

Garbage and the Soul



Trash Art at a California Oil Spill Clean up

February 23

7:30 pm

Garbage:

We incinerate it, bury it, ship it south,
and may one day fling it into orbit.
More typically, we push it deep into the ground,
bury it, scent it with an acrid aroma and give it
plastic pipes to belch and groan.
We spend vast sums of money disposing of
and 'managing' what we consider to be *useless!*

Collectively, we seek to rise above our trash
but that usually entails a costly dissociation
from it. Since waste is such a necessary and
unavoidable aspect of our lives, why do we do
such a horrible job of managing it?
We can't seem to live with it, and we can't live
without it!
Our modern ways of waste management have
unconscious and archetypal roots that both
help and hinder our relationship with garbage.

In this talk we will 'dumpster dive' in the psyche, exploring how unconscious attitudes, defense mechanisms and collective beliefs influence our dissociative tendencies toward outer waste. We will imagine the unconscious as a landfill that is bursting its confines and necessitating our urgent, conscious relationship to it. We will dig up and examine neglected aspects of the personality which Jung called the 'shadow'; we will explore the archetypal significance of waste; and we will learn how to align with our psyche in metabolizing 'waste' through an appreciation of the rhythm and flow of psychic energy. Underlying all of this will be an appeal to the soul of garbage and an imaginative inquiry into what the soul of garbage *longs* for.



Matthew Kelly, Dip. Analytical Psych., M.A., B.Ed., Hon. B.A. is a graduate of the Ontario Association of Jungian Analysts Training Programme. He's an eclectic Jungian psychoanalyst with experience as a Waldorf teacher and teacher of gifted and behaviourally challenged youth. He has degrees in philosophy, education, psychology and comparative religion. He's studied or lived in Quebec, Vancouver, Guelph, Toronto, Ann Arbor, on the islands of Haida Gwaii, and in Tibet, India, Sumatra and Japan. He is currently happily settled with his partner on naturally beautiful Quadra Island in B.C. Website: www.depththerapy.ca

Tickets sold at the door *New Ticket Prices! \$15 Members \$20 Non-Members

Museum of Vancouver at 1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver

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