

On red

Inspiration for the project RED/DOC

What is red when red didn't exist?

The project RED-DOC (everyone is in love except me and you) is a visual exploration of the colour red and how we perceive the colours through internet and digital. More than how we perceive the colours, is what we perceived in colours. Red is traditionally a very strong colour with an ambivalent personality : love and war are usually connected with it. Aggressive political regimes or dictatorship use a lot the red colour in their communicative project : from Hitler to italian right-wing Casapound for all their flags or symbol they use red. The devil is actually red as the Hell, as the flames, as the sufferance and the eternal damnation. In the Christian liturgy the red colour is the one used for remember the blood of Christ and his sufferance for the people, but also the passion of Christ. Red is usually the colour of love, passion and strong emotional response. In the alchemy there was the rubedo that actually means redness and it is the right moment before discovering the philosopher's stone. For the alchemist red was between black and white, dark and light and it was the moment before closing the circle and it symbolize the human spirit. Red is also the colour of our blood and our inside : something deep, something disgusting, something that create all the world around us as we perceived the world. In the communication red is fundamental : it symbolize power, war, energy, health, danger, sex, love and it is a strong visual colour that remains imprinted in our mind and catch our attention.

The perception of colours has drastically changed when we start using the internet and the digital. A typical problems is with photography : we see photos everywhere on the internet. But seeing a photo on your tablet or computer is not the same as watching the photo printed in a good fine art print. The perception of colour is illusory so colours as we thought before didn't exist anymore. Seeing is always been a subjective experience but now is more complex that how it already was. Not only it is subjective for us, humans, but it is also subjective for them, the non-humans such as computer monitors, tablets, smartphones. Each of them has a personality and something that is peculiar. Each of our device react to colours in a different way. Not all monitors are calibrated in the same way. If we add the subjective experience of the humans to the non-humans one we can understand how much the "same" red colour that we think we all see is not anymore the same for all of us. There are more "main reds" from which the digital perception create more possibilities of different type of red, so red become infinite and impossible to define. This is the base of our future that will be created by the interaction between humans and non-humans. Is fundamental to create from the origins a right way to interact with our new flatmate of this world and we need to create a more empathic approach to them. Is important to understand that technology actively helps us shaping the time and space with its point of view. What we created is out of control and create by itself a new world with its new condition, such as happened for internet. We are not anymore alone in shaping the future and we can't anymore control everything. Collaboration and empathy are the key words if we want to live in peace with our new roommates. Meanwhile we can understand some important lessons from technology's new idea of world. Red colour is infinite. Its exist and not exist anymore. Communication is an illusion. What we think we see all together, is slightly different for all of us. So when we talk about sharing on the internet, what we actually share and what does mean share are the questions for what we need an answer now. We can still communicate, we can still share but we have to accept the difference and the different possibilities. We should stop thinking that red is only one or that it could be the only one, we have to embrace this new possibilities of infinity that the device give to us. The technology give to us the possibilities to finally creating a more non-binary world and open to different shades of personality and ideas. Sharing means giving the start and see what happen, let people create their new shades and enrich the internet world and the actual world with new different reds that we ignored before.

This new conception of perceiving the world and this new fluidity will change our idea on the red colour(s). Is a good opportunity for shaping the future thinking about what's happened in the past. The digital devices

are great for file and visualize and they can help us clarify what happened during this time. We can enrich the concept of red, identity and future in a more fluid and empathic way. Red is only one of the symbols of each of our culture. In the future we should use the technology for creating an empathic way for enrich what our culture was and is now, so we can understand what it will be. The borders during this process will be important in define and undefined identity of countries and of cultures, using the borders not as a weapon or a place of terror or limit, but as a place of sharing identity and accepting the others shades, the others red(s). In destroying borders and at the same time built (the new empathic) borders, internet and digital has a big impact and can help us understand the future of our life with their perception of the world from different point of view at the same time and space.

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The document here is a quick and simple list of inspiration, from cinema to Japanese yokai tradition, that are at the base of the project Red/Doc. The “new” way in which we enjoy different creative –or not- projects is fundamental to the creation of different shade of red(s). In exploring the perception of this colour we can’t forget all the different type of red(s) that we experience everyday : from music to cinema to ancient tradition. All these are still present in our mind when we perceive the world and they actively shape themselves and us together with the digital devices.

- Film and shorts
- Music and music videos
- Art, photography, illustration, comics
- Books and poems
- Other
- Sitography , bibliography and interesting links
- Special thanks

