UJ Philosophy invites you to a colloquium presented by

**PROF RICHARD SHUSTERMAN**

Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar Chair in the Humanities and Director of the Center for Body, Mind, and Culture, Florida Atlantic University

**TITLE** Aesthetic Experience and the Powers of Possession

This talk returns to a Platonic idea that has been formative for the history of aesthetics and then explores how this idea can be reinterpreted meaningfully in today’s aesthetic context. The Platonic idea I discuss (which Plato introduces in Ion and Phaedrus) is that artistic creation and its appreciative reception involve a form of divine possession. After exploring how this non-rational, supernatural idea has been critically countered yet repeatedly recurs in important subsequent theories of aesthetic experienced proposed by rational thinkers, my presentation suggests how we might give the notion of possession a more naturalistic explanation. I exemplify this through an analysis of performance art presented in The Adventures of the Man in Gold.

**DATE** Wednesday 6 February 2019
**TIME** 11:20-12:20
**VENUE** Council Chambers, Madibeng Building, APK

Light refreshments will be served in the lounge after the event.

All welcome! Please RSVP to Mrs Nicolene Marks at nmarks@uj.ac.za before/on 4 February 2019.

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