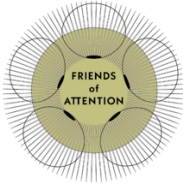


Chat Thread –  
Friends of Attention  
“First Friday” of 7 October 2022  
The Dance of Attention  
(Sal Randolph, on her new book, *The Uses of Art*; with David  
Richardson, leading the exercise and the conversation)



14:00:58 From Ana Marques to Everyone:  
so good to see everybody!!! <3 <3 <3

14:01:17 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:  
Gotta be here to celebrate Sal's book!!!

14:01:27 From Sal Randolph to Everyone:  
thank you!! yay!!

14:01:34 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:  
<3

14:16:12 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:  
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9518475>

14:19:42 From David Landes to Everyone:  
Peter, what's your email?

14:20:03 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:  
peter@sustainedattention.net

14:21:32 From Sal Randolph to Everyone:  
Thanks to all who came up - a stunning beautiful day - we listened to Graham speak  
while lying on a lawn under falling trees.

14:25:41 From Jeff Dolven to Everyone:  
57

14:38:59 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:  
That was super cool, thank you

14:45:11 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:  
(On those form of “drifty” attention -- I always think of Paul North's brilliant book, *THE  
PROBLEM OF DISTRACTION*...

14:45:16 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:  
^^^

14:45:26 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Really worth checking out...

14:47:09 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Reading as an “Attentional Practice” — another reference here Huey, the “Psychology and Pedagogy of Reading” of 1908 (some early eye-tracking work in there...)

14:47:52 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

“After Attention” —

14:48:32 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:

Reading as an attentional practice that remakes the text by unmaking it in the form of a kind of attentional exploded view diagram: <https://www.wavepoetry.com/products/to-float-in-the-space-between>

14:58:51 From Brad Fox to Everyone:

Ana, Claudia, Brad

What the soul desires—

An earthquake, a rupture—everything is different now.

It’s a circle, I want to go back there in order to be more in the world, when you are attending, you are not you, you are in a communion, you sit with whatever happens. I need to go back in order to carry on with this life.

being returned to a transformed moment  
the communion is the death of the self,  
after the earthquake, you let the experience die,  
let it return to communion, a dance

After a moment of illumination, you feel the pain of detachment. Is it possible to go back?

14:59:01 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:

Matthew Strother, that was a perfect ending to what you were saying (“what comes unbidden”)

14:59:03 From Sal Randolph to Everyone:

@Carla - that looks amazing!!

14:59:12 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:

@Sal, it is!!!

14:59:40 From matthewstrother to Everyone:



15:00:41 From Sal Randolph to Everyone:

a drifty sort of navigation, to be sure

15:00:42 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:

Peter: The quality of remembering moments of deep / open attention often feels different in a hard to describe way - duration less? Dream like?

Jeff: Forming a concept of a “purposeless” attention experience imposes upon it a purpose... what is lost in such a moment of transition?

15:01:07 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:  
LOVE.

15:01:21 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:  
Omg love.

15:01:38 From Alyssa Loh to Everyone:  
!!

15:01:40 From Kristin Lawler to Everyone:  
whoa

15:01:46 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

In my group the question/thinking turned to the relationship between "after" in the immediate sense ("right after" one attends) as against the big sense of after (meaning "after" -- like, when something is done, over, finished... -- i.e., McIntyre's AFTER VIRTUE). Are we "after" attention in that latter sense??

15:02:11 From Ana Marques to Everyone:  
genius!!!

15:03:03 From Jeff Dolven to Everyone:

What do you do after attention—does that mean, how does it feel when an "attention experience" (Elisabeth) is over; or, how do you put an attention experience to work, into practice, etc.? We thought about whether attention is an effort, and how to sustain that effort (if that's what it is), maybe through writing something down, talking to someone, etc. Also: does action abate attention; does it substitute downstream purposiveness for upstream openness?

15:03:23 From David Landes to Everyone:  
Group chat:

15:03:25 From David Landes to Everyone:

Matthew: dreams, unconscious return of prior focus, but obliquely in new forms

Carla: after attn is more attn, we coax it back into attn

David Landes: In a sense, there is no "after," only "during, along, into next"

C: Like a prepositional, syntactic chain,

Margaret's forum story: diff aspects of consciousness, intellectual vs performative aspects of representing it thru talk - which aspects of attn are we heeding? The body, power, sociological, non-linguistic, which aspects are attending?

C: noting what gets shut down when doing intellectual attn

D: after attn: "that which is involved but not recognized"

Closing thought: we recognized different kinds of attentions, each with their own "afters" ...

15:04:00 From margaret wertheim to Everyone:

I attended a confernece last week about consiciousness with a really diverse range of speakers. I was very struck by how in the audience women seemed very attentive to the non-verbal aspects on the talks and the men in in the audience seemed focused on the intellectual verbal content. I became fascinated with what it measn to attend to something? what aspects of the thing and of ourselves does attention invlove. And what are the political/social consequences of this? Attention is itself multicfacted invloving mental physical sociollogial dimensions.

15:11:22 From matthewstrother to Everyone:  
That was fun

15:11:30 From Ana Marques to Everyone:  
what was the sentenceeee claudiaaaa

15:11:52 From David Landes to Everyone:  
lots of sex in our dreams...

15:12:39 From Sal Randolph to Everyone:  
<https://www.dispersedholdings.net>

15:13:24 From claudia claremi to Everyone:  
“There is no means expression with such great explosive power. A collage is charged and it always remains explosive.”

15:13:35 From Jeff Dolven to Everyone:  
Beautiful exercise. Beautiful book!

15:13:42 From matthewstrother to Everyone:  
Agreed!

15:14:08 From Henry Schmidt to Everyone:  
our fragments, forthcoming:

15:14:55 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:  
[friendsofattention@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofattention@gmail.com)

15:15:27 From Elisabeth Quatrano she/her to Everyone:  
Hmmmmm, wondering what everyone is going to do after THIS (rich) attention experience?