



Filipa Calado <gofilipa@gmail.com>

Diss workshop feedback

1 message

Margot Lauren Kotler <mkotler@gradcenter.cuny.edu>
To: Filipa Calado <gofilipa@gmail.com>

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Hi Filipa,

Here is a summary of my feedback from class:

First off, I love the way that the chapter starts with the theorization of the meaning of the digital; this is very compelling and made me want to read more. In answer to the question about the organization/density of the first few paragraphs, I do think there needs to be further definition of terms and further explanation. But I also think this is less of an issue, if, as Nancy suggested, this part will become its own section in the introduction later on. With that said, I do think you need to be more specific about how you're using queer theory. As I said in class, it seems like you're using a canonical post-structuralist definition at the beginning, where queerness is abstract and purely discursive, and then move into queerness as affect, which emphasizes the materiality of the body much more. When I think of affect theory, queerness, and touch, I think of how the body's very materiality comes into being through contact with objects, beings, and sensations in the world (Butler's Bodies that Matter, Sara Ahmed), rather than a body that exists pre-discursively. The bottom of 3/top of 4 is where you make this transition and I think it would be clearer if we knew how you were using form, abstraction, aesthetics, and sensation.

Your argument really came alive for me in the close readings. I totally bought the reading of the scene from Confessions of the Fox about frustrated touch and lack. My only suggestion is that, since you are arguing that the scene has lesbian specificity, that you discuss this and that you might want to reference feminist psychoanalytic theory in doing so. Butler's retheorization of Lacanian lack in Gender Trouble (section on Beauvoir and Irigaray) and Bodies that Matter (lesbian phallus chapter) could help here, or even going directly to the source: Luce Irigaray's This Sex Which is Not One, ch. When Our Lips Speak Together. Irigaray is a lesbian classic and very fun to read.

I hope this is helpful :-)

Margot

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Pronouns: she, her, hers