

## **Re-Imagining the Human**

A Conference with Richard Kearney

8 June, 2022, Utrecht 20.00-22.00

'God is a shout in the street'. This remarkable image of God is discussed by Simon Critchley and Richard Kearney in the latter's book *Re-Imagining the Sacred* (2015): a series of philosophical conversations. With Critchley, and with other influential thinkers on the meaning of religion in the secular age, like Charles Taylor, Catherine Keller and Gianni Vattimo, Kearney explores the possibility of a 'faith of the faithless'. Although many people do not believe in an existing God anymore, images and imaginations of God still have a great impact on our culture. Social Imaginaries between Secularity and Religion in a Globalizing World Are we 'returning to God after God', as Kearney suggests in an earlier book, *Anatheism* (2012)? And if so, what does that imply for our imaginations of the human, of ourselves? How could a re-imagining of the sacred connect with a re-imagining of the human? In 'Re-Imagining the Human', a seminar at the University of Humanistic Studies, and in a public lecture with the same title, Kearney will share these questions with us.

The Irish philosopher Richard Kearney is Charles Seelig professor in philosophy at Boston College, USA. Being a leading theorist on imagination and narrativity, Kearney's work is inspired by numerous continental thinkers, like Paul Ricoeur and Jacques Derrida. He locates his studies in hermeneutics, phenomenology and deconstruction. His first major publication was *The Wake of Imagination* (1988), in which he investigates the history of imagination from Judaism and Antiquity to late modernity with its emerging visual culture.

The conference is organized by the University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht (UvH), in collaboration with the ArtEZ Art Academy, Zwolle, the Thomas More Foundation, and the international research consortium Simagine.

### **Public Lecture by Richard Kearney**

Re-Imagining the Human Response by Enrieke Damen (Protestant Theological University in Amsterdam/Groningen), PhD-researcher carrying out the project 'Richard Kearney's Theopoetics of the Possible: Hermeneutics, Imagination and Ethics'

Location: Instituto Cervantes Domplein 3, Utrecht Participation: € 10.-

Please register here: <https://bit.ly/30tyTq0>

The public lecture can be attended in person or via a live streaming English spoken