

B R I G I T A O Z O L I N S

# Unity can only be manifested by the Binary. Unity itself and the idea of Unity are already two.

Albert Pike, Morals and dogma of the ancient and accepted Scottish rite of Freemasonry, 1944

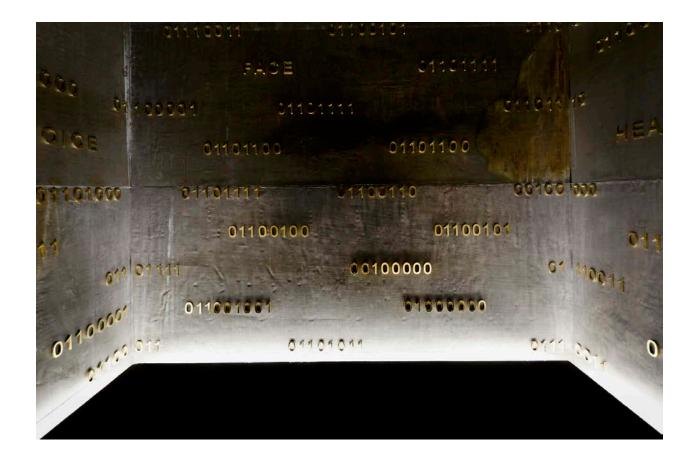




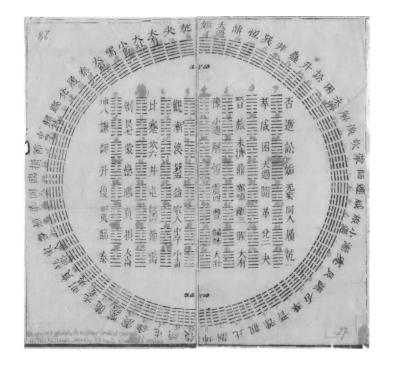
### THE CONCEPT

Unity is a visual exploration of two numbers – zero and one – that make up binary code and are the basis for all digital information. Binary code is a system for the representation of reality that symbols that uses two are opposite. It represents words, images, music - everything we engage with digitally. I have been drawn to the minimal beauty of these two symbols that seem in opposition to each other, but through unification become more than the sum of their parts.

The unity of language, 2015-6



The work is an extension of concepts that I began to explore in previous installations, in particular Kryptos (2011) and Codex (2009), both of which explore our complex relationship to language and to codification. These works are also about an essential mystery associated with the process of writing, of recording our thinking about what it is to be in the world. Unity also aims to evoke a sense of mystery, and to reflect on the transformation of the process of writing from analogue to digital. It juxtaposes a series of opposites: numbers and letters, philosophy and mathematics, nature and culture, the organic and inorganic, and the old and the new.

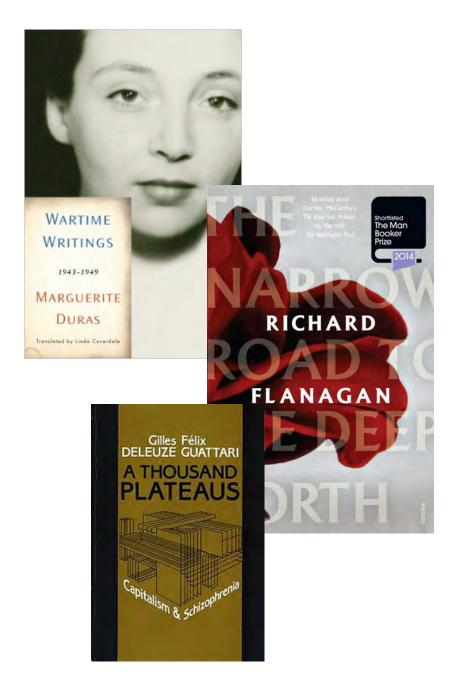


The hexagrams of the I Ching

Unity has been inspired by the history of binary code. Some historian relate the emergence of binary code back back to the prosody of Indian Vedic chanting, as outlined by the ancient Indian scholar Pingala, who explains the rhythm of Vedic verse using a binary system of light and heavy syllables. Others establish links between binary code and the ancient Chinese method of divination called the I Ching, or Book of Changes, which is based on interpreting hexagrams of broken or unbroken horizontal lines and the pairing of the opposites yin and yang. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716), a renowned German polymath with particular interests in philosophy and mathematics, is generally accredited with being the father of binary code. He was initially inspired by the I Ching when he developed the system that today forms the basis of all digital computing. An extraordinary scholar, he made significance contributions to many fields of study including physics, probability theory, biology, medicine, geology, philosophy and linguistics. He invented the first mass-produced mechanical calculator, called the Leibniz wheel, and refined the binary number system that we use today. Quotes from his philosophical texts have been incorporated into the digital prints that are part of the Unity exhibition.

> There is nothing without a reason. There are two kinds of truths: those of reasoning and those of fact. We can only see a short distance ahead. Every substance is as a world apart...





