

## INTRODUCTION

### *De-coïncidence in Art: A Challenge or a Solution?*

The 2025 issue of *Art Inquiry* opens a unique and intellectually engaging space for reflection on one of the most original philosophical categories of our time – *dé-coïncidence* – introduced and developed by the eminent French philosopher François Jullien. This issue is exceptional in that it begins with a specially prepared, original essay by Professor Jullien, *Art et décoïncidence. Une introduction*, written expressly for this volume. In this seminal contribution, the philosopher repositions art not as a representation of stable identity or fixed meaning, but as a privileged space of *de-coïncidence* – a moment of rupture, creative opening and existential exploration.

Rooted in Jullien’s broader philosophical project, *de-coïncidence* signals a process of distancing from what is given, coherent, or habitual. It names the dislocation of form and the release from sameness that enables newness to emerge. Art, in this view, is not about affirming order but about generating potential – where the known detaches from itself and the artist becomes a medium through which unforeseen meaning and expression arise.

This volume, following Jullien’s line of thought, explores multiple dimensions of *de-coïncidence* in art. Contributions examine creative act as an escape from imposed structures, the role of fragility and impermanence in aesthetic experience, and the presence of chance and unpredictability as intrinsic to the artistic process. Whether by interrogating abstraction, improvisation, or traditional forms such as Chinese painting, art from war-torn Ukraine and generative art of artificial intelligence, the texts included here embrace interdisciplinarity – bridging art, philosophy, cultural theory and social inquiry.

We invite readers to engage with these essays not only as academic explorations but also as invitations to rethink their own relation to creativity, perception and being. As Ewa Hetka Marynowicz, translator of Jullien’s writings into Polish, insightfully observes: “delving into the content of what François Jullien conveys to us will result in numerous references to one’s own reflections, research, action in the fields of practice”<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> F. Jullien, *Ponownie otworzyć możliwości: de-koïncydencja i kolejne życie*, transl. E. Marynowicz-Hetka, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź 2024, p. 32.

We hope this volume will initiate fertile dialogues around the aesthetic, existential and epistemological implications of *de-coïncidence* - as both a challenge and a solution in the realm of contemporary art.

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