

Heterotopia

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Introduction

Andreas Hannes

Heterotopia

How close would you go? And where?



Introduction

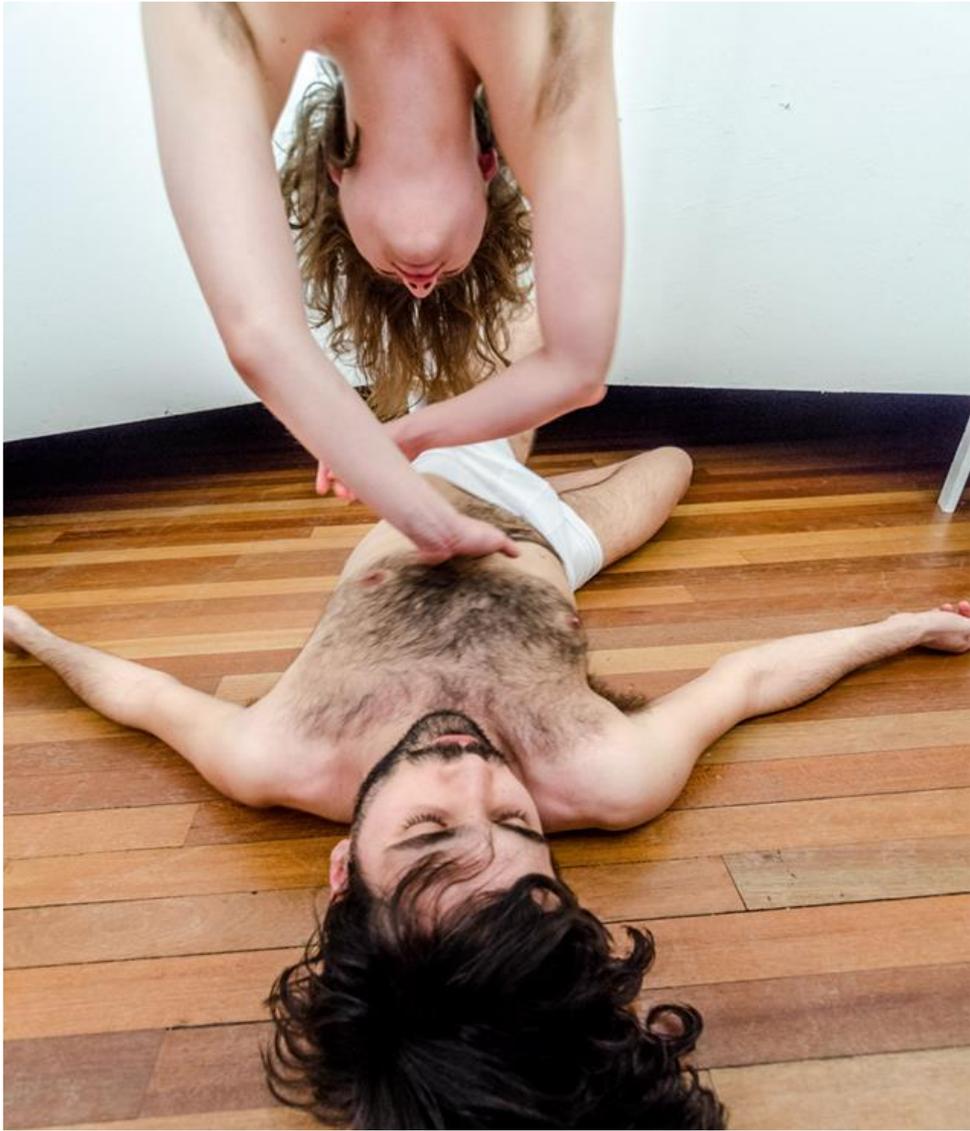
The concept of heterotopia made a first, brief appearance in the preface of Foucault's, *Les Mots et les choses* in 1966. In a lecture titled *Of other spaces* Foucault elaborated on the concept, describing a heterotopia as a space that disrupts the continuity and normality of common everyday places.

Introduction

In *Of other spaces*, Foucault (1967: 24) formulated six principles of 'heterotopology', the "sort of systematic" description of heterotopias, we will focus on Foucault's fifth principal while analysing the work "Heterotopia" by Andreas Hannes.

Applying Foucault's fifth principle to art

The fifth principle states that “heterotopias always presuppose a system of opening and closing that both isolates them and makes them penetrable” (1967:28). Only by performing a certain act, like payment, registration, identification, demonstration, do you get permission to enter or leave. If we do not adhere to the rites, permission is withheld.



“Heterotopia” by Andreas Hannes.

It is a performance installation artwork about places, intimacy and perspectives. Only a small audience can view the piece at a time.

