



## Spring 2020 at OPUS

Dear ,

Greetings!

It's that transition time once again, where the days and nights fluctuate back and forth between the close of winter and the rise of spring—subtle on the west coast but if you've been here long enough, the differences are palpable and appreciated. Daylight saving time begins Sunday March 8, so we'll all have to make our forward adjustments there too.

I am very pleased to share with you that Marija Gimbutas, whose collection OPUS proudly holds, has been named by UNESCO on their list of anniversaries with worldwide significance for 2020-2021. The purpose of this list is to promote international understanding, closer relations, and peace through the celebration of eminent personalities, works, or historical events that have contributed to mutual enrichment and cultures. Gimbutas' 100th anniversary will be January 2021.

For the next Mythological RoundTable, group leader Devon Deimler, PhD will be the featured speaker. Join Dr. Deimler on Sunday, April 19, 2020, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for her presentation *Strange Fascinations: James Hillman, the Art of Contemporary Myth, and Myth of Contemporary Art*. Along with the presentation and discussion, there will be select materials on display from the James Hillman Collection.

Our current exhibit *Guiding Spirits: The Radical Witches and Women of OPUS* continues to attract the curious minded—and maybe a few spirits? Featured items are from the collections of Joseph Campbell, James Hillman, Marija Gimbutas, Marion Woodman, Christine Downing, Katie Sanford, and William Henry Barnes.

Stay warm or stay cool, whichever applies, and above all else harness your happiness along with good health.

Best wishes,

Jennifer Maxon, Director / Archivist

**The Joseph Campbell Mythological RoundTable® Group**  
of OPUS at Pacifica Graduate Institute

**The JOSEPH CAMPBELL FOUNDATION  
MYTHOLOGICAL ROUNDTABLE® GROUP  
of OPUS at PACIFICA GRADUATE INSTITUTE**  
presents

## **STRANGE FASCINATIONS**

James Hillman,  
the Art of Contemporary Myth,  
& Myth of Contemporary Art



with Devon Deimler, PhD

**SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2020**

5:30 - 7:30pm

801 Ladera Lane  
Santa Barbara 93108  
Barrett Center



**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

info: 805 969 5750 or [d.deimler@opusarchives.org](mailto:d.deimler@opusarchives.org)

**"Strange Fascinations:  
James Hillman, the Art of Contemporary Myth, and Myth of  
Contemporary Art"**

with Devon Deimler, PhD

One of the most eminent collections housed in OPUS Archives and Research Center is that of James Hillman, the founder of archetypal psychology. It was Hillman's ambition to "push psychology over into art," for if psyche were studied through those things that do not dismiss the strange and pathological—like art and mythology—then our psychological notions of "normal and abnormal might have to switch houses" (*Re-Visioning Psychology*, 107). In this presentation, Devon Deimler, PhD will explore elements of Hillman's oeuvre related to art, aesthetics, myths of creative inspiration, and the poetic, imagistic basis of mind and how these ideas influenced her own work regarding Dionysos as an archetype of aesthetic experience. In the spirit of OPUS' mission as a living archive, we will carry Hillman's contributions into the present day, to seek out the vitality of myth and archetypal psychology within contemporary art. Special selections from Hillman's collection will also be on display throughout the event.

Devon Deimler, PhD is an artist, writer, and scholar. She is Curatorial Assistant at OPUS Archives and Research Center and Scholar in Residence at The Philosophical Research Society in Los Angeles, where she is also founder and curator of the Cinemyth Film Series. Devon earned her doctorate in Mythological Studies with an Emphasis in Depth Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute. Her dissertation, *Ultraviolet Concrete: Dionysos and the Ecstatic Play of Aesthetic Experience*, received the honor of Pacifica's Dissertation of Excellence award. Devon earned her BA in Interdisciplinary Sculpture from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, where she focused primarily on event-based work and modern through contemporary art and film history. Her experience in art and music includes founding an independent record label and collaborative event project, Wildfire Productions, working as Assistant to the Director at the Dennis Hopper Art Trust, and teaching modern art history and studio practices at American University Preparatory School. She is the North American Mythological RoundTable® Coordinator for the Joseph Campbell Foundation.

