



Free event

Perception is fundamental to who we are and how we experience life. But how much can we actually trust our senses? A scientific, philosophical and creative approach to this question will invite you on a journey into your inner and outer experiences of the world.

MAS Productions presents a night of visceral performance and conversation, exploring altered states, visual illusions, hallucinations and how these are linked to the creative act.

This is a special late-night event with a bar running all night.

With thanks to Emily Wiles, Abbie Doran and Wellcome Collection staff

Event curated by **MAS**
PRODUCTIONS

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Wellcome Collection is part of the Wellcome Trust. The Wellcome Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales, no. 210183. MP-6849.4/TBC/11-2017/RK

Friday 1 December
19.00–23.00

**wellcome
collection**

#RealityisBroken

Your Reality is Broken

Friday Late Spectacular

**wellcome
collection**

Wellcome's free museum and
library for the incurably curious



All Auditorium talks will be British Sign Language interpreted.

* For ticketed activities, ask at the Information Point (level 0).

Level

-1

Williams Lounge

Workshop

Haitian Vodou Ritual Dance Workshop
19.45–20.25, 20.45–21.25, 21.45–22.25 | **Ticketed***
A rare chance to experience this beautiful, ecstatic, intense Caribbean dance form. Join Vodou dance teacher and practitioner **Zsuzsa Parrag** to learn some of the basic ritual steps that can create feelings of altered states of perception. With live drumming by **Randy Lester**.

Auditorium

Talk

Are Our Brains Broken? Cognitive bias and the neurodiverse spectrum
19.30–20.10 | **Ticketed***
Neuroscientist **Edward Bracey** demonstrates that the senses we trust unthinkingly every day can be tricked and manipulated. In using the senses to create a model of the environment, the brain has to make shortcuts and simplifications, leading to cognitive biases. Experience how our brains simplify reality, putting us all on a spectrum of neurodiversity.

Auditorium

Talk

Illuminating Visions 
20.30–21.10 | **Ticketed***
Throughout history, spirituality has been used to interpret perceptual differences that science could not explain. Beginning with Hildegard von Bingen – a 12th-century nun, composer, proto-scientist and mystic – science communicator **Rachel Williams** will discuss visions, ecstatic experiences, trance states and the neurological disorders that can cause them.

Talk

The Politics of Perception: Winning the battle in a post-truth society 
21.30–22.10 | **Ticketed***
Surveying the current social and political landscape including the Brexit vote, the rise of Donald Trump and the rejection of climate science, *Guardian* columnist **Matthew d'Ancona** discusses the post-truth era we find ourselves in.

Level

0

Atrium

Performance

Reverse Your Taste
19.15–22.30 | **DROP IN**
Mexican opera singer **Ignacio Jarquin** invites you to discover the intricacies of your taste buds in this flavour-tripping salon.

Level

1

Medicine Man

Activity

Enter the Floral Brain
19.30–22.10 | **DROP IN**
Performance artist and mystic **Jennefer Wennefer** enters the mysterious world of olfaction, its instantaneous connection to memory and its role in long-term mental health. Responding to the objects in the gallery, this provocative piece welcomes you into a hypnotic head space where it's possible to reverse the ageing process, rewrite memories, and tap into previously unknown potentials, all in a sniff! Because the nose knows best...

Wellcome Café on level 0, pop-up bar on level 1 and Wellcome Kitchen on level 2
Drop in for a cocktail and a selection of light snacks.

Medicine Now

Activity

Visual Disturbances
19.00–23.00 | **DROP IN**
Join neuroscientist **Francesca Puledda** for an augmented-reality-aided conversation on visual snow. This rare neurological syndrome causes people to experience reality overlaid with 'TV static', halos, auras as well as non-visual symptoms including tinnitus.

Do you see what I see? Artists **Lucy F Thane** and **Elinor Ward** invite you to draw your reality and the reality of others.

Forum

Performance

20 Minutes of Action
Performance: 19.30–19.50, 20.30–20.50 | **Ticketed***
Installation open: 21.00–22.45 | DROP IN
A traumatic experience may not last long, but what happens if a survivor keeps reliving it – not just psychologically but also in everlasting afterimages caused by a rare neurological condition?

Inspired by psychodramatic retellings of European and African folk tales and rituals, this performance draws on artist **Nwando Ebizie's** research into perceptual disorders and dance research through the meeting points of ballet, vogue and Haitian Vodou.

This performance includes stroboscopic effects and flashing lights.

Level

2

Reading Room

Performance

Brain Tingles: Touch, sound and personal attention
19.30–23.00 | **DROP IN**
Relax with intimate storytelling and performance created for people who experience autonomous sensory meridian response (ASMR).

This is a relaxing, tingling sensation across the scalp and spine in response to certain triggers like close attention and specific sounds.

Across the building

Activity

Roaming Researchers
19.00–23.00 | **DROP IN**
As you look around the exhibitions, meet psychologists, neuroscientists and other scientists who study how we perceive the world.

Use VR to see how others might see the world, listen to the nerves in your muscles and try out illusions to fool your eyes.

Performance

Tabloid
How flexible are we with what we believe, how forgiving are we to those who believe something contrary?

MAMATRIX traverses the building, testing your cognitive bias with an unusual card game.