

**KOIAS Lecture**  
**by**  
**Tonino Griffero**

**What an atmosphere can really do?**  
**Neophenomenological hints to atmospherological competence**



An atmosphere possesses and exercises authority over the perceiver and his felt-body. This authority (in a sense a “numinous” one) exists in the proper sense only when it prevails over our resistance and we cannot access a further critical level. This is because an atmosphere that I feel externally, as poured out into the surrounding space is mine not because I possess it, but because it concerns me. Its normativity, moreover, is not so much discreet but rather loosely diffused into a situation and yet it is able to inhibit any critical distance in those who come across it, especially if unexpectedly. This atmospherological approach implies of course a reflection about the ethical consequences of our “necessary” felt-bodily feelings. Even if the manipulative appearance is implicit in every

practice that generates an atmosphere, it’s true that only by acquiring a better atmospheric “competence” (both as thinkers and perceivers) we can really learn how not to be grossly manipulated. An atmosphere is moreover maybe less manipulative when it allows a quick alternation between an uncritical-pathic immersion and a critical-rational emersion, namely between an emotional mood and a more analytical one.

**Tonino Griffero** is full professor of Aesthetics (Tor Vergata University of Rome) and editor of book series such as "Sensibilia" (Milan), "Atmospheric Spaces" (Milan) and the e-journal "Lebenswelt". Visiting professor at KOIAS for Dec. 2023- Feb. 2024.

Recent Books: *Atmospheres. Aesthetics of Emotional Spaces*, London-New York 2014; *Quasi-Things. The Paradigm of Atmospheres*, Albany 2017; *Places, Affordances, Atmospheres. A Pathic Aesthetics*, London-New York 2020; *The Atmospheric "We". Moods and Collective Feelings*, Milan 2021; *Being a Lived Body. Form a Neo-Phenomenological Point of View*, Routledge (forthcoming 2024) .

As co-editor: & G. Moretti, *Atmosphere/Atmospheres. Testing a New Paradigm*, Milan 2018; & G. Francesetti, *Psychopathology and Atmospheres. Neither Inside nor Outside*, Newcastle upon Tyne 2019; & M. Tedeschini, *Atmospheres and Aesthetics. A Plural Perspective*, Basingstoke 2019.

16:30-18:00, December 20, 2023.

Student Hall, Building A, Graduate School of Humanities, Kobe University.

No advanced registration required. Free Admission.