



Ian James
UR-TEMPLE
The Fulcrum
October 8 – Nov 14, 2021
Opening Reception Fri Oct 8 / 7-10pm

*She bathes.
Separation dissolves the State as the mechanical
kingdom,
and has chemical effects on intelligence.
Here the sheaf idea can illustrate the opening of
new sites,
new syntheses,
the grand vision of generalizing topology.
She sings of instinct*
- Maure Coise, *Geophilosophical Branding*

The Fulcrum is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Ian James, collectively called UR-TEMPLE. The exhibition features a large scale photograph of the California State General Services Administration building in Sacramento, smaller photographs of a fetal heart monitor, breast pumps, bottle sterilizers, and zero gravity outdoor chaise recliners in cast frames. There is also a virtual reality environment, a bathroom token, and a poster featuring a drawing by Jose Argüelles.

The work is a continued exploration of the metaphysics of technology and its integration into the human body as a support structure for life and as a means to facilitate increasing more fluid and efficient exchange. A number of the works in the exhibition derive from the artist and his partner's experience of having a child during the ongoing pandemic and the uneven support for mothers, babies, and their partners amidst societal expectations for a non-interruption of labor output.

No doubt also the material universe itself, defined as the totality of images, is a kind of consciousness, a consciousness in which everything compensates and neutralizes everything else, a consciousness of which all the potential parts, balancing each other by a reaction which is always equal to the action, reciprocally hinder each other from standing out." We can say, then, that the universe as well as consciousness functions according to a type of harmony, where the whole is a sum of parts operating together and in accordance with laws.

- Henri Bergson, *Matter and Memory*

Cycling underneath this is a curiosity the work explores of the nature of the universe. In her book, *Cosmophenomenology*, Wangyoung Kim theorizes on our universe's omnipresent dark energy as carrier and inscriber of consciousness atop electrons. This theory allows for the permeation of consciousness to exist as a constant and to inhabit all matter, recycling endlessly. The work is interested in how the constant of consciousness provides a metaphysic and a will for printers, cameras, and all personal electronic devices rendering them as spiritual technology given electricity's (through electrons) role in consciousness.

What difference would it make to the course of energy policy were electricity to be figured not simply as a resource, commodity, or instrumentality but also and more radically as an "actant"?

- Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter*

Building off of these ideas, a virtual reality environment is paired with a custom chaise lounge allowing participants to walk an astral plane surrounded by images falling in low gravity. The images derive from the artist's ever growing collection of healing and spiritual technology-related photographs. Within this virtual space, images are given a physicality, spirituality, and monumentality for the viewer to position themselves alongside.

Finally, the artist has produced a new coin edition in the form of a bathroom token in an edition of 3000.

Ian James (b. 1981 Cincinnati, OH) lives and works in Los Angeles. He has had solo exhibitions at Five Car Garage (Santa Monica, CA), Hernando's Hideaway (Miami, FL), and Vacancy (Los Angeles) and participated in two-person and group exhibitions at Holiday Forever (Jackson, WY) the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, the UNLV Barrick Museum, Roberts Projects (LA), REDCAT (LA), Self Actualization (Houston), and was an artist in residence at SÍM in Reykjavik, Iceland and the The Wassaic Project (Wassaic, NY).