

Talks, conversations, events from the SITE for Contemporary Psychoanalysis

Lars von Trier's 'Depression Trilogy': A Psychoanalytic Interpretation

A series of three lectures with film excerpts
with *Mary Wild*

THURSDAY 7th, 14th, 21st April 2016

Doors open at 7pm, 7.30pm start

Draper Hall, 1 Howell Walk, London SE1 6TL (nearest tube, Elephant & Castle)

Mary Wild is a film lecturer at Freud Museum and City Lit. Mary is interested in cinematic and psychoanalytic representations of identity, economics, the unconscious and love. In early 2016 she has been delivering a series of 7 evenings on the films of Andrei Tarkovsky at the Freud Museum in London.

Lars von Trier, Denmark's controversial film director, has consistently provoked intense reactions and debate among audiences and critics worldwide. His most recent works, *Antichrist* (2009), *Melancholia* (2011) and *Nymphomaniac* (2013) together form the unofficially titled "Depression Trilogy", centred on female characters dealing with profound grief, despair, pain and loneliness. Trier has openly shared his own struggles with sadness, and his reliance on the creative process to cope with emotional turmoil.

In recent times, Western countries have recorded sharp rises in depression diagnoses, where our increased sorrow has produced a collective preoccupation with happiness and the boom of the self-help industry. Social media sites project the façade of radiant contentment, and we are routinely instructed to "have fun", irrespective of how pointless or destructive activities may be. Philosopher Slavoj Žižek, in typically irreverent style, suggests that the pursuit of happiness, far from being a noble goal, is an unethical act.

This 3-week lecture series is dedicated to the study and interpretation of *Antichrist*, *Melancholia* and *Nymphomaniac* from the psychoanalytic perspective, with a special focus on the 1917 essay 'Mourning and Melancholia' where Sigmund Freud distinguishes between healthy and pathological responses to loss. We will engage with inter-disciplinary concepts to explore Trier's dark and beautiful landscapes, where cinema's *enfant terrible* takes us on an unforgettably subversive journey through the dense fog of depression.

Tickets: £10 each individual week or £30 for all three including a glass or 2 of wine and hopefully a convivial evening all round. There will be live saxophone music at the start of the evening.

How to book: Please pay by electronic transfer of funds to: Unity Trust Bank, The Site for Contemporary Psychoanalysis; Sort code: 60-83-01; Account No: 20099428. Please insert your name as reference and email siteenquiries2015@gmail.com to advise that payment has been made.

