

Controlling Women's Bodies: the Black and Veiled Female Body in Western Visual Culture. A Comparative View

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Abstract

This article sets out to investigate the black and veiled female body within particular regimes of power and visibility. The two types of bodies are addressed as cultural artifacts, products of timely norms and cultural and political imperatives. The article builds on a theoretical framework centered on the notion of embodiment and the role played by the human body in the regulation of social interactions. Simultaneously, a critical commentary is given relative to the use and misuse of body image, projections, representations and reproductions of the female body.

Following the theoretical layout proposed, the article proposes an interrogation into artistic practice, in order to determine to what extent it can produce social critical commentary and eventually change.

Key Words: embodiment, black female body, power relations, Islamic veil, regimes of visibility.