

## WELCOME TO *SPELLBOUND*, THE FIRST DOUBLE ISSUE OF 2021.

May you become enchanted by this issue, created by *Kunstlicht's* entire editorial team out of an urge to look into magic, rituals, and spiritual practices. This issue is the celebration of our 40th anniversary and a long awaited, much anticipated issue which we have discussed for years.

Magic is understood in the widest interpretation of the word as something supernatural, something which goes beyond epistemological traditions of rationale or logic. Magic is even understood here as something which is at the heart of rationale and logic itself, undermining their promised security. Why, when, and how do we cast spells? What spells do we need now? We invited artists, writers and other creatives to respond to this and a plethora of responses will unfold in this journal focusing on shamanism, tarot card readings, TikTok, and meditation, among others.

As much as this issue was born from an interest in magical practices, it also landed as we might yearn for them. Every year offer its challenges, and this especially includes the past year. Maybe it was more felt than ever because we went public with our hardship; loss, mourning, loneliness, insecurities, and anxiousness reverberated loudly throughout our conversations. These feelings are unevenly distributed, but have been a companion to many. Simultaneously various scientific research-based institutes spat out infographics of death rates, survival rates, good curves and bad curves which painted our world in data visualisations. It is not surprising that some turned elsewhere for other worldviews, towards less certainty, or more hopeful and nuanced illustrations of the near future. After all, the tarot deck promises us that Major Arcana such as The Devil can mean both restraint and freedom.

We, as Editors-in-Chief, will not provide you here with a thorough introduction to this issue. Instead, we offer something more chaotic, something which spills out in its unevenness, and aims in many directions. Before each contribution an editor has offered a few notes on the text or its overall theme. Full of artists' works, articles, and spells, this issue is a cacophony of voices interrupting the usual order of the journal. *Spellbound* rumbles, tumbles, and spins because it has so much to say.

Throughout this journal we use words such as magic, spells, esoteric, occult, and so on. Prefacing this word use, we would like to cite an entry on the use of the term 'witchcraft' which has been foundational to our approach. Our focus is different, but the sentiment parallels the one below:

The term WITCHCRAFT is an insulting generalization of diverse practices that habitate the realms of the epistemological, metaphysical, technological, and cultural. In this project, the term WITCHCRAFT will

be appropriated to complexify what it should stand for, i.e. divinatory, medical, magical practices and all sorts of practices that manifest within the supernatural, occult, shamanism, spiritualism, and other umbrella nomenclature determined by men of religion and anthropology, who couldn't grasp the reason and rational of such phenomena. The term will be used despite or even especially because of its connotations, so as to liberate these practices from the term and liberate them from the SAVAGE SLOT they have been forced into.<sup>1</sup>

We would like to extend our thanks to the contributors and the artists for their words, works, and time. A big THANK YOU goes out to the editorial board as well. Lastly, we want to thank Felix Meritis for including our issue launch in their online programming on June 11 2021. The livestream of the launch will be recorded so even if you are not able to watch live, you are wholeheartedly invited to watch the recorded launch on our website.

All best,  
Anna + Joyce

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Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung and Federica Bueti (eds), *The Incantation of the Disquiet Muse. On Divinity, Supra-Realities or The Exorcisement of Witchery* (Berlin: The Green Box, 2017) np.