



Xing
presents

Friday 23 October 10 pm

MARIA CHAVEZ
Abstract Turntablism
sound performance

Raum
Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d Bologna

Friday 23 October 2026 at 10pm, **Xing** presents at **Raum**, in Bologna, ***Abstract Turntablism***, sound performance by **Maria Chavez**, an experimental turntablist, sound artist and DJ who stands as a leading, radical figure in the New York scene dedicated to the art of 'playing' the turntable (alongside artists like Christian Marclay and Marina Rosenfeld). Her practice, hovering between sound and noise, spans different mediums from sound to visual arts.

Abstract Turntablism is one rare occasion for Italian audience to listen to Maria Chavez introducing her groundbreaking improvisational turntabling practice, centered on connections between material and temporal failure, and experimentation, through the use of broken vinyl records. In live performance Chavez is a bricoleur of intricate, cerebral, capricious sonic landscapes constructed through improvised sampling. At Raum she will use four turntables and her evolving collection of scratched and broken records over which her needles glide, skitter, and pounce. Mesmerizing loops extracted from test tones, sound effects, spoken-word albums, and myriad other sources never build into hooks; rather, they stutter or disappear into worlds of static, a celebration of the aesthetics of chance. In all of her projects, Chávez pursues the connections among tactility, perception, and ideation, extrapolating from the material phenomenon of the stylus, or 'sonic pencil', tracing a groove, drawing sound through touch, making matter vibrate, and thereby opening up new channels in the mind. Chavez invites us to listen not to but *with* her as we rebuild possible connections in the aftermath of the social and political traumas of these years and anticipate resonant worlds to come. "I see sound as the most democratic medium within art mediums."

Maria Chavez, born in Lima and based in New York City, is a conceptual sound artist, DJ, and curator, best known as an abstract turntablist. Coincidence, chance and failures are recurring in her work across mediums, including improvised performance, sonic sculpture, visual art, book objects and an extensive history with multi-channel installation. Her multimedia practice is profoundly expansive and responsive, emphasizing attention to context. Her approach is rooted in *Deep Listening*, a form of embodied listening developed by her late mentor Pauline Oliveros. Maria Chavez is the only turntablist in the world who performs with a rare needle known as the RAKE Double Needle, invented by DJ Randal C. Sanden Jr. in the early 2000s for the scratch hip-hop community. This special device contains two needles on one head, allowing it to read two different segments of a single record at the same time. Paired with her inimitable ability to create sonic experiences from shards of broken records, each performance is an enigmatic journey through sound. Her work has been featured and supported by international institutions over the past decades including Rewire Festival, Counterflows Festival, Donau Festival, MoMA PS1, The Getty, DOCUMENTA 14, the JUDD Foundation, Cambridge University Press and many more. She released recordings with Sandy Ewen via OrbTapes, and with Jordi Wheeler via Takuroku label, a cassette with collaborator Lucas Gorham via Ratskin Records, a flexi disc with Devin Kenny via Ballastnvp. Her album *Maria Chavez PLAYS Stefan Goldmann's Ghost hemiola*, an investigation of the unobstructed vinyl medium, is an homage to the medium itself. Chavez's 2012 book *Of Technique: Chance Procedures on Turntable* has garnered a reputation as both an academic resource on turntablism and a foundational text for a new generation of turntablists. Her latest essay on how multi-media installation practices can be considered part of encouraging neuroplasticity in society is available via E-Flux Journal and the Guggenheim Museum.
<https://mariachavez.org>

Partners: Regione Emilia-Romagna, Comune di Bologna. Media Partners: Edizioni Zero, ATPdiary, NEU Radio.

Xing/Raum info

Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d – Bologna

info@xing.it

www.xing.it www.xing.it/event/578/abstract_turntablism

[instagram.com/xing.it](https://www.instagram.com/xing.it) [facebook.com/xing.it](https://www.facebook.com/xing.it)

Entrance

pay as you wish

Press kit

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cu1lumqj3ou17jhz2t8rd/AGCx2YioAqZoEIQx9tqj6JY?rlkey=m43p3hc9do3gzk49bh16dv5xa&dl=0>

Xing press

mob +39.339.1503608 press@xing.it