

Cabaret Voltaire

Emma Jung & Rebecca  
Ackroyd  
«Tage und Nächte»

English

Cabaret Voltaire  
Spiegelgasse 1  
8001 Zürich  
cabaretvoltaire.ch  
info@cabaretvoltaire.ch

Künstler\*innenkneipe/  
Artists' Bar

Ausstellungen/Exhibitions  
Dada-Vitrine/Dada  
Showcase

Dada-Bibliothek/Dada  
Library  
Soireen/Soirées

In the Vaulted Cellar of the Cabaret Voltaire, two cosmologies meet—personal inner worlds that also encompass collective and universal dimensions. The space has been transformed for this exhibition by a central wooden rotunda, specially constructed to provide both an internal and external perspective on the exhibits presented. Painted black, the structure stands as a dominant shadow in the room—a reduced architectural construction reminiscent of an ancient temple. It serves as both a viewing structure and an embodiment of a psychic space, permeated by symbolism, fragmented dreams, and flashing visions—steeped in the search for wholeness. The rotunda feels at once familiar and distant.

Within this setting unfolds the previously unseen world of Emma Jung (1882–1955), presented in dialogue with new work series by contemporary artist Rebecca Ackroyd (\*1987). On view from Emma Jung are drawings, paintings, poems, and several photographs—originals from the Jung family archive—displayed in central vitrines. These are complemented by copies of her “system” of “world-becoming,” letters, and another photograph along the vaulted walls. Rebecca Ackroyd presents thirty drawings arranged in a grid on the masonry walls, wax sculptures in the center of the rotunda, and a slide installation in the niche near the entrance.

Rebecca Ackroyd represents a contemporary artistic approach to exploring the human psyche, while Emma Jung’s perspective is rooted in the early twentieth-century tradition of Analytical Psychology from the “Zurich school,” which was founded by her husband Carl Gustav (C.G.) Jung. Both Jung and Ackroyd can be situated in the tension between creativity and psychological development. The focus is on the question of personal records as artistic, analytical, or spiritual practice—an approach that is also visible in Emma Jung’s contemporaries in Switzerland, such as Emma Kunz and **Olga Fröbe-Kapteyn**, though more explicitly linked to spirituality and healing.

The exhibition is inspired by a historical thread: connections exist between Dada—whose birthplace is the Cabaret Voltaire—and Analytical Psychology, as shown in the large wall vitrine. The Dada group was loosely connected to Emma and C.G. Jung’s circle through Sophie Taeuber and Hans Arp. Both Dada and the Jungs sought ways to access the unconscious, considered creativity a therapeutic moment, and viewed artistic expression as a mirror of psychological states.

#### Emma Jung: Forgotten Analyst

While C.G. Jung is world-renowned and celebrates his 150th birthday this year, Emma Jung remains mostly in the background—known primarily as his wife and the

mother of their five children. This exhibition aims to finally give her the recognition she deserves as an analyst in her own right—aligned with the recently published *Dedicated to the Soul* (Princeton University Press, 2025), the first comprehensive study of her work.

Emma Jung was far more than just her husband’s intellectual partner and supporter. She worked as a research assistant at the Burghölzli psychiatric clinic, contributed ideas and was an active participant in Jung’s inner circle, and became the first president of the Psychology Club in 1916. As early as 1910, she was part of the Zurich group of the Psychoanalytic Society, which, after the rift between Sigmund Freud and C.G. Jung due to differences over the theory of libido, was renamed the “Society for Analytical Psychology.” In 1913, she presented her first paper to peers—a psychological interpretation of the fairy tale “The Two Brothers.”

She made an independent contribution to the development of Analytical Psychology. Her special focus was the concept of individuation—the inner process through which one integrates unconscious aspects to become a more whole and conscious self. Key themes in her work included the dynamics of “Animus and Anima”—the contrasexual aspects within each psyche—as well as the symbolism of the Grail legend as a metaphor for the inner spiritual journey and quest for psychic wholeness. Her work sought to resolve dualities such as culture and nature, good and evil, and gender identities.