Film and shorts



In the mood for love
Wong Kar-wai
2000



Farewell, my concubine
Chen Kaige
1993



Pastoral : to die in the country

Shuji Terayama

1975



Red

Krzysztof Kieslowski

1994



The colour of pomegranates
Sergei Parajanov
1969



Red Sorghum
Zhang Yimou
1987



Raise the red lantern
Zhang Yimou
1991



All about my mother
Pedro Almodovar
1999



Kagero-za
Seijun Suzuki
1981



La chinoise
Jean-Luc Godard
1967



Red Desert
Michelangelo Antonioni
1964



Ran
Akira Kurosawa
1985



Living still life
Bertrand Mandico
2012

Music and music videos



Redbird for Agnes Martin

John Zorn

1995



Redsex
Vessel
2014



Coraje
Arca
2017



Cocoon
Bjork
2001

ryuichi sakamoto



Out
Of
nOise

In the red
Ryuichi Sakamoto
2009



El Primer Color
Shamam y Los hombres en Llamas
2011



Watering a flower
Haruomi Hosono
1984

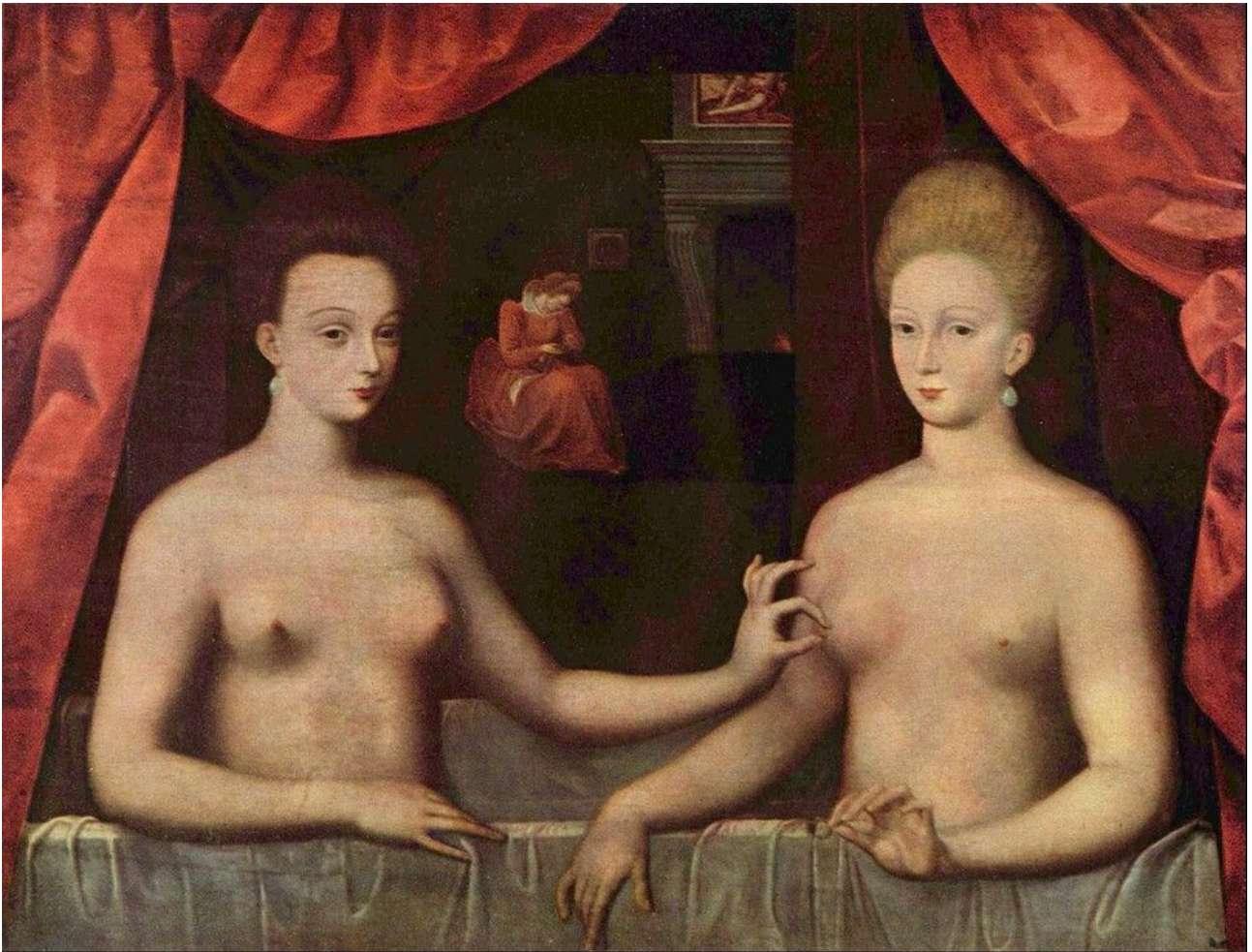
Art, photography, illustration, comics



Prince of Lilies
Minoan fresco
1550 BC



Red/Red
Aslı Çavuşoğlu
2015



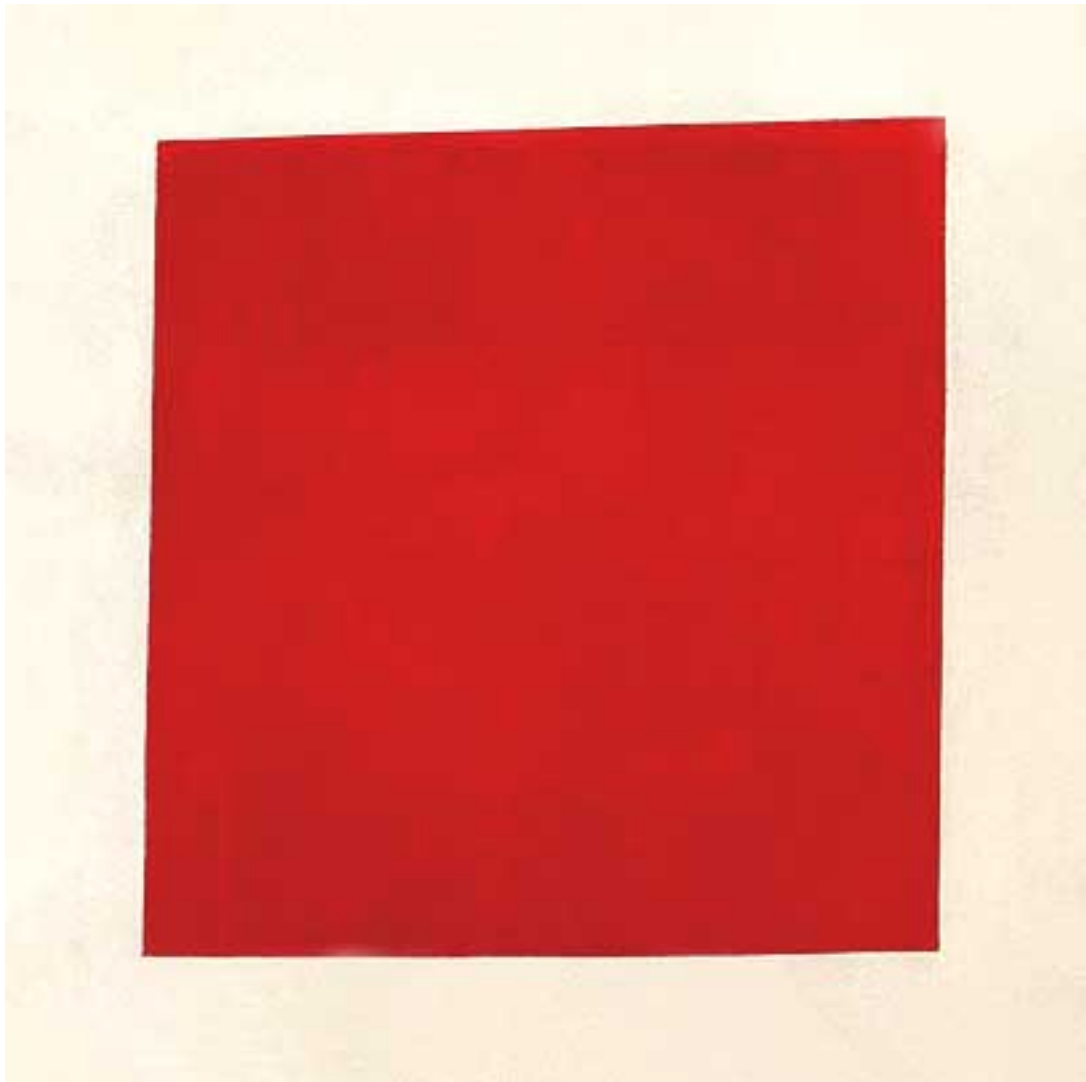
Presumed portrait of Gabrielle d'Estrees and her sister, the Duchess of Villars

