

our debt \ \ your debt



p a r t i



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An artist among many things, is an oracle.



1. contemporary artists are technicians of histories; they are tasked with reconstructing the past and presenting culture with new ideas (the future). The artist as cultural creator brings the future to the present.

2. since artists separated themselves from the church, it has been understood that the art object has continued to carry the divine and auratic qualities that religious icons once held. Just like scripture, art has a language.

“Oracle” comes from the latin orare “to speak”, portrayals of oracles in film often show a woman speaking unintelligibly, in gibberish, or purposefully obtuse. It is common that artists speak in much the same way, in a language very similar, one which is mysterious and difficult to understand.



The most famous of oracles (precogs)² resided at the temple of Apollo at the sanctuary Delphi. These oracles received their information from God, and had as much influence as to direct the king in acts of military conquest. Oracles disseminate divinity by bringing the future to the present.

An oracle is different from a seer. A seer searches for signs or clues which will hint at a certain future, an oracle's vision comes from God, there is no need to search for clues, because this future is guaranteed by God and thus the Oracle, or Artist

Seer is Freudian \\ interprets dreams \\ Modernist.
Oracle is hedge fund \\ neo-liberal \\ Postmodern

2. In Steven Spielberg's film *Minority Report* (2002), Oracles are referred to as precogs. They are the most important piece of the Pre-Crime program.



Jacques de Gheyn II, *Vanitas Still Life*, 1603
oil on wood (82.6 x 54 cm)

The coins in this still life are not merely "coins" meant to symbolize the futility of greed. These coins are quite specific. They are in fact commemorative coins minted by the Dutch after an act of piracy perpetrated against the Portuguese. De Gheyn is holding a mirror up to the Dutch colonialist state. I received this information from Dr. Claudia Swan during a talk she gave in Chicago (2015) about the global baroque.



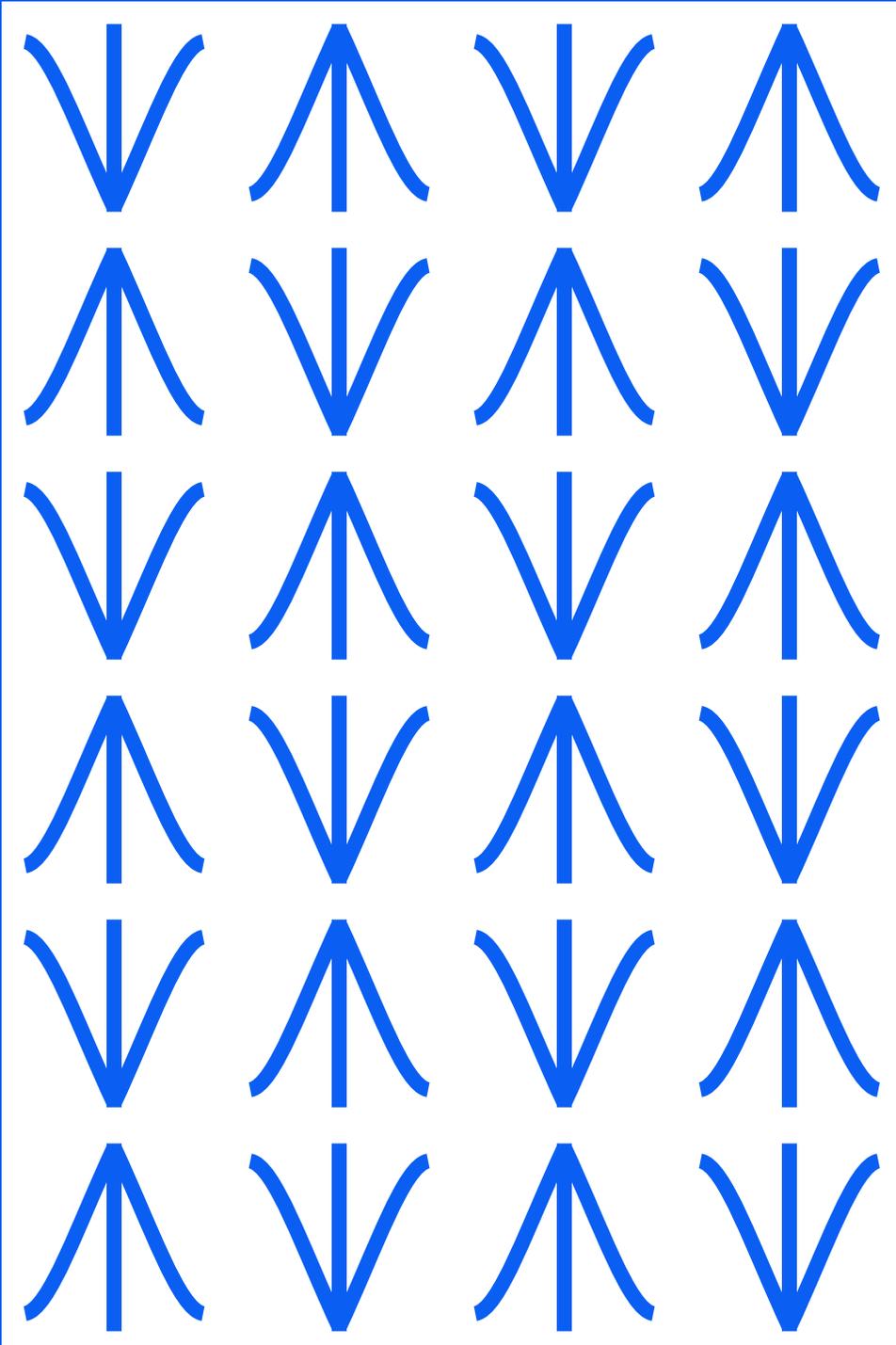
It is not only artists, others concern themselves with the past and future...

It has become, by decree, a pillar of contemporary society to act preemptively in response to the immediate future. “In important respects we are on the cusp of a shift from a post- to a (PreCrime)³ society, a society in which the possibility of forestalling risks competes with and even takes precedence over responding to wrongs done. In consequence, the post-crime orientation of criminal justice is increasingly overshadowed by the (PreCrime) logic of security.”⁴

A “war on terrorism” is a war against the future.

3. I have replaced “pre-crime” with “PreCrime,” this spelling comes from Minority Report.

4. Zedner, L. “Pre-crime and Post-criminology” *Theoretical Criminology* 11.2 (2007): 261-81. Web.



It is argued the first good sold on a futures market was the tulip. At the height of colonialism, Dutch society traded heavily in Tulips, a flower taken from the Ottomans and very quickly translated into European society, in fact it quickly became the state flower of the Netherlands. The Tulip Bubble exploded when the state imposed a set price for all tulips, bankrupting thousands.



let us return to the changing definition of crime...

If We preempt “terrorism” with surveillance, and more broadly, we preempt all criminals with Pre-Crime.

According to film, we use oracles for PreCrime.

If contemporary art = neo liberalism, and we artists = oracles, then unlike Adorno’s quote “All art is an uncommitted crime”⁵ [criminals] all artists are in fact agents working in PreCrime.



Deftware Dinner Plate 2016

5. The specific passage can be found here - Adorno, T., W. (1951). *Minima Moralia: Reflections from a Damaged Life*. Verso Books Edition (1996)