

Unfinished Systems of Non—Knowledge

PART 2: On Wandering

“Those who dare to get lost,
will find new avenues.”

Erasmus

“That RUPTURING accepted
standards — of permitted
knowledge, tasteful spectacle,
known experiences — motivates
the curious mind and the artist-
quester.”

“That unexpected COMBINATIONS,
giving rise to unclassifiable
phenomena, attract attention
of the curious mind.”

Marina Warner

INTRODUCING FULL PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, February 8, 2018

Unfinished Systems of Non—Knowledge PART 2: On Wandering kicks off on Thursday evening, February 8, at De Waag with an introduction by curator Christel Vesters and a keynote lecture by Sigrid Weigel. Sigrid Weigel will discuss symptomatic figures of knowledge invented by several Jewish-German intellectuals, amongst them: Aby Warburg, Walter Benjamin and Sigmund Freud. Finding themselves in a position either off academia or at the margins of their discipline, these authors started to transgress the borders between fields, subjects, and cultures and diverge from conventional methods and narratives based on chronology, typology, and a history of progress.

FRIDAY, February 9, 2018

On Friday, February 9, the programme continues at The Trippenhuis organized in collaboration with the Society of Arts / Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences. The seminar focuses on *wandering* as a mental activity and a prerequisite for experiment, innovation and the development of new ideas. ‘Thinker Laureate’ René ten Bos will explain why it is necessary to avoid shortcuts and quick fixes, and why to embrace a way of thinking that meanders, wanders sideways and sometimes loses track. To come to real solutions for this world, Bos says, undisciplined, wild and moral-less thinking, is a must.

In order to explore new avenues, one needs to be open to the unknown and the unforeseen. The session continues with a contemplation of the unknowable and the power of the unknown. Curator and writer Lucy Cotter will talk about her current research on *Art Knowledge: Unknowing the Known*, which reflects on art’s insistent trajectory from the known to the unknown, bringing about a radical rethinking of how things interact and what they might become. Writer, visual artist and Academy member Maria Barnas will talk about her *wander poems*, which she has inserted into various urban spaces and which lure its reader to embark on unexpected journeys with unexpected encounters.

THURSDAY, February 8, 2018
De Waag, Nieuwmarkt 4

20–22 h.

On Wandering
Christel Vesters

Wandering, Thinking in
Transition, and Boundary Cases
Sigrid Weigel

FRIDAY, February 9, 2018
Het Trippenhuis,
Kloveniersburgwal 29

13–16 h.

A Thought Never Unfolds
in One Straight Line
René ten Bos
Maria Barnas
Lucy Cotter
Christel Vesters

16–17 h.

Drinks

SATURDAY, February 10, 2018
De Waag, Nieuwmarkt 4

13–17 h.

Atlas Mnemosyne Revisited
Mnemosyne Research Group
(Roberto Ohrt & Axel Heil)

To a Person Sitting in Darkness
(Camp Darby Blues)
Jeremiah Day

Anarchic Infrastructures:
Re-Casting the Archive,
Displacing Chronologies
Alena Alexandrova

17–18 h.

Drinks

19:30–22 h.

Wandering as Deviant
Practice
Nick Dunn
Nightwalkers
and others
followed by a Nightwalk

SATURDAY, February 10, 2018

On Saturday, February 10, the programme moves to De Waag again, dedicating the afternoon to a renewed and in-depth encounter with Aby Warburg's long lost Atlas Mnemosyne project. Artists and curators Roberto Ohrt and Axel Heil, founding members of the Mnemosyne Research Group, will recount their insights into Warburg's Bilderatlas while reflecting on structural concepts as *Wanderstrassen der Kultur* and the *Ikonologie des Mittens*. They are joined by performing and visual artist, Jeremiah Day, who will lead us through landscapes of memory, where the personal intersects the political through an unfolding questioning. The afternoon continues with a lecture by Alena Alexandrova who will discuss the promise of another type of visual knowledge as inaugurated by Aby Warburg's Mnemosyne Atlas in contemporary art projects.

On Saturday evening we explore the legacy of the walking practice of the Situationist International. Leading the way is Nick Dunn, professor of Urban Design and Associate Director of the Institute for Social Futures in Lancaster. His latest book, *Dark Matters: A Manifesto for the Nocturnal City* is an exploration of walking as cultural practice, the politics of space and the right to the city. To conclude two days of *wandering*, we will join the NIGHTWALKERS for a collective night stroll in the city followed by a discussion about the subconscious relations between the participants and the land they walked on.

Tickets

Tickets for Thursday evening and Saturday can be bought via our website (unfinished-systems-of-nonknowledge.org) or at the door. Friday's sessions are free but seats are limited; please register via the KNAW website.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Unfinished Systems of Non—Knowledge PART 2: On Wandering

Unfinished Systems of Non—Knowledge PART 2: On Wandering is a two-day interdisciplinary project curated by Christel Vesters. The programme consists of lectures, presentations, and performances, and takes place on Thursday, February 8, Friday 9 & Saturday, February 10, 2018 at two historical locations, Het Trippenhuis en De Waag, in the city centre of Amsterdam. The project is accompanied by a website which serves as an on-going platform for research and exchange. More information on the speakers, their writings, poems and art practices can be found here: unfinished-systems-of-nonknowledge.org.

Unfinished Systems of Non—Knowledge PART 2: On Wandering is organised in partnership with the University of Amsterdam, de Appel. The seminars on Friday at The Trippenhuis are presented in collaboration with the Society of Arts/KNAW. To keep up-to-date about our programme, please visit our [website](http://unfinished-systems-of-nonknowledge.org), or like our Facebook page.

USNK is thrilled to announce its two main venues for its second event *On Wandering*: Het Trippenhuis, seat of the Royal Dutch Academy of Science and the Academy of Arts, and the Anatomical Theatre at De Waag. Both buildings have played an important role in the history of art, science and knowledge, and still do so today. The anatomical theatre in De Waag provided the backdrop for Rembrandt's famous painting *The Anatomical Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp* (1632), and in 1812 Het Trippenhuis became the residence of the Royal Institute of Sciences, Literature and Fine Arts, which was founded by King Louis Napoleon a couple of years earlier. Today, both venues continue to be a place for scientific development, exchange and discovery.

USNK is conceived by curator, writer and researcher Christel Vesters. Christel studied art history and curating in Amsterdam, New York and London and graduated cum laude from the University of Amsterdam. She has an established career in art criticism and curating, and regularly contributes to various international art magazines and art publications.

USNK PART 2 is conceived in partnership with De Appel arts centre and the University of Amsterdam, and will take place in February 2018 at two historic locations in Amsterdam.

The two-day public event is accompanied by an online platform which contains essays, information about the programme and practical details: unfinished-systems-of-nonknowledge.org.

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