**Lacanian Orientation: The experience of the real in psychoanalysis, art and film.**

(A year-long discussion)

*The experience of the real in psychoanalysis* was a year-long seminar given by Jacques-Alain Miller at the University of Paris VIII from 1988 to 1989, as part of his Lacanian Orientation (annual seminars that lasted from 1972 to 2011). We will read the lessons from this course that have been translated and published in English, and consider this experience in conjunction with the experience of viewing contemporary art and films. As speaking beings (*parlêtres*)*,* we live within language, within discourses that are primarily structured by the symbolic and the imaginary; this is our “reality.” The Lacanian real, on the other hand, is distinct from reality, and is what cannot be said in most discourse. In the psychoanalytic clinic, an experience of the real is aimed at in order to shift the discourse, and to shift the regime of jouissance of each speaking being (“one by one”). To get to this point in analysis can be a lengthy endeavor. However, sometimes the fictions provided in art and film enable us to see things we cannot see as easily in reality. As Lacan explains, “[i]n reality this experience [of the real] is too fleeting. Fiction demonstrates it far better and even produces it as an effect in a more stable way because it’s better articulated.” Reading Miller’s lessons at monthly meetings starting in February 2025, we will discuss these different experiences of the real, and we will see what we can glean from putting his texts in dialogue with specific works of art or film.

Animateurs:

Dr. Nancy Gillespie, practicing analyst of the New Lacanian School and the World Association of Psychoanalysis.

Dr. T’ai Smith, Associate Professor of Art History, University of British Columbia

Amber Frid-Jimenez, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair, Emily Carr University of Art + Design

? Gareth James, Associate Professor of Visual Art, University of British Columbia

Exhibition suggestions:

If the stars make patterns, can our scripts unfold forever?

<https://www.monicareyesgallery.com/if-the-stars.html>

Movie suggestions:

The Substance

Barbie

Poor Things

Joker

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

1. February 8?

**Text: PDF “What is the Real?”** Translated by A. Alvarez. *Lacanian Ink 43/44*, (Spring/Fall 2014), 14-29.

*LO III, 1*,*Le réel dans l’expérience analytique*, (1998-1999), 18/11/98

**Exhibition:** If the stars make patterns, can our scripts unfold forever?

<https://www.monicareyesgallery.com/if-the-stars.html>

1. March 15?

**Text: PDF “The Semblant and the Real.”** Translated by V. Voruz and B. Wolf. *Psychoanalytical Notebooks*, Issue 9, *Fictions in Psychoanalysis*, 2002, 9-28.

*LO III*, *1*, *L’Experience du réel dans la cure analytique*, (1998-1999), 25/11/98

**Film or Exhibition?**

1. April 19?

**Text: PDF “The Experience of the Real.”** Translated by J. Jauregui. *Lacanian Ink 16*, Spring 2000, 6-27.

*LO, III, 1*, *L’expérience du réel dans la cure analytique*, (1998-1999), 10/03/99

**Film or Exhibition?**

1. May / June?

**Text: PDF TK “Six Paradigms of Jouissance.”** in *Paradigms of Jouissance, Three Interventions by Jacques-Alain Miller*. Translated by J. Haney. *Psychoanalytical Notebooks*, Issue 34, 2020.

1. September?
2. October?
3. November?
4. December?
5. January?