Equally important to her was engaging with psychological questions from a female perspective. Starting in 1921, she organized so-called “women’s evenings” with Erika Schlegel and Susi Trüb, where women could reflect and discuss psychological topics among themselves.

The fact that Emma Jung was held in high regard in professional circles is evidenced by her extensive correspondence with colleagues and her participation in the Weimar Congress—among a distinguished group of prominent psychologists of her time.

#### Rebecca Ackroyd: *The World as I see it*

More than a hundred years later, Rebecca Ackroyd takes up similar fields of interest with her new series, including *The World as I see it*, continuing a lifelong engagement with themes such as identity, embodiment, memory, and the boundaries between physical and psychological space. The thirty small-format drawings—symbolic and collage-like in their connections—express a deep fascination with inner imagery. Unlike her usually large-scale works depicting close-ups of body fragments or isolated symbols such as spirals,

these portray entire scenes. They are intimate, almost diary-like records of dreams and inner images, created not in the studio but at home, alongside sessions in Analytical Psychology and Tarot readings.

The drawings feature recurring motifs: water, spirals, skeletons, flowers. They are symbols of birth, transformation, and death—cyclical movements of life and layered processes of becoming. For the first time, the artist herself appears within these visual worlds. The intentionally small size of the drawings invites deeper engagement with the artist's inner world.

#### Emma Jung: Abstract Metamorphoses and World-Becoming

The rich symbolism in Emma Jung's visual and poetic language arose from an intense inner process, especially during the years 1913–1919—coinciding with the Dada period in Zurich. During this time, both Emma and C.G. Jung searched for ways to make the unconscious visible: dreams, fantasies, inner images—not just through Freudian free association, but also through “amplifications”—an approach that examines unconscious material in depth and enriches it through religious, mystical, and mythological references.

It was during this period that C.G. Jung created his famous “Red Book” and developed his method of “active imagination”—a dialogical process in which inner images, emotions, or impulses are consciously acknowledged and creatively processed. At the same time (or perhaps even earlier), Emma Jung was working on her own “Red Book,” a journal bound in marbled paper and leather where she recorded dreams and visions. She also illustrated her “system” or “world-becoming”: a personal cosmology connecting inner and outer, micro- and macrocosm, near and far.

At the core of these works is the process of individuation—the psychological development through which a person becomes a more whole, conscious self by integrating their unconscious. Emma Jung's individuating visual language is exemplified in her “Abstract Metamorphoses” (1917/18), in which she abstracts psychic transformation across several works: a crystal flower grows from a burned-out world. Other images show a girl (Jung herself?) appearing in blue before a large closed door, then before an open interior filled with birds, hybrid creatures, lava made of water, organic forms, and walls. These inner images, like the wall, also appear in her poems.

#### Rebecca Ackroyd: *The World as it is*

Rebecca Ackroyd's drawings make dreams and inner images visible, too—often without the artist fully knowing how or why they are encoded within her psyche, or where the imagery comes from. This contrasts with her

sculpture series *The World as I feel it*, which is based on real people and objects: divers, chainsaw blades, cameras, feet, a therapy couch from a dollhouse. Ackroyd wanted to reclaim these elusive images, to touch them, to give them real-life scale and form. She made molds using silicone and alginate, which she then cast in hot wax. The resulting pieces are compact and dense. Despite this, the fragmented and simultaneous experience of inner and outer life in the torsos brings the viewer back to the dreamlike and surreal. The diver casts of Ackroyd's friend Barbara and her son are particularly striking. Swimming and water have long represented the unconscious in her work. The couch here may suggest a space of contemplation and reflection, while the chainsaw evokes the brutality of analysis. It also alludes to a lack of inner wholeness and simultaneously to the setting sun, while the camera stands for supposed objectivity.