Fontainebleau school

Late 16th century



Can't help myself
Sun Yuan and Peng Yu
2016



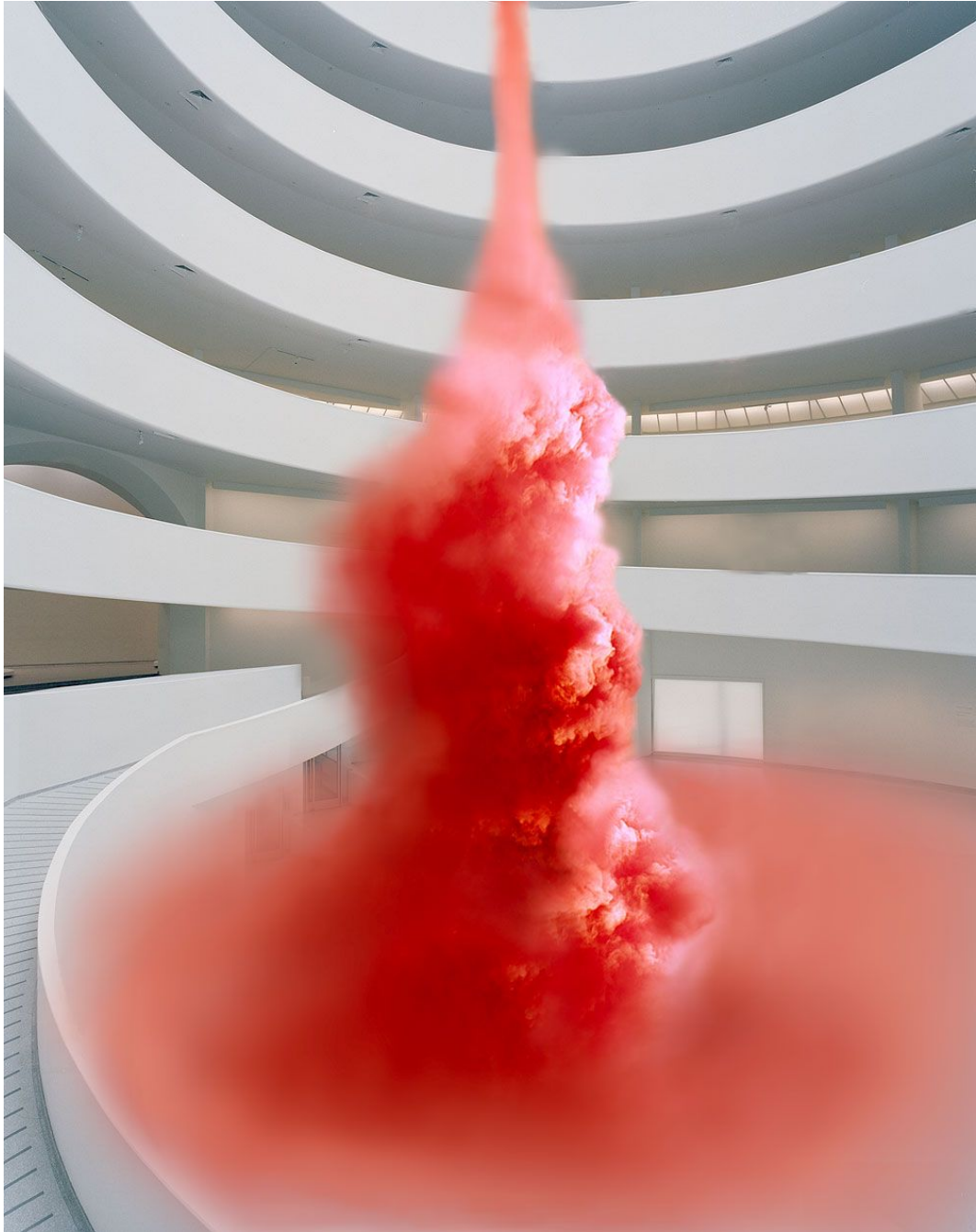
Red Square
Kazimir Malevič
1915



Bambina che gioca sul tappeto rosso

Felice Casorati

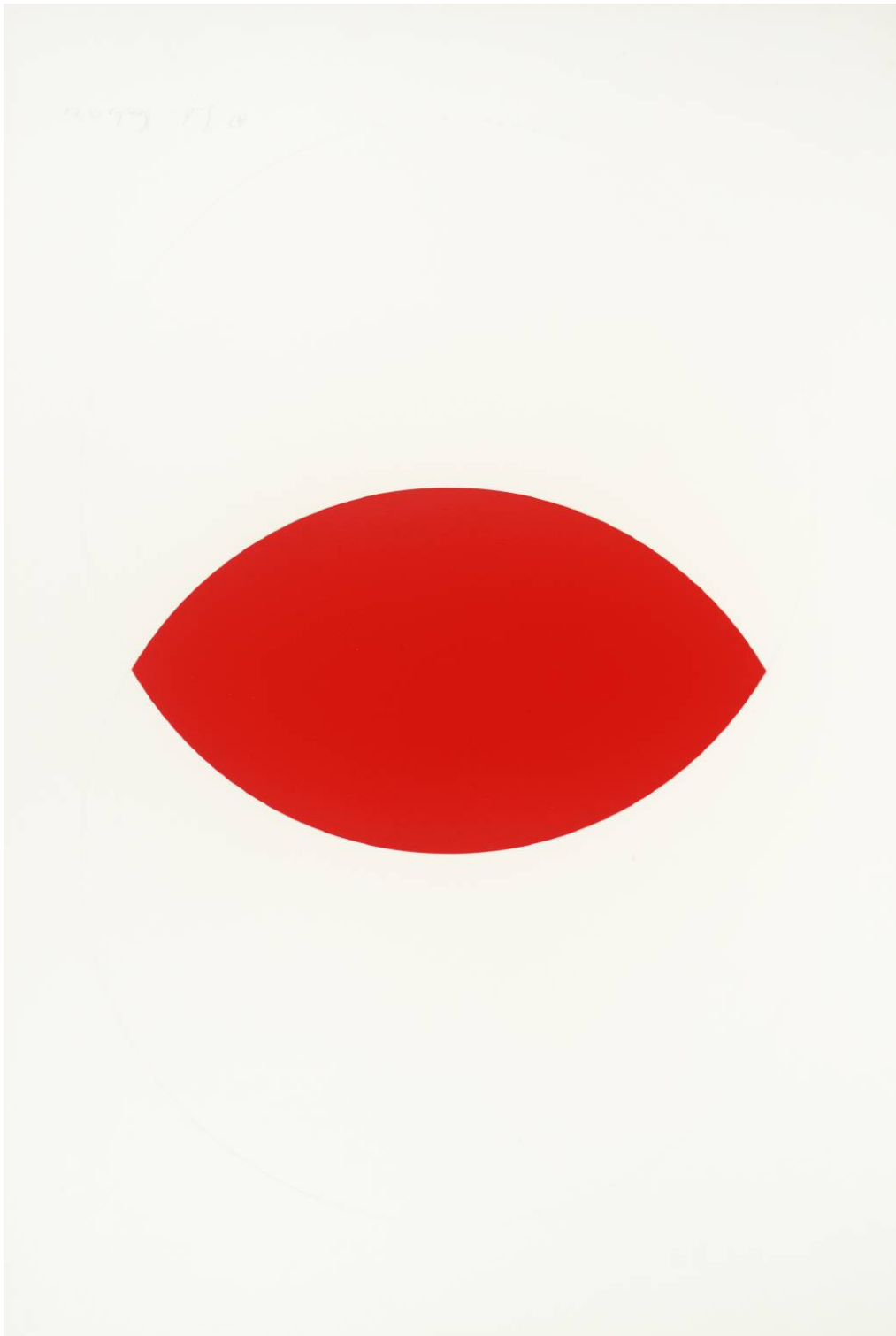
1912



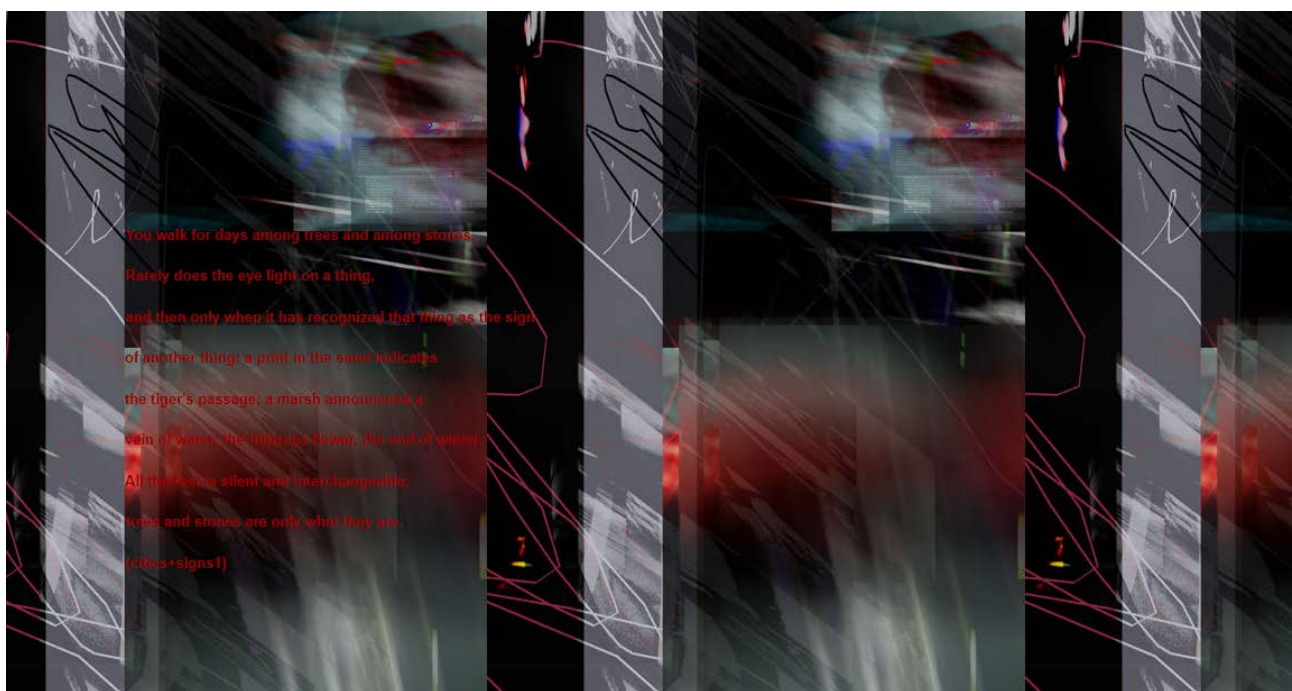
Ascension
Anish Kapoor
2009



10 am is when you come to me
 Louise Bourgeois
 2006



C. Red
Justin Knowles
1968



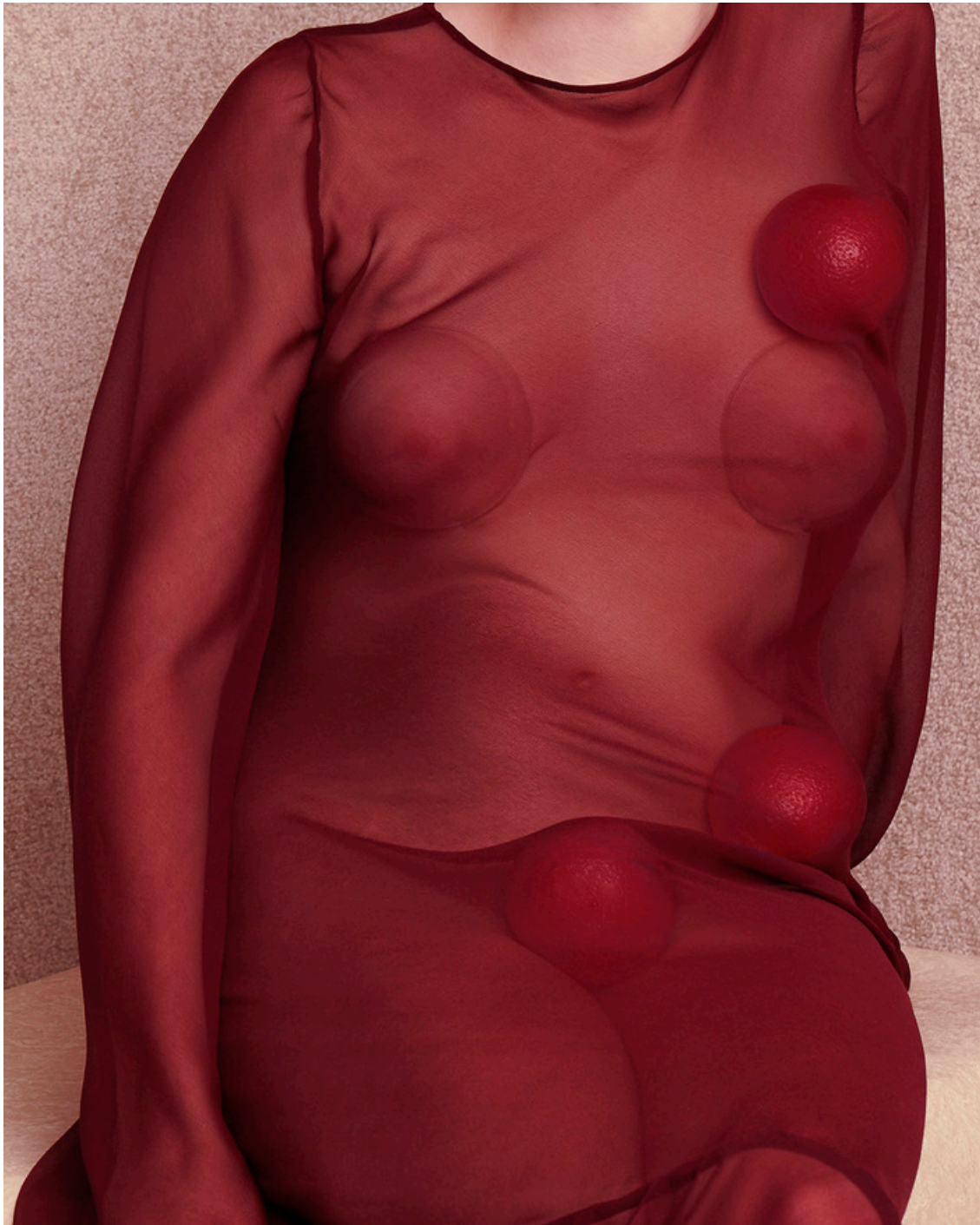
47 Reds

Christina Mcphee

