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Babel : Interpreting the manifest ; confronting chaos

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2017

https://hdl.handle.net/10539/24448

Gecelter, Jonathan Percy (2017) Interpreting the manifest, confronting chaos, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, <http://hdl.handle.net/10539/24448>

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ABSTRACT

The physicist, Albert Einstein's startling statement, **"**There are only two ways to live a life, one, **is that nothing is a miracle,** and the other, **is that everything is a miracle."** prompted a series of questions in relation to my own questioning as to the miraculousness of life itself and the disconcerting coexistence of uncertainty, apparent chaos and seeming randomness of the world around me. Paradigms of the mystical and the scientific, in the succeeding chapters, compete and coalesce within a process of interpretation in an attempt to investigate the structural ambiguity of holding both views simultaneously.

The scope of my investigation has focused on an analytical interplay between the biblical narratives of Babel and Abraham, with the scientific psychosocial theory of Danah Zohar's *Quantum Self*. These seemingly dramatically different paradigms are used as a lens to analyze the complex structure of a series of random or miraculous events in Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu's 2006 film, titled *Babel*.

Ultimately, the insights gained from these texts and the analysis of the film had a profound effect on the production of a body of work, which also engaged, with multiple modes of translation and interpretation. Significantly, in a personal attempt to engage with a unified field of meaning a criticality emerged, which personally empowered me to challenge yet integrate my deep-seated Judaic beliefs with a contemporary scientific paradigm profoundly affecting my art practice.