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EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

Our first session was a discussion of Tom Rockmore's latest book, namely *Art and Truth After Plato* (Chicago, 2013) the third in a series beginning with his *Kant and Phenomenology* (Chicago, 2011) by way of the approach he calls "Constructivism" as the most appropriate and accurate way to understand German Idealism in historical context from Kant through Fichte, Hegel, and Marx, as contrast to the more conventional Anglo-American way of reading Kant by way of Hume and the interests of analytic philosophy. Discussants, including Joseph Margolis (Temple), Raymond Langley (Manhattanville), Alina Feld (Hofstra) and Sophie Cloutier (Saint Paul, Ottawa) concluded that Rockmore's approach to Plato's problem with mimesis and representationalism is most productive indeed and provides an important link with contemporary issues in Continental philosophy.

Our second session was on "Iconography and Transcendence: Reflections on Image, Icon, Economy by Marie-José Mondzain" and attempted to rehabilitate the much abused, and now degraded notions of Icons and iconicity by reconnecting them with historical problems in ancient philosophy, in their originating context, namely, neo-Platonism, Byzantine art and Orthodox Christianity, as well as with neo-Kantian philosophy, such as Jaspers' notion of ciphers of Transcendence, Cassirer's philosophy of symbolic form, and more recent developments in French phenomenology which take up issues of representationalism and experience.

Two additional essays bring in the perspective of Martin Heidegger by way of complementarity with intellectual icons from East and West. Indu Sarin (Punjab, India) shows similarities in Heidegger and Tagore with regards to the importance of art and transcendence for an inclusive comprehension of reality that cannot be mapped by reductionist methodologies alone. Jennifer Gosetti-Ferencei (Fordham) reflects on Heidegger, Rilke, and Blanchot to assess the limits of thought and language for gaining existential authenticity by pondering the certitude of death. Both essays in their own ways assign an important function to art for comprehending the co-dependencies of existence.

The Editors,
Alan M. Olson
Helmut Wautischer

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Mission Statement

The mission of *Existenz* is to encourage research and publication on problems and topics consistent with the general overview of Karl Jaspers, namely, the history of philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism, and hermeneutics; psychology, philosophy of religion, politics, culture, and the arts. This journal serves as a publication outlet for various international Jaspers societies, including those in the United States, Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, and Japan, and also considers direct submissions of articles for online publication. *Existenz* is indexed in *The Philosopher's Index*.

Correspondence

Direct all correspondence to the editors as posted at www.existenz.us/submissionguidelines.html