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‘I know we're not in Kansas’: The Meaning of Space as a Radical Democratic Drag Intervention for Cultural Citizenship

Earlier, I have deconstructed the idea of drag as a unified genre and the drag queen as a subject and instead promoted a reflection on a number of different embodied attitudes apparent in drag queens' appearances in contemporary performance art. Thus I have identified a conception of the “activism” presented bodily by the drag queens, not necessarily activated by intention.

I now consider another context of the theater, the venues and the physical organization of the drag bodies, to be central to the concept of 'the politics of drag'. The theoretical starting point for the paper is Rancière's ideas of politics which is always already tied to his idea of aesthetics. Through my inventory and study of the contemporary drag queen venues in New York as well as their performances, I am seeking to conceptualize the politics of drag show as a queer radical democratic intervention for cultural citizenship.