



sequence

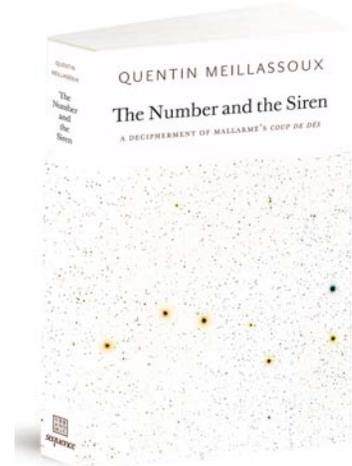
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event: **Quentin Meillassoux**
The Coup de dés, or the Materialist Divinization of the Hypothesis
Lecture and book launch of *The Number and the Siren*

Date: **Sunday, May 6, 2012**

Time: **7PM**

Location: **88 Eldridge Street, 4th Floor** (just below Grand St.)
New York, NY 10002



Urbanomic / Sequence Press are pleased to host Quentin Meillassoux in New York for the presentation of his much-anticipated book, *The Number and the Siren*.

A meticulous literary study, a detective story à la Edgar Allan Poe, a treasure hunt worthy of an adventure novel – such are the registers in which will be deciphered the hidden secrets of a poem like no other. Meillassoux continues his innovative philosophical interrogation of the concepts of chance, contingency, infinity and eternity through a concentrated study of Stéphane Mallarmé's poem *Un Coup de Dés jamais n'abolira le Hasard*, patiently deciphering its enigmatic meaning on the basis of a dazzlingly simple and lucid insight with regard to 'the unique Number that cannot be another'.

The *Coup de dés* constitutes perhaps the most radical break in the history of modern poetry: the fractured lines spanning the double page; the typographical play borrowed from the poster form; the multiple interpolations disrupting reading. But the intrigue of this poem is still stranger and has always resisted full elucidation. We encounter a shipwreck, and a Master, himself almost submerged, who clasps in his hand the dice that, confronted by the furious waves, he hesitates to throw. The hero expects this throw, if it takes place, to be extraordinarily important: a Number said to be 'unique' and which 'cannot be any other'.

The decisive point of the investigation proposed by Meillassoux comes with a discovery, unsettling and yet as simple as a child's game: All the dimensions of the Number, understood progressively, articulate between them but a sole condition – that this Number should ultimately be delivered to us by a secret code, hidden in the *Coup de dés*, like a key that finally unlocks every one of its poetic devices. Thus is also unveiled the meaning of the siren that emerges for a lightning flash among the debris of the shipwreck: as the living heart of a drama that is still unfolding.

With this bold new interpretation of Mallarmé's work, *The Number and the Siren* offers provocative insights into modernity, poetics, secularism and religion, and opens a new chapter in Meillassoux's philosophy of radical contingency.

Quentin Meillassoux teaches philosophy at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. He is the author of *After Finitude: An Essay on the Necessity of Contingency*.

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

For more information please contact:

Sequence Press, located within Miguel Abreu Gallery

36 Orchard Street (between Canal & Hester), New York, NY 10002 • 212 995 1774 • post@sequencepress.com

Gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11:00 AM to 6:30 PM

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