

החוג לתולדות האמנות, הפקולטה למדעי הרוח אוניברסיטת חיפה

הפורום המחלקתי בחוג לתולדות האמנות

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## An Appeal to the Court: On the Interstice of Art and Religion

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ההרצאה תיערך בזום

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88081724109?pwd=U2t0OXFydE42R2k1ZW5xbHN0NDJiQT09>



מתוך הסדרה "ברבי: דת הפלסטיק" (2018), של האמנים הארגנטינאים פול ומריאנלה צילום: פול ומריאנלה

If Christian theology and art share some uneasiness with regards to economics, such uneasiness epitomizes within an immense neoliberal capitalist life. The fetishization of the symbolic opens an abyss differentiating, and one may say propelling, the rule of capitalist economy separated from theological economy on the one hand, and the commodification of art on the other. When knotted together, God may be perceived in radical transcendence, hence, separated from economics, or, in radical immanence where the divine is embodied in the economy of goods. Within the latter, divinity thus become an abyss embodied in a Christianity that will be perceived as something to be overcome. This threat to religious faith enters the art scene once we are in the realm of questioning the relations between images and goods. A discourse art enjoys as both a provocative method, which, once employed, propels an auto-reflective aesthetic mechanism marking its reassuring a double critical resistance to capitalism as a way of life and a *telos* toward an image to come. I will focus on the cultural, theological and economic conditions of these agitating relations, in particular, their abrupt appearance in January 2019, when grave conflicts have arisen between the Christian-Arab communities in the Holy Land and the Museum of Art in Haifa, in light of the exhibition *Shop It!*