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A Pain in the Eye: Visuality, Art, and (the) Un/becoming

While popular notions of the visual suggest a functionality of recognition, identification, and hence, affirmation of similarity in its operations, recent critical and philosophical writing on the image, in contrast, foreground its dissimilarity, its distinctness, if not its violent and violating force—and emphasis that seems to run counter to any notion of affirmation and becoming. Drawing on the writings of i.a., Jean-Luc Nancy and Jacques Rancière, this paper will discuss the paradoxically affirmative potential of such recent philosophical models of the image, and explore the possibilities they offer for a distinctly feminist intervention in the field of visual culture per se.