

Through the discussion of a case burdened by uncanny experiences, and an investigation into the literature on the clinical treatment of uncanny phenomena, this paper seeks an outline of the uncanny in psychoanalytic treatment – something which Freud approached solely through the vehicle of literature. The uncanny is placed in relation to somatic phenomena, attacks on thinking, effects on the level of the gaze, and repressed representations that return, seemingly, from the outside. As well, some aspects of what the uncanny has to do with sexuality is brought to the surface. Finally, a case of Jacques Lacan, from his seminar on Anxiety, is used as a counter-case to the uncanny, a vision of the cure for what ails us in uncanny experience and all its attendant anxieties.

Keywords: uncanny, psychosomatic, omnipotence, Bergler

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Anke Wenzel is an artist living in Hamburg. The drawings presented here were produced during and after a stay of several months in Tanzania: psychedelic patterns, starting in an uncanny manner, as if figures and forms in a carpet; secret signs of shamanic practice; notes taken during a delusion of heterotopia; scores for the enticing songs of sirens.

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