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"World Picture" and Beyond – Representation Revisited

Pictures as pictorial representations create a wedge in the continuity of everyday experience. The Heideggerian criticism of modern Western metaphysics as the age of the *world picture* may be based on the ambiguous position of representation. To Heidegger, representations present things as mere present-at-hand objects facing the individual as *subiectum*, which is a kind of foundation of reality. This subject-object dualism is misleading because, as Heidegger suggests, we are immersed in the world and move amongst ready-at-hand things with the help of a referential totality provided by the environment.

Non matter-related, *i.e.* mental, representations (even if attached to the virtual as opposed to the actual) cannot help resolve the traditional dualism, because (as in Bergson's case), the split between the conscious and the material remains – something Merleau-Ponty noticed against the background of his holistic view of the ambient world as inseparable from the body and cognitive processes. On the basis of this inseparability, with the help of revelations from earlier attempts, as well as new findings, I will try to reveal the structuring potential of images and the catalyzing potential of pictorial representations. In the course of my argumentation, *representation* gains a new shade both in its mental and matter-related forms.

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