



Art as Cognition

Dena Shottenkirk's [talkPOPC](#) / [@talkPOPC](#) (Philosophers' Ontological Party club), in conjunction with **Dr. Martin Nitsche**, Chair of the Department of Contemporary Continental Philosophy at the Institute of Philosophy at the Czech Academy of Sciences, presents Art as Cognition and associated exhibition from **Wednesday, September 28 – Sunday, October 1**. Programming will include the talkPOPC conversation tent with Prof. Nitsche (conversations in Czech) and Prof. Shottenkirk (conversations in English), which will be set up in [Jilkska14](#)'s courtyard on Friday, September 30th from 2 pm – 7 pm. Topic of discussion Art as Cognition.

talkPOPC is a multi-faceted project, which includes paintings/textual artworks, one-to-one philosophical conversations, a podcast, and published philosophy. The project is a focus on the empathetic role of conversation, and how it is that we build thought both through art and through philosophy.

talkPOPC is about **conversation**. It is about consensus, about unity, about transcending boundaries. *It is part of Philosophy as Art, Art as Philosophy.*

That begins with Shottenkirk's thoughts on a topic – a topic such as censorship, or nominalism, or art as cognition – thoughts expressed in both visual artwork form, and in verbal published philosophy. All the artworks are based on one image, a Giotto image; a unified stand-in for all images. The published philosophy is both in book form and in article form.

After beginning the topic, we then open it up to others and ask them, "What do you think about this topic?" This is when talkPOPC happens. We set up our tent, put in two chairs – one for the Resident Philosopher, and one for the participant – and we let the participant figure out what they think on the topic. Their thoughts become the podcast.

Those collated thoughts are the *consensus building*. The Building of Thought.
And, our puppet avatar, Popsey, overlooks the process, adding silent comments along the way!

The process recycles itself. Those thoughts – of the participants’ – then reappear back into Shottenkirk’s artworks in the form of quotes. These quotes, which are seen in pieces of paper (like Chinese fortune cookies!) are rolled up and placed inside a box or the talkPOPc philosopher’s African gold hat. Those containers, filled now with slips of rolled paper both from Shottenkirk’s published works and from the participants’ quotes, hold the thoughts of many people. The rolled bits of paper can be picked up by the viewer, unrolled and read. They are bits and pieces of thoughts. Thus, the artworks are called “ConverseThought”.

An art object that spills over into thought and conversation through the slippage into philosophy (both virtual and tactile), and then tunnels into real-life conversations with talkPOPc Resident Philosophers. The process therefore takes the viewer from the world of the physical art object to the world of the textual thought, to the virtual world of podcasts, puppet videos, and social media, and back to the physical world of in-person conversations. From material to immaterial, from object to transcendent thought. From art to philosophy, from philosophy to art.

denashottenkirk.org

