Other Presents: Imagining the Human and Beyond

Recognizing the current moment as one dominated by high capital, this piece articulates the kind of labour necessary for the imagination to dream the human, the nonhuman and the earth elements out of the unjust present into a more just future, without foreclosing what justice might mean. I recognize our embeddedness in history, which for me includes the persistence of the technological, the inescapability and productivity of a politics of difference, as well as the recognition that the Western tradition contains alternatives to the Cartesian subject. Reading Lewis Hyde, I propose an

Abstract

Larissa Lai
University of British Columbia

Recognizing the current moment as one dominated by high capital, this piece articulates the kind of labour necessary for the imagination to dream the human, the nonhuman and the earth elements out of the unjust present into a more just future, without foreclosing what justice might mean. I recognize our embeddedness in history, which for me includes the persistence of the technological, the inescapability and productivity of a politics of difference, as well as the recognition that the Western tradition contains alternatives to the Cartesian subject. Reading Lewis Hyde, I propose an
The economy of the imagination, the terms of which shift as we generate the kind of wealth that increases through the act of giving rather than taking.

**What is the Radical Imagination?**

**Section**

Interventions: Provocations

Affinities is anti-copyright. We encourage people to use anything they find here in any way they please -- take risks, contaminate the global mindstream, get themselves in trouble. It's out of our hands (we, the editors, and you, the writer) once it's on the site. That's what it means to 'publish', no?

**Author Biography**

**Larissa Lai, University of British Columbia**

Larissa Lai is an Assistant Professor in Canadian Literature at the University of British Columbia. She is the author of two novels, *When Fox Is a Thousand* (Press Gang 1995, Arsenal Pulp 2004) and *Salt Fish Girl* (Thomas Allen 2002); and two poetry books *sybil unrest* (Line Books 2009, with Rita Wong) and *Automaton Biographies* (Arsenal Pulp 2009). Her recent chapbook *Eggs in the Basement* (Nomados 2009) was shortlisted for the bp nichol Chapbook Award. She has recently sent her critical book *Slanting "I", Imagining "We": Asian Canadian Formations, Relations and Strategies in the 80s and 90s* to a Canadian academic press.
I'll tell you how. Human imagination is always a result of manipulation of what we have already seen or experienced. Whatever we imagine, it is always rooted to some or the other part of the memory. But we have only seen an infinitesimally small fraction of our universe. We base our imagination of on these observations. But, technically, since we have not seen other parts of the universe, we cannot imagine it. We believe that the entire universe is similar to our observations because we have mathematics supporting it. Human conscience that's behind the imagination is only a small part of universal consciousness which is present everywhere in the universe and beyond. That means it's infinite and therefore nothing is bigger than That.

Beyond Human Nature book. Read 22 reviews from the world’s largest community for readers. A timely and uniquely compelling plea for the importance of... Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking "Beyond Human Nature: How Culture and Experience Shape the Human Mind" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... Want to Read.