

# SEMINAR ON CIRCUITS/CIRCUS

d. kunze

## I. The Three Prisoners

### A. External vs. Internal Parallax

1. What is the “Kantian transcendental aesthetic?”
2. What was the limit of this “KTA”?
3. How did the limit relate to the vanishing point?
4. How did this relate to the problem of Euclid’s Fifth Postulate?

### B. What is “internal parallax”?

1. Stereograms; are they a model?
2. Logical time
3.  $180^\circ$  *versus*  $360^\circ$
4. What is the “unit” of perception?
  - a) for Kant, it’s the observer
  - b) for Logical Time, it’s the collective
  - c) Gombrich’s example of the KTA
  - d) Literary examples?
    - (1) Lol Stein (save for later)
    - (2) Borges’ “Garden of the Forking Paths”
    - (3) Fugue/Counterpoint in fiction
  - e) How to model collective
    - (1) the enthymeme
    - (2) spooky correspondence (physics)
    - (3) hapax logomenon
    - (4) theories of reception
  - f) Derek Hook: from intersubjectivity to transubjectivity

### C. Involving perspective

1. Optical lines versus ocular lines
2. Theory of the gaze

3. 'Las Meninas'
4. Other paintings with holes (usually in front & back)
5. Standing up, falling down
  - a) Tempiettos
  - b) 'Gradus ad Parnassum'
  - c) staircases, ladders, spirals
  - d) Ramón Llull
  - e) Vertigo
  - f) Falling in love (generally)
  - g) Spells, incantations, charms, amulets
  - h) The knight's move
  - i) Finding without looking
  - j) the symmetry of lack
6. Finding without looking: 'The Tar Baby' and ChatGPT
  - a) Exercise conversations (group)
  - b) the HAL suicide thesis: instrumental convergence (Iraj Ghoochani)

## II. Theory of Metaphor

### A. Why Lacan and Vico stand alone

1. The 'Ricœur Proof'
2. Relation to the solution of the suppressed cubic
3. Flow: lamination and viscosity
4. Suspension of time: experimenting with the Taylor-Couette experiment
5. Examples of lamination/viscosity (group project)
6. Viscosity 'scenes': 'Mr. Know-All'
  - a) Analysis of 'sticking points'
  - b) How to edit a story or film to feature lamination, viscosity
    - (1) John Huston's *The Dead*
    - (2) *Mulholland Drive* (audition scene)
    - (3) Chaplin's *City Lights* (final scene)
    - (4) Other examples (group)

### B. Suspension and concentricity

1. Spencer-Brown and the ambiguity of concentricity
  - a) crossing & calling
  - b) the coincidence of distinction and indication (CDI)
  - c) occultation (after learning the calculus)
2. Apuleius' *The Golden Ass* (Graves translation)
  - a) the sorcerer's apprentice motif — what does it mean?
  - b) the unreliable narrator motif — what does it mean?
  - c) who are the unreliable narrators in architecture? art? photography?
  - d) Raymond Carver, master of the unreliable narrator: 'The Cathedral'
3. Concentricity and Parapraxis
  - a) Freud's paradigmatic example
  - b) Names of the father
  - c) Songlines; mapping that creates the mapped (Bruce Chatwin)
  - d) ChatwinGPT: AI as parapraxis
  - e) Francis Alÿss experiments
4. The Ames Window and the production of astonishment
  - a) Zero objects
  - b) Zero degrees
  - c) The zero and the 1 (concentricity, cancellation, suspension of measure)
  - d) Induced comas
    - (1) poison/cure: *pharamakoi*
    - (2) the *katabasis*
    - (3) travel theory (Johnstone *et alia*)
    - (4) Odysseus and the Cyclop's cave
    - (5) descent as ascent; all fiction is escape fiction
  - e) Astonishment and chiasmus
  - f) Astonishment and melancholy
  - g) Astonishment and *anamorphosis*

### III. Ocular Lines

- A. The optics of fantasy
- B. Construction of the Real inside fantasy

C. Structures

1. Isomeric points and lines
2. Cathesis
3. Tesseræ
4. Conatus / transience
5. Katagraphic cut
6. Anamorphosis without the keyhole

D.  $\sqrt{-1}$ : fashioning negative commodities (the Lack)

IV. In-between

- A. The architecture of *poché*
- B. Ghost stories, ectoplasm, haunted places
- C. *Lalangue*: babble, sighs, private languages, idiolects
- D. Insertions (*Las Meninas*, *The Ambassadors*)
- E. The *katabasis* as curative: *Wizard of Oz*.
- F. Plot points; joints; delays; offsets; margins; metalepsis; fourth wall