

Series of talks: Images in Space

online, Mar 9–Jun 15, 2021

Jakub Stejskal

Images in Space

Modern Western reflections on the nature of images have predominantly focused on pictures, that is, images on flat surfaces, as paradigmatic examples of depiction. Discussions of images with three-dimensional supports have thus often been derivative or completely sidestepped. The aim of this series of talks is to shift focus to three-dimensional images 'in the round' like sculptures, figurines, or models, and to investigate the specifics, whatever they may be, that issue from their 3D nature. Of interest will be anthropological, historical, as well as philosophical approaches.

Some of the relevant questions include: In what aspects has a production/reception/circulation of spatial images differed from pictures? Is there anything specific about 3D image vehicles that a depiction theory should reflect? How have various histories and anthropologies of images succeeded or failed to recognize the difference?

March 9: Whitney Davis (Berkeley), Sculptures and Pictoriality

March 23: Nikolaus Dietrich (Heidelberg), Sculpture, Relief, and Its Surrounding Space: Sculpture vs. Relief, Sculpture as Relief, Sculpture as Photography

April 13: Wolfram Pichler (Vienna), 'Strange Flowers of Reason': René Magritte and the Untouchability of Painted Images

April 20: Zainab Bahrani (Columbia), Methexis as Movement: The Image beyond Pictoriality and the Legacy of Colonial Art Histories of the East

May 5: Megan Luke (USC), Serial Sculpture Theory

May 18: Jonathan Gilmore (CUNY Graduate Center), Sculpture and the Material Inflection of Imagination

June 15: Caroline van Eck (Cambridge), TBA

All talks will be delivered in English and start at 6 pm CET (GMT+1)

Please sign up for Zoom link: eikones@unibas.ch

Organized by Jakub Stejskal, eikones – Center for the Theory and History of the Image, University of Basel

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