

**Zeitschrift:** Trans : Publikationsreihe des Fachvereins der Studierenden am  
Departement Architektur der ETH Zürich

**Herausgeber:** Departement Architektur der ETH Zürich

**Band:** - (2022)

**Heft:** 40

**Artikel:** What "is"? : Fictions through reality

**Autor:** CS

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-1037206>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 14.08.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

*«When they found the sorcerer  
in the meanders of the Garden  
locked in a crystal cage, they realized  
he was not a prisoner of Love — but of his own doing»*

## WHAT «IS»? FICTIONS THROUGH REALITY CS



*«take a flight of fantasy»  
what «is»?*

There is a narrative quality to reality, full of plot twists, flashbacks, points of view and unreliable narrators. From time to time images of organization emerge, mysterious but explanatory sigils trapping reality in their spell.

*«The garden may be read as a book, or as a spell [...] This garden is an instrument for ruling the universe»<sup>(1)</sup>*

Different cosmologies are based on an idea of progress(ion) from a raw to an initiated state.<sup>(2)</sup> They follow a scheme or diagram of the world that varies, but have a common basic structure: Chaos outside, order inside; entropy outside, harmony inside. The «shape of the universe» is a sigil:<sup>(3)</sup> In it lies the implicit suggestion that by knowing its inner workings, one can eventually control it. Inside the geometries of the Sephiroth<sup>(4)</sup> cities and temples arise, antiquaries, libraries and archaeologies whose pinnacles touch unimaginable heights — monuments to the rise of order through chaos. But behind its immortal archives hides the harrowing ghost of finitude: In magic, all sigils are meant to be broken. *As above, so below*<sup>(5)</sup> is a loophole of infinitely concatenated questions, leaving the doubt that there really is a definite answer. The garden is full of rabbit holes: «The illusion of the Right Hand Path»<sup>(6)</sup> is that by digging far enough we will reach the end of the tunnel, where a state of perfection and completion (through knowledge) could be attained.

*«stop waiting for history to reveal itself to you»<sup>(7)</sup>*

...

*history is the nightmare I'm trying to awake from»<sup>(8)</sup>*

writing (the word) makes people superfluous  
the forever-recorded everything  
history  
the illusion of immortality  
and the Word is its instrument  
«you are not able to forget anything»

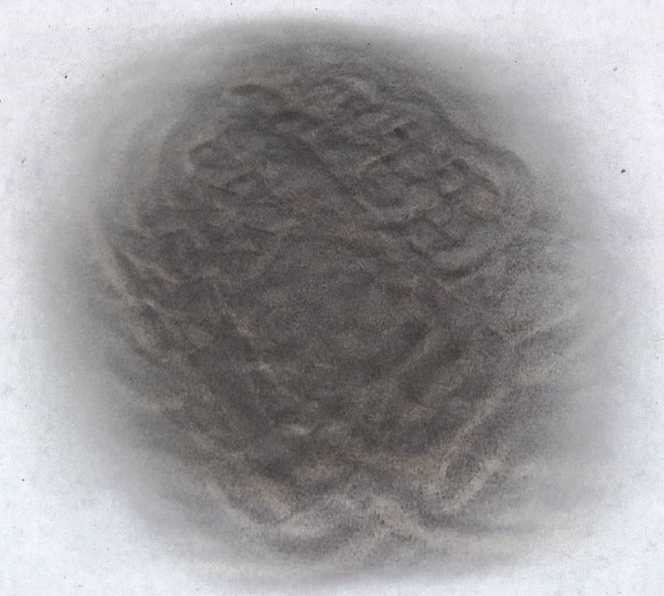
*warping the scriptures*

The Master's tools will never dismantle the Master's house;<sup>(9)</sup> one could argue that the Bible spelled backwards still speaks the same language (and is a kabbalistic method of totalization: It is all God's words, all letters belong to Him<sup>(10)</sup>). What are we left with when we accept that satanism is ultimately confirming the adversary, merely turning











their symbols upside down?<sup>(11)</sup> One could argue that every establishment cultivates its opposition up to a certain level: One needs another in order to exist, the second taking on an almost parasitic role, and the first ultimately confirmed by the existence of an «other» from it. In fact, this inseparable god-devil diad forms itself a unity in balance, creating a false motion.<sup>(12)</sup> This metaphysical impasse seems to have trapped ethics (and politics) for a long time, switching roles in an aeternal dance where the dualistic machine always wins, in some kind of perpetual motion.<sup>(13)</sup> But this is an impossible machine: The leftovers accumulate in an uncanny outside, menacing to crumble on the inside.<sup>(14)</sup>

*trapped in form*

Paraphrasing WS Burroughs,<sup>(15)</sup> the current *reality program*<sup>(16)</sup> is dissimulated behind a veil of objectivity. It exists everywhere, therefore it is nowhere because it has nowhere to go. There's nothing it can possibly know, because it already knows everything. The qualities of omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence contribute to making «god» invisible. Hence its disappearance is an illusory death; it is instead the last stage of its completion.<sup>(17)</sup> There is no point in illustrating what already «exists», what is called for is «being wrong»: «*Every act of writing is a sorcerous operation, a partisan action in a war*» against constituted meaning. The law-abiding artist ultimately confirms the dominant control system. They can only interpret things which already happened, instead fabricating prophecies or *hyperstitions*.<sup>(18)</sup>

*breaking the dualistic machine*

«fiction is not opposed to the real. Rather, reality is understood to be composed of fictions»

A story is true as long as it's being told and believed. Cosmic myths are rooted at either end of linear time, or *outside of time*: They are always happening, they are as real in their mytho-historical time as they are in the stories being told about them. The apocalypse is always happening as long as the Book of Enoch is being read and believed.

*collapsing pinnacles are to be avoided  
by way of skirting<sup>(19)</sup>*

How many times does god have to sacrifice himself to perpetrate his kingdom? We are not freed from magic, magical thinking, and belief; we actually just love good stories. Narrative is the vein of reality, we need something to believe in; some just choose progress(ion).

*«writing operates not as a passive representation but as an active agent of transformation and a gateway through which entities can emerge»*

*the revolution will not be televised*

The mistake of Burroughs is to ultimately fall into the trap of the *one absolute reality*; if we ought to believe in the postulated abundance of fictions manifesting themselves on the material plane (which become ultimately realities) or rather being evoked through a flight of fantasy, then the escape route from the matrix<sup>(20)</sup> is not by way of fighting it (directly). By remaining open to the already-present contingent realities (populated or directed by entities), a resistance can create its own language and cosmology, *to be told*.

*repetitions are magic keys*

*repetitions are poetic*

*repetitions are prophecies*

When questioning *what is*, we might try to visualize the origin of all things as a thin geometry, a calm image of order against chaos. Soon the spell is broken by a restless *stream*, a multitude of shapes emerging for fractions of seconds — unpredictable and irregular spikes springing from this *body of energy*.