

# CIRCUIT OF (RE-)PRODUCTION (DISHCLOTH)

## EDITION VON JENNI TISCHER FÜR FKW NR. 73

// Jenni Tischer

*Circuit of (Re-)Production (dishcloth)*, 2023

35 x 100 cm, Jacquard weaving, linen-cotton blend

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The term “real abstraction” was coined by the national economist and Marxist philosopher Alfred Sohn-Rethel, who uses it to refer to the moment “in the exchange process” when “doing and thinking diverge on the part of the participants.” He importantly emphasizes that for him, this abstraction is not merely conceptual, but actually takes on a real social form.

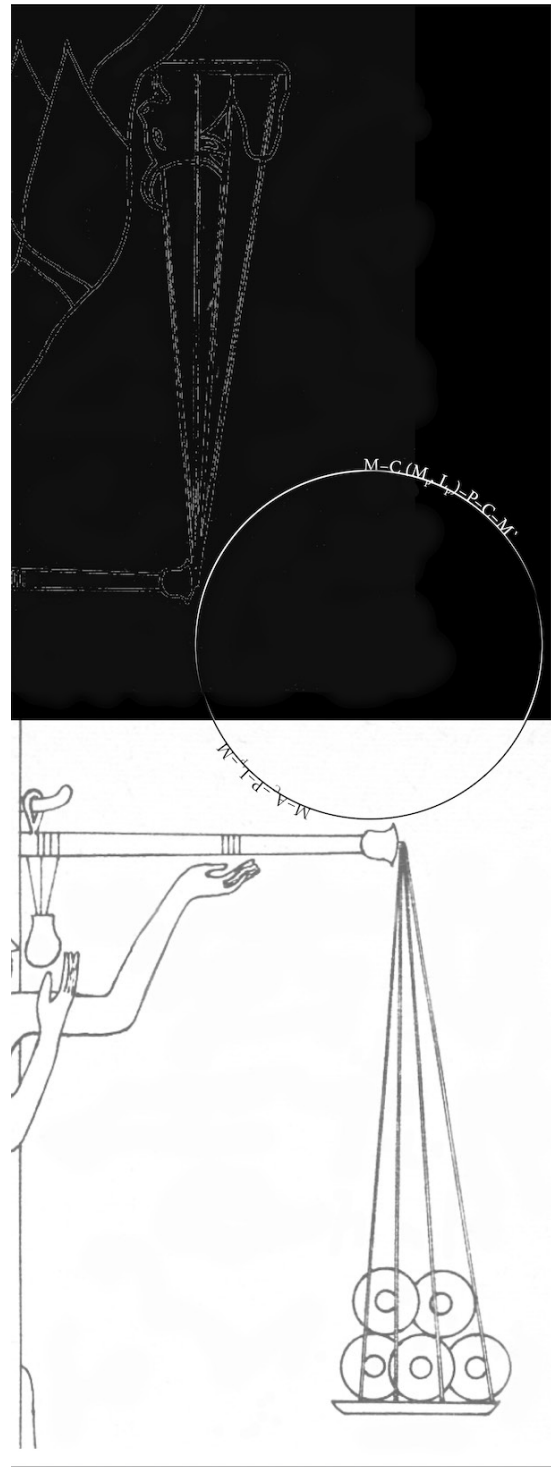
*Circuit of (Re-)Production (dishcloth)* depicts two economic circuits: the production circuit, and the circuit of re-production. An Egyptian wall painting from Thebes illustrates the weighing of cattle for ring money, depicting a person bending over in the middle of the scales between the object to be exchanged (the cattle) and the corresponding abstract equivalent value (ring money). The negotiation of the (counter) value and the exchange based on it, the “real abstraction,” takes place in precisely this intermediate space.

$M - C (M_p, L_p) - P - C' - M'$

Money (M) is exchanged for commodities (C): that is, a combination of means of production ( $M_p$ ) and labor power ( $L_p$ ). The two elements combine through capitalist production (P) to produce new commodities and surplus value ( $C'$ ), which are then exchanged for a greater amount of money ( $M'$ ).

$M - A_c - P - L_p - M$

Money (M) in the worker's hands is exchanged for articles of consumption ( $A_c$ ), which are then consumed in a similar process of production (P). But now what is produced in this “production process” is a unique commodity – the worker's labor power ( $L_p$ ). Once produced (or reproduced), it is then sold to the capitalist in exchange for wages ( $M'$ ).



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