

## Geist Enclosure

*“Nothing in the universe is contingent, but all things are conditioned to exist and operate in a particular manner by the necessity of the divine nature.” (Spinoza: Ethics I, Prop. 29)*

Is our existence merely a coincidence or the product of necessity?

Nearly all aspects of human society are predicated by necessity. The fabric of our daily lives unfolds within the realm of conceivability, seemingly governed by an essential determinism. Without such order, our world would be chaos and society would cease to function. The environment and nature in which we live is also largely predictable, allowing us to prepare for the next day’s weather and understand the season’s cycles.

Yet, at times, we are caught off guard by events that seem to occur out of the blue, whether on the individual, societal, or planetary level. These events are perceived to be coincidences, which we categorize as fortune or misfortune. The novel coronavirus is perhaps one example of an event that arose from such random happenstance.

How are we to make sense of coincidence? Have we merely been thrown into the world without reason, destined to be buffeted by a mercurial series of fortunes and misfortunes until the moment of our eventual demise?

Still, even apparently inexplicable events can have a profound effect on the direction of our lives. Of course, what we perceive as coincidence may actually be necessity—it’s simply the causality that is unclear. Indeed, one might say that everything is interrelated and the product of our own actions.

I feel that I am alive right here, right now. My existence manifests itself in the fleeting moment between the flow of past and future. Yet the grand *archē* is unknowable.

We can never escape the inevitable, ferried along the ever-flowing current of time. Death, disease, natural disaster, and unexpected good fortune—necessity presents itself to us, veiled in the guise of chance.

A central goal of civilization is to mitigate the unexpected, thereby maintaining an environment conducive to leading daily life without interruption. In contemporary times, technology allows us to observe and manage our world in unprecedented detail. Nevertheless, even with all this data, the future still feels hopelessly unpredictable and possibly more chaotic than ever. How should we respond to the seeming injustice and absurdity of our chaotic world?

The present exhibition contemplates the divergence between social and personal notions of what is correct. Recognizing this dissonance opens the possibility for alternative approaches—room for thought, ethics, and behaviors that diverge from social systems dependent on modern technology.

In the post-truth era, perhaps we need to reexamine chance occurrences. By accepting contingency as necessity, we may gain a new perspective on our own existence and transcend the individual. Once we recognize our place as part of a larger narrative flow, we may even discover new stories and worlds.

We hope that *Geist Enclosure* will serve as a meditation on these themes, shining a multidisciplinary light on the tension between chance and necessity that affects us all.

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