



Nadine Boljkovac (Falmouth) Affirmative Eco-cinéportraiture: Filmic Bodies

Jahrestagung 2019 „Contrast and Complementary Figures for Portraiture and Biography“
Vortrag Dienstag, 2. Juli, 15.30 Uhr

Abstract

Agnès Varda and JR's road film, *Visages Villages* (*Faces Places*, 2018), continues Varda's life work of celebrating the lives and works of 'ordinary' people through acts of cinematic and literal portraiture – faces, bodies and their parts and features – that honour society's oft invisible and devalued. If hands, faces and bodies seen and felt close up, across and within *Visages Villages* enable us to glimpse fragments of a self and her worlds, then this is my talk's aim: to assess how *Visages Villages* might be best explored as a postfeminist, posthumanist, ecological and ethical (self)portrait that supersedes conventions of sustained (auto)biographical narratives. This talk discovers emergences of self-portraiture and portraiture so that a portrait can arise from even a hand, for instance, and is always embedded and dispersed within a milieu to exist simultaneously on the level of a film itself. The beauty of *Visages Villages* radiates from these empowering relations and its more-than feminist means of living and perceiving through which a self becomes as expressive of her milieu as her milieu is of her.

Such an enfolding process speaks to the emergence and dispersal of a portrait through individuals, between-individuals or even between-individual-parts through a landscape itself, world or any 'body' be it, as Dorothea Olkowski remarks, "chemical, biological, social, or political". As such, these circuits engender a movement not only of human transport but moreover a consciousness of the very moment and movement of things, life's duration itself. As resistant to dominant structures of closure and comprehension and aligned not only with unexpected encounters but also the ecologies – lands, waters, animals – through which Varda, JR and all faces and places navigate and thrive, the portraits of *Visages Villages* compel the eco-ethical urgency of this talk.

