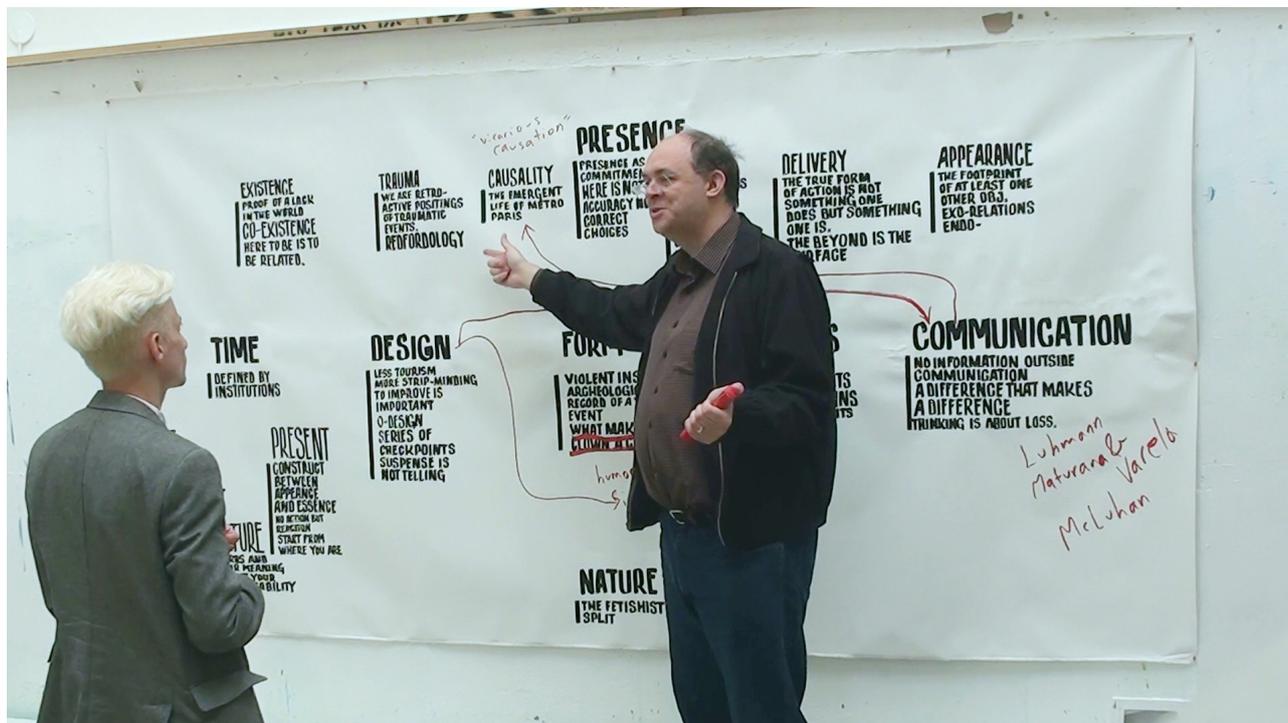


**'REALITY WITHOUT PRESENCE'**  
**Alex Mirutziu in conversation with Graham Harman**  
**Lecture / performance / 2015**



**Abstract:**

A conversation between artist Alex Mirutziu and philosopher Graham Harman that started while the artist was in residence at IASPIS – The Swedish Arts Grants Committee, Stockholm (2014-2015), and made possible by the joint effort of previous mentioned institution and Konstpedemin/The Epidemic of Art in Göteborg. The aim is to create conditions for absorption so as to generate a sense of agency in respect to the future. The two agents are busy with ontologizing enquiries, and they do so by getting out of suspension, to establish points of reference of the objects that enter into new and multiple relations. A diagram of concepts inscribed on a large canvas serves as a starting point for the discussion. The canvas comes in and out of 'focus' and at times retracts in the background as a physical residue of the conversation. Conceptual baits are specific as well as highly correlative thus, implying going back and forth to the canvas in order to lay down relevant notations.

\*Alex Mirutziu's installation based performances and writings question the ways in which the space after something ends is orchestrated. He uses design in its most bureaucratic sense, collecting imprints of personal and historical events, using understanding and sincerity as factors in the materialisation. His works have been recently shown at *Center for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw* (2014), *National Museum of Art, Warsaw* (2012), *Múcsarnok/Kunsthalle Budapest* (2012), *The Power Plant, Toronto* (2011 / 2012), *Palazzo Correr, Venice Biennial* (2015).

\*Graham Harman is Professor of Philosophy and Associate Provost for Research Administration at the American University in Cairo. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Quadruple Object* (Zero Books, 2011) and *Quentin Meillassoux: Philosophy in the Making* (Edinburgh University Press, 2011), and most recently, *Weird Realism: Lovecraft and Philosophy* (Zero Books, 2012).

Preview: <https://vimeo.com/alexmirutziu/reality-without-presence>