As well as the philosophical statements of Leibniz, the works in Unity incorporate quotes from more contemporary writers that reference our relationship to books, words, writing and knowledge. These include Tasmanian author Richard Flanagan, French writer Marguerite Duras, and the French philosophers Giles Deleuze and Felix Guattari.

There are words and words and none mean anything. (Richard Flanagan)

The unity of language is fundamentally political. (Deleuze and Guattari)

The self is only a threshold... (Deleuze and Guattari)

The tree imposes the verb "to be". (Deleuze and Guattari)

Around us, everything is writing. (Marguerite Duras)

One is never alone. (Marguerite Duras)

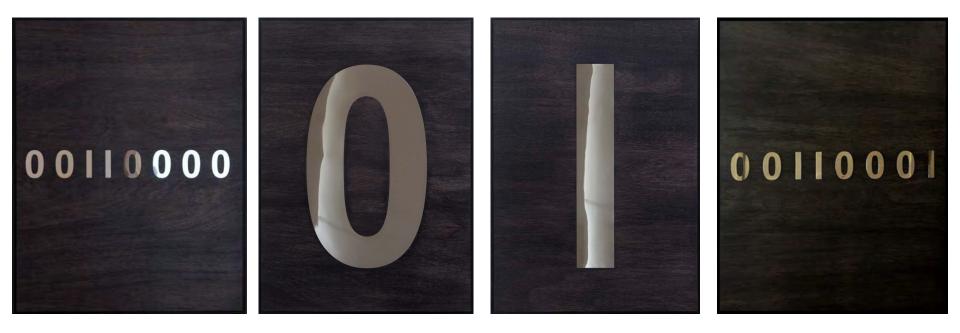


#### INLAID WOODEN PANELS

Stained and varnished marine ply, stainless steel 11 panels, each 103 x 80 cm Satin black box frames

This series combines wood and highly polished stainless steel, two opposing elements from the natural world. The wood references the organic world and the concept of the tree of knowledge. It's dark, grainy surface contrasts with that of the smooth, mirrored finish of the steel. These materials are opposites, but here they are unified, one embedded within the other.

The code that appears on the ply panels translates passages from texts that address our relationship to books, to writing and to the power of the word in general. Writers include Richard Flanagan, the French author Margeurite Duras, and French philsophers Giles Deleuze and Felix Guattari.



Left to Right: Zero 02, Zero01, One 01, One 02, 2015-16

The image on the far left is binary code for 'zero'; the image on the far right is binary code for 'one'.

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Only a threshold..., 2015-16

Deleuze and Guattari, A thousand plateaus: capitalism and schizophrenia Only a threshold..., 2015-16

Deleuze and Guattari, A thousand plateaus: capitalism and schizophrenia The tree imposes..., 2015-16

Deleuze and Guattari, A thousand plateaus: capitalism and schizophrenia

Around us, everything is writing, 2015-16

One is neveralone..., 2015-16

Marguerite Duras, Writing

Marguerite Duras, Writing





There are words and words..., 2015-16

Richard Flanagan, Gould's book of fish

The unity of language..., 2015-16

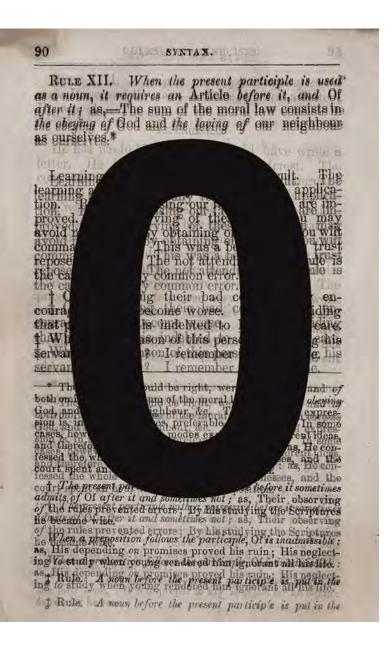
Deleuze and Guattari, A thousand plateaus: capitalism and schizophrenia

