

MEET THE JURY: ON ART, THE FETISH, AND THE MAGIC OF KNOWLEDGE

Does art contain a form of knowledge? Or does it make more sense to compare art to a form of magic - something whose precise operation, by definition, escapes the traditional frameworks within which we attempt to systematize knowledge?

In his doctoral thesis, Sebastian Gonzalez de Gortari uses his art practice to explore the workings of the fetish. Objects labeled as 'fetish' - in a religious, ritual, or sexual context - inherently exist on a fault line of value systems: they are absurd, irrational, or even repulsive from an outsider's perspective, while they are powerful, animated, and all-encompassing for the fetishist.

The impossibility of analyzing and classifying the fetish under a single value or knowledge system makes it a concept that raises important questions. Questions about the essence of (research in) the arts, but also, more broadly, about the (im)possibility of our desire to ever bring our knowledge and understanding of the world under one equal denominator.

In this small symposium, three world-class creators and thinkers shed light on these questions: philosopher and historian Jason Ānanda Josephson Storm, artist Mire Lee, and anthropologist Michael Taussig.



PROGRAM 09.11.2023, room C.033

14.00: Introduction by Nadia Sels

14u15: Jason Ānanda Josephson Storm: "The Singular Procession of the Great Fetish: Positivist Gods, the Religion of Humanity, and Sociology's Vanished Utopias"

15.00: Mire Lee: Look, I'm a fountain of filth raving mad with love: an artist talk

15.45: Michael Taussig : "Out Fetishizing the Fetish"

16.30: Discussion
17.00: Small break

Afterwards, at 18h in De Kooi, you can join the opening of the exposition "Let's get Phygital".

Registration link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAKrbuUgFkGxyNGsR5wdYCTvL87kpra65pSFxoW6UF1trZ-A/viewform#msdynttrid=k04T9ugl1A0jMDrESntfbJafTHr2_JBVI43egZ-KzHY

JASON ĀNANDA JOSEPHSON STORM

Jason Ānanda Josephson Storm is an historian and philosopher of the Human Sciences. He is currently Professor of Religion and Chair of Science & Technology Studies at Williams College. Storm received his Ph.D. from Stanford University, his MA from Harvard University, and has held visiting positions at Princeton University, École Française d'Extrême-Orient, and Universität Leipzig (currently). He is the author of award-winning *The Invention of Religion in Japan* (2012), *The Myth of Disenchantment: Magic, Modernity and the Birth of the Human Sciences* (2017), as well as *Metamodernism: The Future of Theory* (2021), all published by University of Chicago Press.



MIRE LEE

Mire Lee (b. Korea, 1988) is known for her kinetic sculptures that recall the fleshiness of limbs or the insides of the human body employing materials such as motors, pumps, lubricants, metal and silicone among others. Lee's work challenges notions of selfhood, social acceptability, and cleanliness while engaging the senses in a visceral way outside the realm of intellect and language.

Her work has been the subject of several solo exhibitions including *Black Sun* (2023), New Museum, New York and *Look, I'm a fountain of love raving mad with love* (2022),

MMK(Museum für Moderne Kunst), Frankfurt; Lee has also participated in major international exhibitions including the Gwangju Biennale Pavilion Project (2018), 15th Biennale de Lyon, Lyon (2019), 59th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale, the 58th Carnegie International, and Busan Biennial 2022.



MICHAEL TAUSSIG

Born in Sydney in 1940 of Austrian refugee parents, his father being Jewish, Mick Taussig worked briefly as a medical doctor and then in 1969 as an anthropologist he studied the impact of agribusiness sugar plantations on the lives of Black peasants in the Cauca Valley of Colombia. Following that he resided with an indigenous shaman, Santiago Mutumbajoy, in the foothills of Andes above the Amazon basin, and then with ex-slave gold miners on the Pacific Coast. He became a professor of Performance Studies, then Anthropology, in New York City, and has published several books, including *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America*; *Shamanism Colonialism and the Wild Man*, *A study in Terror and Healing*; *Mimesis and Alterity*, *The Magic of the State*; *My Cocaine Museum*, and recently *The Mastery of Non-Mastery*.



PROGRAM 10.11.2023

15.00 - 17.00 PhD defence Sebastián

Title: *"A Fetish with Hallucinatory Ornaments- An exercise in further entangling the threads of fetishism."*

17.30 Reception & drinks at KALF - Havenstraat 15, 3500 Hasselt