

“Suzanne Perrottet. After Dada, After Dance”

With Tarren Johnson & Joel Cocks, OOR Saloon & Elaine Mitchener, New Kyd, Thibault Lac

19.12.2025–17.05.2026

Opening: 18.12.2025, 18:00

Press date: on request, salome.hohl@cabaretvoltaire.ch

Suzanne Perrottet (1889–1983) was a pioneering dancer, musician and educator who played a decisive role in shaping the development of modern dance in Switzerland. Closely connected to the Dada circle, she performed as a pianist at the legendary Dada soirées in Zurich, yet remained at the margins of its history — both due to sexist distortions within art historiography and the inherently ephemeral nature of performance.

Perrottet’s archive of dance notations, photographs, and documents offers vital insight into early modern dance and performative practices — from the beginnings with Émile Jaques-Dalcroze in Geneva and Hellerau, through Monte Verità with Rudolf von Laban, all the way to Zurich. For the first time, Cabaret Voltaire is dedicating an exhibition mainly to her, with previously unpublished documents. At the same time, the exhibition explores the role dance played as a historical medium within Dada, and how the body is understood in contemporary artistic practices.

For many artists of her time — particularly women — dance served as a vehicle for liberation, a defiance of societal norms, and a reclamation of the body as a realm of autonomy. These ideas remain relevant today: in an era of global conflict and growing authoritarianism, the body continues to be a site of resistance and renewal — a way to preserve our shared humanity.

The exhibition “Suzanne Perrottet. After Dada, After Dance” combines historical documents with contemporary contributions, investigating how dance can be exhibited and documented while shedding light on Perrottet and other overlooked historical figures. Performances and new works will be presented by Tarren Johnson & Joel Cocks, OOR Saloon & Elaine Mitchener, New Kyd, and Thibault Lac.

Curated by Salome Hohl & Monica Unser

Opening: 18 December 2025, 18:00 pm

19:30 Introduction

20:00 Tarren Johnson & Joel Cocks, “SHELL NOTE VERLIEBT”, performance and installation

Followed by contributions from OOR Saloon & Elaine Mitchener on 18 January, New Kyd on 13 and 26 February, and Thibault Lac on 26 March.

The exhibits are collected from the archives of Kunsthaus Zürich, SAPA Foundation (Lausanne), Harald Szeemann’s estate at the State Archives of the Canton of Ticino, Niklaus Stauss, Raimund Meyer, among others.