Alongside *The World as I feel it* and *The World as I see it*, *The World as it is* is also on view—a collection of images of outer space, medical textbook photographs, and personal archive materials. Unlike the drawings and sculptures, these are not inner images or artistic transformations but real representations. From bone structures and the human body to outer space—these are undeniably “things as they are,” yet they also reflect what we cannot fully grasp or see: our inner lives and the vastness of the universe down to the galaxies. The rhythmic clicking of the projector and the carousel function resonate with the wooden rotunda. The exhibition feels like a reservoir of conscious and unconscious images—sometimes tangible, sometimes slipping away. The familiar and the uncanny, desires and fears, longing and revulsion merge across the three bodies of work.

#### Tage und Nächte

The title “Tage und Nächte” (Days and Nights) refers not only to Emma Jung's leather-bound notebook, but also to the tensions that run throughout the exhibition: consciousness and the unconscious, light and dark, materialization and spiritualization—a process of constant transformation and shifting perspectives. At its heart is the act of viewing subjective and societal structures from multiple angles—including across different periods. The exhibition raises questions that continue to fascinate: How do we understand ourselves as individual and social beings? How do we integrate our complexity? Creativity can serve a therapeutic function. In the act of artistic transformation, a kind of calm emerges—in the experience of integrating what was once fragmented.

Emma Jung was a Swiss analyst and author. She gained recognition as the wife and close collaborator of psychiatrist Carl Gustav Jung, but her own contributions to Analytical Psychology deserve acknowledgment. Emma Jung came from a wealthy and influential family. Her father, Johannes Rauschenbach-Schenk, was a successful industrialist and co-owner of the Rauschenbach machinery factory. Thanks to her privileged background, she received an excellent education, which sparked her interest in literature, philosophy, and psychology. In 1903, she married Carl Gustav Jung, with whom she had five children. She was not only deeply involved in her husband's work but also developed into an independent analyst over the years. Notably, her research on Grail symbolism, published posthumously in 1960, and her studies on the dynamics of Animus and Anima stand out as significant contributions.

Rebecca Ackroyd, born in 1987 in Cheltenham, Great Britain, lives and works between Berlin and London. She completed her Post Graduate Diploma in Fine Art at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, and her BA at the Byam Shaw School of Art, London. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Mirror Stage* at the Venice Biennale (2024), organized by Kestner Gesellschaft, Hanover; *Period Drama* at the Kestner Gesellschaft, Hanover (2023–2024); *Shutter Speed* at Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon (2023–2024). Her works have also been part of numerous group exhibitions, including *Antéfutur* at Musée d'Art Contemporain, Bordeaux (2023); *Dark Light: Realism in the Age of Post-Truth* at the Aishti Foundation, Beirut (2022); *Masters and Servants* at Ygrec Gallery, École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts de Paris Cergy, Paris (2022); *corpus murmur* at Peles Empire, Berlin (2022); *Act 1: Body en Thrall* at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, UK (2022); and *Singed Lids* for the 15th Lyon Biennale, organized by the Palais de Tokyo (2019).

We extend our sincere thanks to: Rebecca Ackroyd, Medea Hoch, Jennifer Higgie, the Jung Family Archive, and the Foundation of the Works of C.G. Jung, ETH Zurich (C.G. Jung Working Archive)

The exhibition is supported by:  
City of Zurich  
Canton of Zurich  
Jubiläumsstiftung der Mobiliar Genossenschaft  
Stanley Thomas Johnson  
Cassinelli-Vogel Foundation  
Hans F. Tellenbach Foundation  
Else v. Sick Foundation

Exhibits in the Vaulted Cellar:

1  
Display with the following exhibits by Emma Jung-Rauschenbach  
– Dream book & diary black with imprint: The book of days and nights (Das Buch der Tage und Nächte) 22 x 17.5 cm  
– Poem “at the gates of a foreign land” (an den Pforten eines fremden Landes), 1921 16 x 16 cm  
– Small image of a dark night with a beam of light, 1918 11.3 x 13.4 cm  
– Colored drawing & sketch by C.G. Jung to Urgo, undated 10 x 15 cm  
– Poem “Calling” (Ruf), undated 21.2 x 27.5 cm  
– Poem “the wall” (die Mauer), 1916 28 x 21.7 cm  
– Poem “Over high mountains, the light enters in” (Über hohe Berge dringt herein das Licht), 1918 27 x 18 cm  
– Poem “the soul, a cloud” (die Seele, eine Wolke), 1916 28 x 21.2 cm

