



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event: **Giuseppe Longo and Benedict Singleton**
Perspective, Alienation, Escape

Lecture and discussion
moderated by **Robin Mackay**

Date: **Thursday, September 26, 2013**

Time: **7:30PM**

Location: **Miguel Abreu Gallery, 36 Orchard Street** (*between Canal and Hester*)
New York, NY 10002

The thought experiment is the test by means of which the physicist-philosopher takes it upon himself to lose his bearings. So there is nothing surprising about those teleportations where Einstein takes himself for a photon, positioning himself on the horizon of velocities. To understand the photon, it is necessary to become a photon...

Gilles Châtelet

Urbanomic and Sequence Press are pleased to host **Giuseppe Longo** and **Benedict Singleton** in New York for a lecture and discussion on *Perspective, Alienation and Escape*.

The participants will explore the invention of devices—cognitive, geometrical, or physical—that generate new perspectives for our practical and theoretical navigation of the universe. As emblemized by Copernican realism—the prospect of earth as seen from the sun—by systematically redrawing the parameters of our environment, modern knowledge and technique has freed us from our ‘natural place’ in the universe and the restrictive set of possibilities attached to it. Our speakers will address this creative ‘emancipation through alienation’ from two complementary disciplinary viewpoints.

Mathematician and epistemologist **Giuseppe Longo** will discuss how the Renaissance invention of perspective mediated metaphysical and mathematical conceptions of the infinite. Bringing the infinite within the scope of the finite canvas, however, it also generated a certain uniform model of space that remains embedded in the paradigm of digital computation. The intransigence of this model, he argues, has become an obstacle to understanding the perspectival shifts of biological and cognitive systems, which continually deform their own spaces of possibility.

Designer **Benedict Singleton** will discuss his work on design as a consummately ‘crafty’, improvisational engagement with the environment. This is exemplified in the trap, where the designing predator adopts the point of view of its prey, manipulating the environment to harness its behavior. Inversely, Singleton has recently proposed a reinvigoration of the project of cosmism as an escape, a ‘maximum jailbreak’ in which, by way of *métic* intelligence, humans spring their own bodies from the terrestrial trap.

From the cognitive abductions of mathematics to the manipulative ruses of design, this dialogue will examine how the space of human possibility is continually reorganized through the invention of new operators that detach thought and action from their local conditions: alienation as invention, unnatural empathy, and escape.

Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information please contact:

Sequence Press, *located within Miguel Abreu Gallery*

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Subway: **B, D to Grand Street or J, M, Z to Delancey / Essex Street**