



Metapictures of Time and Mind

July 18 –August 11, 2022

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

1:00–5:00pm

Getty Research Institute

W. J. T. Mitchell (University of Chicago)

Megan Luke (Art History, USC)

This seminar is dedicated to “metapictures,” pictures about pictures, vision, and visual media. Our discussions will be organized around three major topics: 1) the iconology of time, with special attention to persisting shapes of time, notions of the epoch and epoché, the problem of contemporaneity, and pre/post history (also known as preposterous history); 2) the iconology of mind/world, emphasizing the relation between individual and collective psychology, especially in forms of madness; and 3) the iconology of the face, surface, and interface. Our fundamental focus will be on the mediation between art and philosophy, pictures and theories, metaphor and metaphysics.

Working directly with the research library and the photo archive at the Getty Research Institute, students are encouraged to consider metapictures of time and mind across various cultural contexts. Readings will draw from anthropology, art history, literary studies, intellectual history, and philosophy. In addition to Mitchell and Luke, selected authors will include Arjun Appadurai, Hans Blumenberg, Gilles Deleuze, Michel Foucault, Sigmund Freud, Hans-Georg Gadamer, George Kubler, Jacques Lacan, Susanne Langer, Emmanuel Levinas, Edith Stein, and Maria Stavrinaki. Our sessions will alternate between lecture, discussion, and visits to museum study rooms, with generous time for student presentations.

Registration for Summer 2022 has begun; note that this class tends to reach capacity. Please email vsri@usc.edu or jennifmm@usc.edu to be added to the D-clearance list or with any questions about the course.

Photo: Ilse Schneider-Lengyel, Tlinkit mask, reproduced in *Die Welt der Maske* (Munich: R. Piper, 1934).