

Why mouldering?

Preface to the English version of the issue

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

With great pleasure, we would like to introduce the first issue of this year's Avant magazine. At the same time we would like to thank you all for the unexpected, but very pleasant, great interest for our premiere issue, as well as for the atmosphere of discussion around it. However, the biggest controversy was caused by our motto, which you can find on the internet portal of the magazine: *against mouldering of philosophy and oddity of science*; mostly by its first part concerning philosophy. There is no doubt that it indicates a certain type of objection – and this is what we wanted to communicate. Nevertheless, among various sorts of interpretations of the former, some were connected with the representatives of stances and disciplines different from the ones we present in our magazine. That is why we would like to clarify our intentions.

“Mouldering” is something that we think can happen in every discipline; unwanted, very often appearing imperceptibly, surreptitiously. As if it was the effect of still water, a result of stagnation, a non-renewable source of vitality. Every reliable specialist would fight against this kind of effect in his/her own way. And it does not matter whether it would be a philosopher of science, a cognitivist, a neuroscientist, a computer scientist, as well as an ethicist, a historian of philosophy, a classical philologist, a specialist in literature... In our opinion each of them has this kind of responsibility. We are trying to fulfill this responsibility within the areas of these stances and disciplines, which shape the profile of our magazine - at the same time, we are more than far from superficial judging from an interdisciplinary and progressive perspective. When it comes to the former, we think that the laborious, complicated and imaginative work of an archeologist belongs to these deserving the highest regard. The same is required in the work of a classical philologist, who reconstructs an ancient text, and sort of recreates it, against the accepted and well established, versions, con-

sidered to be 'obvious'. What is different then in the work of the scientist, who compares the basis of Husserl's phenomenology and the findings of Yogachary school, and who does so in an uncompromising way, in spite of the stereotypes dividing philosophical West and East into two distant universes? Or: why should we exclude from the area of our interests the members of an ambitious group playing old, early music, who spend hours in libraries, museums, galleries or even tumbledown places searching for any kind of hint which will help them in their often reckless attempts at returning to the original sounds and musical structures?

Having said that, we anticipated the announcement of some of the current and future characters of Avant, as David Hume, Hildegard von Bingen or Vasubandhu. We strongly believe that in doing so we do not cause any kind of opposition towards simultaneously announced works and conversations from neurobiology and robotics. If this constitutes provocation – we are glad of that as well. But if this causes any kind of disorientation – we are convinced that our readers will surely overcome it after careful reading of Avant.

However, at the same time we would like to encourage you to familiarize yourselves with the content of this issue. Its intriguing opening belongs to Alva Noë, who in the interview talks about his newest book, but at the same time he indulges us with a few reflections about the past. In his text written several years ago, *Experience of the world in time*, he presents briefly his own standpoint on how we sense the presence of the event, going beyond clichéd dilemmas. In his older work, *Experience and Experiment in Art*, he shows how an artist can provide a method to investigate an experience. In our magazine Tom Froese presents his premiering paper, *Breathing new life into cognitive science*, in which he copes with the challenge of unified cognitive science in a very interesting manner, proposing a thesis of life-mind continuum. This author strongly emphasizes the constitutive role of social interaction, which is crucial for our cognitive abilities. Moreover, the interview with Tom Froese reveals his approach to Hume. The section dedicated to art has taken on a very colorful appearance. Joel Krueger in the conversation with us stresses the range in which the active body of the listeners shapes what they hear, and how they hear. In his opinion, music is a very important tool in the process of molding our empathetic sensitivity. Conversely, Mateusz Walerian – a professional musician – presents his uncompromising attitude to the development of an artist, as well as the listener, referring to many authorities not only from within the musical world. The abovementioned paper about art by Alva Noë closes the whole section. Moreover, we would also like to recommend to our readers the texts gathered in *Silva Cognitiva*, as well as the review content of *Lapidarium*.

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Editors of *Avant. Journal of the Philosophical-Interdisciplinary Vanguard*

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