

“Kinship does not necessarily involve likeness.”
– Walter Benjamin, “The Task of the Translator,” *Illuminations*.

From the Editors

Some things cannot be said in the same phrase.

We take for granted that our task as contemporary readers is to make interventions through the application of critical theory. An alternative approach to a pre-existing question expects to illuminate it anew. We must, however, read twice: to encounter a text with critical intent is to do it a disservice. Our engagement relies on our understanding of a text within its original framework. The first reading is an opening.

Upon our return, the text may occur to us as if for the first time. This newness consists in our ability to reimagine these frameworks with each critical inquiry. Having opened the text onto ourselves, we become immersed in genuine and spontaneous critique.

In this twentieth edition of *Hinge*, we confront our (in)ability to comprehend the spatial distinctions beyond our lived paradigm; the unlikely parallels between conventional and unconventional scientific methods; the expression of freedom in reciprocity; the coexistence of ancient and contemporary modes of thinking; the obscure implications of artistic colonization; the political reiteration of ethical obligations; the momentary recognition of an absent face; and the possibility of resistance in the face of power. Sometimes, words about terror terrify us.

Consider critique not as a *practice* – fixed or static – but as *practise*. Cultivate an ongoing relation with text, a habit of ceaseless and unrelenting engagement. By refusing to let any one interpretation crystallize, we strive to deepen our understanding in full knowledge that there is no bottom to this pit.

Contemporaneously,
Hannah & Tamar

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