2003



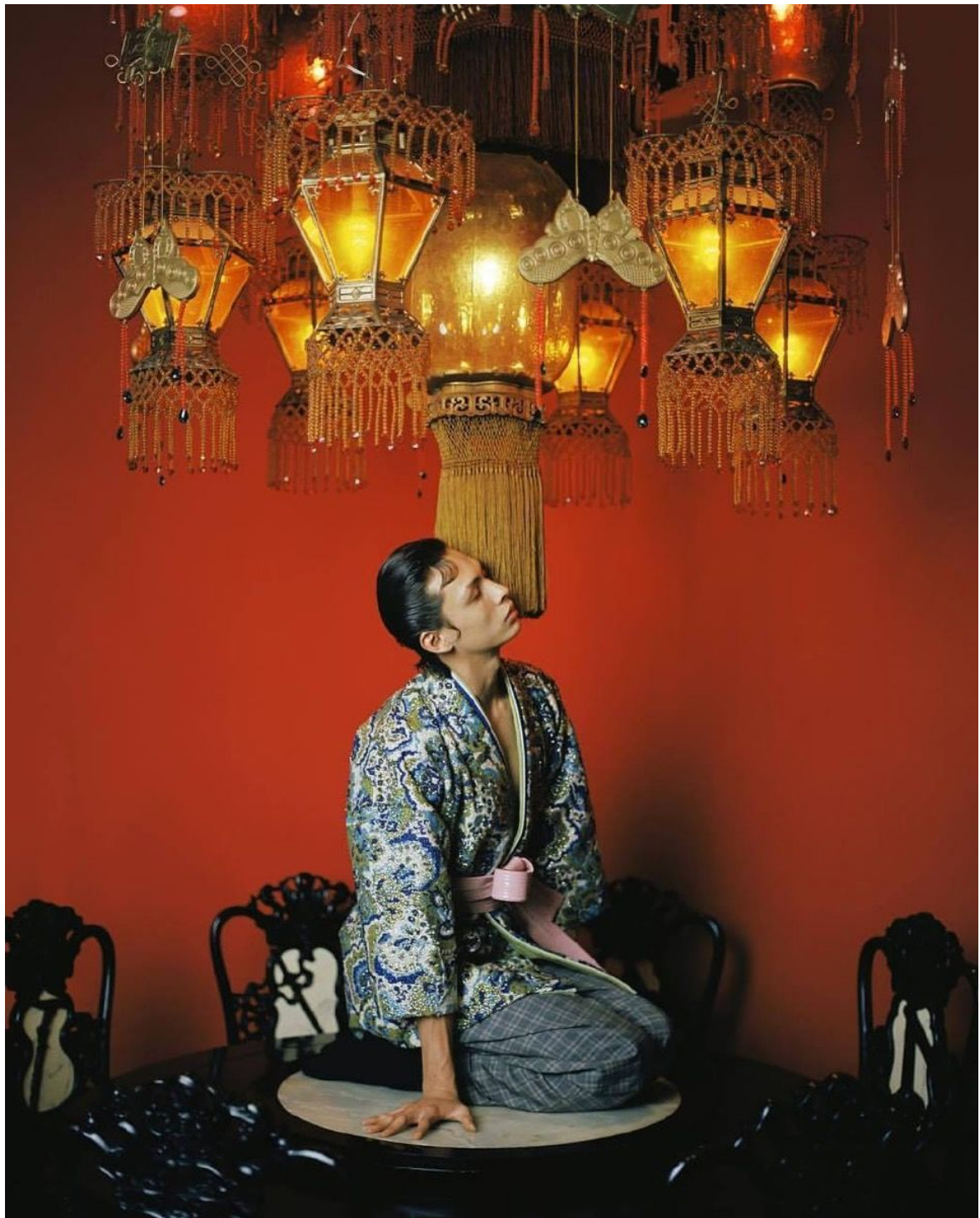
Red Room
Robert Therrien
2000-7



A study of fertility and general works
Alexandra Von Fuerst



General works
Ren Hang



General works
Leslie Zhang



Wo die Fuchsen dämmern

Ed. Okun (Anticof)

Mother mushroom and her children

Edward Okun

c.1900



Mount Yoshino midnight moon from the serie "100 aspects of the moon"

Yoshitoshi Tsukioka

1866



Juleaften
Oda Iselin
2019



Akai Hana (Red Flowers)
 Yoshiharu Tsuge
 1967

Books and poems

*"I will never know how you see red and you will never know how I see it."**

Autobiography of red* and **Red Doc>**

Anne Carson

1998 / 2013

*"A Lady red—amid the Hill
Her annual secret keeps!"*

A Lady red – amid the Hill
Emily Dickinson

*"If I were grown and free,
I'd have a gown of reddest red"*

The red dress
Dorothy Parker



The red book
Carl Gustav Jung
1913-1930

Others



Rubedo

Rubedo is a Latin word meaning "redness" that was adopted by alchemists to define the fourth and final major stage in their magnum opus. Both gold and the philosopher's stone were associated with red.

Red thread of fate

An East Asian belief originating from Chinese mythology. It is commonly thought of as an invisible red cord around the finger of those that are destined to meet one another in a certain situation as they are "their true love"

Mars and the planet Mars

In ancient Roman religion and myth Mars was the god of war and an agricultural guardian usually linked to the red colour.

