

# USING TRICKSTER MYTHOLOGY TO CREATE CHANGE

Learning to harness shape shifters,  
boundary crossers, disrupters, fools,  
and other characters to disrupt your thinking

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# Decolonizing *Mythology*

- ▶ Intellectual colonialism
- ▶ Respect
- ▶ Mythic artifacts travel
- ▶ Rupture and fusion (Wim M. J. van Binsbergen)
- ▶ Imaginal mythology

# What or Who is a Trickster?

- ▶ No consensus
- ▶ Challenges status quo
- ▶ Maintains status quo
- ▶ Play
- ▶ Ironic imagination
- ▶ Anti-Hero
- ▶ Embodies paradox
- ▶ Healing
- ▶ Archetype



“Trickster”

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# More Trickster Traits

- ▶ Culturally situated
- ▶ Opposition to revered deities
- ▶ Randomness
- ▶ Comedic
- ▶ Self-defeating
- ▶ Multi-faceted
- ▶ Crude prankster
- ▶ Creator and destroyer
- ▶ Meditator



“Loki”  
Icelandic 18<sup>th</sup> century ©

# Tricksters around the world

- ▶ Mostly but not always, male
- ▶ Embedded in cultures
  - ▶ Traditional cultures religious beliefs
  - ▶ Modern & Postmodern characters in books & films
- ▶ Participate in healing modalities
  - ▶ Divination
  - ▶ Healing ceremonies
  - ▶ Psychoanalysis
- ▶ Liminal/ Liminoid space

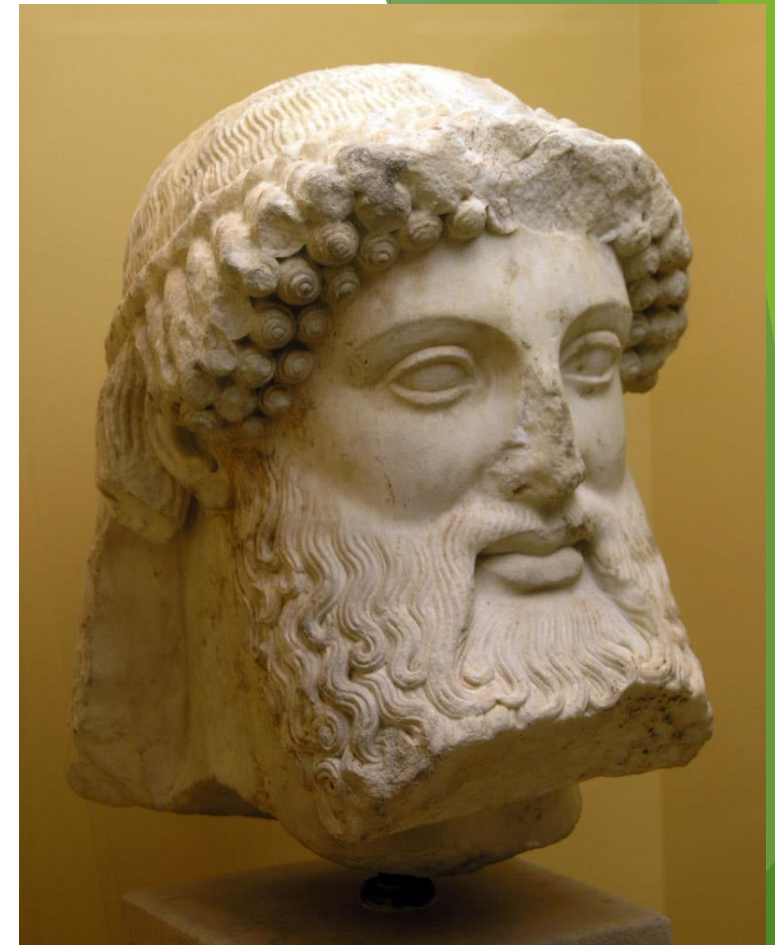




Eshu



Very Old Coyote



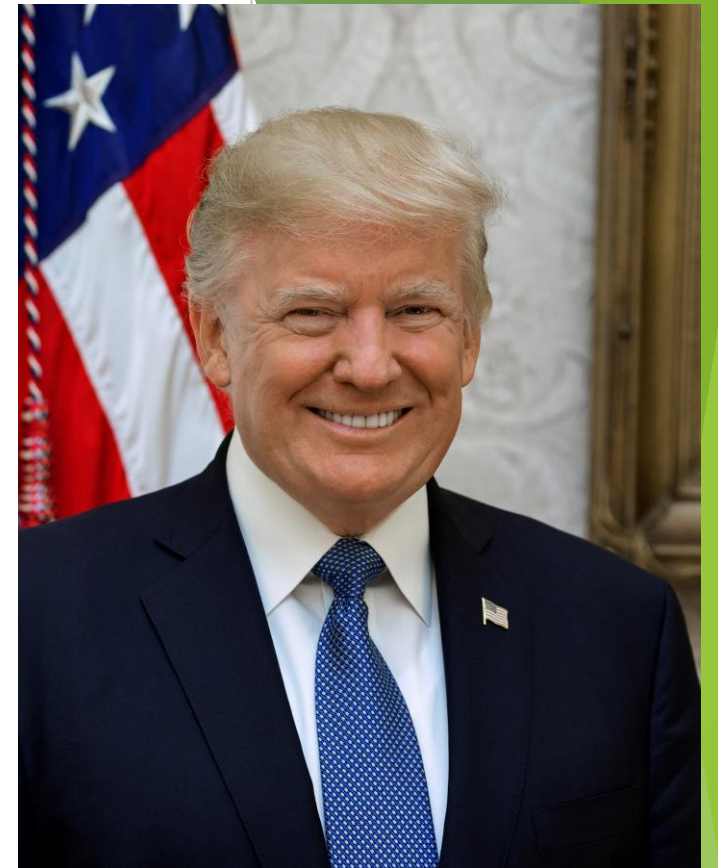
Hermes



Kristen Wiig,  
Photo by Paul Hudson (CC BY 2.0)



Childish Gambino @ South by Southwest 2014  
Photo by Daniel Benavides (CC BY 2.0)



President Donald Trump 



# Exploding cultural boundaries





# Engaging with the Trickster

- ▶ Read trickster tales aloud before working on your creative project or tackling that stubborn problem
- ▶ Experience art depicting tricksters in action (or crime)
- ▶ Use a prompt to start your imaginative juices flowing

How are you going to engage Trickster?





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