

## Grand Duchy of Oniroscopy

### Press release

#### Birth of a State

**The Grand Duchy of Oniroscopy** is a virtual country only because it has no physical or territorial space (as stated by the sociologist **Jean De Munck**), otherwise it has all the other characteristics. It is a first in the world to have the establishment of a country like this. The Grand Duchy of Oniroscopy has an ID card "with an NFC, readable on all smartphones with a unique serial number For each identity card ", a constitution, currency, national anthem, coat of arms, flag, history, geography, culinary traditions, media, business partners in the world (little by little), festivals, a culture and everything revolving around the Oniroscopism created by the artist **San Damon**.

Various intellectuals, academics, lawyers and economists will explain to you their views on the Grand Duchy of Oniroscopie via films posted on the site of the country (link and quotes below). Some people already like to mention that if it seems Virtual, it is no more so than Brazil for those who never get there.

**San Damon** founded **Oniroscopism**, a patented photographic process, in 2004, and a singular artistic universe. This country, which he has just established with his wife, is already a date, as the philosopher **Antonino Mazzù** and the Lawyer **Bernard Dewit** explain.

#### Quotes from the intellectuals

Link to the website :

Interviews (videos) of the various speakers :

**Bernard Dewit** (Lawyer, intellectual rights Specialist)

**Didier Dequévy** (Penal and Criminal Lawyer)

**Antonino Mazzù** (Philosopher from U.L.B)

**Jean De Munck** (Sociologist from U.C.L)

## **Quotes :**

**Bernard Dewit** (Lawyer, intellectual rights Specialist)

I wanted today to give you my thoughts after being confronted with works of San Damon, his projects, what he realizes, what he has realized and I must say that I am impressed because I am facing a complete artist, a photographer, a painter, a sculptor, a musician, it is not obvious.

(...) But it is still quite extraordinary since we have exhibitions there that have been held throughout the world (...)

(...) This artist did not content himself with making photographic, musical, sculptural works, he has also taken a step, very recently. This step, is to create a State (...)

(...) there is a currency, he has created a currency, he has created a currency called Oniros, this currency has notes he created, which he drew. This State also has traditions that he creates, that he imagines, this state has a geography, a geography that he imagines, this state even has an identity card. This state has an identity card on which one will find the Name of each individual who decides to be part of it. This identity card which will be individualized with a specific number, with links on the digital plan and thus, this identity card will constitute, in some sort, a unique artwork.(...)

Well, here we started from a dream, but this dream is gradually becoming reality, this dream that can also be a source of inspiration for our societies because this State targeted by this artist is a State that also has ethical requirements. Ethical requirements because for him the animal and the human must be put on an equal footing. There is no question of a fur trade, there is no question, I will say, of showing oneself cruel towards animals.

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**Didier Dequévy** (Penal and Criminal lawyer)

(...) the name that will be given to the country that will be created in the world of oniroscopism, is the Grand Duchy of oniroscopy, with structures that have a presidency and a government that will have its ministers. With people who will each have responsibilities in this world and who will decide things a little differently and in ways that are a little less sinister than in our present societies and devoid of all these political tensions that we know today.

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**Antonino Mazzù** (Philosopher from U.L.B)

The Grand Duchy of Oniroscopy is a creation of San Damon, the idea has aroused in me some reflections on the relationship between dream and image, reality and politics.

Who knows, and this I say in the form of a question, who knows whether the oniroscopic idea of the virtual State (and yet real in some respects and real and yet virtual on other sides) would not be a way to restore a perspective of the State and some of its ideological assurances.

**Jean De Munck** (Sociologist from U.C.L)

The idea of a Grand Duchy of Oniroscopy which is proposed by San Damon seems to me everything but absurd; it emerges, of course, as an aesthetic fiction, and emerges in a universe that is a universe in transformation and already testifies of a kind of invention, creativity.

I will give you two examples: the first example is the treaty just concluded by the Grand Duchy, not by Oniroscopy, but by the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg with the State of Estonia, a European nation, in order to create a digital embassy.

(...) From diplomacy of a completely new type to a nation of a completely new type, to a virtual nation, there is evidently only one step that San Damon crosses, a little visionary, I would say.(...)