

Jacques Rancière

'Cinema and the Frontiers of Art'

Eminent philosopher Jacques Rancière will give a lecture at the inauguration of The Centre for Film Aesthetics and Cultures (CFAC), University of Reading.

Friday 2 May 2014

Bulmershe Theatre, Minghella Building
Whiteknights campus
University of Reading

6.00pm



Prior booking essential with Gaenor Burchett-Vass g.burchett-vass@reading.ac.uk
Further information with Prof Lúcia Nagib l.nagib@reading.ac.uk

'Cinema and the Frontiers of Art'

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Ars gratia artis, the three words written on the scroll surrounding the head of the roaring lion at the beginning of the MGM movies may sum up the singularity of cinema. Cinema has blurred in many ways the frontiers separating pure art from the activities of the everyday and the forms of popular performance and entertainment. By the same token, it may have questioned the very unity of what we call art. Through examples borrowed from the history of film and from the history of cinephilia I wish to examine some aspects of this subversion of the frontiers of art.

Jacques Rancière, born in Algiers (1940) is Emeritus Professor at the University of Paris VIII, where he taught Philosophy from 1969 to 2000, and visiting professor in several American universities. His work deals with emancipatory politics, aesthetics and the relationship between aesthetics and politics. His books translated into English include notably: *The Ignorant Schoolmaster* (1991), *Disagreement* (1998), *The Politics of Aesthetics* (2006), *The Future of the Image* (2007), *The Emancipated Spectator* (2009), *Proletarian Nights* (2012) and *Aisthesis* (2013). He has authored three books dedicated to cinema (*Film Fables*, 2006; Bela Tarr. *The Time after*, 2013; *The Intervals of Cinema*, forthcoming, 2014).



The Centre for Film Aesthetics and Cultures (CFAC)

University of Reading

The Centre for Film Aesthetics and Cultures (CFAC) will be a centre of international excellence in research and teaching of film, both with regard to its medium-specific qualities and its inherent interdisciplinary and intercultural properties.

Endowed with an outward-facing ethos, CFAC will be a catalyst for expertise in film at the University of Reading. CFAC will understand aesthetics in its broadest sense: as an important branch of philosophy; as style and beauty pertaining to art; as a mode of cultural experience; and as sensory pleasure connecting filmmakers and film spectators. It will propose culture as the locale for human interaction and improvement, and as the necessary background for the analysis of any aesthetic object, most notably film, whose intercultural aspect derives from its own nature as an industrial and transnational medium. CFAC will investigate the ways in which film reflects the aesthetic politics

inherent in the specificities of the medium as well as the cultural struggles and gains deriving from film's interactions with different systems, practices and interests. CFAC will foster debates and links between the University of Reading and other research centres and film societies, as well as with the industries of production, distribution and exhibition, including international networks of arthouse film theatres and festivals. CFAC will keep a permanent schedule of activities, including: research grant management; national and international networking; conferences and workshops; seminar series; prestige lecture series; MA programmes; PhD and Postdoctoral training; publications and book launches.