

Lab seminar series Fall 2024: The fragile skin of the world

the act of creation as metamorphosis and inoperative potentiality ('the tremble hand' as *supreme mastery*)



Piet Mondriaan – Dune sketch in orange, pink and blue. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

The skin is not the site of calculation and measurement – says Jean-Luc Nancy: it is a place of passage, of transit and transport, of traffic and transaction. It is a place where rubbing and irritation, mingling and distinguishing, and colliding and stroking all take place. The skin is erectile, bristling, quivering, retractile, caressing, lubricating, squeezing, trembling. In every way, the skin translates, betrays, transpires, and transudes the palpitating singularity of the enigma of a being-to-itself that is thoroughly outside of itself, near and distant, multiple, always floating and responding to the thrusts of the breezes, breaths, and gusts of the world. In every way, it is the powerful and fragile resonance of everything that brings about a form or a tone of existence.

Creation is a 'poetics of inoperativity', says Agamben, since the model par excellence of this operation that consists in rendering all human works inoperative is poetry itself. '[E]very thing desires and strives to persevere in its being; but at the same time, it resists this desire; at least for an instant it renders it inoperative and contemplates it. Once again, this is a resistance internal to desire, an inoperativity internal to the operation. But it alone confers on conatus its justice and its truth. In a word—and this is, at least in art, the decisive element—its *grace*.'

(Agamben, What is the Act of Creation, in *Creation and Anarchy*)

31st October 2024 (21.3.04 13h-15h)

The Fragile Skin of the World

Biblio

Jean-Luc Nancy, Nancy, *The Fragile Skin of the World*, Polity Press, 2021, pp. 85-93.

14th November 2024 (21-3-04 and online 13.00-15.30)

Creation as a potential and a poetic of inoperativity

Biblio

Giorgio Agamben, 'What is the Act of Creation', in *Creation and Anarchy*.

Nicoletta Isar, Potential Images, in Glaveanu V. P. (ed.), *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of the Possible*, Springer Nature Switzerland, 2022.

19th November 2024

Cisternerne København: Taryn Simon: Start Again the Lament

Tribute to Bill Viola

20th December 2024 (14.00-1600 Online)

Metamorphosis as Metaphysics of Mixture – Human and Inhuman

Emanuele Coccia, Our Mind is Always in the Bodies of Other Species, *Metamorphoses*. Polity Press. 2021, pp. 157-161.

Emanuele Coccia, The Continuity of Life, *Metamorphoses*, 2021, pp. 3-6.

E. Coccia, In Open Air Ontology of the Atmosphere, *The Life of Plants: A Metaphysics of Mixture*, Polity Press, 2018.

E. Coccia, The New Animism, *Techne* 21, 2021, pp. 33-36.

Barbara Baert, Marble and the Sea Or Echo Emerging, *Espacio, Tiempo o Forma, Series VII, Historia del Arte* 5, 2017, pp. 35–54.

Mark Payne, Shared life as chorality in Schiller, Hölderlin, and Hellenistic poetry. In: *Antiquities beyond Humanism*. Edited by Emanuela Bianchi, Sara Brill and Brooke Holmes, Oxford University Press (2019), pp. 141-157.