

# Non-Dualism and its Implications on Art-Making

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Western thought has been in thrall of a dualistic, anthropocentric worldview since Descartes. We see the rational human being as profoundly different from the material world. Is it possible to imagine a non-dualistic, post-anthropocentric worldview, one where human and world are not fundamentally *other* but fundamentally *same*?

There is a strong mind over matter bias in contemporary art-making. 'Anything goes' – the current maxim – provided it is framed rationally. How can we rethink authorship from a post-dualist, post-anthropocentric position?

Referring to the writing of philosopher Wolfgang Iser on the evolution of cognition, and early Buddhist philosophy on conditionality and the non-self, I go on to develop a sketch of a non-dualistic worldview, exploring both the human and the world as non-essential and perpetually changing states of being that are deeply relational and fundamentally *same*, proposing a radical rethinking of what we mean with *human* and its relationship with the *world*.

Art-making as a consciously reflective interaction of *human* and *world* becomes the locus of a rethinking of the human/world relationship. Can art-making become a blueprint for a more ethical, greener, mode of being in the world?

Dr Nadja Gabriela Plein

Nadja Gabriela Plein is a painter and writer. She regularly exhibits paintings in the UK and internationally. Recent solo show: 'flux' with The Stables in Exile Gallery, London. Winner of the 2019 Jacksons Open Painting Prize Abstract Category. She has recently presented papers at: Philosophical Society Oxford Symposium on 'Value' and the 'Abstract Painting Now Symposium' with University of Gloucestershire and RWA. Nadja was a composer first, gaining a doctorate in music composition from the Royal College of Music, London, in 2009, before her practice turned to painting. Nadja is a graduate of the Turps Art School Studio Painting Programme.