers for the US army stationed in South Korea since the 1950s. The film traces the last living moments of a sex worker who was brutally murdered by a US soldier at the Dongducheon Camptown in 1992. The VR documentary transforms the controversial issue of crimes by US military personnel into a personal and emotional experience while introducing textual history to the sensory realm of virtual reality.

15.00-16.00

Break



Notes on Blindness



Biidaaban: First Light



Bloodless

30 Sunday 31 21.10.2018

16.00-17.00

Talk 1

Curating new media for the public: A wishful projection.

Hannes Bürkel, Kommunales Kino Freiburg/ Freiburger Film Forum New immersive media has been around for a while and a decade has passed since the first film festivals started to present them in dedicated sections. Today, museums, galleries, libraries, theatres, research centers and theme parks make varied use of VR, AR & iDocs. Yet, we are still waiting for a wider public to appropriate immersive media. Based on my experiences as a festival programmer and cinema operator, I would like to offer a wishful projection on how to bring good content to wider audiences by asking: Can small non-commercial cinemas become the new hubs for digital experiences?

17.00 - 17.30

Break

17.30-18.30

Talk 2

Wandering and Wondering: Technologies, tools and techniques for seeing, sensing and studying contemporary worlds.

Paolo Favero, Unversity of Antwerp This talk focusses on the changing ways of, and possibilities for, conducting ethnographic research in the contemporary world. Building upon the author's extensive experimentation with emerging visual/sensory research methods and tools such as wearable and immersive media, bodily sensors, smartphone apps, etc., the paper seeks to explore the manifold ways in which new technologies can help re-think conventional practices of observation and the study of human life. The aim is to provoke the listener to reflect upon the extent to which digital technologies can help researchers achieve a sense of "epistemological openness" (Jackson 1989), i.e. a practical, pre-theoretical and embodied engagement with the world and with the production of knowledge. Rather than guiding the researcher in a chase for verbalized explanations of the past, the paper foregrounds the need to unpack the present moment and to rediscover a sense of wonder and uncertainty amidst the whirl of contemporary life.

18.30-18.45

Break

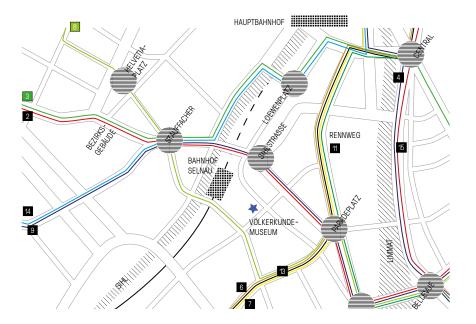
18.45-19.30

Wrap-up and Closing Remarks

Thinking virtual realities: 'experience' in the age of new immersive media

Laura Coppens, Martha-Cecilia Dietrich & Michaela Schäuble, University of Bern Concluding thoughts and possible outlooks – a conversation with panelists and audience.

Information



How to get to the Ethnographic Museum

Völkerkundemuseum Zürich Pelikanstrasse 40 CH-8001 Zürich

The Ethnographic Museum is easily reachable by public transport

- → Tram 2 and 9 to Sihlstrasse
- → S-Bahn Line 10 and 4 to Selnau Station (Bahnhof Selnau)
- → by foot from the Main Station Zürich (Hauptbahnhof Zürich) in about 15 min

Program online

http://www.musethno.uzh.ch/de/veranstaltungen/regardbleu.html

http://www.sagw.ch/seg/commissions/ CAV/eventsandcourses.html

Contact

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Regard Bleu

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CAV Symposium

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Michaela Schäuble (University of Bern)

Regard Bleu Chair

Michèle Dick (Ethnographic Museum University of Zurich)

Impressum

Hosted by

Ethnographic Museum University of Zurich

The CAV-Symposium was organised by

Laura Coppens, Martha-Cecilia Dietrich, Michaela Schäuble

The Regard Bleu was organised by

Alice Stünzi, Julia Ingold, Linda Hodel, Michèle Dick, Rahmi Pala

Design

Julia Weiss and Lea Büchl

Print

35

J.E. Wolfensberger AG, Birmensdorf

