

Press release

Violaine Lochu

Pharmakon / Reboot

05 June – 07 Sept. 2025



opening

Wednesday 04 June 2025
(at 06:30 pm)

press contact

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an exhibition as part of
Exporama 2025



la criée
centre d'art contemporain / rennes

opening

Wednesday 04 June 2025
6:30 pm

performances *Pharmakon / Reboot*
avec Violaine Lochu, Yael Miller et
Flor Paichard
à 18h30 et 19h30

curator

Sophie Kaplan

production

La Criée
centre d'art contemporain, Rennes

press contact

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access

La Criée centre d'art contemporain
place Honoré Commeurec
35000 Rennes
(wheelchair accessible)
métro: République / bus: La Criée

opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday 1pm to 7pm
open on public holidays except 1 May, 25
December and 1 January
(free admission)

Born in 1987, **Violaine Lochu** lives and works between Montreuil in France and Cotonou in Benin. She is a graduate of the École nationale supérieure d'art de Paris Cergy and holds a Master II in visual arts research (Université Rennes 2).

Violaine Lochu's work explores the voice as a vehicle for encounters and metamorphosis. During long periods of immersion in specific environments, she collects various sound and visual materials from which she creates performances, sound installations, videos and publications.

Her practice is transdisciplinary, evolving in the fields of visual arts, experimental music and sound poetry, creating bridges between contemporary and ancient worlds, scholarly and vernacular, drawing inspiration from encounters with human and non-human entities, as well as from readings in the humanities. Encounters and collaboration (with other musicians, choreographers, visual artists, researchers in the humanities, etc.) are at the heart of her approach.

Exploring voice and language as well as notions of transformation and transposition, Violaine Lochu has developed an artistic practice at the crossroads of the visual arts, experimental music and sound poetry. Her solo exhibition at La Criée, *Pharmakon / Reboot* unfolds around healing songs, gestures and thoughts. It is conceived as an ensemble in which video-performances, costume-partitions, drawing-writing, sound pieces and site-specific performances interact.

How does art help us to resonate with ourselves and others? And to take care of those, and everything, around us? These questions, which have underpinned Violaine Lochu's work in recent years, are at the heart of the *Pharmakon / Reboot* exhibition.

In response, the artist poses another question, simple and direct, yet one that opens up worlds, even abysses: what would you like to heal?

Interested in the interactions between humans and plants, the artist has conducted research in several stages to explore these questions. She met with herbalists, ethnobotanists and magnetisers in Mayenne. She also listened to and collected stories from people in Rennes suffering from various ailments, both before and during the exhibition. It is this collected material that she translates, transposes and recomposes to create new musical and visual compositions. The *Pharmakon / Reboot* exhibition has a strong ritual dimension, drawing on local and distant indigenous knowledge as much as it fits into the recent history of performance art. The performers will engage in healing rituals at the opening and closing of the exhibition. The art centre's reception and mediation team will also perform regular healing rituals throughout the exhibition, based on wishes submitted by visitors. The artist and the institution are reflecting on, and sharing, new ways of presenting and transmitting art.

With *Pharmakon / Reboot*, Violaine Lochu lays bare her own voice in order to recompose, to make heard and to accompany our ills. The central questions addressed by the artist in this exhibition prompt others: How can modern and vernacular gestures and knowledge merge and complement each other? How can an exhibition welcome and listen? Can a work of art be both intimate and collective, poetic and political?

Pharmakon / Reboot offers a reflection on the decompartmentalisation of forms and practices - artistic, medical, social - made possible by the pooling of knowledge and the (re) invention of healing gestures