2  
Display with the following exhibits by Emma Jung-Rauschenbach:  
– Drawing of ornamental tangles and undulating lines (recto and verso), undated 13.2 x 17.2 cm  
– Photography Emma Jung at her desk 1954 (Photo: Erica Anderson) 12.6 x 8.5 cm  
– Drawing of a child in a blue dress in a tunnel, undated 14.5 x 18.7 cm  
– Drawing of a mountain scene with a creature and red lightning, undated 13.7 x 18 cm  
– Mandala drawing on the “Becoming of the Star Bird”, 1917 20.6 x 25.5 cm  
– Wave drawing on the “Becoming of the Star Bird”, 1917 20.5 x 25.5 cm  
– Bird drawing on the “Becoming of the Star Bird”, 1917 20.5 x 25.5 cm

3  
Display with the following exhibits by Emma Jung-Rauschenbach:  
– Drawing of the Madonna of Mercy, undated 20 x 28.6 cm  
– Drawing of a candelabrum, 1917 13.5 x 11.8 cm  
– Drawing of a red tree, undated 20.5 x 18.4 cm  
– Watercolor color wheel mandala large (flower in crystal), undated 20 x 26.8 cm  
– What is buried in the depth, drawing 1, earth with golden figure, 12.09.1917 20.3 x 25.3 cm  
– What is buried in the depth, drawing 2, fire spirits, 13.09.1917 20.5 x 25.5 cm

4  
Display with the following exhibits by Emma Jung-Rauschenbach:  
– What is buried in the depth, drawing 3, flames, 14.09.1917 20.3 x 25.3 cm  
– What is buried in the depth, drawing 4, falling flames, 15.09.1917 20.3 x 25.4 cm  
– What is buried in the depth, drawing 5, world in flames, 17.09.1917 20.3 x 25.4 cm  
– Title page of the drawings, undated 20.5 x 25.5 cm  
– What is buried in the depth, drawing 6, flower, 18.09.1917 20.3 x 25.3 cm  
– What is buried in the depth, drawing 7, Crystal Flower, 19.09.1917 20.6 x 25.5 cm

5  
Display with the following exhibits by Emma Jung-Rauschenbach:  
– What is buried in the depth, drawing 8, Connected to the All, 20.09.1917 20.6 x 25.6 cm  
– What is buried in the depth, drawing 9, butterfly, 21.09.1917 20.3 x 25.3 cm  
– What is buried in the depth,

drawing of a labyrinth, 1917 25.5 x 20.5 cm  
– Drawing of the magic dragon Urgo (Urgo Series), undated 20.3 x 25.5 cm  
– Drawing of a white figure with crescent moon (Urgo Series), undated 20.5 x 25.5 cm  
– Drawing of a smoking crescent moon (Urgo Series), 1917 25.5 x 20.5 cm

6  
Display with the following exhibits by Emma Jung-Rauschenbach:  
– Drawing of a rainbow-colored earth globe (Urgo Series), undated 20.2 x 25.3 cm  
– Drawing of a colorful sphere (Urgo Series), 1918 25.6 x 20.6 cm  
– Watercolor: “The Sapphire Shield”, undated 20.6 x 20.7 cm  
– Watercolor of a cellar vault with colorful figures, undated 16.4 x 20.4 cm  
– Image of a spirit over a water garden, undated 16.4 x 21.8 cm  
– Watercolor of a salamander in a labyrinth, undated 20.7 x 25.9 cm  
– Drawing of a wilting yellow tulip with a face, undated 20 x 13.6 cm