The planet Mars takes the name from the ancient god because of its red appearance.



Mangala

It's the name for Mars, the red planet, in Hindu texts (sometimes called Lohit -> meaning "red"). In some myths he is born from Shiva's sweat or blood drop.

Erytheia

It was the “red isle” located in the in the far western stream of the earth-encircling river Okeanos (Oceanus) which was bathed red by the light of the setting-sun. It was the home of the three-bodied giant Geryon and his fabulous herd of red-hided cattle.



Tengu

They are a type of legendary creature found in Japanese folk religion. They are considered a type of yōkai (supernatural beings) or Shinto kami (gods). In village festivals often portrayed with red phallic-nosed mask design.

Akateko

The akateko is a yokai that appears as a red, disembodied hand belonging to a child. It is found hanging in Japanese honey locust trees.



Aka manto (videogame and legend)

a Survival Horror game for PC, developed by Chillax Art. It is inspired by the Japanese urban legend about a masked spirit who wears a red cloak, and who appears to people using toilets in public or school bathrooms.

2019 (videogame) / 1930s (legend)



Peking Opera

Is the most dominant form of Chinese opera which combines music, vocal performance, mime, dance and acrobatics. In Peking Opera the red colour is predominant and a positive colour.
(from mid-Quing Dynasty 1636-1912)

Muladhara - Red chakra

It's the first of the seven energy centers. Is said to be located at the base of the spine. It is connected to the ground and mother Earth.

Devil and hell

The personification of evil in various cultures and religious traditions. Usually represented red and connected to the hell, an afterlife location in which lives evil souls.

Phoenix

In greek mythology is a long-lived bird that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again. Associated with the sun, a phoenix obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. Fenghuang known in Japanese as Hō-ō or Hou-ou, are mythological birds found in East Asian mythology that reign over all other birds. The males were originally called feng and the females huang but such a distinction of gender is often no longer made and they are blurred into a single feminine entity so that the bird can be paired with the Chinese dragon, which is traditionally deemed male.

Phoenicia and Phoenician red/purple

Was an ancient Semitic-speaking thalassocratic civilization that originated in the Levant region of the eastern Mediterranean, specifically modern Lebanon.

The Phoenician red is a secretion produced by several species of predatory sea snails in the family Muricidae. It has been suggested that the name Phoenicia itself means 'land of purple'.



Spring/Summer 2015
Comme des garçons
2015



Miko (and their red hakama)

In Shinto, a miko is a shrine maiden or a supplementary priestess. Miko were once likely seen as a shaman.

Sitography, Bibliography and interesting links

Sitography

Film and shorts

In the mood for love

<https://mubi.com/it/films/in-the-mood-for-love>

https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_the_Mood_for_Love

Farewell my concubine

<https://mubi.com/films/farewell-my-concubine>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farewell_My_Concubine_%28film%29

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farewell_My_Concubine_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farewell_My_Concubine_(novel))

Pastoral to die in the country

<https://mubi.com/films/pastoral-to-die-in-the-country>

<https://filmperevolvere.it/pastoral-to-die-in-the-country-subita/>

Three colors : Red

<https://mubi.com/films/three-colors-red>

<https://filmperevolvere.it/the-three-colors-trilogy-subita/>

The color of pomegranate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26tEfbLGH5I&t=661s>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Color_of_Pomegranates

Red Sorghum

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sorghum_%28film%29

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E31v5HJsCI>

Raise the red lantern

<https://mubi.com/films/raise-the-red-lantern>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BVKEaXhWak>

All about my mother

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0185125/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_About_My_Mother

Kagero-Za

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0082596/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kagero-za>

<https://mubi.com/notebook/posts/who-talks-of-realism-here-seijun-suzuki-s-taisho-trilogy>

La chinoise

<https://vimeo.com/148381997>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Chinoise

Red Desert

<https://mubi.com/films/red-desert>

Ran

https://archive.org/details/01Ran_201904

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ran_%28film%29

<https://www.mymovies.it/dizionario/recensione.asp?id=20345>

Living still life

<https://mubi.com/films/living-still-life>

<https://vimeo.com/46549315>

Music and music videos

Redbird

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymnsrbLU4QE&t=860s>

<https://www.allmusic.com/album/redbird-mw0000153967>

Red sex

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KljoqpG4B9w>

Coraje

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIG8DkN3J4>

Cocoon

<https://vimeo.com/185438149>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cocoon_%28Bj%C3%B6rk_song%29

In the red

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00Q81x6p5Yk>

El primer color

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQUDrlauD8c>

Watering a flowers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34UutDrXV2Q&t=675s>

<https://www.listentothis.info/2018/03/haruomi-hosono-%E8%8A%B1%E3%81%AB%E6%B0%B4-watering-a-flower-1984/>

Art, Photography, illustration, comics

The prince of lilies

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_of_the_Lilies

<http://seshatdatabank.info/reconstructing-past/>

http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/4/eh430.jsp?obj_id=7914

Red/Red

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VELZDdxcuxU>

<http://www.aslicavusoglu.info/2015/red-red/>

<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/asli-cavusoglu-red-slash-red>

Presumed portrait of Gabrielle d'Estrees and her sister, the Duchess of Villars

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabrielle_d%27Estr%C3%A9es

<https://www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/gabrielle-destrees-and-one-her-sisters>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabrielle_d%27Estr%C3%A9es_et_une_de_ses_s%C5%93urs

Can't help myself

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZS4Bpr2BgNE>

<https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/34812>

<https://www.designboom.com/art/sun-yuan-peng-yu-cant-help-myself-robot-venice-art-biennale-05-12-2019/>

