

RÉSUMÉ EN ANGLAIS / ENGLISH SUMMARY :

The Simultaneity of the Impossible as the Index of the Vertical Being in the Philosophy of M. Merleau-Ponty

The principal field of investigation of this paper is the late philosophy of Maurice Merleau-Ponty in the form the author gave it in his lectures during the nineteen-fifties and in the project of *The Visible and the Invisible*. More accurately, the goal is to clarify the relationship between what this author calls “vertical” Being and the aspect of reciprocal exclusivity, or impossibility, of the segments of the field through which we have access to it. This structural characteristic is studied principally on the levels of the perception, our relationships with the others, the language and other human institutions. First, the author of the paper elucidates what he think is the reference point of this ontological philosophy, that is to say the concept of visibility. By means of an interpretation of the three fundamental structures of the visibility, the visible, the invisible, and the vision (*voyant*), the author demonstrates the profound ontological unity of the element of the visibility. The concept of the “institution” (*Stiftung, institution*) is then introduced to demonstrate how the field of the visibility is internally organized in a manner that surpasses the classical ontology of the subject and the object as well as all the categories implied in it. The author’s point of view is that this argumentation shows a methodical and ontological priority of the concept of the visibility in the philosophy of Merleau-Ponty and demands for a deepened and positively expressed articulation of it. Yet this can be only achieved by getting over the defensive aspect of the Merleau-Ponty’s philosophy and so the author indicates how Merleau-Ponty’s work may make this possible.