



LAACT 25

N2 - the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław

The project will take place in Wrocław on the following dates:

- April 23 – May 31, 2025: exhibitions, workshops, lectures
- May 6 – 10, 2025: international scientific conference

Organiser:

The Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław

Co-Organiser:

The National Centre for Culture Poland

lead by:

dr hab. Robert Sochacki

Media Art Department/ Stage Design Department -

the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław

noks collective

Partners:

Art Mediation Department/ Glass Department -

the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław

Institute of Cultural Studies – University of Wrocław

International partners:

University of Klagenfurt (Austria)

Saar Academy of Fine Arts / HBKsaar (Germany)

Danish Arts Foundation (Denmark)

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Andrzej Marzec

These lectures introduce participants to cutting-edge philosophical theories, providing not only the theoretical tools necessary for understanding our contemporary world, but also essential concepts for actively shaping the future. We will examine speculative realism—distinguishing this innovative and rapidly evolving philosophical movement from competing frameworks such as Bruno Latour's actor-network theory and feminist new materialisms. Our exploration will encompass Graham Harman's object-oriented ontology, Timothy Morton's ecological thought, Quentin Meillassoux's speculative materialism, Jane Bennett's vitalist materialism, and other significant contributions to what scholars have termed the speculative turn.

6.05

From Bruno Latour to Graham Harman

The first lecture offers an introduction to speculative realism—examining the composition of this emerging philosophical movement and acquainting ourselves with its principal figures. Among speculative theories, Graham Harman's Object-Oriented Ontology (OOO) has gained particular prominence for its innovative resolution of problems inherent in Bruno Latour's Actor-Network Theory (ANT). Our exploration will address the fundamental tenets of OOO: defining the ontological category of objects and distinguishing it from Edmund Husserl's phenomenological approach to things, unpacking the concept of object withdrawal, and venturing into the territory of weird realism

7.05

Ecology without Nature (Timothy Morton)

Timothy Morton stands as one of the most compelling contemporary philosophers working at the intersection of object-oriented ontology (OOO) and environmental humanities. He has crafted a unique philosophical vocabulary that challenges traditional ecological thinking and proposes radical new ways to understand our relationships with non-human entities. This lecture will explore Morton's key philosophical concepts: dark ecology, hyperobjects, agrolistics, the archelitic, ecology without nature, interobjectivity, aesthetic causality, attunement, subscendence, and hyposubjects. We will investigate Morton's distinctive vision of coexistence and discover why his ecological framework diverges significantly from conventional notions of nature, aligning instead with aesthetics and play.

8.05

Speculative Turn (Quentin Meillassoux)

Quentin Meillassoux has established himself as one of the most innovative figures within the speculative realism movement, offering a radical philosophical system that challenges long-established assumptions about reality, science, and human cognition. This lecture examines Meillassoux's critique of correlationism and explores his key concepts—ancestrality, hyperchaos, the principle of unreason, necessary contingency, and Extro-Science Fiction—while considering

how these speculative tools can help us understand the unpredictable nature of our changing world.

9.05

Jane Bennett (New Materialism)

Feminist new materialisms represent an incredibly inspiring and diverse philosophical movement that includes thinkers such as Donna Haraway, Anna Tsing, Karen Barad, Rosi Braidotti, and Astrida Neimanis. From the perspective of speculative realism, Jane Bennett stands out as one of the most compelling new materialist theorists. Her vitalist materialism uniquely elevates the status of things and examines the survival mechanisms of objects through Spinoza's concept of *conatus*. While *will* (*voluntas*) exists as a psychological phenomenon exclusive to living beings, the drive for self-preservation (*conatus*) emerges as a universal capacity inherent in all objects without exception. During the lecture we will look at Bennett's proposition of "thing-power": the astonishing ability of inanimate things to animate, act, and produce effects.

10.05

Between art and philosophy

Too often, theory treats art instrumentally as an illustration of its own beliefs—while art frequently utilizes theoretical considerations, seeking in them merely a justification for its actions. I wish to break with these practices. The speculative turn positions aesthetics as a fundamental mode of inquiry, allowing us to reconceptualize the relationship between art and knowledge as a dynamic, generative process that creates new understandings. This lecture explores a key question: Can art serve as a form of philosophical inquiry, and what possibilities exist for meaningful collaboration between philosophers and artists within speculative theoretical frameworks?

Bio:

Andrzej Marzec is a philosopher and assistant professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. He also teaches at the University of the Arts Poznań (UAP) and SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities. He is a film critic, editor of the journal *Czas Kultury*, and curator of the experimental film series "States of Focus," presented at the cultural centre "Pawilon" in Poznań. His research interests include speculative realism, object-oriented ontology, hauntology, dark ecology, environmental humanities, and contemporary alternative cinema.

In addition to his academic work, Marzec is a frequent speaker at international conferences and has contributed to numerous academic journals and publications. He is known for his innovative approach to philosophical concepts, often bridging the gap between academic theory and contemporary art practices.

He is the author of two significant books:

- *Widmontologia. Teoria filozoficzna i praktyka artystyczna ponowoczesności (Hauntology: Philosophical Theory and Artistic Practice of Postmodernity, 2015)*, exploring the concept of hauntology in philosophy and art.
- *Antropocień – filozofia i estetyka po końcu świata (Anthropocene: Philosophy and Aesthetics After the End of the World, 2021)*, which received the prestigious Identitas Prize for its innovative approach to philosophy and aesthetics in the Anthropocene.

Andrzej Marzec's work is widely recognized for its interdisciplinary approach, combining philosophy, visual culture, and environmental concerns. As an academic and public intellectual, he focuses on pressing issues such as climate change, posthumanism, and speculative aesthetics.



photo Krystian Daszkowski