

# Charged Objects      Objets Chargés

Performing the Soul of Things      Mettre en scène l'âme des choses

Symposium  
20-21 April 2023

Venue: House of Mysteries (Ghent)

Jan Botermanstraat 2, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

## Thursday 20 April 2023

10:00 - 10:30 Arrival

10:30 - 10:40 **Welcome** by **Nele Wynants** (UAntwerp) & **Luc Poppe** (House of Mysteries)

10:40 - 11:00 **Introduction** by **Kurt Vanhoutte** (UAntwerp) & **Thibaut Rioult** (UAntwerp)

11:00 - 12:30 **Panel 1: Spectacular objects, crystals of fantasy**

Chair: **Kurt Vanhoutte** (UAntwerp)

- **Tine Van Osselaer** (UAntwerp) – After the corpse: the tumultuous history and use of the coffin of Mary Margaret of the Angels
- **Evelien Jonckheere** (UAntwerp) – Rachel's whip: on taming animals and women in circus and fairground shows
- **Chris Goto-Jones** (University of Victoria) – Svengali's Thrall: when a doll takes possession of a human [*pre-recorded paper presentation*]

12:30 - 14:00 *Lunch and preview exhibition in House of Mysteries*

14:00 - 15:30 **Panel 2: Magic objects, tools of illusion**

Chair: **Evelien Jonckheere** (UAntwerp)

- **Arnaud Dandoy** (Independent researcher) – Rendre vie à l'objet muséal: le cas des rituels du Muséum d'histoire surnaturelle (Bruxelles) [*pre-recorded paper presentation*]
- **Mathilde Galinou** (Université de Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne) – La voix ténue des objets de magie dans les pratiques artistiques contemporaines
- **Hannah Welslau** (UAntwerp) – The paradoxical relation of spirit and matter: The question of materiality within spiritism
- **Thibaut Rioult** (UAntwerp) – Objets magiques: illusionnisme fantastique et objets chargés

15:30 - 15:45 *Break*

15:45 - 17:00 **Panel 3: Cultural objects, inspirational transmitters**

Chair: **Thibaut Rioult** (UAntwerp)

- **Deirdre Feeney** (University of South Australia) – Ruminations on the hidden life of lenses and their image-light [*pre-recorded paper presentation*]
- **Rod Bantjes** (St. Francis Xavier University) & **Zsuzsanna Szegedy-Maszák** (Hungarian National Museum) – The 'Objet chargé' as a layered embodiment of the social: The case of a Barabás Stereoview
- **Manuela Friedrich** (Reinwardt Academy) & **Marieke van der Duin** (Reinwardt Academy) – Heritage as relation: Meet Jan Anderson in his collection

17:00 - 18:00 *Break*

18:00 - 19:30 **Dinner for speakers**



- 19:30 -20:30 **Vernissage exhibition** 'Dingen en dieren – All Things Animal'
- 20:30 -22:00 **Mystery night:** magic performances by House of Mysteries and special guests  
Discounted tickets to be booked individually through House of Mysteries



## Friday 21 April 2023

- 09:30 -10:00 Arrival
- 10:00 -10:15 **Welcome**
- 10:15 -11:30 **Panel 4: Testimonial objects, sacred witnesses of the past**  
Chair: **Nele Wynants** (UAntwerp)
- **Erkki Huhtamo** (UCLA Design Media Arts) – An archaeology of panorama broadsides and posters
  - **Raffaele de Ritis** (D'Annunzio University of Chieti - Pescara) – Evanescent carnival [*pre-recorded paper presentation*]
  - **Gitte Samoy** (UAntwerp) – Anatomy brought to life: Wax models between science and entertainment
- 11:30 -11:45 *Break*
- 11:45 -13:00 **Panel 5: Filmic objects, materiality of moving imagination**  
Chair: **Bart G. Moens** (ULB & UAntwerp)
- **Yvonne Zimmerman** (Philipps-University Marburg) – Turning objects into 'sacred objects': the case of Hans Richter's collection of film prints
  - **Edwin Carels** (University College Ghent) – The haunted suitcase
  - **Tim Overkempe** (UAntwerp) – The X-ray image as *objet chargé*: on Bertha Roentgen's 1895 hand X-ray image
- 13:00 -14:00 *Lunch*

## 14:00 -15:15 **Panel 6: Strong objects, intermediaries of wonder**

Chair: **Kurt Vanhoutte** (UAntwerp)

- **Fleur Hopkins-Loféron** (THALIM - CNRS) – Portebonheur ou clou du spectacle: les talismans du fakir Tahra-Bey
- **Ilja Nieuwland** (Huygens Instituut KNAW / Athena Instituut, Vrije Universiteit) – From spectacle to specimen: the journey of Koch's *Hydrarchos harlani*
- **Marjan Doom** (Ghent University) – Whale spotting

15:15 -15:30 *Break*

## 15:30 -17:00 **Artists' interview and performance: A discovery of fantastic illusionism**

Chair: **Thibaut Rioult** (UAntwerp)

- **Christian Chelman** (Surnateum) – The Surnateum, collecting and performing hauntings
- **Antoine Leduc** (Antre-Cave) – L'Antre-Cave, enquêter sur la réalité derrière la légende

This symposium is organised in the framework of *Science at the Fair: Performing Knowledge and Technology in Western Europe, 1850-1914* ([www.scifair.eu](http://www.scifair.eu)), funded by the European Research Council (ERC); and *B-magic. The Magic Lantern and its Cultural Impact as Visual Mass Medium in Belgium (1830-1940)* ([www.B-magic.eu](http://www.B-magic.eu)), an Excellence of Science project (EOS-contract 30802346) supported by the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) and the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS, in collaboration with House of Mysteries.

**Organizers:** Dr. Thibaut Rioult, Prof. Kurt Vanhoutte & Elisa Seghers

**Scientific Committee:** Prof. Leen Engelen (LUCA School of Arts – KU Leuven), Dr. Li Lin (University of Antwerp), Dr. Ilja Nieuwland (Huygens Institute KNAW / Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit), Prof. Frédéric Tabet (Université Toulouse 2 Jean Jaurès), Prof. Kornee van der Haven (Ghent University), Prof. Tine Van Osselaer (University of Antwerp), Prof. Karel Vanhaesebrouck (Université libre de Bruxelles), Prof. Nele Wynants (University of Antwerp).

