



# FRENCH THEORY The (In-)visuality Series

## Research Program

Thursday, October 15th, 2015 at 7 PM  
Apexart - 291 Church Street, New York, NY 10013  
Subway: Canal Street (R or A, C, E)

The conference and the reception-apéritif is organized by the Institut des hautes études en arts plastiques (Iheap), the Biennale de Paris and with the support of Apexart to launch Iheap New York brand new Session XI, 2015 in New York.



In his “Letter à X., chargé d’un cours sur Hegel... Paris, 6 Décembre 1937” George Bataille wrote: «If action (“doing”) is –as Hegel says– negativity, the question arises as to whether the negativity of one who has ‘nothing more to do’ disappears or remains in a state of ‘unemployed negativity.’ Personally, I can only decide in one way, being myself precisely this “unemployed negativity’».

The question of negativity, finitude, interruption, the very of idea of “désœuvrement”, the un-working that is restlessly at work here and now, is haunting some of the most influential voices of contemporary French theory, influencing the very idea of communicability, transmission, medium, vision, objectivity. As Jean-Luc Nancy put it, the communication of community is not transitive but presentable, presented or offered at the limit between beings, and that «the work must be offered to communication means that it must in effect be offered, that is to say, presented, proposed, and abandoned on the common limit where singular beings share one another».

This “still unidentified flying object” known as French theory, which refers to the body of works originating in the 1960s and 1970s by theorists ranging from Jacques Derrida to Jacques Lacan, from Jean-François Lyotard to Gilles Deleuze and from Paul Virilio to Jean-Luc Nancy among others, may bring about the convergence of opposing philosophical ideologies. It not only produced “intensive hypotheses, general and specific at the same time... on communitarian apparatuses, discursive regimes, or the machinery of capitalist desire,” but it also brought together such apparently disparate camps, and demonstrated that theory today could coincide with forms of radical activism.

In the decades following the Second World War, this cluster of extraordinary French thinkers were widely translated and read in American universities. Their works were soon labeled as “French Theory.” The “FRENCH THEORY-(In-)visuality Serie” will investigate the question of vision and visibility, in relation to a broadly interdisciplinary spectrum of critical practices and contemporary theories.



Conference's Directors: Alexandre Gurita and Dr. Giovanni Tusa

Panelists

**Jean-Luc Nancy**

*Desoeuvrement*

**Steven Henri Madoff**

*The Answerable Life*

**Giovanni Tusa**

*The negativity at work*

**Steven Rand**

*Diogenes and me*

**Dylan Gauthier**

*Post-Human*

**Alexandre Gurita**

*The invisual*

With the participation of the sessionists of Iheap New York - Session XI.

For Further information

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