



The subject, the object and the law : Jacques Lacan's object a and « Le Graphe »

August 5, 2014 · Volume 18 (2014)

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Silhol R. The subject, the object and the law : Jacques Lacan's object a and « Le Graphe ». PsyArt Journal. 2014 Aug 5 [last modified: 2016 Apr 2]. Edition 1.

Abstract

We all know what psychoanalysis is about ; a simple formula sums it up quite well : « Conscious Stroke Unconscious ». It all started towards the end of the XIXth Century and definitely acquired a « scientific » status in 1900 with the publication of Freud's *Die Traumdeutung*. That this, however, was only the beginning of a very long « analysis » is also well known: the original formula—a structure in fact—, because of the radical change in our conception of human desire it implied, received various and sometimes contradictory interpretations, and the debate is still going on today. One of these interpretations, the latest I think, can be found in the works of Jacques Lacan. In this paper, I would like to clarify two particular notions—illustrations—which Lacan used to present his own reading of Freud's model, a representation in fact which amounts to a development of psychoanalytical theory along what I take to be very freudian lines : the object and the law.

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