Cultural Crises / Cultural Solutions: Performing Asia

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Lecture 8: May 12, 2004
Review: Asia / Performance / Cultures

• What is "Asia"?

• What is "culture"?

• How does "performance" give us a certain perspective on both?

• Who decides what is “authentically Asian”?
Gender as Performance

• Judith Butler:
  • Gender is a "stylized repetition of acts…which are internally discontinuous [so that] the appearance of substance is precisely that, a constructed identity, a performative accomplishment which the mundane social audience, including the actors themselves, come to believe to perform in the mode of belief." Quoted in Diamond (1996), p. 4
who defines what is "Asian"

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interpreting ganguro ukiyo-e

• Does it matter that the artist is not Japanese?
• Does it matter if the artist is African American?

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stereotypes vs. "real"

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Boundaries of Asian-ness?

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