

Twitchin Mischa

Between phantom and phantasm

standard lecture

What kind of actor is a phantom – or, indeed, a phantasm? What modes of possession and dispossession do these figures enact? How do they animate bodies, whether conceived of in terms of performance, philosophy, or ethnography? How are the differences between these disciplines articulated in the conceptual theatre of Nietzsche's "reversal of Platonism", not least when Foucault acts as dramaturg to Deleuze's leading role in its mask play? How does performance philosophy allow for questions of mimesis that engage with an anthropology of modernity particularly, offering distinct questions of an ethics of research practice? My presentation will explore the possibilities of what Foucault called "phantasmaphysics" in relation to visiting European ethnographic museums, as also reflected upon in a film-essay entitled "The Utopian Body" (available on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/177274641> [French version]; <https://vimeo.com/178221335> [English version]).

Bio:

Mischa Twitchin is a British Academy Post-doctoral Fellow at the Drama Dept., Queen Mary, University of London. His book, "The Theatre of Death – the Uncanny in Mimesis" is published by Palgrave Macmillan in their Performance Philosophy series; while examples of his performance- and essay-films can be seen on Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/user13124826/videos>