**This event is FREE and open to the public. No reservations are needed.**

For more information on this event, please visit the [Events](#) page of our website.

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## Collection Spotlight

### Spirit Photography from the Judge William Barnes Collection



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, spirit photography served as "proof" for the spiritualist aspiration of contacting the unseen dead. Many, including Mary Todd Lincoln, posed for such photographs, hoping their departed loved ones





would appear beside them through the new light exposure-based technology. Debunked in its time and today, the spirit images created are nevertheless eerily beautiful and sometimes strangely comical relics of both spiritualism and early photography.

The rare book collection of Judge William Henry Barnes includes the volume, *Photographing the Invisible: Practical Studies in Spirit Photography, Spirit Portraiture, and other Rare but Allied Phenomena* by James Coates (1911). Several

examples of spirit photographs from this book are on display in OPUS' current exhibit, *Guiding Spirits: The Radical Witches and Women of OPUS*, including the example shown here of Mary Todd.

Figure caption "The remarkable photograph of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln (on which appears the portrait of her late husband, the late President of the United States, and of his son), both almost too faint for reproduction."

## Exhibit On View

### Guiding Spirits



*Guiding Spirits: The Radical Witches and Women of OPUS* presents an array of materials highlighting explorations of mythological witches and the occult underpinnings of depth psychology. On view are germane selections from OPUS' leading-edge women scholars, including Marija Gimbutas' archeological illustrations of bird goddesses and their canine consorts, and Christine Downing and Marion Woodman's manuscripts on the distrust and endurance of the female body and the magical powers of lunar crossroad goddesses, Hekate, Artemis, and Baba Yaga. Also on view will be OPUS' most extensive display to date of Judge W. H. Barnes' rare turn-of-the-20th-century

Spiritualist book collection, featuring testimonial accounts and investigative exposés of séances, trance mediums, and spirit materializations—all phenomena influential upon the psychology of C. G. Jung and the Theosophical establishment of OPUS' neighboring township of Summerland, CA.

This exhibit serves to illuminate ways in which goddess worship, bodily healing, oracular arts, and the co-arising of Spiritualism with women's suffrage all provided invaluable and pivotal leadership roles for women, as well as validating our enduring human need for contact with the unseen. Guiding Spirits is designed to complement Pacifica Graduate Institute's June 2020 conference, *Magic from the Margins: Witches, Women, and Emerging Ecologies of Psyche*.

For more information on the exhibit and the OPUS collections, visit the [Exhibits](#) page of our website.

## Support OPUS All Year Long

Your contribution to OPUS helps with our mission to preserve collections and make them accessible to researchers.



Donate online today via credit card by simply clicking the icon above and filling out the secure form. We also graciously accept donations via mail at:

OPUS Archives & Research Center  
P.O. Box 1078  
Carpinteria, CA 93014

## OPUS Holding the Archival Collections of:

Joseph Campbell  
Christine Downing  
Marija Gimbutas  
Adolf Guggenbühl-Craig  
James Hillman  
Tony Joseph  
Jill Mellick  
Katie Sanford  
Jane Hollister  
Wheelwright  
Joseph Wheelwright  
Marion Woodman

## Rare Book Collections of:

William Henry Barnes  
John Sanford



Visit our website at [www.opusarchives.org](http://www.opusarchives.org)

**The Administrative Office and Archives** are open

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**The Joseph Campbell & Marija Gimbutas Libraries** are open

Sundays 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

*Both are also available by appointment*

**Spring Holiday Closures**

The OPUS Administrative Office and Archives will be closed  
May 25 - 26

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**OPUS Archives and Research Center**

on the grounds of Pacifica Graduate Institute

*a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization*

801 Ladera Lane | Santa Barbara, CA 93108 | (805) 969-5750

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