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Embodiment and new forms of imagination

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Lecturer

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"All the images we are acquainted with are the result of a physical action, from the hand drawing signs to wielding a camera. The existence of synthetic images, for their part, has no need of any analogous linkage to the subject." (Nicolas Bourriaud, 2002)

"In den traditionellen Bildern drückt sich Einbildungskraft aus, das heißt die Fähigkeit, aus der Lebenswelt zurückzuschreiten und sie von außen zu sehen. Und in den technischen Bildern drückt sich Einbildungskraft aus, das heißt die Fähigkeit, Kalkulationen ins Bild zu setzen." (Vilém Flusser, 1999)

Both philosophers and art critics note that the nature of images and the nature of imagination have changed significantly in the past centuries. In this lecture, I will explain in what sense contemporary imagination might be different from previous forms of imagination. The focus will be on one aspect of imagination, namely its bodily roots, and on one aspect of artistic images, namely the way they are produced. Together, these two aspects give insight in how and why traditional forms of imagination are today no longer sufficient for visual literacy.

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