

Bracha L. Ettinger's Matrixial Theory and Aesthetics: Matricial Flesh and the Jouissance of Non-Life

Christina Kinsella, PhD, School of Visual Culture

Supervisor(s): Dr Francis Halsall, Professor Siún Hanrahan

This thesis investigates the dynamic between aesthetics, ethics, and subjectivity in the Matrixial theory of Bracha L. Ettinger. // I argue that Ettinger's theorisation of matrixial trans-subjectivity and original feminine sexual difference invite a radical re-consideration of the subject in relation to aesthetics, affect and ethics. Drawing on Ettinger's Matrixial theory, I propose a matrixial, aesthetic phenomenology of the subject and an aesthetic jouissance. I argue that this aesthetic phenomenology, entitled matrixial flesh, and this aesthetic jouissance, which following Ettinger I name jou(with-in)sense of becoming non-life-in-life, expand upon current considerations of the relationship between the subject, aesthetics and ethics and have much to offer contemporary considerations of the ethical relation.