Heterotopia by Andreas Hannes (Ciotlausi 2015)



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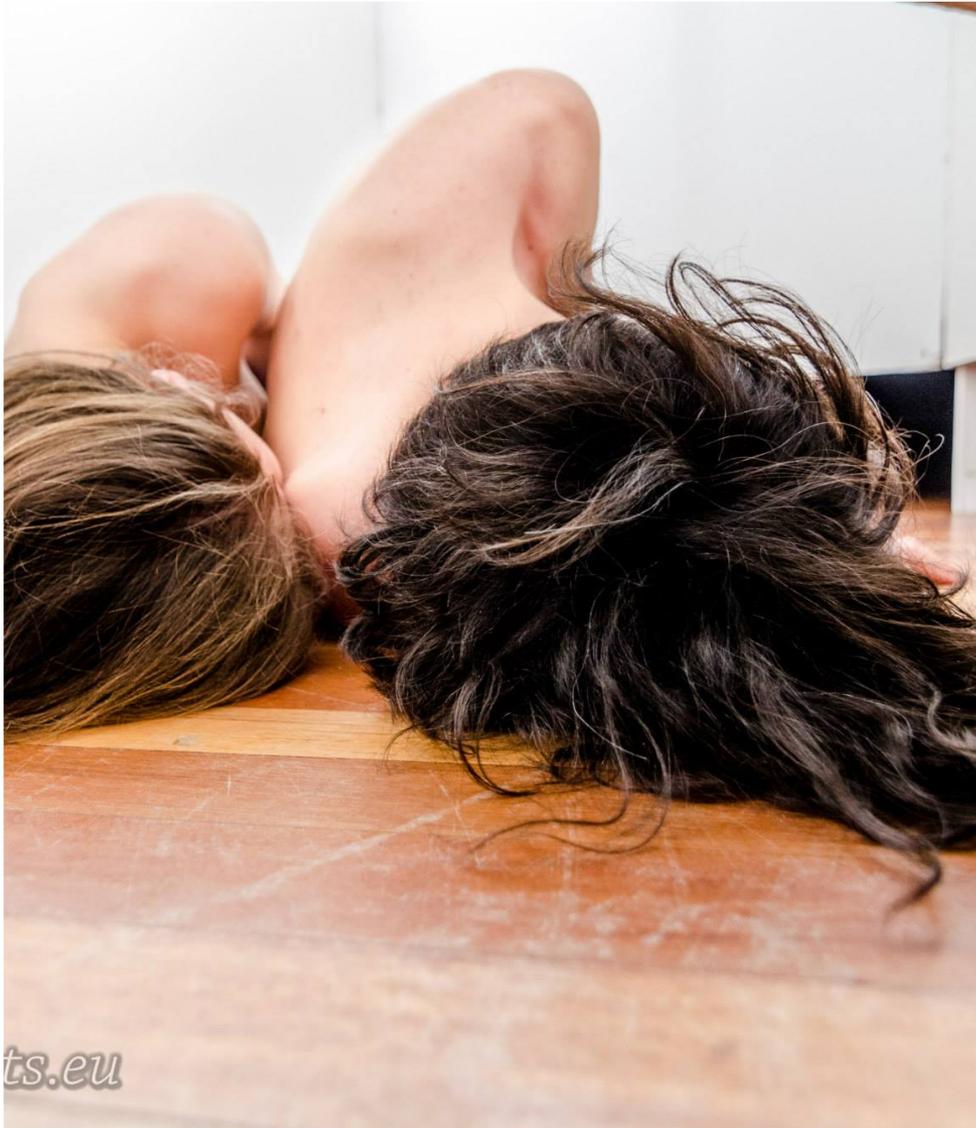
The otherness of a heterotopia, whether it is characterised by illusion or by perfection, calls into question the reality of the ordinary spaces around it. Heterotopias have a relationship to time and therefore this can relate to the analysis of the performance, as one can see the time being spent with another as well as with the audience.

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Heterotopia by Andreas Hannes (Ciotlausi 2015)



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Creating a Liminal Space

In this environment, they seem to embody the beauty of the human body in its natural form, while creating an uncomfortable atmosphere by laying and sitting in awkward poses close to the audience and to each other. Soon it becomes unclear whether they want to be close to each other or not.



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Revealing New Perspectives

Heterotopic spaces creates other spaces where the observer becomes a vital part in the process as being the subject and a hybridisation of otherness (Johnson 2014a:3). This piece, forces us to re-establish the role of the spectator's position because the spectator plays a vital role in the work itself.



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Adding a unique layer of complexity

The performers know that they are being observed by an audience. Thus, the heterotopia of this performance on the one hand opens up a new kind of space where selection, formulation and articulation of content is more readily available, but on the other hand the increased transparency puts added constraints on the performance and encourages questioning its authenticity.

Conclusion

Psychasthenia:
the proneness of people to lose themselves in their surroundings.

A neutral space does not exist. They are filled with varied narratives and subjectivities

Perhaps this is the point of heterotopias. Not that they exist as a way of categorising, but that as a way of examining social spaces, they give rise to new discourses about what those spaces are, how they arise and what they may mean. New discourses about knowledge, power and society. Which ultimately are reflected in the constitution of our human relationships.

Bibliography

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