7  
Display with the following exhibits by Emma Jung-Rauschenbach:  
– Image of a volcano, undated 15.9 x 25.3 cm  
– Image of a wall with a watchtower, undated 14.1 x 19 cm  
– Image of a baptism, 1914 13.5 x 14.4 cm  
– Dream journal with mandala (animal enclosure & world upheaval), undated 26.5 x 23 cm  
– Watercolor of a child in a blue dress, undated 19.4 x 25.9 cm  
– Photography Congress of Weimar 1911 (Photo: Franz Vältl, Grossherzoglich-Sächsischer Hofphotograph) 22.8 x 28.4 cm  
– Photography Emma Jung & Hans Baumann, Carnival Psychological Club around 1934 (Photo: Linck Erben Zürich) 22 x 14.5 cm

8  
Rebecca Ackroyd  
*The World as I feel it* (Series), 2025  
Beeswax, stainless steel  
Variable dimensions

9  
Series of printend scans of notes and drawings as well as a painting by Emma Jung-Rauschenbach:  
– Image of an emerging world (Systema), 1919  
– Two pages from the dream book & diary, brown with embossed frame (system), Separation from the pleroma and increasing materailization as well as liberation from matter (Spiritualization), 1919  
– One page from the ream book & diary, black with embossing, undated

– Page with onion from the dream book & diary, black (movement of the beginning), 1915.

10  
Rebecca Ackroyd  
*The World as I see it* (Series), 2022–ongoing  
Soft pastel on paper  
Each 20 x 26 x 4 cm

11  
Rebecca Ackroyd  
*The World as I see it* (Serie), 2022–ongoing  
Soft pastel on paper  
Each 20 x 26 x 4 cm

12  
Printed scans of correspondence:  
– Letter from Emma Jung (1882–1955) to Sigmund Freud (1856–1939), officially dated September 19, 1912

– Letter from Emma Jung (1882–1955) to Olga Fröbe-Kapteyn, January 1, 1947

Printed scan of a photograph:  
– C.G. and Emma wearing hats on the sailboat, ca. 1923 (Photographer: unknown)

13  
Rebecca Ackroyd  
*The World as it is*, 2025  
Slide projector, 35mm celluloid slides, from the artist’s collection of personal and found material

14  
Dada Showcase with rotating exhibits from the collection of the Kunsthaus Zürich.

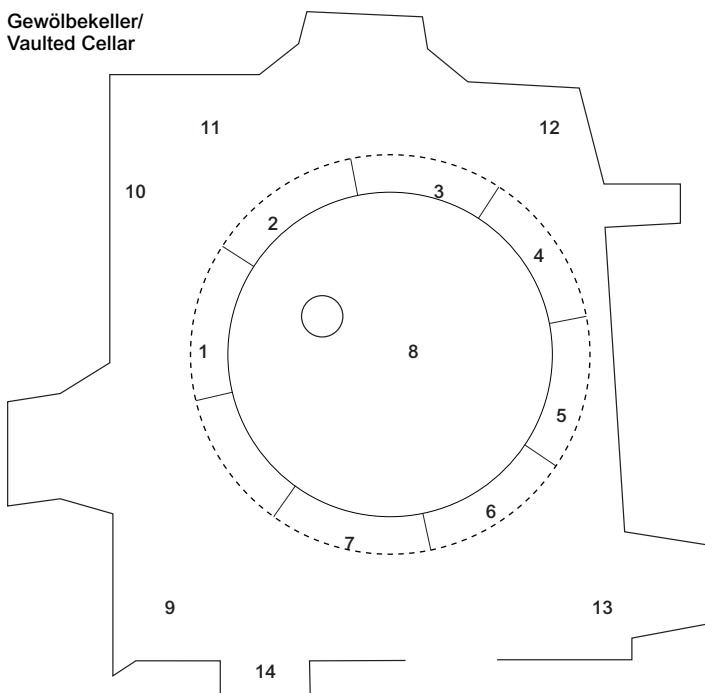
All exhibits by Emma Jung in the display cases:  
Jung Family Archive

Printed scans of the notes on her system of world-formation and printed photograph:  
Jung Family Archive

Printed scans of the letters:  
ETH Zurich, C.G. Jung Working Archive, with permission from the Foundation of the Works of C.G. Jung

All works by Rebecca Ackroyd:  
Courtesy of the artist

Gewölbekeller/  
Vaulted Cellar



Erdgeschoss/Ground Floor