

Chat Thread –  
Friends of Attention  
“First Friday” of 1 October 2020  
On “The Handbook”  
(With everyone from the August “Politics of Attention” Workshop)



- 14:11:30 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:  
Great reference on fisher and wonder:
- 14:11:35 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:  
<https://www.amazon.com/Wonder-Rainbow-Aesthetics-Rare-Experiences/dp/0674955625>
- 14:13:22 From Helen Nooy-Strand to Everyone:  
After Rain protocol
- 14:13:30 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:  
^ ^ ^ ^
- 14:13:41 From Jesse Prinz to Everyone:  
<https://aeon.co/essays/why-wonder-is-the-most-human-of-all-emotions>
- 14:21:09 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:  
With an emphasis on smell? Or no?
- 14:21:22 From Ana Marques to Everyone:  
rebuild through all senses or just smell?
- 14:21:26 From Ana Marques to Everyone:  
oh yeah
- 14:38:37 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:  
Also interesting to notice that ALL OF US chose water-related images...
- 14:39:00 From Ana Marques to Everyone:  
that was so rich!
- 14:39:48 From margaret wertheim to Everyone:  
Hello Rebecca
- 14:40:08 From Rebecca Rickman to Everyone:  
Glad you are here Margaret!!
- 14:48:52 From Lane Stroud to Everyone:  
Seeing all the noses in books is really delightful.
- 14:52:51 From Sonali Chakravarti to Everyone:

Which one was easier to do? What are some strategies for developing language to talk about smell?

Could the difficulty of finding language to describe smells actually help in the process of memory, rather than make it more difficult?

14:54:17 From Jessica Gallucci to Everyone:

My Little Pony carry case/stable

Mold

Faintly, rubber

Smoky chemical

Herbal Essences. Totally Twisted Curl Boosting Mousse:

Maraschino cherry

Chemical almond

Aldehydes

Vanilla

Synthetic berries

Plastic inflatable kiddie pool

Soapy feces

15:07:07 From Ana Marques to Everyone:

to rebecca:

<https://open.spotify.com/track/5fadYf8F0lVkJc92u5ZpwB?si=f2b785c0643c473d>

15:07:52 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

Just an observation that came out of one of the conversations I was in:

15:08:02 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

The idea of smell and "MASKING"...

15:09:04 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

Smell seems like a sensory modality that, phenomenologically, lends itself to an intuition of "masking" — meaning, the way one smell can be used to "cover" or disguise/lie-over another...

15:09:05 From Luca Rade to Everyone:

Smell-absorbing objects (old books, Covid masks, laptops) as repertoires of a massive set of embedded smells from the environments they've lived in

15:09:07 From Anthony Acciavatti to Everyone:

Kirsten, to answer your question, the brass key smells like my tuba mouthpiece from high school...

15:09:32 From Kirsten Scheid to Everyone:

Yes, the taste of metal, braces, spoons, is very strong

15:09:58 From Margaret Wertheim to Everyone:

In a very "Bird-like" conjunction I recently wrote an essay about chemistry codes and crochet codes that discusses aromatic molecules - which all have a specific hexagonal structure at the core. Smell is so aligned to geometry at the molecular scale.

15:10:14 From Ana Marques to Everyone:

smell, taste, hearing: we can't filter

15:10:14 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

^^^^

15:10:16 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

cool.

15:10:32 From Corey Klemmer to Everyone:

wondering about distinctions between layers of smell, masking/veiling of smells, braiding together of smells... and how these dynamics of smell seed other memories associated.

15:11:59 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

At a Bird practice not long ago, Jeff made the point that smell has a kind of \_essentially\_ synecdochal structure....

15:12:14 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

It is so deeply ASSOCIATIONAL....

15:14:08 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

I would also throw out there that smell presents a sensory mode in which our bodies are actively integrated with alien matter....

15:14:44 From Saskia Wilson-Brown to Everyone:

The language of scent exists, it's just that it's chemical so most people don't "speak" it.

15:15:13 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

Which is to say, as in the case of food, we are, in smelling, literally MIXING on the self/non-self boundary.

15:15:32 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

(In a way that is NOT the case with vision, say; or with hearing....)

15:16:18 From Kristin Lawler to Everyone:

When we shoot film we want to show people what we see, what would be an olfactory analogue for smell?

15:16:45 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

^^^^ Shout out to Saskia, who, if I am not mistaken, is an actual NOSE (a professional smell-person!)

15:17:12 From Sonali Chakravarti to Everyone:

And my fragrance teacher : )

15:18:05 From Helen Nooy-Strand to Everyone:

I just had an association chain set off by hearing the idea of geometry discussed in Margaret's voice... and remembered where I had heard her voice before, in another discussion of geometry.

15:19:42 From Jessica Gallucci to Everyone:

@Kristin, I'm not sure if you're asking about technology or practice, but I've heard that scent designers have been hired to marketing/branding teams to create scentscapes for public spaces (and isn't that a form of attentional hijacking in the vein of billboard ads in public spaces?)

15:19:55 From Jesse Prinz to Everyone:

One of the most famous cases of literary synesthesia involves smell. In A Rebour by Huysman's there is a chapter about the protagonist, des Esseintes, relating perfumes to instruments of the orchestra.

15:20:15 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

friendsofattention@gmail.com

15:20:17 From Kristin Lawler to Everyone:

@Jessica YES

15:20:34 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

Diego, who was in my "Attention" class a few years ago, will likely remember:

15:20:45 From Ana Marques to Everyone:

i was in saskia's room and now i realize that maybe because she is more literate in the smell language, her verbal language i notices was very varied. like ulling from many domains in order to adjectify smell

15:20:49 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

Lulu Genung Birch's paper in the American Journal of Psychology from October of 1897, "Distraction by Odors";

15:20:52 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

^^^^

15:21:00 From Jesse Prinz to Everyone:

thank you all

15:21:01 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

Crazy paper!

15:21:04 From Kirsten Scheid to Everyone:

thank you!!

15:21:07 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

THANK YOU!!!

15:21:12 From Ana Marques to Everyone:

because it is not obvious it opens up for creativity!

15:21:15 From Federica Soletta to Everyone:

thank you!

15:50:55 From D. Graham Burnett (he/him) to Everyone:

I am jumping off — HUGS TO ALL!!!