
Jürgen Strauss

Cultural Synaesthesia. Analogies of the Eye and Ear in Architecture and Music Theory

Abstract

Corresponding to the objective of this issue of *Cloud-Cuckoo-Land* to interpret the term synaesthesia widely, in this contribution phonisms and photisms will not be considered as audio-visual synaesthesiae, but instead the cultural representations of the relationships of the eye and ear will become the synaesthetic topic. The representations, shaped by the history of the arts and sciences, (ideas, terms, concepts) of potential congruences and divergences of the perception activities of both senses will become comprehensible in the analogy generations of the eye and ear.

The contribution's first part – with Leon Battista Alberti's presentation of the foundations of the doctrine of proportion – focuses on the central architectural theory of normative poetics in the Renaissance. With the critiques of these normative poetics and the constitution of an empirical theory generation, topics of the history of the arts and sciences are discussed. The second part elaborates on newer research on audio-visual space perception and architectural design.