Red Square

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Square_%28painting%29

<http://www.kazimirmalevich.org/red-square/>

Bambina che gioca sul tappeto rosso

https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felice_Casorati

Ascension (red)

<http://anishkapoor.com/661/ascension-red>

<https://www.architectural-review.com/essays/reviews/contemplating-the-void-interventions-in-the-guggenheim-museum-new-york-city-usa/5218102.article>

10 am is when you come to me

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/bourgeois-10-am-is-when-you-come-to-me-al00345>

https://www.moma.org/s/lb/collection_lb/object/object_objid-199192.html

C. Red

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/knowles-c-red-p04546>

47 Reds

<https://rhizome.org/art/artbase/artwork/47reds/>

<http://www.christinamcphiee.net/>

Red room

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/therrien-red-room-ar00702>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/robert-therrien-2312/robert-therrien-objects-and-stories>

A study of fertility and general works by Alexandra Von Fuerst

<https://www.instagram.com/alexandravonfuerst/>

<https://alexandravonfuerst.com/A-study-of-fertility>

General works by Ren Hang

<https://www.instagram.com/renhangrenhang/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ren_Hang_%28photographer%29

<https://www.chopsueyclub.com/blogs/blog/ren-hang-poetry-translated-poem-2017>

<http://photographyofchina.com/blog/ren-hang>

General works by Leslie Zhang

https://i-d.vice.com/en_uk/article/xwezgi/photographer-leslie-zhang-interview

Mother mushroom and her children

<https://biblioklept.org/2015/07/28/mother-mushroom-with-her-children-edward-okun/>

Mount Yoshino midnight moon from the serie “100 aspects of the moon”

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoshitoshi>

<http://www.yoshitoshi.net/series/100moon.html>

https://ukiyo-e.org/image/jaodb/Yoshitoshi_Tsukioka-100_Aspects_of_the_Moon-

[Mount_Yoshino_Midnight_Moon-00028569-020209-F06](https://ukiyo-e.org/image/jaodb/Yoshitoshi_Tsukioka-100_Aspects_of_the_Moon-Mount_Yoshino_Midnight_Moon-00028569-020209-F06)

Juleaften

<https://odaiselin.com/post/190161364021/juleaften-2019>

Akai Hana (Red flowers)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoshiharu_Tsuge

<https://mangadb.forumfree.it/?t=75721043>

Books and poems

Autobiography of Red and Red Doc>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/61049.Autobiography_of_Red

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/aug/16/red-doc-anne-carson-review>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autobiography_of_Red

A Lady red – amid the Hill

<https://genius.com/Emily-dickinson-a-lady-redamid-the-hill-74-annotated>

<https://www.emilydickinson.it/>

The red dress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9h9sqeL5Ps>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Parker

Red book

<https://archive.org/details/RedBookByJung/mode/2up>

<http://gnosis.org/redbook/>

Others

Rubedo

<http://www.albedoimagination.com/2014/12/le-quattro-fasi-dellalchimia/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubedo>

Red thread of fate

<https://www.faena.com/aleph/articles/the-legend-of-the-red-string-of-japan/#>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_thread_of_fate

Mars

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mars_%28mythology%29

<https://www.ancient.eu/Mars/>

Mangala

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mangala>

Erytheia

<https://www.theoi.com/Kosmos/Erytheia.html>

Tengu

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tengu>

Akateko

<http://yokai.com/akateko/>

Aka manto

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aka_Manto

<http://yokai.com/akamanto/>

https://store.steampowered.com/app/1130620/Aka_Manto/

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1rKZwJSgNc>

Peking Opera

<https://www.scmp.com/native/lifestyle/arts-culture/topics/sights-and-sounds/article/3014351/spotlight-peking-opera>

http://en.chinaculture.org/library/2008-01/24/content_46854_2.htm

Muladhara

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muladhara>

<https://www.chakra-anatomy.com/root-chakra-colors.html>

Devil and hell

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/devil>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucifer>

Phoenix

https://www.lettturefantastiche.com/la_fenice.html

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fenghuang>

<https://www.onmarkproductions.com/html/ho-oo-phoenix.shtml>

Phoenician

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrian_purple

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Phoenician>

Comme des garçons Spring/Summer 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxXNCjKLoCk&t=444s>

<https://nowfashion.com/comme-des-garcons-ready-to-wear-spring-summer-2015-paris-10933>

Miko

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miko>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hakama>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RwqWhMS688>

Bibliography

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Red Doc>, Anne Carson

Eros the bittersweet, Anne Carson

Red book, Carl Justav Jung

Authenticity? Observation and artistic strategies in the Post-Digital Age, Barbara Cueto e Bas Hendrikx

Cyborg manifesto, Donna Haraway

Fiori rossi (Akai Hana), Tsuge Yoshiharu

Interesting links

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-history-red>

<https://mubi.com/lists/the-colour-red>

<https://mubi.com/lists/color-opera-red-is>

http://fil-italia.it/UploadDocs/17106_Art_02_taioli.pdf

<https://artsandculture.google.com/theme/GwLyao99SLXVKg>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_in_culture

<https://journals.tdl.org/jvwr/index.php/jvwr/article/view/7369>

Special thanks to

@stillmayu (Ig) for miko's red hakama

@arenaagaris (ig) for "El primer color" by Shaman y los Hombres en Llamas

@Vivi_of_the_lake (ig) for the Rubedo

My mother for Carl Gustav Jung's Red Book

Francesca Cerutti and Irene Coscarella for the help, advice and patience for my exhibition Red/Doc at Infernotto

Silvia Tecchiato for information on Yokai culture