
Culture of Darkness: Ideological Counterculture and Opposition to Brainwashing

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Abstract

The consecutive economic crashes, the modern political and military policies as well as the current social turmoil never stop to emphasize the sense of fear among human beings. Modern fear is actually used to manage societies and exercise social control. Surprisingly, when fear merges together with horror visual art, it actually is regarded as politically incorrect and macabre body language representation disrespectful to established *bienséance*. Modern expression of fear and terror then might need to be regulated by political systems in order to overlap with societies' aims. How could visual horror culture assist any opposition to ideological hegemony in modern societies? Beyond its disruptive appearance, horror culture can also be viewed as a coherent form of art that not only canalizes and aligns the different conflicting areas of the human psyche but also unleash critical faculties. The art works of Japanese dark surrealist artist Tetsuya Ishida or Polish painter Zdzislaw Beksinski are vivid emissary of ideological resistance to brainwashing. Visual darkness, by inviting individuals to explore their own body and mind, provides the ability to go beyond the mere acceptance of established ideas. Eventually, it participates to the reconstruction of general identity and enhances critical thinking against any sort of "blind consciousness".

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