

# WAC 220, sec 3

## Ethnographic Surrealism

### Revisited

Spring 2009

Professor: Allen F. Roberts

ID#759-121-203

Mondays 3:00-5:50pm

Kaufman 153

James Clifford's "Ethnographic Surrealism" of 1988 shook Anthropology with its assertion that surrealism is "not a body of doctrines... but an activity"—that is, a way of seeing and being in the world that can link ethnographic research with performance and leap across cultural and temporal differences to grasp "the marvelous." Where have ensuing debates and related practices brought us in thirty years? As Georges Bataille had it, people "need the strange"; but how can deeply distinct realities and alternative rationalities be approached and shared without destroying differences? Wide-ranging readings and performances will include Mami Wata as a pan-African goddess of capitalism; the "fractal person" in northern Thailand; grief, rage, and headhunting; and Black Atlantic arts in the Age of AIDS. Guest speaker/performers; possible field trip; student presentations of class projects.



World Arts and Cultures  
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