

Cultures & temporalities



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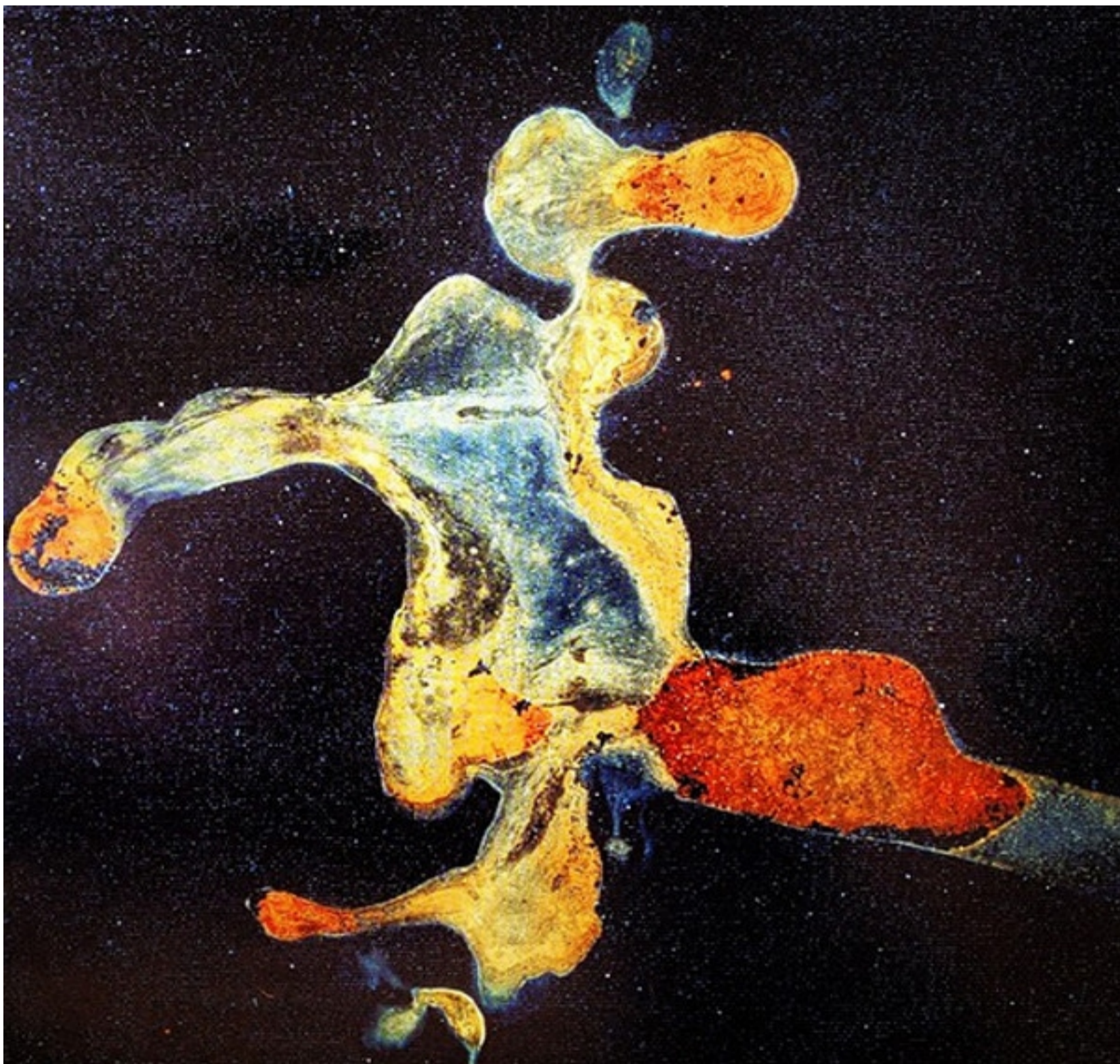
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School of Arts,
Languages and Cultures

CIDRAL

The Centre for
Interdisciplinary
Research in the
Arts and Languages



Unmentionables: Conversations about the Obscene

17 February, 2-5 P.M.

Conference Room, Manchester Museum

Workshop with Dr Amy Coker (Classics, Manchester)

Concern over the social appropriateness or offensiveness of particular substances, artefacts or behaviours is a cultural commonplace. Everyday life is considered by many cultures to contain elements which are unclear or taboo, often - but not exclusively - including bodily functions and bodily products and parts of the human anatomy (e.g. sex, excrement and genitalia). These require amelioration through specific strategies such as hiding them from public view, subjecting them to social or legal restriction, or denying their existence altogether.

This workshop seeks to unpack some of the issues surrounding this notion of “obscene things” across a range of different cultural contexts, contemporary and historical. The aim is to start an interdisciplinary conversation about topics often under-discussed or distorted as a result of their perceived inappropriateness, with a view to future collaborative work.

Please register with Dr Amy Coker if you wish to attend:

amy.coker@manchester.ac.uk

Image: Marcel Duchamp, *Faulty Landscape* (1946, Seminal fluid on Astralon, backed with black satin)