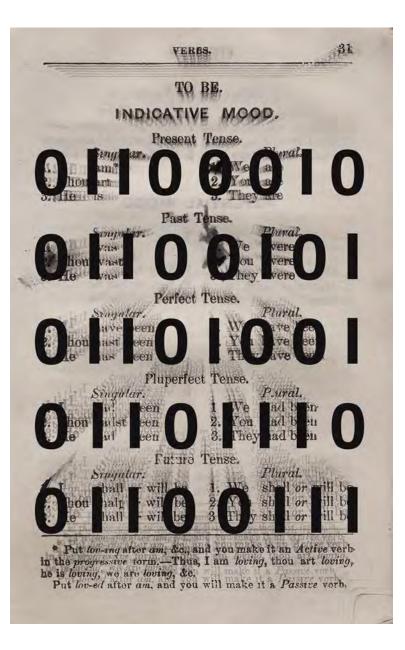


#### **DIGITAL PRINTS**

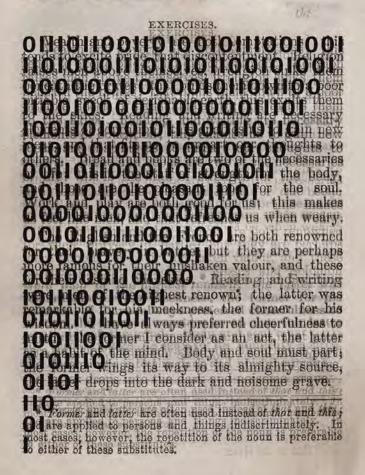
Inkjet prints on Hahnemuhle paper 8 prints: 140 x 90 cm; 2 prints: 146 x 90 cm Framed in satin black

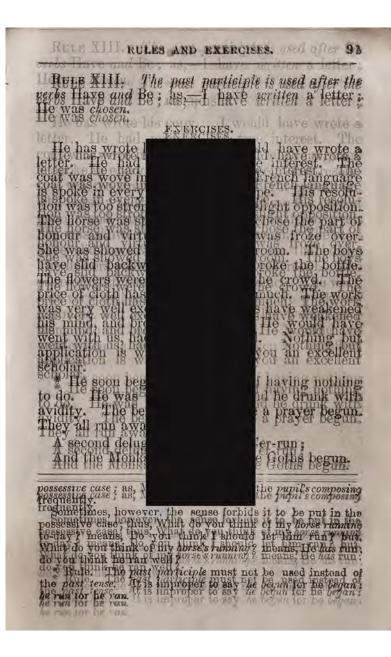
These works offer a counterpoint to the wooden panels – they incorporate binary text and words that are imposed over an early book of English grammar and logarithmic tables from an engineering text. The prints juxtapose the analogue with the digital, grammatical correctness with mathematical accuracy, and the old with the new. Each features a word, or a philosophical statement by Gottfried Liebniz in either binary code or alphabetical text.

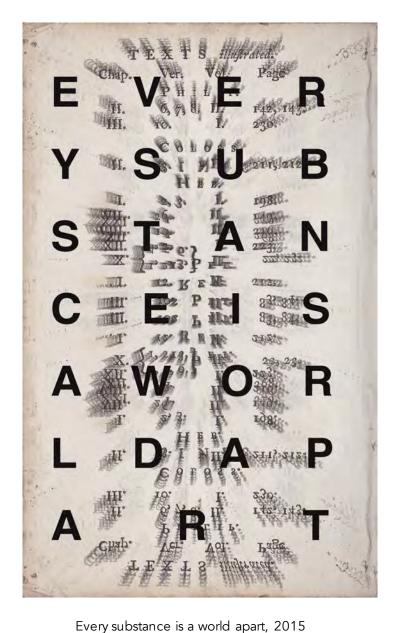




RULE XXVIII. When two persons or things are contrasted, that refers to the first mentioned, and this to the last; as, -- Virtue and vice are as opposite to each other as light and darkness; that ennobles the mind this debases it.







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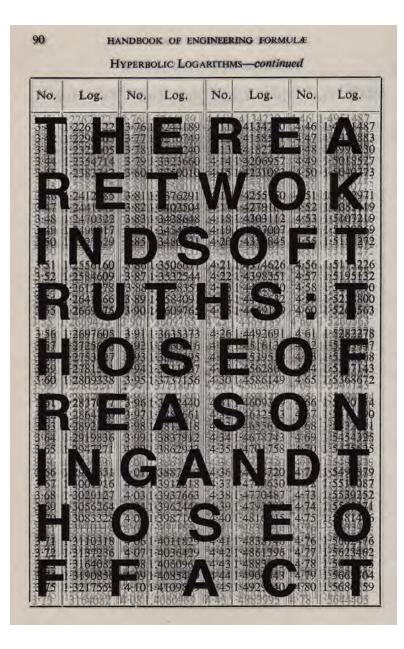
OM, 2016

This print is a little larger in height than the others  $(146 \times 90 \text{ rather than } 140 \times 90 \text{ }$ 

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We can only see a short distance ahead, 2015







## SCULPTURE

#### Tree, 2016

Stained and varnished marine ply, sound track and speaker Sound: Paul Roberts Construction: Murray Antill 240 (h) x 120 (w) x 60 (d) cm

This is a large scale sculpture inspired by the monolith in Stanley Kubrick's 2001. In the film, the mysterious black oblong appears at crucial moments of human history, marking a shift in the development of consciousness. This structure is also dark and represents an unknown force, but unlike the monolith in the film, it is constructed from wood. Like the yin and yang of the I Ching, it features a giant 'zero' on one side, and a giant 'one' on the other. The monolith hums, croaks and groans, suggesting a transformation is taking place within its very structure.



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Brigita Ozolins April 2016

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