

KAH BEE CHOW

a-b-c (arbete-bostad-centrum)



In a recent Guardian interview, filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard proposed a solution to the current debt crisis in Europe, »The Greeks gave us logic. We owe them for that. It was Aristotle who came up with the big ›therefore‹. As in, ›You don't love me anymore, therefore...› Or, ›I found you in bed with another man, therefore...› ...If every time we use the word therefore, we have to pay 10 euros to Greece, the crisis will be over in one day, and the Greeks will not have to sell the Parthenon to the Germans.»¹

Godard knows how to tell a good joke. He also understands that logic has an especial elasticity when shaped by human hands.

Among his classic works is *Le Mepris* (1963) – set in Italy, the film seems to pivot around a single moment where contempt calcifies irreversibly – the scene sets a point of departure for the characters; a kind of banishment from which they never return. We watch a husband and a wife dissolve in each other's ›therefores...› – enacting and imagining the betrayals and cruelties two people can inflict on one another. Therefore collapses, therefore builds, once and over, again and again.

¹Gibbons, Fiachra »Jean-Luc Godard: ›Film is over. What to do?‹» in The Guardian, 12 July 2011, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2011/jul/12/jean-luc-godard-film-socialisme>